

Werk

Titel: Netherlands

Autor: Drimmelen, Wim van

Ort: Graz

Jahr: 1996

PURL: https://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?514854804_0006|log48

Kontakt/Contact

[Digizeitschriften e.V.](#)
SUB Göttingen
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1
37073 Göttingen

✉ info@digizeitschriften.de

National Library of the Netherlands

Annual report 1995-1996

WIM VAN DRIMMELEN
Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague

The main mission of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek as the national library of the Netherlands is to preserve the national printed and written heritage. Apart from the deposit collection of printed material, the KB has a high level collection of scholarly literature in the humanities and a number of special collections comprising incunabula, medieval and modern manuscripts, early printed books etc. The coverage of the social sciences is less in depth; scientific literature is not actively collected. In 1995 the KB had an estimated 2,200,000 bound volumes.

The Library in Politics

After many internal discussions the strategic plan 1996-1997 was issued in October 1995. The plan contains a description of the KB's tasks and position as a national library which was first set out in a memorandum endorsed in late 1994 by the State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science. For the years to come policy decisions are formulated concerning the innovation of services, the deposit of electronic publications, conservation, collection-based research, the scholarly collections, user-orientation and the promotion of staff expertise.

Discussions with the government on financial problems which arose after the transition to a new regime under the Higher Education and Research Act, continued. Solutions for capital expenditure and building maintenance were agreed upon, but the costs of library personnel are a growing burden. Personnel costs are only partially covered by government funding.

Depository Library

In the absence of a statutory requirement for a depository library in the Netherlands the KB tries to make voluntary arrangements with publishers and other information providers to deposit offline media as well as documents that can be consulted online. On the initiative of the KB the Royal Dutch Publishers Association prepared a set of recommendations for its members concerning the deposit of offline media. With Elsevier Science an agreement was reached on a national depository library license. About 400 scientific journals will be deposited as electronic files and made available for on-site access.

The Library Building

The public rooms were renovated and in part fundamentally altered. The most drastic change concerned the moving of the reading room for the depository library from the ground to the first floor. Plans were made for the construction of a new entrance.

Information Technology and Automation

After a formal EC tender procedure the implementation of a new network-infrastructure has started. The existing 10 Mb Ethernet will be replaced with a new cat 5 UTP cable network for data and speech with 100 Mb capacity. A security policy was

developed concerning both procedures and technological components that will be implemented as part of the network in 1996.

At the end of 1995 80% of the hardware for the central systems was not older than two years. Old hardware, with high maintenance costs, was replaced by new machines.

At the workplace (desktop) level about 30% of the installed base was replaced by new equipment. As a result of a pilot to investigate the effects of a migration from DOS to Windows, about 20% of KB users are now working with Windows.

The retroconversion of the old card catalogue with some 700,000 entries was continued. As part of an employment project extra staff is available to carry out the job.

The KB is developing an Advanced Information Workstation (AIW) which integrates information services, network navigation tools and PC utilities. The first version became operational in April 1996. An important part is a metadatabase containing descriptions of secondary electronic resources. The project is carried out in cooperation with AT&T which brings in its knowledge of existing tools and systems which are used as building blocks for the new workstation.

InfoServices, the network service on behalf of the Dutch academic research network SURFnet, was continued. The expertise of InfoServices is put into the development of Alexicon, the KB network information service (<http://www.konbib.nl>). Discussions have started on the integration of Alexicon in the KB organization and on the relation between Alexicon and the Advanced Information Workstation.

The Dutch Committee for the Innovation of Academic Information Services (IWI) formulated a research plan which will be funded on a fifty fifty matching base by the government as well as the universities and other research institutions, including the KB (NLG 4 million in 1996). The KB submitted proposals for

several projects, for instance a pilot project for the deposit of electronic publications and the indexing of Internet Resources.

Conservation and Preservation Collections

During the past years the KB carried out several investigations on conservation and preservation. The results were used for the development of a scenario for selecting Dutch documents for preservation. The recommendations will be used for a government plan for cultural policy during the years 1997-2000.

In 1996 the KB started the input of data in the Netherlands Register of Microform Masters (NROMM), which will also be a part of the European EROMM database. Moreover, the KB is putting some 45 newspapers on microfilm preceding a national preservation plan.

Public Relations

The KB organized four major exhibitions: Dutch military books 1795-1995, work from Hendrik Werkman illegally printed during World War II, ten years of fine printing in the depository library, and the techniques of Dutch book illustrations in the 19th century. The KB published several bibliographies, catalogues, brochures, reports and periodicals. In 1995 the national bibliography, issued by a commercial publisher, was published on CD-ROM for the first time.

Preparations have started for the celebration of KB's bicentenary in 1998.

International Cooperation

Innovative projects are carried out in close cooperation with other national libraries in Europe under the auspices of the COBRA Forum. The KB participated in the supervising

committee for the NBBI study on the deposit of electronic publications and will be participating in the projects Biblink and Desire. Moreover, the KB contributed to the setting-up of Gabriel - Gateway to Europe's National Libraries. Elsewhere, work progressed on the projects UseMarcon, Mecano and INCIPIT.

In recognition of their common interests and objectives, the British Library and the KB have signed a collaborative agreement in September 1995.