

# NETHERLANDS

KONINKLIJKE BIBLIOTHEEK

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## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

In 2003 the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) was visited more than 86,000 times. This means a total increase of 38% in the number of visitors to the physical library over the past five years. There has also been spectacular growth in the number of visits to the website, especially to the Digital Library.

KB's e-Depot is geared to the permanent accessibility of digital material, especially international scholarly periodicals. In December 2003 the e-Depot contained one and a half million scholarly articles, a number that is expected to increase to four million in 2004. After drawing up an archiving agreement with Elsevier, the KB concluded similar agreements with Kluwer Academic Publishers and BioMed Central. The e-Deposit system's international mission is now a fact, since BioMed Central is not of Dutch origin. With BioMed, the e-Depot has entered the world of commercial 'Open Access' periodicals. By drawing up agreements with other publishers, the international dimension will soon become even more prominent.

The introduction of a library portal at the end of 2003 marks the beginning of a new way to access resources from the digital library: by means of a single interface, users are given the help they need to choose the correct resources, and uniform search operations can be undertaken in one or more files at the same time, with results made to order. Library card holders can store all their personal preferences, search operations and results.

After the introduction of licensed online files in 2002, remote access was expanded to make information on CD ROM or DVD available via the internet. A whole scale of resources related to Dutch history, language and culture has thereby been made available to holders of library cards and can be accessed at home or elsewhere.

To make it possible to preserve the continuous stream of printed publications, an immense new project was launched. The expansion of the repository, a spectacular construction built on pillars above the tramline next to the library, will be ready in 2005. A start has been made on the improvement of the connection between the buildings of the KB and the National Archives and on the creation of a common exhibition area, which is expected to open in early 2005.

With the push of a button, the Minister of Education, Culture and Science opened the Memory of the Netherlands website, gateway to the Netherlands' digital treasury. More than 700,000 images, approximately 250 hours of film and 100 hours of audio material

– 57 historical collections from 42 heritage institutions – can be accessed via Memory of the Netherlands: <http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl>

Metamorfoze is the national programme for the preservation of the national paper heritage for the period 1840-1950. The programme is being financed by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. For the years 2001-2004 (Metamorfoze 2), the Ministry has made more than 10 million euros available. The programme comprises five preservation channels: literary collections, cultural history collections, collections of international value, periodicals and books. Thirty Dutch heritage institutions participate in Metamorfoze.

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