

## Werk

**Titel:** Germany

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**Ort:** Graz

**Jahr:** 1996

**PURL:** [https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514854804\\_0006|log42](https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514854804_0006|log42)

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## **Die Deutsche Bibliothek as Competence Centre**

### **Annual Report 1995**

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#### **Collection and long-term preservation**

In 1995 the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig recorded accessions of 297,284 publications, of which books accounted for 141,666 and bound volumes of periodicals for 37,074 (for 71,327 current periodicals). Accessions at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main numbered 310,083 publications, including 122,845 books and 39,861 bound volumes of periodicals (for 67,141 current periodicals). Additions of musicalia and music recordings at the Deutsches Musikarchiv are reflected in the Frankfurt figures.

Total library holdings exceeded the 14 million mark during the reporting year (Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig: 8.1 million; Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main: 6.2 million).

As an archival library for German language and literature, Die Deutsche Bibliothek signed the Agreement on Cooperation for the Continuation of the Task Group "Sammlung Deutscher Drucke" along with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, the Herzog-August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main and the

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. In doing so, it extends the Collection of German Publications from 1450 to 1912 to include the years beginning in 1913 and cooperates in the provision of specific services.

More and more publications are now offered and distributed in digital form, whether on floppy disc, magnetic tape or CD-ROM or in non-material form as networked publications. The Advisory Council and the Administrative Council have approved the Basic Policy Paper for Die Deutsche Bibliothek, which addresses the following issues:

- the need for long-term preservation of digital media
- cooperation between Die Deutsche Bibliothek and publishers
- collection guidelines
- technical infrastructure
- national bibliographic records
- availability

In the recommendations outlined in its paper entitled "Electronic publications in the collections of literature and information at academic libraries" (1995), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [German Research Association] emphasises the need to ensure the long-term preservation of such media by establishing clear legal deposit regulations and supporting Die Deutsche Bibliothek in meeting its responsibilities with respect to preservation and bibliographic records. Although the legal deposit laws currently in force do cover digital media distributed in physical form, new legislation is needed for the collection of so-called networked publications. A task group is presently drafting an amendment to the law in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Within the framework of the Telematics Programme of the European Commission, the European national libraries have sponsored a detailed study on the digital archival library which provides a sound basis for national legislative initiatives. Members of the steering committee were the British Library, Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Royal Library of the Netherlands. The results of the study were discussed at a workshop in Luxembourg in late December and approved by publishers and library representatives.

Performance requirements suitable for a public invitation to tender have been prepared with respect to the implementation of the technical concept for preservation and access at the new library building in Frankfurt. Thus the library has achieved a level of development that ensures an appropriate degree of planning security in the transition from print media to digital publications and a step-by-step expansion to become an electronic archive.

With its Leipzig Centre for Book Preservation, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has shaped a strategic concept for the preservation of the cultural heritage and set new standards for technical implementation. The mass deacidification facility developed in cooperation with Battelle treated roughly ten tons of books in routine operations during 1995. The paper-splitting technique for the mechanical strengthening of paper was used to process 40,000 book pages. Microfilming and manual restoration augment the total programme. More than 110,000 items were processed for the purpose of conservation. Experts from 30 countries will participate in an international conference on Preservation and Access to be held in Leipzig during the Leipzig Book Fair in 1996. The conference is sponsored by the European Commission on Preservation and Access and Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

**Processing, bibliographic records and central services**

All new accessions were processed with the required degree of currency for descriptive and - keeping with currently applicable restrictions - subject cataloguing.

The number of CIP notices rose again in 1995. Presently, 3,779 publishers participate in the programme. A total of 226,948 publications were indexed in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie, roughly matching the 1994 figure.

In addition to bibliographic processing, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is also intensively involved in the development and expansion of authority files. The Name Authority File (PND) is currently being established in cooperation with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, the Hochschulbibliothekszentrum Köln and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The Subject Authority File (SWD) is maintained in a cooperative effort with the participation of the Bibliotheksverband Bayern, the Nordrhein-westfälischer Bibliotheksverbund, the Bibliotheksverbund Niedersachsen/Sachsen-Anhalt/Thüringen, the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund and libraries in Austria. Editing and data processing for both the PND and the SWD are performed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek. The SWD currently contains more than 600,000 keywords and references.

Every bibliographic citation generated by Die Deutsche Bibliothek for the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie provides the basis for a variety of central computer-aided services.

The title-card service comprised 3,662 million cards. This corresponds to the previous year's level - despite advances in library automation. The magnetic tape service, of particular importance to library associations and their affiliated libraries, distributed 9.3 million data records in 1995, an increase of 25 % over the previous year.

