The Internet has completely changed the world of information over the last five years. This has led to many innovative digital library projects in research libraries in the Netherlands. The expanding network infrastructure of SURFnet, a national policy framework, and adequate funding are preconditions for the progress that is made between 1995 and 1999. The article gives an overview of the most recent national and local digital library projects. The relationship with vendors and publishers play a role in projects concerning licensing and copyright. Consortia are essential to take a joint stance in negotiations with publishers. If successful, electronic journals offer better options for coordinated collection development than the traditional approach.

Laufende Digitalisierungsprojekte in niederländischen Bibliotheken (1995-2001)

Les projets courants de bibliothèques numériques en Hollande (1995-2001)

1 Collaborative strategies for constructing a national virtual research library

Constructing a national virtual library requires a computing and networking architecture and a national policy framework. In 1987 the SURF Foundation was established to co-ordinate the promotion and use of information technology (IT) in universities, schools for higher vocational education and research institutes in the Netherlands. In the course of its activities SURF (Foundation for University Computing Facilities) has become a nation-wide supplier of services, primarily through SURFnet and SURFdiensten. SURFnet manages the national computer network, while SURFdiensten deals with licensing agreements in the fields of software, hardware and information services. The national policy framework is provided by significant reports from 1991 onwards, compiled by the Scientific Technical Board (WTR), the main advisory board of SURF Foundation, on IT-trends in research and higher education. The reports include recommendations for investing in the knowledge infrastructure and for co-operation between academic computer centres and university libraries. To stimulate innovative developments in the information field, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) and the University of Amsterdam took the initiative in 1993 to set up a steering committee for Innovation in Scientific Information Provision (IWI), which became a committee of the SURF Foundation. The committee is elected from board members of the universities, the Royal Dutch Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) and the KB. IWI is jointly funded by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science and by the participating institutions, which participate with a fixed contribution of €55 000,– (together €900 000,–) and match for minimal 50% the grant of state. The budget for 1998 was €4,0 million and for 1999 estimated on €10,0 million. The first IWI-study in 1995 explored the future (till the year 2000) for joint national efforts to develop a ‘virtual Dutch research library’, and locally to develop digital libraries. IWI’s strategic plan for

1 SURF: http://www.surf.nl/
2 IWI: http://www.iwi.nl/
1996-1998, Action with policy, was an important impetus to promote the innovation of scientific information supply and has led to many national and local digital library projects. In addition to projects supported by IWI, some Dutch academic libraries also participate in digital library projects in co-operation with Pica, the centre for library automation & online information services, but also in projects funded by other agencies, such as the European Union and the European Commission's Telematics for Libraries.

2 National digital library projects

2.1 WebDOC (02/1995-11/1997)

WebDOC was a project of Pica, in collaboration with a number of Dutch, German and American research libraries and Kluwer Academic Publishers and Academic Press. In this project, documents were made accessible and available through the World Wide Web. The core of the WebDOC service is a catalogue, WebCAT, hosted at the central cataloguing system of Pica. The participating libraries and publishers build and maintain their own document servers referred to in WebCAT. In general, publishers offer licensing agreements for their journals to cover the access from all users of a certain university. When no license is in effect, the user will pay access on a per-transaction basis. Part of the WebDOC-collection, such as research reports of participating universities, is available free of charge. In November 1997, the WebDOC project was formally closed with a conference at the University Library of Groningen. In 1997 Pica developed an integrated service for end-users, PiCarta, a multimaterial database with request facilities and offering access to online resources and electronic documents simultaneously. The experience and conclusions of WebDOC have proved valuable to the development of PiCarta. WebCAT is also integrated into PiCarta.


Although locally carried out by the Library Research Department of the KB, DNEP must be considered in a broader (inter)national context. It concerns aspects of digital archiving and started in 1996 as IWI-project, which covered several technical, organisational, legal, and economical issues. It concerns selection criteria and methods, copyright issues and negotiations with publishers, acquisition methods for off-line and on-line publications, bibliographic description and metadata, installation and de-installation, identification, version control and authentication and long term storage and access. A small-scale model of the digital deposit has been tested to define the workflow and to investigate practical problems. DNEP is now an operational service, but additional research is necessary because many issues concerning digital archiving are unknown. The strategy is to carry out research concerning long term storage, metadata and conversion or emulation as methods to keep documents accessible on the very long term. The results of the research are implemented in the KB. By using this iterative process of research and implementation the KB hopes to implement an operational digital archive with access on the very long term. The depositing of online electronic journals will be continued in co-operation with Elsevier, Kluwer and other Dutch publishers. In March 1999 about 500 electronic journals, more than 1000 off line publications, 200 PhD theses and some Web documents were collected.

