

## KB i partnerstva: uspostavljanje infrastrukture nacionalnih informacija

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### The KB and its partnerships: towards a national information infrastructure

#### **Bas Savenije**

KB ("Koninklijke Bibliotheek"), National Library of The Netherlands

Nacionalna biblioteka Nizozemske

Hag, Nizozemska

[bas.savenije@kb.nl](mailto:bas.savenije@kb.nl)

#### **Sažetak**

*U 2015. godini KB-u će se dodijeliti novi zadaci, posebno upravljanje mrežom javnih biblioteka. Nadograđivajući rezultate postignute prethodnih godina, KB će preuzeti odgovornost za digitalnu nacionalnu biblioteku: integrisani portfolio usluga za krajnje korisnike, te potrebne pozicije za podršku istog. Na ovaj način će se omogućiti uspostava dinamičnog informacijskog okruženja koje će predstavljati osnovu za inovacije i razvoj. Saradnja u okviru bibliotečkog sektora kao i u široj mreži institucija kulturnog naslijeđa predstavlja neophodan uslov za realizaciju ove ambicije.*

**Ključne riječi:** Koninklijke Bibliotheek, partnerstvo, digitalna nacionalna biblioteka

#### **Abstract**

*As of 2015 the KB will be allocated new core tasks, in particular the management of the network of public library facilities. Building on the achievements of recent years the KB will take responsibility for the national digital library: an integrated portfolio of services for end users and the supporting positions needed for this. This creates a dynamic information environment that forms the basis for innovation and development. Cooperation within the library sector, as well as in the broader network of cultural heritage institutions, is a necessary condition to realise this ambition.*

**Keywords:** Koninklijke Bibliotheek, partnerships, national digital library

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The KB («Koninklijke Bibliotheek») has been the national library of the Netherlands since 1798. In 1806, it was given the predicate "Koninklijk" (Royal) by Louis Napoleon. The KB has been a national deposit library since 1974, collecting all publications of the

Netherlands. Since 1993, the KB is no longer a part of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and has become an independent organisation.

The vision of the KB consists of two elements:

- offering everyone access to everything published in or about the Netherlands;
- playing a central role in the information infrastructure of the Netherlands.

Strategic priority #1 of the KB is to be able to make all Dutch publications digitally available by 2025.

As of 2015, under the new Dutch Library Act, the KB will be allocated new core tasks, in particular the management of the network of public library facilities and the development and maintenance of the national digital library. This is a considerable enhancement of the positioning of the KB in the library and heritage sector, the information infrastructure and therefore in Dutch society.

#### **Digitising the KB collection**

At the moment, approximately 10% of the KB collection (books, newspapers, magazines) is available in digital format. Challenges for the coming years include:

- the digitisation of the print collection (6 million items)
- building up a born digital collection, i.e. the collection of sources that will be published in digital format
- providing integrated access, embedded in the user's workflow
- effective and efficient storage of documents, accessible now and in the future.

The digitisation of the printed collection is expensive and can only be partially funded by public means. That is why the KB has private public partnerships: with Google for the out-of-copyright books and with ProQuest for the special old prints that cannot leave the library. In the partnership with Google, it has been agreed that the KB will be given a copy of the scans made and can also make these available through its own website and through Europeana. The KB can therefore ensure sustainable storage and free access will also be guaranteed in future.

We must note here that the KB does not hold all Dutch publications. The older university libraries (particularly Amsterdam and Leiden) also have many older Dutch publications. Cooperation is therefore necessary.

In order to build up the born digital collection, it is important to make the transition from print to digital collection as soon as possible if a publication is available both in print and in digital format (such as e-books and newspapers). This prevents a situation in which a constant back-log is being built up in digitisation. In addition, collection building for e-only publication must also be set up. From the efficiency point of view, it is essential that the ingest of digital publications is standardised in cooperation with the publishers.

