Like most countries, Russia obliges publishers to deposit with a central agency copies of material they produce. In the Soviet Union under communism, compliance with obligatory deposit law was very high, due to censorship and the state ownership of publishers and printers. Central deposit copies were received by the All-Union Book Chamber, which compiled the national bibliography and related publications from them; deposit copies also went to a list of national-level (federal) libraries. As a result of the high compliance, deposit libraries were then missing a large percentage of newly-published material, including newspapers.

With the breakup of the Soviet Union, responsibility for collecting central deposit copies was assumed by national institutions in each of the new countries. In Russia the main responsible institution at the federal level is the Russian Book Chamber (RBC).

In the overwhelming majority of Western countries, national bibliographic centers function as autonomous services within national libraries. In this regard, Russia is the only exception to the rule, since her bibliographic center, the Russian Book Chamber (RBC), is an independent state institution since 1917. It has been under the jurisdiction of the ministry – or sometimes national committee – for publishing and polygraphy, which has allowed it to use levers of influence and direct working contacts with publishers and suppliers of obligatory deposit copies of publications of different types. In so doing, the RBC – together with book chambers of the subjects of the Russian Federation (former autonomous republics), and also sectors of national bibliography in leading libraries of Russian territories and regions – is able to provide a fuller and more reliable record of publishing production in this multi-ethnic and territorially massive country when compared to practice abroad. Already in 1940, domestic national bibliography reflected books, brochures, serials, music scores, maps, and art publications, as well as the most important newspaper and magazine articles, reviews, and bibliographical handbooks issued on the territory of our state.

Publications issued on the territory of Russia in all fields and all languages, and also publications issued jointly with foreign publishers, are received by the RBC and go through state registration and bibliographic processing. The RBC's national bibliographic information is published in traditional format (national bibliographic indices, printed catalog cards, and state registration pages) and in machine-readable format. We must serve libraries, publishers, booksellers and other readers and buyers of printed information.
Table 1. National Bibliographic Indexes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Material</th>
<th>National Bibliographic Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books, brochures, thematic issues of serials, book series</td>
<td>Knizhnaiia letopis' (Book Chronicle), annual Knigi Rossiiskoi Federatsii (Books of the Russian Federation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Articles from journals and other serials (except newspapers)</td>
<td>Letopis' zhurnal'nykh statei (Chronicle of Journal Articles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper articles</td>
<td>Letopis' gazetnykh statei (Chronicle of Newspaper Articles)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art publications</td>
<td>Letopis' izoizdani (Chronicle of Art Publications)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music scores</td>
<td>Notnaia letopis' (Chronicle of Music Scores)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maps</td>
<td>Kartograficheskaia letopis' (Cartographic Chronicle)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Periodicals and serials</td>
<td>Letopis' periodicheskikh i prodolzhaishchihksia izdanii (Chronicle of Periodicals and Serials)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reviews</td>
<td>Letopis' retsenzii (Chronicle of Reviews)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bibliographic handbooks</td>
<td>Bibliografii Rossiiskoi bibliografii (Bibliography of Russian Bibliographies)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dissertation abstracts</td>
<td>Letopis' avtoreferatov dissertatsii (Chronicle of Dissertation Abstracts)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The system of national bibliographical indexes is based on the type of material reflected, as seen in Table 1.

Printed cards for books and journal articles are issued in complete, abridged, and thematic sets. Printed cards for newspaper articles and reviews are issued in complete sets; for dissertation abstracts – in complete and thematic sets.

The results of the national statistical record of publishing production are in the annual Pechat' Rossiskoi Federatsii v ... godu (Printing of the Russian Federation in the Year...).