2.3 CERBERUS (04/1998-09/1999)

CERBERUS, a follow-up of the DNEP-IWI project, concerns one aspect of archiving of electronic material, namely the authenticity and integrity of electronic documents on the very long term. Hardware and operating systems, application software and standards get obsolete. In this project migration, like media refreshing and migration of the information of one carrier to another, and the impact of conversion of the operating system and application software on the authenticity and integrity of the document are studied. Special attention is given to emulation, because this can be a good method to keep documents accessible in the future. Practical tests are carried out to get empirical results. The main objective is to deliver a state-of-the-art document, which will be distributed to libraries, archives and organisations that are involved with digital archiving. The KB co-operates with the Technical Universities of Delft and Eindhoven and the University of Amsterdam.

2.4 DutchESS – Dutch Electronic Subject Service (06/1996-06/1998)

In 1993 the KB started a subject information service. With IWI funds, this initiative developed in 1996 into a joint effort of a number of Dutch research libraries. DutchESS is now an operational service in which nine research libraries participate. Subject specialists from the participating libraries are contributing resources — free of charge — to the gateway. DutchESS extends to all areas of scientific research. Each Internet resource is selected on quality and relevance for the academic community — students and academic researchers —, described and classified according to the Dutch Basic Classification. The local editorial boards check if the resources are in accordance with the scope policy and selection criteria. During the project a searchable Oracle-database was developed. DutchESS also serves as a testbed for international developments taking place in the project DESIRE (Development of a European Service for Information on Research and Education), a European project funded by the EC Telematics Applications Programme.

3 Pica: http://www.pica.nl/en/
4 EC projects – BIBLINK, COBRA+, DECOMATE II, EXPLOIT, NEDLIB, DESIRE: http://www2.echo.lu/libraries/en/projects.html
7 DutchESS: http://www.konbib.nl/dutchess/
8 DESIRE: http://www.desire.org/
2.5 DONOR – Directory Of Netherlands Online Resources (05/1998-05/2000)

The objective of the IWI-project DONOR is to create an enabling infrastructure for information management and retrieval on SURFnet. The project is managed by the KB; other participants are SURFnet and the Academic Computer Centre Utrecht (ACCU). In DONOR methods and techniques will be implemented to improve information management and retrieval on the World Wide Web. Areas of special interest are metadata (the development of a standard metadata set and a metadata generator), structure and version management of web publications, unique identification of web documents, a URN-to-URL resolution service, and information filtering techniques. During the project a user group for the DONOR infrastructure will be built up. DONOR follows closely the current trends and developments in the Internet community.

2.6 DELTA – Dutch Electronic Library Technology Association (09/1998-09/2001)

The growing importance of a transparent end-user environment led to the initiative of a group of Dutch university libraries, the KB and Pica to form the consortium DELTA to develop a new generation of integrated services for end-users. The libraries will concentrate on content and Pica on technical infrastructures. The primary goal of DELTA is the implementation of a Virtual Research Library via an integrated package of end-user services for the use of resources, selected and offered by research libraries, using state-of-the-art Web-technology, combined with existing library infrastructures. To reach this goal the project will focus on: ongoing co-operative selection of relevant content; ongoing monitoring of user behaviour to improve services; development of an integrated end-user oriented information search, order and access facility; development of an underlying integrated technical infrastructure, and development of a clear, multilingual graphical end-user interface.

2.7 Digital theses (04/1999)

Following Germany and France, within the Netherlands a project is started to provide end-user access to electronic theses. The following approach was decided on: Pica produces a central catalogue with bibliographic data and abstracts of printed and electronic theses. The KB as deposit library (DNEP) acts as host for full text theses in a uniform format – at present HTML for title page and table of contents, and PDF for text of the document. The connection between the central catalogue on the Pica computer and the full text server in the KB will be realised via the WebDOC software. The full text theses will also remain available on the local document servers of the university libraries. The theses can be searched in PiCarta and in the central catalogue of theses.

