

Summary of the KB, National Library of the Netherlands' 2022 annual report

Strategic priorities

This annual report concludes the fourth and final year of the current *Working with Words* policy period (2019-2022). In 2022, we continued to work on the following strategic priorities: setting the written word to work in society, taking care of the written word, organising the infrastructure for the written word and developing our organisation and networks. The 2022 annual report has therefore been compiled along these lines.

In terms of work, 2022 was a year of lock-downs, in which we alternated between working from home and business as usual. A year in which we started to get the hang of hybrid working.

A smarter, more skilled and more creative Netherlands

As in previous years, our strong position in the science, heritage and public libraries domains allowed us to continue our bid to create a smarter, more skilled and more creative Netherlands. In a growing number of people's lives our role is becoming increasingly important. Our focus is on consistent social value, the need and opportunity for digitisation and the power of network partnerships. We invest in network partnerships because we believe that this is the key to working together more effectively, particularly when social tasks are central to the work.

Partnerships in the public library network

We can look back on a year in which good, purpose-driven collaboration within the public library network generated extra funding, as announced by State Secretary Gunay Uslu (Culture and Media) in her libraries letter. We also made successful applications under the government Work on Implementation scheme (WaU). And we acquired extra funding for the library network as part of the basic skills master plan, that aims to help Dutch people improve their basic skills (which came under increased pressure, partly due to the COVID-19 pandemic). For the first time since its introduction, all the public libraries took part in the BookStart programme for babies. Thanks to extra funding, the number of Digital Government Information Points increased significantly, from 433 to 653. We can now say that national coverage has been achieved. The interim evaluation of the Library Agreement 2020- 2023 showed that the network sees purpose-driven collaboration as a beneficial way of making a difference to society.

Digital Heritage Network

We were not only successful with, and within, the network of public libraries, but also with the other 107 institutions that form the Digital Heritage Network. The remit of this network broadened further than we expected. We carried out a pilot with SURF, for example, to make the data from the Digital Heritage Network available for scientific research, and we strengthened the ties with CLARIAH (the Dutch research infrastructure for digital sciences). We can also see the benefits of purpose-driven network partnerships in the areas of Open Science, Citizen Science and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Next to this, we have identified opportunities for linking scientific and library networks.

Digitisation and provision of access

In the meantime, we are continuing with the task of digitising and providing access to books, newspapers and magazines from the collections of hundreds of institutions. Last year, our three largest online services (the Online Library, the Digital Library of Dutch Literature (DBNL) and Delpher) were jointly visited over 14.2 million times. In 2022, we digitised over six million pages from books, newspapers and magazines. Our digital archive, which celebrated its 20th anniversary, grew to a volume of almost two Petabytes. Furthermore, the Connected Heritage pilot was launched to make a start on connecting more digital heritage from libraries in line with the Digital heritage Network guidelines. We set up the Indonesian Digital Heritage programme together with the War Sources Network and the Indonesian Memorial Centre, to enable the future release of digitised archives via the 'Indonesian memory for the future' webportal. Our web archive celebrated its 15th anniversary, the icing on the cake being the inclusion of the web collection of XS4ALL homepages in UNESCO's Memory of the World list for documentary heritage.

Accommodation

With regard to accommodation, we have started our preparations for moving over 120 km of shelf space for books, newspaper and magazines. In the future, they will be leaving our current repository to take up residence in a new, innovative and sustainable repository in the Harnaschpolder. The architects *Office Winhov* have drawn up provisional designs.

Public function

Bearing the redevelopment of our public building in mind, we expanded our public programming by not only successfully partaking in the The Hague Museum Night, but also by organising a well-received Fake News Festival.

Organisation and development

The results of our *modus operandi*, as described in this annual report, aren't achieved lightly. It takes perseverance, flexibility and patience to learn new and suitable ways to organise, manage, guide and take responsibility. Over the past 12 months, we have continued to grow and develop, finding out more modern ways of taking on our tasks and roles. This gives hope and renewed energy for the future. At the same time, we are noticing that the organisation has reached the limits of what it can absorb in human and financial terms. Even more so in view of the autonomous fast growth of the national library remit within the digital domain. So we are calling on the Ministry of Education, Culture & Science to join us in facing this challenge together. But we want to conclude by thanking everyone for their hard work and efforts throughout last year. Together, we will ensure that the National Library of the Netherlands continues to be a source of inspiration and development to the Dutch population.