Bibliographic entries in publications of the RBC are in Russian; the language of the publication, if it is not Russian, is indicated in the notes field of the bibliographic description. Entries are formatted according to state standard 7.1-2003, "Bibliograficheskaja zapis'. Bibliograficheskoje opisanie: obshchie trebovaniiia i pravila sostavleniia" (Bibilographic Entry. Bibliographic Description: General Requirements and Rules for Formulating); state standard 7.8-2000, "Bibliograficheskaja zapis': zagolovok: obshchie trebovaniiia i pravila sostavleniia" (Bibilographic Entry: Heading: General Requirements and Rules for Formulating); "Pravila sostavleniia bibliograficheskogo opisania" (Rules for Formulating the Bibliographic Description); and the RBC's instructions and manuals. In the bibliographic entry, abbreviations and word combinations are formulated according to state standard 7.12-93, "Bibliograficheskaja zapis': sokrashcheniia slov na russkom iazyke: obshchie trebovaniiia i pravila" (The Bibliographic Entry: Abbreviation of Words in Russian: General Requirements and Rules), and Spisok sokrashchenii slov i slovosochetani v bibliograficheskikh zapisiah izdani Rossiiskoi knizhnoi palaty (List of Abbreviations and Word Combinations for Bibliographic Entries in Publications of the Russian Book Chamber) (Moscow, 2000).

Bibliographic entries in all national bibliographic indexes except Notnaia letopis' are grouped according to the scheme in Raspolozhenie bibliograficheskikh zapisei v gosudarstvennykh bibliograficheskikh ukazateliah na osnove Universal'not detsimal'not klassifikatsii (Arrangement of Bibliographic Entries in National Bibliographic Indexes Based on the Universal Decimal Classification) (Moscow, 1999). A complete list of UDC subject headings used in the table of contents is in the first issue of each Letopis' for the year. Entry numbering in each index is continuous throughout the year.

The RBC gives a great deal of attention to modern means of distributing national bibliographic information. It has created an electronic database covering books and brochures published since 1980, newspaper articles published since 1988, and journal articles and dissertation abstracts since 1991.

The basis for preparing the Letopisi is obligatory deposit copies of every possible published production. These copies are received by the RBC from their producers in accordance with the Federal Law first adopted in 1994 and amended in February 2002.

The main aims and reasons for changing the law were as follows:

- Reduction in the number of obligatory deposit copies of books, pamphlets, and periodicals whose content is advertising or other socially unimportant subject;
- Gradual redistribution of sets of deposit materials away from
Moscow repositories to the Urals region and southern Siberia;
- Improvement in the interaction of depositories at the federal, regional, and local levels; also connecting instances of the same document presented in different formats;
- Precise and clear definitions of electronic materials and the creation of mechanisms to register them that are independent of their methods of distribution;
- Definition of fines and other sanctions, and the development of a mechanism for their practical application to violators;
- Collaboration of leading Russian depositories in finding and eliminating gaps in deposits by comparing registration documentation and the bibliographic databases of the Russian Book Chamber with acquisition lists from federal-level libraries.

It took more than a year of work to modernize the obligatory deposit legislation to take into account these wishes and demands. Experts from the RBC and major libraries, as well as deputies of the State Duma and representatives of the Government of the Russian Federation took part in this work.

The deposit copies go to major libraries after they have been processed bibliographically, ensuring acquisition of domestic publications by these institutions. One copy of newspapers is sent to permanent storage in a subdivision of the RBC, The Archive of Printing, an unique collection, which in its ninety-year history has already grown to eighty-five million copies of printed publications.

Of course, we have a lot of problems with preservation of newspaper which were printed on acid paper, especially during 1920–1940-s years. Part of them cannot be found in any Russian or foreign library. Most of such publications is under the restoration now but the scale of this processing is not enough and first of all – for local and with small print runs newspapers of different societies and institutions.

This collection, the national property of Russia, has no equal in the world. It allows the RBC to fulfill its functions, which can not be carried out by any other organization or library. As national insurance fund it is with drawn from circulation among the readers. We can use it only for copying or microfilming in accordance with customers demands.


Here is given relatively detailed exposition of amendments and changes to earlier law.

The third paragraph of the preamble, detailing where the Federal Law does not apply, is made more specific:

The current Federal Law does not extend to documents containing personal and/or family secrets; documents containing state and/or commercial secrets; documents created for individual use; archival documents (materials) (with the exception of documents transferred for storage in archival institutions in accordance with Articles 12, 18 and 19 of the current Federal Law); electronic documents distributed exclusively on the web; administrative and technical documentation (maintenance logs, operating instructions, business forms, registration and reporting documentation).

