

Werk

Titel: The Distribution System of Collection Development and its Services in the Context...

Autor: Degkwitz, Andreas

Ort: Graz

Jahr: 1994

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514854804_0004|log39

Kontakt/Contact

Digizeitschriften e.V.
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

✉ info@digizeitschriften.de

The Distribution System of Collection Development and its Services in the Context of Inter-Library Loan

ANDREAS DEGKWITZ^{*}
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Bonn

1. The supply of literature in the Federal Republic of Germany

In the Federal Republic of Germany, the provision of literature in the field of science and research can be characterized as follows:

- As far as the basic literature requirements are concerned, the libraries in the vicinity of a university and those belonging to the universities of the region in question (that is, of one or several federal *Länder*), are responsible for meeting the former.
- In the case of specialized and highly-specialized literature requirements, a supra-regional system of subject and region-oriented collection main fields exists.
- The essential components of literature provision are: collection development and cataloging on the local, regional and supra-regional (in other words, national) level as well as inter-library lending and document delivery.

Whereas the provision of literature in the Federal Republic of Germany is not likely to differ to any great degree from the practice in other countries, as far as the basic supply is concerned, the national system of decentralized collection main fields for specialized and highly-specialized literature constitutes a peculiarity of the German system both from the point of view of its development and its expression.

^{*}

Paper presented at the LIBER Annual Conference, Göttingen 1994.

2. The supra-regional collection main field system (Sammelschwerpunktsystem)

The starting point for the supra-regional (that is, national) collection main fields was the situation in 1949 which was characterized by the losses caused by the War, the lack of foreign currency and a shortage of funds to purchase literature. In the light of this situation, the supra-regional system of subject-oriented collection main fields was set up with the aid of funding from the German Research Society to provide an infrastructure which was seen as a prerequisite for the provision of literature in the fields of scholarship and research. It was on this foundation that the system for meeting specialized and highly-specialized literature requirements on the supra-regional level, which exists today, was able to develop.

Compared with the situation in the 1950s, other needs have now moved into the foreground. Whereas, in those days, it was primarily a matter of replenishing the literature stocks devastated by the War, nowadays, the amount of literature produced which is relevant to research is so extensive and specialized that the need for specialized literature cannot be covered by the local and regional book supply alone. There is every reason to expect this development to continue in the future since book production is continually expanding, and book prices with it, whereas the purchasing power of library budgets earmarked for the acquisition of books is on the decline. In the light of this fact, the function of the cooperative system of decentralized subject-oriented collection main fields becomes particularly clear. For example, the corresponding collection main field libraries can target their book acquisition to meet the demands of individual subject areas and disciplines and thus furnish the specialized and highly-specialized literature resources needed by science and research.

The collection main fields of the system which cover some 25 subject areas are spread out over:

- 18 universal libraries (university, state and *Land* libraries) which are known as special subject collection libraries owing to their collection main field function; these collections essentially cover the humanities and the social sciences,
- 4 central subject libraries (*zentrale Fachbibliotheken*) for application-oriented subjects (engineering sciences, natural sciences, medicine, agricultural science and economics),
- a series of special libraries; these are libraries which dispose of very specialized stocks of books as a result of their close connection to certain research institutions.

The definition and library-oriented allocation of the collection main fields are based on criteria pertaining to the scientific system as well as practical

considerations (history of the collection, infrastructure, etc.). Where possible, changes in technical and scientific disciplines are taken into account in the process. The guiding principle of literature acquisition in the collection main field context is that purchasing of the relevant literature for the subject area in question must be as comprehensive as possible. In the main, monographs and periodicals are purchased, but information carriers such as microforms are also procured.

3. Funding by the German Research Society

Especially in special subject collection libraries and special libraries, a considerable degree of funding for the supra-regional collection main field system is provided by the German Research Society. The central subject libraries were built up on the initiative and with the financial support of the Research Society. In the meantime, they are being financed within the framework of a joint financing agreement between the Federal Government and the *Länder* pursuant to Article 91b of the Basic Law. Collection main field funding is one of the objectives pursued by the Research Society which, above and beyond basic research, also provides financial support for infrastructure facilities for research such as scientific librarianship. In the case of the special subject collection libraries, Research Society funding predominantly covers the purchasing of special foreign literature. The procurement of standard literature from abroad and the acquisition of the research literature published in Germany on the specific collection main fields are financed from the special subject collection libraries' own resources. As a result, 75% of the funds spent on foreign periodicals and monographs within the framework of the special subject collection programme are furnished by the Research Society and 25% are covered from library resources.