2.8 Guiding principles for licensing of electronic information

In October 1997 the Dutch and German university libraries published a position paper with guiding principles for negotiating electronic licenses with publishers, which attracted much attention internationally. The expectation is that consortial approaches to licensing in the near future will result in savings in access costs of expensive electronic products. The Dutch-German Licensing Principles led to several reactions. Firstly, a convenant of the Dutch Publishers Association and IWI (10 July 1998) with fair use conditions for licensing agreements for electronic information, with agreements to share management information on use with publishers (anonymity of users is warranted), with permanent rights to paid for information, and a one year experiment for electronic document delivery. In May 1999 a test will start with ten libraries for sending documents via email using Ariel software, developed by RLG (Research Libraries Group). Pica has made a linkage between the Ariel software and the Dutch interlibrary loan system. The Licensing Principles also led to consortium building in the fields of medical sciences, economics and business administration in order to get access to commercial databases via WWW for lower prices – according to the guiding principles the price of electronic journals should not exceed 80% of the price of printed journals.

3 Local digital library projects

3.1 Electronic publishing projects and pre-print services (03/1997-01/2000)

Recently a series of electronic journals have been developed at universities with financial support of IWI. The project proposals can be seen as a positive impetus for electronic publishing, all with different but plausible arguments. The libraries and computer centres of Tilburg University and Utrecht University developed the Electronic Journal of Comparative Law (EJCL), a low budget electronic review of comparative law, which publishes articles of high quality in the English language contributed by Dutch and foreign scholars. A general model for assessing the costs of producing an electronic journal...
has been developed and is made available to the WWW-community. The International Institute of Asian Studies of the Leiden University researched the possibilities and surplus value of the electronic multimedia journal Oideion; Performing Arts Online\(^{18}\). The Amsterdam University digitised the oldest Dutch journal in Zoology, Contributions to Zoology (1848)\(^{19}\). The surplus value compared with the printed edition is apparent from more (colour) photographs, moving images and animal noises, and superior search options. The Netherlands Journal of Agricultural Science Online (NJAS) of the Wageningen Agricultural University intends to annex complete data sets to the articles\(^{20}\). The faculty Architecture of the Technical University Delft initiated the electronic journal Design Research on the Internet (DRI) to facilitate the further growth and acceptance of design, which was until recently not considered a research topic in itself\(^{21}\). Articles are published in ’draft’ version (working papers) and discussed with and by the readers. The working as well as the final scientific papers are published on the site. The Inter-university Ophthalmological Institute/KNAW\(^{22}\) is developing a pre-print archive with moderated publications in the sector of molecular and medical genetics. The project is in cooperation with the Beta-Pre-print project of the University of Amsterdam, which aims to set up a pre-print service to support research and communication in the exact sciences. Most research libraries maintain document servers where contributions from university staff and students are stored and made available through the Web. Bibliographic descriptions are made by the libraries and indexed on the local server as well as in WebCAT, and are retrievable via PiCarta.

3.2 **DEN – Document expertise network (04/1997-02/1999)**

This IWI-project of the Utrecht University aims to solve the bottlenecks in the knowledge and experience transfer between the Dutch university libraries, university departments, and expertise centres concerning methods and techniques of electronic publishing, digitising, storage, presentation, maintenance and indexing of documents. Intensive co-operation is established with the University of Groningen, where an expertise centre is established for students and employees of universities to publish in electronic form on the Internet. During the DEN project five specialist symposia were organised for librarians, researchers and students to disseminate expertise and knowledge\(^{23}\).


The aim of this IWI-project is the provision at the workplace of a substantial number of relevant full-text electronic journals in the subject area of physics and astronomy, for the benefit of scientific staff and doctoral students of the Utrecht University and the Technological University of Eindhoven\(^{24}\). In addition a learning objective is attempted. This entails researching how the university-wide and the discipline-specific provision of information on, and for, the user can be made available in a transparent manner. Co-operation with publishers and journal intermediaries is one of the basic assumptions behind this project. After the project, a national site-license will be negotiated with the associated publishers in order that other Dutch universities and Institutes for Fundamental Research of Matter can also gain access to this collection. Ultimately is being attempted: the creation of a national, collaborative venture with as wide a discipline orientation as possible, in which not only electronic journals and bibliographical databases, but also data banks and software can be provided in an integrated and transparent manner.