A very important new edition of Article 5 regulates and characterizes the types of documents included in the obligatory deposit copy requirement:

The following types of documents are to be included among complimentary obligatory deposit copies and paid obligatory deposit copies:

- Publications (text, music, maps, art): printed material which has undergone preparation by a publishing house, is printed as an independent item, and possesses imprint data;
- Publications for the blind and visually impaired: publications in Braille, raised-graphic publications, "talking books," large-type books for the visually impaired, electronic publications for the blind (adapted publications for reading by people with impaired vision, with the help of a Braille display and synthesized speech).
Today we are encountering an avalanche of growth in the number of publications in all possible formats. Many of the publishers of this material know nothing about norms and standards for the form of their products. The situation with printed publications is not much better. Many current national standards are in need of revision to accord with international norms. In addition, it is necessary to standardize editing, publishing, and bibliographical processing of traditional print and electronic publications, since more and more often publications are issued in different formats at the same time, making their identification, registration, and search by both users and bibliographic centers more difficult.

So far, Russia has implemented essentially only the international system of standard numeration for books, which functions through the National ISBN Agency, part of the RBC.

With the rapid growth in the number of domestic periodical publications and the necessity to employ the simplest possible means to search and identify them, there has long been an urgent need to create a National ISSN Agency within the RBC. We hope to settle all bureaucratic and organizational problems within this year.

After adoption several important laws and decrees, including Federal laws on the mass communication media (1991) and publishing activity (1991), and lifting censorship we can see a rapid rise in the number of Russian publishers and in the number of their titles, both for books and periodicals.

The number of Russian newspaper titles published during last years in comparison with previous decades is given in the Table 2.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Newspaper</th>
<th>Annual runs (million of copies)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>5730</td>
<td>5094,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>5021</td>
<td>5048,4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>4474</td>
<td>11053,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>4445</td>
<td>22766,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>4413</td>
<td>29245,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>4567</td>
<td>32424,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>4652</td>
<td>33761,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>4647</td>
<td>35682,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>4696</td>
<td>37108,0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>4772</td>
<td>38249,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>4808</td>
<td>37848,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>4863</td>
<td>27303,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>4837</td>
<td>18324,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>4650</td>
<td>9196,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>4526</td>
<td>8129,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>5101</td>
<td>8795,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>4881</td>
<td>7843,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>5500</td>
<td>8302,2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>5436</td>
<td>7507,7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>5535</td>
<td>7117,1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>5758</td>
<td>7138,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>5532</td>
<td>5836,5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>6663</td>
<td>6195,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>8086</td>
<td>1006,8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>7517</td>
<td>792,3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>7535</td>
<td>7280,6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>8250</td>
<td>8023,9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>8516</td>
<td>8845,5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This table clearly demonstrates that we have a tendency of diminishing of printing runs both average...
for title and total annual ones. But here we must remember that for decades under the old Soviet system there was a contradiction between what was published and distributed and what people wanted to buy or to read. With no interest in profit newspaper publishers strove primarily to fulfil the plan. They were not worried about large remainders because nobody had personal economic interest in them. Now we have mostly indifferent to ideology and politics newspaper readers.

This situation affects printing runs of first of all so called “central” newspapers, i.e. official or with nationwide.

Total annual run of newspapers in 2007 is more than 4 lower than 1990. It is worth remarking, however, that we relying here on official data only. The RBC’s statistics reflect and depend on the number of legal deposit copies received from publishers. A minimum of 12–15 % of books and 25–30 % of newspapers liable to legal deposit have not reached the RBC during 2007, though the situation from year to year is improved in comparison with the figures for the middle of the last decade.

We must remember that in newspaper business we have a lot of changes of owners and titles and also publishers – newcomers who are not aware of their obligation to send copies of their publications to Moscow for bibliographic control and registration. Other newspaper publishers are not wish to meet the requirements of the law, partly for political, partly for economic reasons (from 2002 they have to send 9 copies of each issue for central and 3 copies of local or non-Russian language newspapers free of charge to the RBC), partly in order to conceal prohibited publications (usually during elections when so called “black PR” is widely used by different parties and political competitors). Some of newspaper publishers try to exaggerate the factual printing runs but much more of them act in opposite direction by diminishing real figures in newspaper imprint for receiving better tax rates. Also we must remember that only official title of each periodical may be used as foundation for its bibliographical and statistical control as newspaper and nothing else.

All these considerations must be taken into account, but nevertheless RBC’s statistical data remain the most reliable and exact in comparison with any other sources.

