



# KB

Koninklijke Bibliotheek

PRESS RELEASE

## **National Library of the Netherlands and Elsevier Science make digital preservation history**

*Permanent digital archive assures perpetual accessibility of scientific heritage*

Glasgow, August 20th - **Today, at the Conference of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) in Glasgow, Elsevier Science and the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of the Netherlands, announce a groundbreaking new agreement in relations between publishers and libraries world-wide in the area of electronic archiving. The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) will become the first official digital archive for Elsevier Science journals. This means the library will receive digital copies of all Elsevier journals made available on its web platform, ScienceDirect, which are approximately 1,500 journals covering all areas of science, technology and medicine, and exceeding 7 TB of data. For everybody involved in research and the communication of research results – authors, researchers, librarians and publishers alike - this is a decisive step forward in keeping digital archives available in perpetuity.**

The need to provide for permanent digital archiving has been evident to libraries and to Elsevier for several years. Elsevier has been a leader in advocating publisher responsibility in this area. In 1999 Elsevier Science made a public commitment to ensure digital archiving with a trusted repository and made this part of its license with library customers. The KB was the natural partner, as it is a clear leader world-wide in the experimentation with and investment in digital preservation.

Karen Hunter, Senior Vice President, Strategy at Elsevier and responsible for this digital archiving initiative, explains the relevance of this agreement: "It is essential that we will be able to guarantee both authors and researchers using the journals that the electronic files will be permanently available. Journals have been called 'the minutes of science'. As we move toward journals being available only in electronic form and being held centrally on publishers' computers, the public has the right to be assured that, should a publisher go out of business, these files will not be lost. This agreement provides that assurance for Elsevier Science titles, which constitute an essential part of the core scientific literature currently published."

In 1994, the KB decided to include electronic publications into its deposit collection. Since then, research and development on long-term digital archiving has been top priority in the KB. "Ensuring permanent availability of information and knowledge, is at the heart of the KB's mission," says Wim van Drimmelen, Director General of the KB. Digital archiving is a logical extension of the role we always had and will have in the area of printed material, the modern version of a traditional task. In this era of electronic publishing new arrangements are needed globally in order to preserve our intellectual heritage. The KB wants to take an active part in these evolving new arrangements. It's an exciting challenge to find ways of coping with the fast pace of change in platforms and formats. From the start we committed ourselves strongly to this challenge. We take pride in this groundbreaking agreement with Elsevier and see it as a recognition of our achievements so far and a milestone on the way to our strategic goals."

Elsevier Science is particularly pleased to enter into this arrangement with the KB. As the largest publisher of scientific, technical and medical research information, Elsevier is fortunate to have such an advanced partner in its home country. Elsevier Science Chairman Derk Haank adds: "As the largest publisher of STM journals, it is important that Elsevier shows responsibility in all areas and we are very pleased with this agreement. The permanent e-preservation of these journals is an essential part of the joint mission of libraries and publishers. We applaud the leadership and commitment of Dr. van Drimmelen and his staff, the KB as an institution and the Dutch Ministry of Education in understanding the significance of digital archiving and taking the necessary steps to make it happen. We believe our competitors should act now to make similar commitments to the scientific research and library communities."

Under this historic agreement, the KB will receive digital copies of all Elsevier journals made available on its web platform, ScienceDirect. This is approximately 1,500 journals covering all areas of science, technology and medicine, currently published by Elsevier Science. Should new journals be added to the Elsevier list, these will also be included in the archive. In addition, Elsevier is in the process of digitising the older years of these journals, going back whenever possible to volume 1, no. 1, and all of these digitised backfiles will also be deposited with the KB. It is estimated that the starting collection, when all backfile digitisation is completed in the next two years, will exceed 7 TB of data.

The journals are currently made available to customers of ScienceDirect in two formats: Adobe Acrobat's PDF format (which mimics the printed page) and a tagged, structured text format that permits different on-screen viewing, faster network delivery and sophisticated search, retrieval and linking. Both formats will be sent to the KB. "It is anticipated that these formats, associated retrieval techniques and storage media may change over time," says Johan Steenbakkens, Director Information Technology of the KB. "As part of our commitment to being the official archive, we will take responsibility for migrating the content and associated software as technologies change. Together with IBM, we are developing a new electronic deposit system that can meet large scale and high quality storage requirements and supports digital preservation functionality. The library and IBM jointly have studied and tested long term preservation issues. This fall, the new E-Deposit system will be handed over to the KB and the Elsevier journals will be placed into it. Elsevier will work closely with us to ensure permanent availability."

