

Annual report to CDNL 2012

Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands
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Key facts and figures

Founded	1798
Status	autonomous administrative body since 31 August 1993, financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science
Budget	€ 53 million
Staff	255 fte permanent staff, including vacancies 13 fte temporary staff 34 fte project staff 331 employees (end 2012)
Holdings	6 million items = 110 km of library materials (books, newspapers, journals) 12,500 current periodicals 850 m. of microforms 3 million newspaper pages on our website Historical Newspapers
Acquisition	annual growth of deposit print collection: 40,500 books and 72,000 issues of periodicals. In 2012 1.2 million digital items and 2,750 e-books were loaded.
Accommodation	net floorspace of the building : 80,000 m ² - library: 37,000 m ² , including 28,000 m ² stacks - other institutions: 15,000 m ²
Capacity	500 study seats including 125 with a work station, WiFi available
Library use	17,000 annual library pass holders 92,000 library visits 568,000 publications made available (print and digital) 5 million KB website visits

Tasks and duties

The tasks, duties and operational limits of the KB are defined in general terms in Section 1.5 of the *Higher Education and Research Act*: “As the National Library of the Netherlands, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek operates in the field of libraries and information services for the benefit of higher education and research, as well as public administration, business and industry. In any case, the KB is responsible for the national library collection; it promotes the development and maintenance of national facilities in the above-mentioned areas and promotes coordination with the other research libraries.”

General overview

In 2012, the KB continued to work on the construction of the digital library along the lines set out in the long-term strategy. A shift from non-digital to digital activities and availability can be clearly discerned, with visible results, both internally and for KB customers.

The digital library was developed further with the aim of guaranteeing long-term preservation of and permanent accessibility to the rapidly growing amount of digital material. In part thanks to the cooperation with ProQuest and Google, material is being digitized at a fast pace. In addition, important progress was achieved in 2012 in the area of digital services. And this in the end is the aim: to increase the reach and actively encourage the use of the rich KB collection.

Apart from the transition that is taking place within the KB, there are significant external developments that force us to re-consider our task, our relationship with our partners and our position in the network. In mid October 2012, the then State Secretary of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science, Halbe Zijlstra, decided to suspend the merger process between the KB and the National Archives (NA) because the blueprint for the new organization still offered too little clarity concerning the results of the merger. In view of the substantive aim of the merger, improvement of quality and the shared execution of the future digitization task, the decision was taken to launch a broader review into alternative forms of cooperation and possible solutions. The cooperation between the KB and the NA will be continued on a project-by-project basis.

At the end of 2012, it was announced that the activities of The Digital Library for Dutch Literature (DBNL) would be housed within the KB, as well as the tasks of the Sector Institute Public Libraries (SIOB). The transfer of the DBNL will take place in the course of 2013 and the incorporation of the tasks of the SIOB is to be finalised by 1 January 2015. Although the KB will retain its function as research library, it will formally carry out tasks for the public libraries and will thus take on a central, coordinating role in the national digital collection and infrastructure. Embedding the tasks of the SIOB within the KB requires an amendment to the library legislation. This is currently being prepared and it is expected that the new legislation will come into force on 1 January 2015. The KB and the current tasks of the KB will continue to be governed by the Higher Education and Research Act.

Although the necessary attention and resources are being devoted to these developments, a strong focus remains on the three priorities of the long-term strategy:

- Digital: Full speed ahead!
- Reaching a wide audience
- Strengthening international cooperation.

Accelerated digitization

Public-private partnerships are a good way of getting large amounts of material scanned quickly. The partnerships with Google and ProQuest, which are proceeding successfully, are good examples of this. In the Google project ca. 160,000 books from the KB collection that are free from copyright from the 18th and 19th century (1700-1870) are being digitized. The first results of this were available in the KB catalogue from April 2012. The Google Summit was held in the KB in the autumn, the annual venue for all European libraries cooperating with Google. The second private partner, ProQuest, is digitizing at the request of the KB early printed books prior to 1700. Because of the fragility of this material, the works are scanned in the KB itself. The quality of the scans makes them suitable as a basis for transcriptions and for use in scholarly research.

