



**RFN** Réseau  
francophone  
numérique

**KINGDOM OF MOROCCO**  
**The National Library of the Kingdom of Morocco-BNRM**

**Presentation of the “Réseau Francophone Numérique”**  
**RFN**  
**Achievements - Perspectives**  
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### Context

- International projects of digital Libraries increased considerably in the early 2000s : The World Digital Library, GALICA Europeana, Google Books etc.
- A precious heritage of French-speaking communities and countries remains unknown and runs the risk of disappearing.

## The creation of the RFBNN

- Six national libraries of the Francophonie (Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Quebec, Switzerland) created in 2006 the **Réseau Francophone des Bibliothèques Nationales Numériques (Francophone Network for Digital National Libraries, or RFBNN)**.
- Bibliotheca Alexandrina soon joined the RFBNN.
- The project gained the support of the **International Organisation of La Francophonie (OIF)**.

## **The RFBNN aimed at :**

**Implementing a common digital library in order to promote and disseminate documentary heritage of French-speaking communities and countries**

## From the RFBNN to the RFN

- The RFBNN gains strength and broadens its scope over the years.
- The RFBNN became the “Réseau Francophone Numérique” (Francophone Digital Network, or RFN) in 2010.
- The RFN is open to all the institutions in charge of preserving and disseminating francophone heritage.
- In 2012, the RFN includes 24 member institutions, representing 18 countries.

# The mission and governance mechanisms of the RFN

## The mission

- To preserve, through digitization, a precious heritage in risk of disappearing and its large-scale dissemination to the public.
- To transfer skills to documentary institutions of the Francophonie.
- To provide a platform for reflection on the challenges and issues of the digital age.

## The governance mechanisms

- The RFN adopted a strategic charter.
- The RFN has professional working tools and optimal financial resources.
- The RFN is governed by a steering committee made up of 7 members and OIF observers. The RFN's assembly is held every year.

# The achievements

## The Internet Portal

- Designed and developed by the **Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BAnQ)**.
- **Launched in 2008**, the Internet Portal was an access point to the digitized collections of the French-speaking press disseminated via websites of member institutions.
- As from 2012, the Internet Portal became **a showcase for the documentary heritage digitized in French language** including newspapers, journals, books, maps, plans, archives, videos.
- The Internet Portal was reshaped in 2013 providing an interface with a set of advanced consultation features .

## The Internet Portal : a rich and diverse content

**It gives access to digitized collections of 15 countries including :**

- 700.000 sections of more than 83 newspapers titles, essentially of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 70 titles of completely digitized Journals.
- A hundred of books.
- Precious collections of maps and plans, archives and audiovisual documents.
- Documents intended for training courses as well as guides for drafting specifications.

## The training programme

- The Development of the RFN and the achievement of its goals require :
  - The cooperation between the countries of the north and south ;
  - The sharing of knowledge and resources with regard to digitization ;
- Several trainings were conducted for the benefit of member institutions of the network so as to :
  - Promote the sharing of skills and techniques with respect to digitization ;
  - Develop digitization skills and knowledge ;
  - Reinforce the abilities of the institutions.

## The training programme

The training courses gave the opportunity to :

- Acquire high-performance and multipurpose material allowing the institutions to have functional digitization platforms ;
- Endow the participants with a better control of digitization process and techniques ;
- Enable the participants to achieve a better performance in their respective institutions.

## The achievements

The RFN includes heritage documents written in the national languages in an attempt to :

- Reflect the local and regional resources and diversities along with their convergence with the French language ;
- Confirm the status of the French language as a means of knowledge transmission and continue to reinforce this position.

The RFN is an essential medium of promoting, strengthening and enhancing shared humanist values.

## The governance mechanisms

The RFN aims to improve its governance mechanisms, mainly through the review of its charter and the process of new members' sponsorship.

## The extension of the RFN

The RFN intends to extend the Network to include other regions of the francophone community, especially in Eastern Europe and South America.

## The Internet Portal

- The RFN will focus on the scalability of the portal.
- The collaborative model is actually the best practice in the field.
- The Gallica Marque Blanche [BNF] service could be offered to the institutions with no dissemination tool.
- The portal will work for the promotion of national treasures, the enhancement of audiovisual collections and the integration of oral tradition heritage. The cooperation with the UNESCO is in progress in order to have access to the RFN content via the World Digital Library (WDL).

### Knowledge sharing

- The RFN will investigate new ways to share knowledge and resources via the organisation of regional trainings and the development of a specific and local traineeship offer.