To solve the problems of digital preservation and long term access, the KB has always looked for strategic partners. Steenbakkers explains: "We have been quite successful in finding excellent partners and in building good working relationship with them. Such partners are IBM and RAND, but also other, advanced national libraries like the NEDLIB partners, the Library of Congress, the National Library of Australia and the British Library. A second crucial factor for our success, is the close co-operation, right from the start, with some major publishers that has provided the KB with real-life content, first to experiment with and later on to develop the infrastructure and skills needed for handling and maintaining electronic publications. The very first publisher the KB teamed-up with was Elsevier Science."

The KB will provide access to the journals on a current basis to all who come to the library and are permitted access to the library's collections. In addition, should there be a catastrophic disaster such that the ScienceDirect system is inoperable for a long period of time, the KB would be part of the interim service system. Finally, should Elsevier or a successor interest cease to make these journals available on a commercial basis, as an official archive the KB could open access to all on a remote basis (in addition to walk-in).

### **About Elsevier Science**

Elsevier Science is the world's largest scientific, technical and medical information provider and publishes over 1,600 journals, 1,200 books per year, as well as secondary databases. Elsevier Science key brands include: Academic Press; Butterworth-Heinemann; Cell Press; Churchill-Livingstone; Engineering Information; Excerpta Medica; The Lancet; MD consult; MDL; Mosby; North-Holland; Pergamon; ScienceDirect and WB Saunders.

Elsevier Science ([www.elsevier.com](http://www.elsevier.com)) is headquartered in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. It is a member of the Reed Elsevier plc group ([www.reed-elsevier.com](http://www.reed-elsevier.com)), a world-leading publisher and information provider. Operating in the scientific, legal and business-to-business sectors, Reed Elsevier provides high-quality and flexible information solutions to users, with increasing emphasis on the Internet as means of delivery. Reed Elsevier's ticker symbols are REN (Euronext Amsterdam), REL (London stock exchange), RUK and ENL (New York stock exchange).

### **About ScienceDirect ([www.info.sciencedirect.com](http://www.info.sciencedirect.com))**

ScienceDirect is an open platform offering its subscribers desktop access to more than 2.5 million full-text articles. Coverage includes over 1,500 journals published by Elsevier Science and dynamic linking to journals from around 120 leading STM publishers through CrossRef. An expanding suite of scientific full text and abstract databases in a rich linking environment provides subscribers with increasingly flexible and extensive access to the world's published STM literature. ScienceDirect is a division of Elsevier Science and part of the Reed Elsevier plc group.

### **About the Koninklijke Bibliotheek**

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KB) is the National Library of the Netherlands. The Library was founded in 1798. The KB is an autonomous administrative body financed by the Dutch Ministry of Education, Culture & Science. The KB's mission statement is to provide universal access to the knowledge and culture of the past and present by providing high-quality services for research, study and cultural enrichment.

Major tasks are:

- Preservation, management, documentation and accessibility of the national cultural heritage in written, printed and electronic form.
- Deposit library for Dutch printed and electronic publications and National Bibliography.
- Research library aimed at Dutch history, language and culture in a wide international context.
- Rare and special collections like medieval manuscripts and early printed books.
- Exhibitions and publications.
- Knowledge centre for digitisation, preservation and restoration. Support for co-operation between libraries.

Holdings: 3,3 million items = more than 67 km of library materials. The deposit collection grows by an average of 45,000 books and electronic publications annually. The research collection grows by an average of 24,000 items annually.



*Derk Haank (l), chairman of Elsevier Science and Wim van Drimmelen (r), Director General of The National Library of the Netherlands shake hands to confirm the agreement.*



*Derk Haank (l), chairman of Elsevier Science and Wim van Drimmelen (r), Director General of The National Library of the Netherlands sign the contract.*

These photos can be downloaded from [http://www.hillandknowlton.nl/elsevierscience\\_kb](http://www.hillandknowlton.nl/elsevierscience_kb) and can be freely used for press purposes. On the website you can also find this press release and backgrounders on Elsevier Science, Koninklijke Bibliotheek and IBM.

---

For further information please contact:

Elsevier Science  
Karen Hunter  
Senior Vice President Strategy  
Tel: +1 212 633 3787  
Fax: +1 212 633 3764  
E-mail: [k.hunter@elsevier.com](mailto:k.hunter@elsevier.com)