Reaching a wide audience

All the KB's efforts with respect to digitization are aimed at making as much material as possible that has been collected using public funds freely available. A great deal of energy is devoted to bringing the collection to the attention of as wide an audience as possible. To achieve this, various websites and services have been developed, serving both the individual user and the institutional market.

As of 14 December 2012, the integrated portal WorldCat Local may be consulted via the KB website as a 'service in development'. This service will be developed and improved further in the coming time. Thanks to its single-search facilities, access to both the own collection and to licensed files is strongly improved. This also applies to the E-book Library that became available for users from January 2012. This is a platform through which the KB makes a large number of e-books available. In addition to some hundreds of thousands of e-books, annual library pass holders also have access to some 10,000 new e-periodicals. This was made possible by the cancellation of print periodical subscriptions.

The Books, Newspapers and Periodicals Platform, the central point of access for full text searches in digitized publications, is also developing steadily. In cooperation with UKB, the alliance of universities and the KB, work is also being carried out on a joint portal, showcasing the digitized collections of the various institutions. This project builds on the work of the Books, Newspapers and Periodicals Platform and the Early Dutch Books Online platform. (www.earlydutchbooksonline.nl/nl/edbo).

In order to increase visibility and findability among the overwhelming amount of digital material now available worldwide it has become necessary to offer scholarly and historical material not only through the home website, but also through other channels on the internet. To this end, cooperation is sought with external parties such as Public Libraries, universities and historical societies. Together with the Foundation Bibliotheek.nl various widgets have been developed. Around 100 public libraries have in the meantime placed widgets on their websites, creating a user-friendly way for even more people to come into contact with the KB collection. Dataservices is a service that enables the KB to give third parties direct access to data and metadata, the raw materials that the KB manages. This only applies to those (meta)datasets to which no other parties can claim rights. Target groups are, among others, academia, cultural heritage institutions, open data initiatives, the creative industry and aggregators, such as Europeana.

An essential aspect of making materials digitally available is careful thinking about and regulation of copyright issues. The KB's intention to place the 80 most consulted periodicals from the period 1850-1940 online, on the grounds of its mission, places the public interest of access to this material above private copyright considerations. The KB chose initially for an opt-out approach. The discussions which followed with the collective rights organizations, Lira and Pictoright, resulted in the beginning of 2013 in an agreement for the digital re-usage of periodicals. In this way, a foundation was laid in 2012 for the KB's policy with respect to copyright, specified by type of material and period.

Strengthening international cooperation

In order to realize its goals the KB operates, nationally and internationally, within a large network of information suppliers and information customers. Within this network, the KB participates in a number of broader alliances, aimed at developing national or European services and at improving the national and international infrastructure for the supply of information in the

cultural heritage and library sectors. This cooperation is of importance because of the shared challenges faced by all parties who are active in the information world and for developing innovative tools.

In 2012, the KB took steps to further develop the International e-Depot. This functions as an archive for foreign scholarly literature, guaranteeing permanent access for scholars to those publications. National libraries have a depository function for publications from their own country; the KB also stores publications from international, academic publishers that do not have a clear country of origin. In 2012, a vision and a roadmap were drawn up for building the International e-Depot into a service, in consultation with the university libraries, and in first instance in the Netherlands. The final goal is to upgrade the service to European level.

In the past years, the KB has invested a great deal in order play a role within the scholarly infrastructure at European level. The KB was a co-founder of the Alliance for Permanent Access, which aims to offer permanent access to scholarly publications. The KB was also a strong advocate of The European Library (TEL) and Europeana, and participates in various large EU projects. The European Library, which was set up under the wings of the KB, was detached from the KB organization in 2012 and continued from January 2013 as Europeana Research.

In 2012, a number of important projects were finalized:

- IMPACT – Improving Access to Text
- KEEP – Keeping Emulation Environments Portable
- SCAPE – Scalable Preservation Environments
- APARSEN – Alliance Permanent Access to the Records of Science in Europe Network.

European projects started in 2012:

- SUCCEED – Support Action Centre of Competence in Digitisation
- Europeana Newspapers
- eMOP – Early Modern OCR Project.

The complete annual report is available at:

<http://www.kb.nl/sites/default/files/docs/kbannualreport2012.pdf>