

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

Name of country: **France**

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation:

**Bibliothèque nationale de France**

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### Activity highlights

The **strategic guidelines** mapped out in the BnF's 2009 multiannual performance contract shaped the bulk of its efforts in 2010. This performance contract is based on six key objectives, including a large digital component. These objectives follow:

- Be a benchmark digital library
- Enhance, identify and preserve France's national collections
- Revamp the Richelieu site and streamline real estate
- Enhance and diversify its audience, earn its satisfaction
- Develop its presence on the national, European and worldwide scenes
- Prepare for changes in the environmental charges by building the foundation for sustainable development

An assessment of achievements over the past two years, i.e. since the performance contract entered into force, show significant progress on the 21 top-priority action plans it encompasses. Progress spans the Gallica digital library's development and collection digitization, projects to revamp the range of scientific and cultural services onsite and online, and modernising management methods.

The prospects for rolling out this institution's top strategic objectives have changed significantly, in synch with the context, as a result of the fact that the French Government's *Investissements d'Avenir* ("Investing in the Future") programme and national loan rank digitizing cultural heritage among its top priorities. The BnF's teams have made substantial progress since 2010, preparing the ground for the changes in terms of digitization pace, methods and scope, for the massdigitization programme due to start in 2012.

### **Refurbishment of the BnF's historical building in the centre of Paris began in April 2010.**

Everything is ready to kick off refurbishing work in Q2 2010: we have secured the building permit, transferred the 37 kilometres of collections, and transferred the 260 team members to modular buildings and other sites. We have opened two temporary reading rooms for the public, with a new choice of services (online document booking, landline connections to the internet, and a new choice of free-access publications).

**The Gallica digital library reached the 1,000,000-online-document mark in 2010.** This online library [<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>] counted 1 million online documents in 2010, and 1.5 million in July 2011. Most of its sky-rocketing growth stems from bold programmes to digitize print material, newspapers and magazines. Nearly 60,000 recently published e-books (terms and conditions apply to access) and 60,000 documents digitized by partner libraries complement the BnF's collections.

Gallica's new architecture features modern graphics and ergonomics, inter alia including new services and features such as an exportable reader to share Gallica documents on other sites or blogs, or on Facebook walls, and a new JPEG2000 zoom (originally designed for maps, and stretched to encompass all types of documents, especially newspapers and magazines, in 2011). The Facebook and Netvibes pages, and Twitter feed, are other options to keep track of and share news from Gallica. This expansion has driven ongoing Gallica audience growth: roughly 7.4 million people visited it in 2010, i.e. 85% more than in 2009.

### A few figures

- The BnF took in the following legal deposits: 67,278 books (1% more than in 2009), 314,625 periodicals (4% fewer), 14,574 brochures and miscellaneous other publications, 18,571 specialist documents and 26,922 audio and audiovisual documents
- 43 To of data in 1.2 bn URLs from web legal deposits
- 944,734 readers perused 1,345,153 documents in reading rooms across the BnF's various sites
- The Gallica digital library ([www.gallica.fr](http://www.gallica.fr)) offered more than 1,300,000 online documents at end-2010 (up 35%), including 3% from partner libraries and 2% from partnerships with distributors. Gallica's almost 7.4 million visitors (85% more than in 2009) read 134.8 million pages on the site
- 267,000 people visited the exhibition venues, and bought 175,950 tickets to temporary exhibitions charging admission
- 21,750 people attended the 190 events on the programme (debates, conferences, concerts, readings)
- 16,824 students and teachers took part in the educational activities
- At end-2010, the BnF employed 2,635 people (eq. 2,435 full-time jobs)
- The BnF's 2010 budget stands at 264 million

### Collection development

**Remarkable items have come in.** Legal deposits, recurrent and heritage-trust acquisitions, and many donations and bequests from authors' and creators' personal archives contributed to enhancing our collections. Heritage-trust acquisitions, generously supported by sponsorships, brought in major works including Casanova's *Histoire de ma Vie*, which has now been fully digitized and is available online at Gallica.

### Collection management

**The SPAR (for *Système de Préservation et d'Archivage Réparti* or distributed digital storage system) entered production.** This system to preserve and store digital documents from various sources (conservation digitization, administrative production, internet legal deposit, etc.) and feed it to distributors such as the Gallica website has been operational since May 2010.

