

Deutsche Nationalbibliothek  
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Germany



## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009**

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### **1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library**

In 2008, the focus was on the creation of the German Digital National Library comprising numerous national and international project activities, ranging from digital preservation to enhanced access to digital publications.

### **2. Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations**

The German National Library is the central archival library and national bibliographic centre for the Federal Republic of Germany. In 2006 the library obtained both an expanded legal mandate and a new name: Deutsche Nationalbibliothek (German National Library). The German National Library is based on the "Law regarding the German National Library" (<http://bundesrecht.juris.de/dnbg/index.html>, in German only).

The Legal Deposit Regulation came into force on 23 October 2008. Supplementing the 2006 Law regarding the German National Library it sets forth the collection mandate of the German National Library in more precise terms, superseding the Legal Deposit Regulation of 1982. Basically, the Law and the Regulation lay down what the German National Library is to collect. The main reason for the revised version was to circumscribe the collection of online publications. However, adaptations to bring the Law in line with the new formulations were also necessary for printed publications. Changes and further developments in the publishing world and the sound recording industry have also been taken into consideration. The Legal Deposit Regulation specifies the right of the German National Library to be sent, free of charge and without a specific request being issued, media works from Germany, while exempting those whose collections are of no public interest from the obligation to submit deposit copies. This therefore provides a binding legal framework for the Library's daily work.

### **3. Key facts and figures (1.1.2009)**

- 615 full time equivalents
- total budget: 43.012.000 Euro
- total holdings: 24.718.760 items
- new acquisitions in 2008: 646.839 items
- current journal titles: 57.848
- users per day: 1.614
- orders per day: 3.033

#### **4. New developments in creating and building collections**

Automated systems are required in order to fulfil the collection mandate which has now been expanded to include online publications, and in order to organise the submission of publications on a straightforward basis. This is why interfaces have been developed for the collection of online publications which have an equivalent form to printed works – such as electronic journals and e-books. A new web form for the simplified submission of monographs has been in use at the German National Library since the first half of 2008. The metadata supplied by the depositors is incorporated directly as a bibliographic description into the catalogue of the German National Library and is then immediately available for use in online searches.

At the same time, intensive work is being carried out on interfaces to an automatic collection system. This systematic retrieval of publications by means of a “crawler” is known as “web-harvesting”. During normal operation these interfaces require no manual input on the part of the submitter; the online publications and metadata can automatically be retrieved at the agreed intervals. Here there was intensive consultation with publishers and other producers of online publications to create the right conditions for submission or collection.

#### **5. New developments in managing print collections**

104,000 volumes were treated using the mass deacidification process: this represents 40,000 kilograms or 2,500 metres of books. Roughly 27,000 volumes were rebound as a preservation measure.

The duplication of 4,500 rolls of di- or triacetate microfilm which were endangered to varying extents by “vinegar syndrome” (a decomposition process in which acetic acid is created) was completed. These materials are now available in good condition.

#### **6. New developments in providing access to collections**

The range of services provided has gradually been expanded since the new service and catalogue portal was opened in October 2007. New functions designed to help users conduct rapid, targeted searches were added in 2008.

A specific search for printed music or archival papers and documents requires a wide range of different search possibilities. Special access points have therefore been created for the Deutsches Musikarchiv and the Deutsches Exilarchiv. The “Bonner Katalog” and the Collection of Historic Sound Recordings have been integrated. A new feature is links from the German Personal Name Authority File (PND) to the corresponding articles in the German version of the online encyclopaedia Wikipedia.

The enrichment of bibliographic data with publisher information and with searchable tables of contents means that the search possibilities have been significantly improved since the beginning of the year.

In February the German National Library started work on scanning the tables of contents of all new monographs issued by the publishing trade – 55,000 titles by the end of the year – as a means of making them accessible via the catalogue.

The enrichment service was extended to include older stocks in a pilot project launched in September. Since then the tables of contents of books acquired between 1913 and 1922 have been digitised, significantly improving the evaluation possibilities of catalogue searches of the German National Library’s older stocks.

In addition, the first 60,000 titles were enhanced with content-descriptive information from the publishers, supplied to the German National Library by MVB Marketing- und Verlagsservice des Buchhandels GmbH.

The major retroconversion project saw the German National Library assume further catalogue cards into its electronic catalogue, thereby making them accessible for

searches. The Alphabetic Catalogues of the sound recording and sheet music collections in Berlin and Leipzig are being converted, as are selected catalogues from the Deutsches Buch- und Schriftmuseum. The project is scheduled to run until the end of 2010 and covers the retroconversion of roughly 1.6 million catalogue cards.

## **7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions**

### *German Digital Library*

The foundations for setting up a German Digital Library as a national access portal to Europeana were laid in 2008. A key requirements proposal jointly drawn up by the federal, state and local governments, which clarifies the financial, legal and organisational issues, was approved by the Cultural Committee and by the University Committee of the Conference of Ministers for the Arts and Culture. The proposal is expected to be passed by the Conference of Prime Ministers and the Federal Cabinet in June 2009. In parallel to the political decision-making process, a specialist group consisting of federal and state-level delegates headed by the German National Library is taking the necessary practical steps for creating the German Digital Library.

### *Europeana*

The German National Library has been charged with the task of preserving Germany's cultural and scientific heritage and making it available to the general public. In the era of increasing globalisation, networking and media convergence, its work extends way beyond Germany's national borders. The EU-sponsored European digital library, the Europeana, in which the German National Library is also involved, has the task of presenting Europe's cultural and scientific heritage to a wide audience via the Internet. Even from the prototype, launched at the end of 2008, it was apparent just how great the demand for culture and science is in our global knowledge and information society. The prototype of the Europeana, the European digital library – accessible via [www.europeana.eu](http://www.europeana.eu) – was developed in the EU-financed EuropeanaNet project. Over 100 cultural institutions from all over Europe are partners in this network project which has been commissioned by CENL (Conference of European National Librarians, chaired by Elisabeth Niggemann, Director General of the Deutsche Nationalbibliothek) and is headed by the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the national library of the Netherlands. The Europeana provides access to over 3.5 million books, maps, recordings, photographs, archival documents, paintings and films from national libraries and cultural institutes from the 27 EU member states. The Europeana allows the digital collections of European libraries, archives, museums and audiovisual archives to be searched simultaneously, i.e. users can research particular topics without having to visit or navigate their way through numerous different websites.

### *Standardisation*

The main elements of the standardisation work carried out in 2008 were the involvement in the expert opinion process regarding the Resource Description and Access (RDA) drafts, the migration to MARC 21, the common format for the German authority files (GND), online communication with authority data, and numerous activities within the field of metadata.

The German National Library is also collaborating with the expert groups of the Committee for Library Standards on the development of the new international RDA rules. The complete draft was issued at the end of 2008, and the new rules are scheduled for publication in the second half of 2009.

The resolutions of the Committee for Library Standards passed in December 2004 on the internationalisation of the German standards identify as one of the first milestones the introduction and uniform use of MARC 21 as the standard exchange format for all libraries in Germany and Austria. This first goal has now been reached: the German National Library began to offer German National Bibliography data in MARC 21 format at the start of the 2009 bibliographic year which started on 17 December 2008. At the same time the title data of the German Union Catalogue of Serials was also made available in MARC 21.