

Annual Report to CDNL 2005 – 2006

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Name of Library : Die Deutsche Bibliothek
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During the past year, Die Deutsche Bibliothek pursued a number of activities devoted to making the best possible use of existing potentials and ensuring the library's ability to perform its functions in the future. Several issues have been focal points of activity for some years and will remain at the centre of our attention. The question of how a national library should handle digital publications and how this responsibility should be reflected in its statutory mandate is only one such issue. The library will also be concerned with plans for the 4th extension of the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig for a number of years to come. This review of the past year provides a brief outline of the major topics of concern and focal points of activity at Die Deutsche Bibliothek in 2004.

New legislation

Fundamental changes in the publishing sector have made it necessary to expand the statutory collection mandate of Die Deutsche Bibliothek to encompass digital publications. The collection, bibliographic indexing and long-term preservation of these publications, as well as the goal of ensuring their availability for use beyond copyright "expiration dates" pose significant challenges to the library. In 2004, the Federal Commissioner for Culture and Media Affairs proposed a revision of the "Law regarding the Deutsche Bibliothek" in response to the recognized need to include digital publications under the collection mandate. The bill drafted for this purpose also specifies a new name for Die Deutsche Bibliothek which more aptly reflects its responsibilities: the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek.

The draft is presently under review by the relevant departments of the responsible Federal Ministries.

Agreement on the reproduction of works

A number of publishers and producers of sound recordings safeguard their publication with anti-copy protection features. It is illegal to override these technical protective mechanisms. However, copyright law contains so-called restriction provisions which permit access to copyrighted works for specific purposes, including scientific and cultural uses. The most recent revision of the German Copyright Act expressly provides for agreements between organisations to allow for use of media with anti-copy protection for these purposes as well. The Börsenverein des Deutschen Buchhandels and the Bundesverband der Phonographischen Wirtschaft have taken advantage of this option and concluded a corresponding contract with Die Deutsche Bibliothek. On the basis of this agreement, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is entitled to reproduce materials and, if necessary, to circumvent technical protective features in order to archive the materials, make them available to users for scholarly purposes, compile collections for use in schools or other instructional settings or for teaching and research. This right also extends to out-of-print works. In order to prevent misuse, Die Deutsche Bibliothek will ensure that users have a legitimate interest in obtaining such copies (for which fees will be charged), and will also incorporate anti-copy protection features and personalized digital watermarks into all copies released, wherever possible.

Standardisation activities

In a time of expanding global networks and persistent pressure to enhance efficiency, standardisation is now more important than ever before. Die Deutsche Bibliothek is therefore strongly committed to standardisation at the international level. The project devoted to "Conversion to international formats and rules (MARC21, AACR2)" was

completed in May. The findings discussed in the final project report confirm the advantages of implementing MARC21 and AACR2, and no compelling arguments against conversion were found. We now have an excellent opportunity to introduce standards currently in place all over the world in Germany as well. The Standards Committee has recommended step-by-step conversion to international standards. The process was initiated with the resolution to implement MARC21 as a standard exchange format in December 2004.

Long-term preservation

Electronic publications are becoming increasingly important not only within the academic community but also for the public at large. Libraries, archives and museums face new challenges with regard to the long-term preservation and availability of these digital objects. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) has been funding the NESTOR (Competence Network for Long-Term Preservation) project since May 2003. Projected to run for three years, the project is being carried out under the leadership of Die Deutsche Bibliothek with partners in the library, archive and museum communities. The goal is to ensure long-term archiving, preservation and availability of digital sources in Germany. The first objectives were achieved in 2004: The Internet site www.langzeitarchivierung.de / www.longtermpreservation.de was established and now serves as a communication and information platform offering a wide range of services to all interested institutions and individuals. One of a total of seven expert reports on issues relating to the long-term preservation of digital resources was presented to the public at the end of 2004. The study entitled "Digital Long-Term Preservation and the Law" illuminates the legal aspects of long-term preservation activities that must be considered by organisations concerned with preservation of the national memory. Two further expert reports were published in early 2005.

KOPAL

The goal of KOPAL is the practical testing and implementation of a long-term archiving system for digital publications developed and maintained on a co-operative basis. As partners in the consortium, Die Deutsche Bibliothek, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen and IBM Deutschland are working toward realizing a co-operatively maintained, sustainable solution for the long-term preservation of digital resources. Responsibility for technical operations has been entrusted to the Gesellschaft für Wissenschaftliche Datenverarbeitung mbH in Göttingen. Technical implementation of the functionality to be realized in KOPAL is based upon preliminary work performed by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek of the Netherlands and IBM within the framework of a joint development project initiated in 2000. Further work required to realize a co-operatively operated system equipped with standardised interfaces within the framework of KOPAL will be performed by IBM. The software developed by the consortium partners will have the status of an open source program. During the three-year term of the project, substantial quantities of heterogeneous data are to be fed into the system in order to demonstrate the feasibility and sustainability of the concept under productive operating conditions. With the "KOPAL" and "NESTOR - Kompetenznetzwerk Langzeitarchivierung" projects, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is currently playing a leading role in two projects of strategic importance to the long-term preservation of the digital cultural heritage in Germany.