In recent years, the KB has made significant investments in its Digital Library Programme, aimed at all aspects of the digital library: collection, storage and access. Among other things, this has led to a platform that aims to disclose all Dutch publications in digital format and make them full-text searchable. Together with a number of university libraries, the Delpher platform was created ([www.delpher.nl](http://www.delpher.nl)), which will be expanded further in the years to come.

If all national libraries store publications from their own country and make these accessible, the magazines of the big international scientific publishers risk being excluded. The KB is one of the so-called safe places in the world that take on the responsibility for the sustainable storage of these materials. In case of need («trigger event»), the KB can guarantee the accessibility of these materials. The KB is cooperating with Portico in the US to achieve this.

### **The national digital library**

In order to complete its new tasks for the digital library, the KB will build on the achievements of recent years. KB translates the infrastructure for public libraries, combined with its national role in the area of science and its own digitisation activities from recent years, into taking responsibility for the national digital library: an integrated portfolio of services for end users and the supporting positions needed for this. This creates a dynamic information environment (platform) that forms the basis for innovation and development.

The national digital library makes the content of all libraries financed by public funds visible. The mission for the national digital library is: provide easy access to information, which can be traced back to a recognisable source, from an independent position.

While the internet provides an ever-increasing amount

of information, readers are in need of a selection that takes into account the quality of the information. An important aspect of the information is the reliability of the source involved and (at least in many cases) its independence. This is a role to be provided by (digital) libraries.

Essential values of the library sector include its reliability, independence, accessibility, pluriformity and authenticity. This role, by definition, cannot be taken over by the market.

Just like everyone can walk into a library building for information, or to read the newspaper, the national digital library is also accessible to everyone, from home or wherever you are. Access is free of charge, no membership is required.

This means that people can easily:

- see what information is offered by publicly funded libraries (catalogue),
- consult out-of-copyright information,
- become a member of the library for other information.

The out-of-copyright information that everyone can consult directly contains, in particular:

- cultural and scientific heritage: anything published before 1874 is out-of-copyright in any case;
- the materials for which the copyright has been bought off: books, newspapers and magazines to at least 1940;
- Open Access materials, and particularly scientific publications other than magazines based on the subscription model.

In this structure, the customer is provided with maximum service in his search for information.

The digital library consists of three components:

- The collections of all libraries financed by public funds.
- The target groups: citizens, children, professionals, researchers, persons with a reading impairment, etc.
- Mediation between target groups and objects: searching and finding, personalisations, context. The library goes beyond offering information and helps the customer to get the maximum out of it.

### **Cooperation in the library sector**

As stated, the national digital library does not limit itself to public libraries. From the libraries' perspective, this is useful because it allows for synergy and promotes efficiency through a joint infrastructure. The national library (KB), university libraries and

public libraries have regular discussions about the communal information infrastructure for libraries. In recent years, a flexible model has been created where subjects such as processing metadata, offering digitised collections, interlibrary loans, licences and services can be raised collectively when required.

But the main advantage is to the user. Until now, the user is too often inconvenienced by the fact that the libraries are funded from different systems. The public libraries are funded by the local authority in order to serve the regional community. Scientific libraries and libraries belonging to educational institutions are funded by their institution for the benefit of the employees and students of the institution itself. In all cases, they primarily or even exclusively serve their own target group.

However, many communities are not local in the geographic or organisational sense, such as amateur researchers, interest groups, or patient associations.

Currently, the digital collections from one library sector are not accessible for the users from other sectors, or only at conditions that are a considerable inconvenience or expense. A familiar example is the access to scientific information outside the scientific institutions. It is an important spearhead of the national digital library to make a considerable improvement to the access across the sectors. One of the strategies in doing so is the support of Open Access of scientific publications.

#### **Cooperation in the cultural heritage sector**

The national digital library will limit itself mainly to books, newspapers and magazines. Archival material is collected, stored and made available by the archives under the coordination of the National Archive. The Netherlands Institute for Sound & Vision fulfils a key role in the area of audio and visual materials. The KNAW (Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences) plays a central role in the provision of research data.

