



Koninklijke Bibliotheek  
National library of the Netherlands



## → The KB e-Depot

Permanent Access to the Records of Science

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## 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
- 1995: Experiments with Elsevier, Dutch Publishers Association
- 2002: Landmark archiving agreement with Elsevier (public)
- More archiving agreements:
  - Kluwer Academic Publishers, BioMed Central (2003)
  - Blackwell, Oxford University Press, Taylor & Francis (2004)
  - Sage, Springer, and Brill Academic Publishers (2005)
  - 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



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