The number of data records includes the citations of the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie in the German MAB and the

international MARC formats (UNIMARC), the records of the British Library and Casalini Libri redistributed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the SWD and PND records. To a considerable extent, the increase was driven by the selective ordering of retrospective data. The floppy disc service distributed 1.633 million data records.

The current CD-ROM version of the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie was augmented through the incorporation of the DNB-CD retro, which covers books and maps published between 1945 and 1965 and comprises a total of 600,000 data records. Work on expanding the service to 1985 is proceeding on schedule. Other services include the Diss-CD (dissertations from 1945 to 1993) and the CD-DNB Musik. The latter has been extended to include the years 1976 to 1983 and now offers search options based on ISMN (International Standard Music Number) and order numbers. A CD-ROM containing both the PND and the SWD is scheduled for release concurrent with the 1996 Conference of Librarians.

Through its DBV-OSI project and in cooperation with research centres and associations, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has implemented direct communication among database systems over the international interface Z39.50. A communication module for this purpose was completed in mid-1995; inter-operability testing began in the fall of 1995. Die Deutsche Bibliothek plans to use Z39.50 as a supplemental channel for the on-line distribution of its bibliographic and authority data.

A new agreement on BIBLIODATA was concluded with the database provider STN International of Karlsruhe. The agreement takes recent developments in technology and the economy into account.

Information about Die Deutsche Bibliothek and its services can be obtained either through the Internet information server (address: <http://www.ddb.de>) or through the server of the European national libraries (CENL) under the name GABRIEL

(Gateway to Europe's National Libraries; address: <http://www.bl.uk/gabriel>).

### **Library use**

Due to differences in development and demand, the user services (local check-out, inter-library loan, information) provided by the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig and the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main have been designed to meet specific local requirements. Although the situation is improving at other libraries in the region, the Deutsche Bücherei remains the library with the largest collection and the most attractive working conditions in the Leipzig area. It is the library of choice at the regional level. Its pre-1950 collections also make it particularly attractive from an inter-regional standpoint. Special collections are concentrated primarily in Leipzig.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main has been confronted with personnel shortages in the area of library use for several years. This situation is made more difficult by the crowded conditions in the main building and the fact that 60 % of its collections are housed in a number of different auxiliary storage facilities.

Aside from these aspects, Frankfurt and the surrounding region has a better library infrastructure than Leipzig. All of these factors have affect the range of services offered.

Figures for 1995 show 43,908 active users in Leipzig and 23,892 in Frankfurt. Leipzig processed 436,084 orders; 283,252 orders were recorded in Frankfurt. While the intensity of use remain virtually unchanged in Frankfurt, it rose by 12 % in Leipzig. While the introduction of the on-line catalogue may have affected developments in this area, it is certain that the change to more user-oriented reading room collections has had a considerable impact.

The situation in Frankfurt will improve with the move to the new facility in 1997. Currently existing use restrictions and capacity shortages will be eliminated at this time.

The new building is moving towards completion precisely on schedule. By the end of 1995, all but 5 % of construction work had been contracted. Library departments and architects reached agreement on interior facility planning, making it possible to issue invitations to tender in the second quarter of 1996. The transfer of book collections to the new building is scheduled to begin on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1996.

Building conservation measures and various renovation projects were undertaken in Leipzig during 1995.

### **Prospects**

In spite of the library staff's strong commitment to service and its excellent performance, which produced demonstrably substantial benefits for the economy as a whole, the negative effects of budget restrictions have had a noticeable impact. Steadily rising demands and user expectations place an increasingly heavy burden on available capacities.

The situation is exacerbated by the blanket moratorium on hiring to fill staff vacancies. In addition, the number of permanent positions is currently being reduced annually, a number of responsibilities must be assigned to temporary personnel and new developments can only be financed with project funds. Die Deutsche Bibliothek has consistently taken advantage of every opportunity for rationalisation in order to fulfil its mandate. Now is it called upon to undertake a rigorous consolidation of its areas of operation. Only in this way can a deterioration in performance be avoided. This will lead to restrictions in collection efforts and reductions in service offerings. These changes should be discussed in advance with publishers and subscribers.



The circumstances described above limit the library's ability to operate effectively at a time in which the functions it performs as national bibliographic competence centre are in particularly strong demand and could be especially effective and beneficial.

This phase is characterised by profound changes in publishing, by the availability, beginning in 1997, of a highly sophisticated, modern information structure in the new Frankfurt library building and by the dynamic dimension of international networking (Internet).

It is neither investments nor the sheer size of library collections alone, but an institution's capacity to function and perform that creates added value. This capacity must be strengthened. In a period dominated by the distribution of work processes and close international cooperation, the importance of Die Deutsche Bibliothek as a full-service partner to both research and business is greater than ever.