

THE NETHERLANDS

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE NETHERLANDS

DR WIM VAN DRIMMELEN – DIRECTOR GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2009

In 2006 a new four year strategic plan came into effect. It defines the course for the annual departmental plans and specifies the framework within which the KB publicly accounts for its actions via performance indicators and its annual report. The goals for the strategy period are:

- Repositioning the (digital) library
- Enhancing the national scientific information infrastructure
- Enhancing the KB's international position.

<http://www.kb.nl/bst/beleid/bp/2006/2006-en.html>

REPOSITIONING THE (DIGITAL) LIBRARY

The subject profile, as defined in the Collection Development Programme 2006-2009, is even more clearly focused than before on Dutch history, culture and society, within a well-defined international context. The profile has taken shape in the physical library through the new design of the three reading rooms, whereby an entirely new concept is used for the Reading Room of the Netherlands. It has space for a maximum of 60,000 titles in open stacks and functions as a representative for the collection profile. In addition, the subject profile is expressed in the digital services package, particularly in the presentation of services on the website for specific client groups.

An earlier initiative with the aim of intensifying the link with contemporary research – the KB fellowship – has got off to an excellent start. In this initiative, the KB collaborates with the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences (NIAS). In 2006 and 2007 three internationally renowned scholars joined the library as KB fellows: Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, Robert Darnton and Jonathan Israel.

By far the biggest cultural event was an exhibition about general interest magazines, entitled Magazine!, which was held in the newly built stack rooms.

ENHANCING THE NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

The KB took the initiative to establish a National Coalition for Digital Preservation (NCDD). Collaborations have been sought with Digital Archiving and Networked Services (DANS), the SURF foundation (universities) and other stakeholders. The Coalition will focus on the distribution of knowledge concerning digital preservation, aimed at the permanent access of the records of science and digital objects from the heritage sector in the Netherlands, both in the form of raw data and in the form of published research findings. The Coalition can ensure the profiling of the Netherlands as a Centre of Expertise in the field of digital preservation, and stimulate international collaboration in this field.

Scientists are increasingly archiving and publishing their intellectual output themselves in institutional repositories (Open Archiving). To support this development, the Digital Archiving Repositories (DARE) programme has been set up within the framework of SURF. The objective is to digitally store and make accessible all research findings, using a network of institutional repositories. The KB takes care of the link between the institutional repositories and the e-Depot of the KB.

http://www.kb.nl/hrd/dd/dd_projecten/projecten_dare-en.html

Based on current and planned digitisation activities, the KB has taken the initiative to formulate and execute a national programme for the mass digitisation of sources for research in the humanities. Already two major projects in this field were started: microfilming and digitising the Dutch parliamentary papers 1814-1995 (€10.5m) and the Digital Databank for Newspapers project. Eight million pages of Dutch newspapers from 1618 onwards will be digitised and made available online (€12.5m). The project will result in a file of between 20-30 billion words, which will offer linguists and information scientists a wealth of research opportunities too.

<http://www.kb.nl/hrd/digi/ddd-en.html>

<http://www.kb.nl/hrd/digi/staten-generaal-en.html>

The programmes Metamorfoze (preservation) and The Memory of the Netherlands (digitisation) are seen to be moving closer together. In the coming years it is expected that digitisation will eventually come to replace microfilming as the preservation method for Metamorfoze (preservation scanning). The more digitisation as preservation method for Metamorfoze increases, the more collections will be made available through the website <http://www.geheugenvannederland.nl>

ENHANCING THE KB'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION

The KB fulfils a pioneering role in the field of permanent access to digital scientific information in an international context. The KB e-Depot has naturally attained an international character. The KB maintains its strategy of closing archiving agreements with large international publishers. In July 2007 the international e-Depot contains almost 10 million scientific articles.

<http://www.kb.nl/dnp/e-depot/e-depot-en.html>

Together with the British Library, the KB was the initiator for the founding of an Alliance for Permanent Access to the Records of Science. In addition to the KB and the British Library, participants in the Alliance include large research institutes such as the European Space Agency and the Max Planck Gesellschaft, as well as the STM publishers. The official incorporation of the Alliance is expected in the beginning of 2008.

Also in the European context, the KB has an active role in The European Library (TEL), whose office is part of the KB organisation. TEL makes the digital and printed collections of the European national libraries findable and simultaneously searchable. The technical and organisational infrastructure of TEL will form the basis of a pan-European digital library, with content from libraries, archives, audio-visual archives and museums.

For building a cross-domain European Digital Library a confident personal network between the institutions has to be established. This is one of the objectives of the EDLnet project, which started in 2007 with subsidy from the European Commission. Shared solutions and issues for longer-term resolution should be identified through negotiation or research and development. EDLnet will facilitate workshops and meetings to achieve the aim of a multi-institutional cultural network.

CONTACT DETAILS

Address: PO Box 90407, 2509 LK The Hague, The Netherlands

Telephone: + 31 70 31 40 497

Fax: + 31 70 31 40 651

Web address: <http://www.kb.nl>

Email contact: <http://www.kb.nl/contact>