3.4 **Digital Library for students (05/1998-01/2000)**

The objective of this IWI-project is mapping out both conceptually and practically the juridical, technical and organisational problems and solutions of making broadly available training materials to students, both in the university buildings and at home. New opportunities of multimedia documents, ICT infrastructure and ICT services will be incorporated into the training materials and the Learning process. The project will produce a set of recommendations on behalf of educational centres and faculties that have plans of making training materials available in a digital format. These recommendations are threefold: to be entitled to use copyright materials; tools for digitising training materials and an educational environment, and distribution of digital training materials and managing the use. The results of the project are meant to be used by all universities in the Netherlands.

3.5 **Digitising collections**

Research libraries have started projects for digitising collections. The KB has issued a policy plan for digitising all fragile and costly documents and several projects are being carried out\(^{25}\). It concerns atlases, medieval illuminated manuscripts, images related to the history of law, and watermarks. Other research libraries are also digitising special collections such as medieval manuscripts and the 17th century Hebrew books of the publisher Menasseh Ben Israel at the University of Amsterdam\(^{26}\); Italian manuscripts with music\(^{27}\) and the Dutch Organ Archive\(^{28}\) at the Utrecht University. These projects are usually co-funded by the institutes and the Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO).

\(^{18}\) Oideion: http://lias.leidenuniv.nl/oideion/

\(^{19}\) Contributions to Zoology (ISSN 0067-8546) publishes articles in English (90%), French and German.

\(^{20}\) NJAS: http://www.gw.nl/kiosk/nias/

\(^{21}\) DRI: http://dri.library.tudelft.nl/DRI/

\(^{22}\) KNAW: Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen = Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences

\(^{23}\) DEN: http://www.ubu.ruu.nl/iwi/ (in Dutch).

\(^{24}\) CCP: http://ccp.library.uu.nl/ccp/

\(^{25}\) Digital Collections KB: http://www.konbib.nl/kb/sbo/digi/dco-len.htm

\(^{26}\) Menasseh Ben Israel: http://menasseh.uva.nl/en/collections/rosenthaliana/menasseh/

\(^{27}\) Thesaurus musicarum italicarum: http://candl.let.uu.nl/Reserch/ml/ml/main.htm

\(^{28}\) Organ archive: http://www.ubu.ruu.nl/EBU/proef/fieng.htm
4 Conclusion

Thanks to co-operation between the libraries - and between libraries and computer centres - a national Virtual Research Library is gradually becoming a reality. For the end-user this means he can access a lot of information from his workplace, although we cannot yet speak of one-stop shopping for all kinds of information, that can be accessed in a reliable and cost effective way, and with a maximum of transparency. For the libraries the virtual library concept opens new perspectives on co-operative collection building, especially for electronic journals. A consortial approach to licensing for digital access is desirable, and can result in considerable savings in access costs of expensive electronic products. The digital era seems to offer possibilities to break the 'serials crisis'. In contradistinction to traditional co-operative collection development shared approaches to licensing tend to focus on high-use high-demand databases which all or most members of a consortium wish to make available. Besides, the libraries are also co-operating in selection of literature for preservation, retrospective digitisation, and the development of a network of national and international digital libraries. Collection development librarians will the coming decade have to adapt in their work a more holistic, co-operative approach to collection building and maintenance. Other forms of co-operation consist in the development of production facilities for authors, and in the development of advanced search facilities and training modules for end-users. Yet there is much work to be done to develop and incorporate intelligence into the systems.

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Der Arbeitsbereich Bibliothek und Information des British Council Deutschland


The library and information work of the British Council Germany

The article deals with the various fields the Information Department of the British Council Germany is working in: Information Centres, Education information service, British Library agency, international co-operation, internet service.

Les bibliothèques et les services d’information du British Council Allemagne

L’article donne une vue d’ensemble des tâches différentes de la section d’information au British Council Allemagne: bibliothèques, conseil d’étudiants, l’agence du British Library, coopération internationale, services d’internet.

Einleitung