The following figures give an idea of how funding is translated in concrete terms:

- Some 50,000 foreign and domestic periodicals are currently being subscribed to by the special subject collections. Together with the approximately 50,000 periodicals being subscribed to by the central subject libraries, the total stock of periodicals kept by the collection main field system amounts to around 100,000 titles.
- The yearly acquisition of foreign monographs amounts to some 100,000 volumes. In addition to these, there are approximately 100,000 physical units of foreign microforms.
- Over the past ten years, the Research Society spent around 80 million deutsche marks, and the special subject collection libraries expended almost 30 million deutsche marks of their own funds

acquiring foreign literature. In addition, the special subject collection libraries spent about 20 million deutsche marks procuring domestic literature for the collection main fields.

4. Records of the collection main field stocks

Over and above the individual local library catalogues, the literature stocks of the subject-oriented collection main fields are - in addition to the literature stocks of all academic libraries - recorded in the regional and/or supra-regional library catalogues and/or data-bases. Complete records for the periodicals which are subscribed to at the collection main fields, including title and location, can be found at the supra-regional periodicals database (ZDB). Users are able to conduct on-line searches at this database which contains references to almost all the periodicals held by Germany's university and universal libraries. Since the 1980s, records for monographic collection main field literature are included in the data-bases of the regional library networks and supra-regionally in the union catalogue of machine-readable data at the German Library Institute (Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut) in Berlin. These data sets also lend themselves to on-line research. References for the monographs obtained before 1980 can be found in the regional union catalogues.

5. Availability within the lending system

The literature at the supra-regional collection main fields is accessible to scholars and researchers via the inter-library lending system. Apart from specific services peculiar to the central subject libraries, inter-library lending in the Federal Republic of Germany means lending among libraries, in other words, the user submits the request for an inter-library loan to the local library; the inter-library loan is then sent via a circulation procedure or directly to the library which disposes of the requested literature; from there, the desired publication is sent to the so-called ordering library where it is handed over to the user. In the case of the central subject libraries, the user can circumvent the circulation procedure, order directly and have the literature delivered.

In conclusion, it can be said that:

- Alongside the collection main field system which is highly decentralized, excellent collections of periodicals and monographs - complementing the basic supply of academic literature - are available to meet the demand for specialized and highly-specialized research literature.
- The literature contained in the collection main fields is listed and recorded in regional and supra-regional catalogues and/or data-

bases.

- Inter-library lending provides scholars and researchers with access to the collection main field stocks. However, the existing inter-library loan procedure often implies long execution times for the processing of orders and for the delivery of the necessary literature. In the light of this situation, this aspect of the supra-regional provision of literature is in need of urgent improvement.

6. Improvements to inter-library lending and document delivery

The use of modern technologies and adapted organizational forms can optimize the service rendered in the area of document ordering and delivery. The aim should be to arrive at a situation where the user can address his or her request for the necessary literature directly to the holding library on the basis of his or her own title and location research and have the requested publication(s) sent by the library in question directly - in so far as this can be reconciled with the usage conditions. In order to achieve this,

- suitable software must be available in addition to the necessary hardware to enable the computer-assisted transmission of orders and the electronic transmission of documents (for example articles from periodicals).
- faster means of transport must be found for the shipping of loaned literature (for example monographs),
- the processing of orders for documents received by the libraries must be organized in such a way that requests can be met speedily - for example, 48 hours after receipt of the order by the holding library,
- the user must be required to contribute towards the costs incurred for faster processing, by the need for additional staff, and shipping (data transfer costs, private carriers etc). In order to be able to support the service by means of this additional income, the budgetary prerequisites must be created to make it possible for this income to be invested in the document delivery service itself.

7. The recommendations put forward by the German Research Society

The Research Society Committees responsible for library promotion are looking intensively into the area of "inter-library lending and document delivery" and making recommendations on how these services can be improved. Alongside recommendations regarding defined objectives concerning service improvement, concrete measures and projects are similarly being proposed to implement these

objectives. To a certain degree, this can be supported by Research Society funds. The starting point for the recommended supportive measures is improved document ordering and delivery within the framework of supra-regional literature provision. In this context, the supra-regional collection main field libraries have a special status as far as funding is concerned.