Among all 8516 newspapers published in 2007 the yearbook “Pechat’ Rossiiskoi Federatsii v .. godu” (Publishing in Figures of Russian Federation in ... the year) includes computerized information about articles from central newspapers issued since 1998, the main part of newspaper legal deposit copies are bibliographically processed in automated regime only from 2000. As about statistics we also must note that till now RBC registers only so called newspapers of social importance”, i.e. central with relatively large print runs. But we have another group of newspapers with small print runs (usually about 500–1000 copies per issue) which are published by different local communities, foundations, societies etc. A lot of them contain mostly advertising materials. This group of newspapers is bibliographically processed in automated regime only from 2003. In comparison with the first group the bibliographic description of such editions is done in the short form. We hope that about 3500 titles will be added to the total number of Russian newspapers bibliographically and statistically registered in RBC in this year.

The main bibliographic indexes for newspapers are “Letopis’ gazetnykh statei” (Chronicle of Newspaper articles) and “Letopis’ periodicheskikh i prodolzhnaushchikhsia izdaniii” (Chronicle of Periodicals and Serials).

The first one weekly issue: classified by Universal Decimal Classification (UDC) index to newspaper articles from 50 selected most popular newspapers in the Russian language. Contents include foreword (in first issue of each year), classified bibliography and indexes (name, geographical, card).

The second one annually issue. Lists separately new periodicals and newspapers, title changes and title cessations (for newspapers in 2007 – 577) in the Russian Federation for the year. Indexes include administrative divisions (geographical), place of publication, title, index of titles other than the Russian language, publishers, interest groups.

The main and actually the single statistical source for newspapers is the professional edition of RBC – the yearbook “Pechat’ Rossiskoi Federatsii v ... godu” (Publishing in Figures of Russian Federation in ... the year)
NEWS FROM THE IFLA SECTION ON NEWSPAPERS – No. 19, April 2009

year ...). This annually issue gives the most full and exact information on different problems, aspects and segments of national publishing industry, including newspapers. All data are based on de visu control of legal deposits from Russian publishers. More than 30 tables contain information about periodical and non-periodical titles of full score of publications, including newspapers. Information about newspapers is presented by types, frequency of issuing, languages, thematics, groups of readers, print runs and other criteria.

As about electronic newspapers – we can collect only off-line products. The main depository for them is “InformRegistr”. RBC also receives part of electronic versions of printed newspaper as legal deposits. But the problem here is the “copyright”. We still have no Federal law to provide for customers and readers their rights to use electronic newspaper.

Aleksander A. Dzhigo is Deputy Director of the Russian Book Chamber.

Konstantin M. Sukhorukov is Head of the National Bibliography and Book Science Department in the Russian Book Chamber.

New IFLA Publication on Newspapers:

Contemporary and Historic Newspapers (IFLA Publications 135)

In this volume are collected the proceedings of the International Newspaper Conference, Singapore, April 1-3, 2008, and papers from the World Library and Information Congress, Québec, Canada, August, 2008. It is edited by Dr. Hartmut Walravens and published by K.G. Saur in collaboration with the National Library of Singapore.

(ISBN 978-3-598-22041-8 - 2008. 21 x 14.7 cm. XII, 222 pages. Hardcover. RRP Euro [D] 99.95 / for USA, Canada, Mexico US$ 140.00. Special price for IFLA members Euro [D] 75.00 / for USA, Canada, Mexico US$ 105.00. *

(Image and description from the publisher’s web site: http://www.degruyter.de/content/fb/bb/detailEn.cfm?id=IS-9783598220418-1)

Progress in the Hemeroteca Digital Hispánica (Spanish Digital Newspaper Library)

As we have already reported in Newsletter no. 16, the Hemeroteca Digital is the first step of a larger project, the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica (Spanish Digital Library), which is being developed by the National Library. The Hemeroteca Digital Hispánica was launched in March 2007 with the aim of increasing the number of titles and adjusting to new circumstances, such as the partnership with other projects, the develop of new user services, and conforming to new standards. The Hemeroteca Digital is now involved in a 2-year digitization project (2008-2009) which will sum up to 4,500,000 pages. 264 titles have been added in 2008; therefore, 1,700,000 pages are now available in the application.