The collections of archives, media, museums and knowledge institutions are increasingly becoming available online and in digital format. In these sectors, functional and technical facilities are being developed to be able to digitally manage these collections, make them available and use them. The sectors differ, but they have the same purpose: to make collections visible, allow them to be used and store them in a sustainable way.

Cooperation between these (heritage) institutions is essential.

The user would like integrated access to the various

collections and is often only moderately interested in the institutional origins. By making sensible agreements about metadata and aggregation, this is achievable.

But cooperation is also necessary for storage and preservation. The traditional difference between the various collections is fading. The difference between libraries and archives is based on a definition of the concept of «publication» that is no longer entirely up-to-date. New publication forms such as websites and blogs, for example, do not fall within this definition, nor are they considered as «archives» by the archive world. They risk falling between two stools. What's more, now that the publications collected by the library are becoming digital, new forms of publication are also occurring through the combination of various media. In science, we see publications provided with the primary data, or a publication that consists of an annotated data model. Books are sometimes provided with audio and moving images. The publications in question cannot be taken apart into components without throwing out the concept of the publication. Therefore, they must be kept in their integrated form, but it is inefficient to set up separate infrastructures for storage in the various institutions. It is therefore necessary that the heritage institutions work on an integrated storage facility.

The smaller heritage institutions must also be involved in this. Most small and medium-sized institutions do not have the means and the specialist knowledge, but also lack good and affordable access to external services that provide this sustainable storage and access.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science plays a coordinating role across the heritage sectors. Within the various heritage sectors, there are focus points: institutions that are well-embedded in the heritage sector as a whole and that have the scale to function as knowledge centres and mouthpieces, and to take responsibility for the development and continuity of the infrastructure. The KB is the focal point for the library sector.

Finally, we should pay attention to the compatibility with international programmes. For the (university) libraries, this is important in relation to TEL (The European Library) and for the cultural domain they must of course join Europeana. Sensible agreements are made about metadata and aggregation. Aggregation for the European library sector can take place at a national level and through TEL.

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## Conclusion

The introduction of ICT has led to the fading of many existing boundaries. In the information sector, this is clear between the parties in the traditional information chain: the publisher, the book store and the library are all working on redefining their future role. The same applies for the traditional boundaries between the various parties in the heritage sector. The social objectives of these organisations will be seriously hindered if the parties hold on to the traditional boundaries too tightly and for too long. The purpose of these organisations is less and less determined by their own mission, and increasingly by their network and the role that they play in it. As a result, cooperation is becoming an essential condition of existence.

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**Bas Savenije** je 1977. godine diplomirao filozofiju. Od tada je obnašao različite funkcije na Utrecht Univerzitetu, među kojima i funkciju direktora za strateško planiranje, te direktora za budžet i reviziju. Od 1994. do 2009. godine, u svojstvu univerzitetskog bibliotekara upravljao je i bio odgovoran za rad biblioteke na Utrecht Univerzitetu. Inicirao je i pokretanje inovacijskog bibliotečkog programa koji je imao za cilj kontinuirano unapređenje elektroničkih usluga. Kao rezultat ove aktivnosti u okviru Utrecht univerzitetske biblioteke jeste e-press za elektroničke usluge izdavanja i arhiviranja. Od juna 2009. godine do januara 2015., Bas obnaša funkciju Generalnog direktora KB-a, Nacionalne biblioteke Nizozemske. U okviru KB-a, njegov rad se najviše fokusirao na digitalno bibliotekarstvo i nacionalnu informacijsku infrastrukturu.

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**Bas Savenije** graduated in philosophy in 1977. Since then, he has held a range of positions at Utrecht University, among which director of Strategic Planning and director Budgeting and Control. From 1994 until 2009 he was university librarian of Utrecht University, managing the comprehensive university library. He has initiated a pervasive innovation program for the library aimed at implementing and continuously improving electronic services. One of the results is an e-press within the university library of Utrecht for electronic publishing and archiving services. From June 2009 until January 2015 Bas was Director General of the KB, National Library of the Netherlands. At the KB his emphasis was on digital library services and the national information infrastructure.