It was only recently that the Research Society submitted a set of recommendations on how to improve inter-library lending and document delivery. The primary objective of the recommendation is the setting up of a quick document delivery service with the aid of which the user can order the necessary literature directly from the holding library and have the literature delivered by the same within a deadline of 48 hours. This service, for the use of which additional fees are to be charged, is supposed to operate alongside the basic services already rendered by the existing lending system.

A number of priority recommendations are also made as a prerequisite for the creation of an additional direct ordering and delivery service as well as for the improvement of the basic inter-library lending service with a view to the speedy handling of orders:

- the creation of the technical conditions for computer-assisted order transmission on a network basis,
- the creation of the conditions necessary to enable the documents ordered to be transmitted electronically,
- the optimization of the means of conveying loaned materials,
- the development and implementation of operating procedures within the libraries themselves to facilitate the speedy handling of orders.

8. Supportive measures

To implement these objectives within the framework of the supra-regional provision of literature, a range of supportive measures, some of which have already been adopted and others which are being recommended, will be necessary.

Within the framework of an ongoing Research Society project, the ISO/OSI Norm of the ILL Protocol is currently being implemented as a pilot project at the university libraries in Constance and Ulm. The aim of the project is to develop a pilot system for the computer-assisted handling of inter-library loan orders which are transmitted via a direct connection from one library to the other.

At the same time, the results of the project on the transmission of orders can be used for network communication on a supra-regional basis. This objective is being tackled by a project aimed at attaining a German Library Network based on OSI standards. This project is being funded jointly by the Research Society, the Federal Ministry for Research and Technology and the Federal Ministry for

Education and Science. It is intended to establish a network, at first comprising three regional library networks, two supra-regional library service centers and two scientific and technical information centers to create a "German Library Network" (DBV/OSI). The ultimate aim is to grant the user transparent and system-independent access to the data-bases of the hosts participating in the network from the user's desktop. During the first phase of the project which is already underway, the OSI Standard, "Search and Retrieve" (SR) is being implemented for literature research. This will be followed in the second phase by the implementation of the ILL Protocol for the inter-library lending communication in the network. On the whole, the aspiration is to achieve a network which allows the user to conduct system-independent literature research and place orders from his or her desktop and can be opened up to further participants when the project comes to a close.

Major emphasis will be placed in the future on improving the possibilities for ordering and delivering collection main field literature. A number of projects are in the pipeline, within the framework of which a direct ordering and delivery service for periodicals and monographs from special subject collections is to be created experimentally outside of the regular lending service.

Corresponding projects are to cover the following service profile:

- the user transmits the order by post, fax or electronic mail directly to the project libraries;
- the order is processed by the project library within 48 hours;
- in so far as the requested literature is available at the project library, it will be forwarded to the user by post, fax or file-transfer.

These pilot projects are designed to develop operational and organizational procedures for a 48-hour ordering and delivery service and implement them with a view to attaining routine operation including the collection and administration of fees. The results of the projects can then be put to use by other collection main field libraries.

Additional projects are meant to promote the connection of collection main field libraries to regional ordering and delivery systems. In North Rhine-Westphalia, the JASON (Journal Articles Sent On Demand) System is on the verge of commencing routine operation at the *Land* level. In Lower Saxony and Saxony-Anhalt, the RAP-DOC Service is scheduled to be available within the framework of the PICA Network by the end of the year. The aim of the projects planned at the collection main field libraries is the integration of the collection main fields in the computer-assisted ordering and delivery systems which are in use on the regional level. By means of its supportive measures, the Research Society aspires after an improved document ordering and delivery mechanism for the supra-regional collection main fields. Nationwide improvements in the inter-library loan and document delivery services within and beyond the regions are

being pursued by the federal Government and the *Länder* by means of initiatives and activities. A working group set up on the initiative of the Federal Ministry for Education and Science, and which comprises representatives of the federal Government and the *Länder* as well as the state and university libraries, will shortly be elaborating plans and concepts to work towards effecting the improvements in the services recommended from various quarters, including the creation of structural conditions necessary to achieve them. In the light of the fact that the collection main field system is being financed from Research Society funds, the latter will be taking an active part in these planning activities.

9. Conclusion

The supra-regional collection main fields of the special subject collection libraries, the central subject libraries and the special libraries dispose of very good collections of specialized and highly-specialized research literature. Scholarship and research must be allowed better and faster access to these stocks with the aid of modern technology. Within the framework of the funding possibilities at its disposal, the German Research Society is in a position to optimize document delivery in the area of collection main field literature on a pilot project basis. At the same time, these activities offer the possibility of pursuing improvements in the inter-library lending services provided by German libraries as a whole.