The main focus in this second stage has been the most relevant national press titles from the end of the 19th century to the beginning of the 20th century. By the end of 2009, we hope to have digitized the most important titles of the various political trends of that time in Spain. As an example, we may cite titles such as “El Imparcial”, “La Esperanza”, “El Siglo futuro” and “La Correspondencia de España”.

We have also digitized plenty of titles related to the Spanish Independence War, whose anniversary has taken place this year. A lot of studies and cultural events of every kind (exhibitions, conferences, films, etc.) have been performed around this anniversary.

Among the journals and periodicals titles, it is worth noting the digitization of important directories of the 18th century, such as the annuals “Kalendario manual y guía de forasteros” or the “Guía oficial de España”. The 150th anniversary of the establishment of an official staff of librarians, archivists and museum curators in Spain has fostered the digitization of its most outstanding organ, the “Revista de archivos, bibliotecas y museos”, which offers a detailed view of such Spanish cultural centres in the 19th and 20th centuries.

6
The Biblioteca Digital Hispánica participates in several eContentplus projects, among them TELplus, which aims at improving OCR processes in digital objects of European national libraries. The Hemeroteca Digital is working in order to provide 4,500,000 OCR pages of serial publications, which will be accessible by the end of 2009, when the project is due.

Regarding standards update, and with other future projects in mind, there is work in progress in converting the application into an OAI platform. This will facilitate the exchange of information and images with other digital libraries. Besides this, the Biblioteca Digital Hispánica is carrying out a thorough review in order to provide all digital objects, including the press, with the most convenient and suitable metadata. Therefore, we will increase interoperability between national digital collections.

We can conclude by stating that, a year after the beginning of the Hemeroteca Digital, the assessment of its accomplishments is highly positive, as use statistics show. In November 2007, after 7 months in operation, there were 14,451 visits. One year after, in November 2008, figures raised up to 24,952 visits. An analysis of the most consulted titles shows that our selection efforts are well oriented, because titles included in the second stage are by far the most consulted ones.

The Present becomes the past - harvesting, archiving, presenting today’s digitally produced newspapers

The IFLA Newspapers Section in collaboration with the National Library of Sweden are organizing a pre-conference and satellite meeting in Stockholm, Sweden, 19-20 August 2009. This conference aims not only at sharing the collective knowledge about how libraries can tackle the challenges of digital production, but also to open up opportunities for libraries, librarians and associated publishing industry players to interact with one another and work out suitable partnerships that will help to improve the provision of newspaper services at libraries. There will be 2 tracks of presentations that highlight a particular aspect or issue related to the creation and future digital storage of newspapers:


Who should attend: Library administrators, librarians, information specialists/managers in the public, national or academic libraries who are working or interested in these aspects of newspaper librarianship - Service providers interested in new projects/initiatives and approaches in newspaper librarianship - Vendors of software to publishers - Newspaper publishers - Archivists dealing with sound and moving images

Please visit http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla75/satellite-en.htm for further information and for link to registration.
The first steps
In May 2008, after a year of preparation that included a market research, a European tendering procedure and the final awardance of the assignment to the German company CCS (Content Conversion Systems) and subcontractor M&R in Kampen the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands) digitized the first of 8 million newspaper pages to follow in the next three years. In the first few weeks the project team and the supplier worked intensively on devising a workflow that would secure a production of 200,000 pages per month. Processing such masses implies looking for simple and straightforward solutions, which are the toughest ones to come up with as they often lead to compromises. The supplier had to make huge investments in scanning equipment, storage hardware and setting up a production chain in Kampen. The KB had to invent new preparation and transport procedures, adapted to the working methods of the supplier and the library’s own regulations. Also, though a lot of effort was put into thinking ahead, some parts of the workflow had to be adjusted ‘on the road’ as we went along.

Focus on access
At the very beginning of the project its scope was clearly defined. Discussions with the research community led to the conclusion that the main focus of the project should primarily be on putting as many newspapers online as possible. The quality of the images had to be sufficient for web presentation within the DDD-project and other future web applications, but they would not necessarily have to meet the high standards required for preservation imaging. With this huge amount of text-based data special attention should be paid to proper search functionality. This strategy basically means that the money saved on not going for the highest image quality possible would be invested in increasing the number of newspapers to be digitized and optimizing the metadata and consequently enhancing access.