### Collection access

**A blanket agreement to digitize and circulate unavailable 20<sup>th</sup>-century books.** The French Culture and Communication Ministry, BnF, *Commissariat Général à l'Investissement près du Gouvernement* (government investment commission), *Syndicat National de l'Edition* (national publisher union) and *Société des Gens de Lettres* (society of people of letters) signed a blanket agreement in February 2011 to bring back copyrighted books that are no longer available in bookshops, in digital versions.

A corpus of 500,000 books will thus be digitized and available for sale over the next five years. These digitized books will be managed collectively, ensuring publishers and authors (which are represented at parity) receive equitable compensation in strict compliance with property and moral rights. The intellectual property code will be amended accordingly.

The book digitization operations will use the legal-deposit collections kept at the BnF, which will be entitled to keep a digital copy for its own use. Gallica will be providing all the enhanced bibliographic records, including a few pages to leaf through, and redirecting readers towards e-tailers in order to buy them.

The French State's financial support will be channelled through the programme to "develop the digital economy", via its chapter on developing new options to digitize and create value from cultural, scientific and educational content.

**An experimental venue for new reading and wiring technology: the Labo BnF.** This *Labo* has been providing an open door for visitors to explore the new options to create, consult and circulate knowledge using new information and communication technology, at the François-Mitterrand site, since June 2010. The goal is to introduce and raise the general public's awareness of the new digital media and applications that encapsulate the resources that libraries will be able to offer, including selection walls, cognitive sciences, superfast broadband access, and mobile, interactive and communicating devices. This future-looking forum also hosts conferences and workshops that are turning this venue for experiments and exchanges into a genuine laboratory.

**The cultural programme** and a new exhibition venue, the *Galerie des Donateurs* allowed the BnF to continue to celebrate heritage in 2010 – and was a new step in its policy to open up to contemporary art. The *La France de Raymond Depardon* photograph exhibition attracted exceptional exposure and more than 80,000 visitors.

**The digital library for children.** In September 2010, under the Culture and Communication Ministry's call for projects involving "innovative cultural digital services", the BnF opened a digital library for 8- to 12-year-old children, to provide an edu-taining introduction to the universe of the written language and images, <http://enfants.bnf.fr>. The BnF collections are this site's raw material.

## **Cooperation**

### **The digital realm has opened up fertile soil for national and international partnerships.**

In France, digital cooperation between the BnF and other French libraries, principally via Gallica, has inter alia led to joint multiyear digitization and value creation programmes.

The BnF is also pushing ahead with dynamic cooperation drives in the international arena. It has in particular:

- Stepped up its contribution to Europeana, by supplying all its digital documents and contributing actively to several European technology and documentation projects aiming to promote access to Europe's heritage in digital form, and to preserve its various components. This is the case with Europeana Regia and preparation work on Europeana 14-18, two content projects that are cementing Europeana's theme-based structure.
- Contributed to joint digitization programmes to compile new documentary compendia such as, for example, the World Digital Library.
- Contributed to new momentum for the *Réseau Francophone Numérique* (digital French language network) [<http://www.rfnum.org/>], in particular by organising a network member summit in Paris in March 2010. This gathering gave the network a fresh boost on several fronts: it adopted the governance charter tendered by the BnF, and took decisions to expand content and improve site ergonomics, and to step up training programmes for French-speaking countries.
- Contributed, via a 500,000-book donation to the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, alongside its Egyptian partner institution, to efforts to develop a regional French-Arabic platform, a French language resource centre, and a library and documentation science training centre for Egypt and the Middle East.
- An intergovernmental agreement signed in February 2011 between France and South Korea, implementing the French and Korean Presidents' 12 November 2010 declaration in Seoul, put an end to the dispute between the two countries over 297 royal Korean manuscripts kept at the BnF. These documents remain the property of France, which has agreed to lend them to South Korea for a renewable 5-year period under terms and conditions stipulated in a memorandum of agreement signed in March 2011 by the BnF and the National Museum of Korea, where the documents on loan are currently being kept.

The full annual report (in French) is available at [www.bnf.fr](http://www.bnf.fr): La BnF > Connaître la BnF