The KB e-Depot

Permanent Access to the Records of Science

Erik Oltmans
Head, Acquisitions & Processing Division
National Library of the Netherlands

8th International Bielefeld Conference - February 8th, 2006
Overview

- Policy
- Governance, Funding, Organizational Structure
- Content Characteristics
- Functionalities of the KB e-Depot System
- Designated Community
The KB Policy: background

- Electronic journals dominate the field of academic literature
- Who ensures long-term accessibility of international e-journals?
- Traditional geographic model not sufficient for systematic approach
- Electronic publications are issued independently of a geographic location
- Most current journals of multinational publishers no longer have a fatherland that can be easily identified
The KB Policy: background (cont.)

- No obvious guardian: risk of information getting lost forever
- Publishers are unlikely to deposit at large number of places
- Spread the (geopolitical) risk and identify trustworthy partners
- Collaboration and coordination are essential
- Centers of expertise may emerge: the Safe Place Network
The KB Policy

- A Safe Place Network secures systematic, coordinated preservation
- In case of loss, libraries know where to go
- Publisher cooperation is essential so as to ensure timely deposit
- Permanent archives presuppose permanent commitment
- Permanent archiving also calls for a substantial investment and continuous efforts and permanent R&D
- The KB is committed to be part of a Safe Place Network
The Mellon Statement

- Collaborative statement issued by the Mellon Foundation
- Recently endorsed by Association of Research Libraries
- Four essential key actions, in line with KB policy

1. Preservation is a way of managing risk
   - Storing e-journals in trusted archives outside the control of the publisher addresses this risk
   - Investment in substitute access systems manages the risk of disrupted access following a publisher failure
The Mellon Statement (cont.)

2. **Qualified archives provide a minimal set of well-defined services**

- Receive journal publications in standard form either from a participating library or directly from the publisher
- Store the files in non-proprietary formats
- Use a standard means of verifying the integrity of files, and provide continuing integrity checks for files stored
- Limit the processing of received files, in order to keep costs down
- Restrict access to protect the publisher’s business interests, except when the publisher is unable to provide consistent access
- Offer an open, transparent means of auditing these archival practices
The Mellon Statement (cont.)

3. Libraries must invest in a qualified archiving solution
   - A library may itself operate a qualified archive
   - Otherwise, research and academic libraries may collaborate in the form of an insurance collective (Safe Place Network!)

4. Libraries must effectively demand archival deposit by publishers as a condition of licensing electronic journals
   - Requiring publishers to transmit all files upon publication for deposit in a qualified archive
   - Libraries must urge publishers to describe their archiving provisions publicly and prominently in their publications
Governance, funding, organizational structure

- Koninklijke Bibliotheek
  - Medium-sized national library, founded in 1798
  - Financed by Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
  - Annual budget € 35 million, 250 fte
- Digital archiving and R&D Permanent Preservation:
  - € 1,1 million structurally allotted to staff, system maintenance
  - € 1,2 million permanently dedicated to research
  - Funding is expected to increase, subject to approval by the cabinet
- Digital archiving and preservation embedded in organization
- Departments: e-Depot, Digital Preservation, ICT
Content Characteristics

- 1993: Decision to start e-Depot
- 2002: Landmark archiving agreement with Elsevier (public)
- More archiving agreements:
  - General agreement Dutch Publishers Association (updated 2005)
- Publisher transmits all files upon publication directly to e-Depot
- CD-ROMs, electronic journals, monographs (e-books)
Scale

- **Volume**
  - 5 million e-publications currently
  - 9 million e-publications eventually (based on current agreements)
  - Expected to be fully implemented later this year

- **Size**
  - 1 e-publication equals 1 Mb on average
  - 1 Terabyte for every 1 million publications

- **Capacity**
  - 5,000 – 50,000 e-publications ingested per day
The e-Depot system

- Experiments with AT&T, IBM from 1995-2002
- DIAS: OAIS-compliant, developed with IBM, implemented in 2002
- Integrated with other library modules
- Functionalities:
  - Ingest of electronic journals, e-books, and CD-roms (installables)
  - Authentic publications are archived, standard formats (PDF, XML)
  - Automatic validation (checksum, JHOVE), error handling
  - Metadata conversion
  - Batch delivery
- KB aims at continuous auditing, resulting in certification
- Digital Preservation: Both migration and emulation
Designated Community: Publishers

- e-Depot access does not compete with publisher-provided access
  - On site access for KB visitors
  - Interlibrary loan supply within the Netherlands
  - Remote access only if allowed by publishers
  - Access conditions restrict interference with commercial interests
  - Retrieval, access, printing, downloading *for private use only*
  - Systematic reproduction is not allowed
  - Real-time monitoring of user behavior
Designated Community: Libraries, End Users

- The e-Depot is a safe place for the scientific community
- Trigger events initiate wider e-Depot access
  - If a publisher stops making journals available: Open access to all
  - In case publishers cannot meet obligations: Part of interim service
Summary

- Growing volume of international e-journals without natural fatherland

- Must be preserved by institutions who take responsibilities; Systematic and coordinated by means of Safe Place Network

- Mellon Statement defines essential key actions, in line with KB policy

- KB is committed and equipped to be part of the insurance collective; policy is acknowledged by government

- New publishers are welcomed

- KB seeks international collaboration, e-Depot to be audited/certified
Contact:

erik.oltmans@kb.nl

www.kb.nl/e-Depot