REPORT TO CDNL 2006

Period: February – July 2006

Goal: To advance understanding of issues related to long-term archiving of electronic resources, in order to improve international coordination and to steer developments in the area of digital preservation.

Actions:
4.1   Explore the requirements/conditions for long-term archiving of electronic resources.
4.2   Migration & emulation: explore and promote strategies, methods and standards.

Report:
To reach this goal, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) conducted a survey on the current state of affairs of digital archiving in 15 national libraries (baseline July 2005). This survey addressed both operational and R&D activities aimed at digital preservation. The main focal points were the use of standards in operational safe place environments and the state of affairs on permanent access strategies, such as migration and emulation. Apart from providing information on the status, function and organisational embedding of digital repositories in the library organisations, the survey also gives an overview of the current national and international R&D projects.

The survey concluded that digital preservation in the year 2005 is becoming increasingly integrated in the day-to-day library activities. Digital preservation is a rapidly developing discipline and although there are not many official standards for it yet, emerging best practices might develop into standards within a few years. Since 2003, considerable progress has been made in building digital repositories, or networks of interconnected computer systems. A second development is the emergence of large networks for national and international cooperation. At first, the focus was limited to the cultural heritage sector, but now the perspective is broadening, and cooperation between the cultural heritage sector and the science sector is becoming increasingly important. Although such cooperative projects or platforms often started with a focus on knowledge dissemination and knowledge sharing, it is likely that they could be used in the near future for the joint development of tools for permanent access as well.

In March 2006 the KB-ICABS survey was published in IFLA's Green Series (K.G. Saur Verlag, München), with the title *Networking for digital preservation. Current practice in 15 national libraries*. In June 2006 the online version of the publication has been made available through the websites of ICABS and PADI. See: **http://www.ifla.org/VI/7/pub/IFLAPublication-No119.pdf**. Publicity has been generated through the websites of KB, DPC and NESTOR, on several discussion

lists, in (e) journals and in a national Dutch newspaper. A presentation of the research has been given on the occasion of a three day conference, organised by the IFLA PAC and the IFLA P&C Section, in the Bibliothèque nationale de France in March 2006.

The KB is partner in PLANETS (Preservation and Long-term Access through NETworked Services), a cross sectoral 3 year international EU project on developing tools for digital preservation, that started in June 2006 and will be coordinated by the British Library. It is expected that ICABS can profit of the outcomes of this project in future.
KB expects it's future focus in ICABS to remain on digital preservation, and has great interest in implementing mass digitisation practices as a topic. KB attended the ICABS meeting in Canada in April 2006. In August 2006 KB will give a presentation on ICABS at the annual CDNL Meeting at IFLA Seoul.

(IV/June 23rd, 2006)