Selection and legal claims
The main aim of the project is to create a new, virtual collection with a wide variety of important Dutch newspapers from 1618 to 1995 (about 8% of all 8000 titles available). To decide which ones to include a Scientific Advisory Committee was appointed, consisting of historians, linguists, journalists and other ‘heavy users’ of historic newspapers. After a title is nominated by the SAC the project team - apart from checking its availability - investigates the legal rights that are or may be attached to the newspaper. Dutch copyright law prescribes that all material that is older than 70 years after the death of the author belongs to the public domain. In practice this means that many titles in the Databank are free of any legal claims. In case of more recently published titles there may be many legal parties involved (freelance journalists, publishers, photographers, etc.). As detailed information on this is often hard to retrieve tracing legal claims is a very time-consuming job. The KB is currently negotiating with representative bodies from legal stakeholders to find a bulk solution for this issue.

Preparation
After selection the original materials, predominantly newspapers bound in bindings, are prepared at the KB for digitization by a specialized team of 6 people.
They do small repairs, enter metadata on issue level (date, edition, title, signature, volume, number) in a database and prepare the weekly transports to Kampen. In November 2008 the preparation team reached a milestone by finishing the first one million pages. Biggest issue so far was how to ‘liberate’ bindings that are so tightly bound that part of the text disappears into the fold. ‘Liberating’ requires physical strength and at the same time control and a soft touch, skills that unfortunately do not combine easily.

Digitization

Once the bindings arrive at Kampen, they are temporarily stored. A buffer of some 700,000 pages is maintained in order to allow the supplier to put bindings on a hold when KB feedback is required and to be able to determine their own processing speed, independently of individual transports. The production chain in Kampen not only includes scanning but also incorporates the metadata delivered by the KB and allows operators from Romania and Cambodia to remotely log in and perform QA and segmentation work on the digitized newspapers. In the end the production chain produces all the required deliverables:

3. A MIX XML file for every page to record the technical metadata.
4. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
5. An XML file with the OCR-ed text for every separate ‘article’. As the website will provide article-level access, these files will be used to create a search index.
6. A PDF file for every issue.
7. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
9. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
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16. A PDF file for every issue.
17. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
18. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
19. An XML file with the OCR-ed text for every separate ‘article’. As the website will provide article-level access, these files will be used to create a search index.
20. A PDF file for every issue.
21. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
22. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
23. An XML file with the OCR-ed text for every separate ‘article’. As the website will provide article-level access, these files will be used to create a search index.
25. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
26. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
27. An XML file with the OCR-ed text for every separate ‘article’. As the website will provide article-level access, these files will be used to create a search index.
28. A PDF file for every issue.
29. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
30. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
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32. A PDF file for every issue.
33. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.
34. An ALTO XML file for every page to record the layout-out of a page.
35. An XML file with the OCR-ed text for every separate ‘article’. As the website will provide article-level access, these files will be used to create a search index.
36. A PDF file for every issue.
37. A MPEG21-DIDL file for every issue, according to the in-house standard. This file includes descriptive metadata (in Dublin Core) and also structural metadata about the relationship between the individual files. The text of all headlines will be manually corrected up to a level of 99.8 character accuracy.

Website

All these ‘ingredients’ are needed to create the website, of which a first version is due to be released in the summer of 2009. It will include:
- a full-text, ‘simple’ search through all newspapers
- an advanced search that allows users to narrow down search actions to certain categories like for instance distribution area (national, regional/local or colonial) but also type of ‘article’ (news item, advertisement, family notice or illustration with caption).

The functionality of the website is based on a user-consultation research performed by Data Archiving and Networked Services (DANS) and additional feedback meetings with representatives from the potential user-groups. In-house programmers will work on the functionality and search system. The web-and interaction design has been outsourced to a specialized bureau. The biggest challenge in building the website will be how to maintain an acceptable level of performance with this huge amount of data and high expected number of (frequent) users. Also storing the 200TB of data and maintaining it over time will put high demands on the infrastructure. In many ways we have only just begun…

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Review: Dictionary of Nineteenth Century Journalism in Great Britain and Ireland


ISBN: 978 0 7123 5039 6 (The British Library)

This dictionary (DNCJ) has been several years in preparation. When one looks at its contents, it is easy to see why this project has taken time to realise. Its size and range are impressive. Under the direction of two General Editors, Professor Laurel Brake of Birkbeck College, London, and of Marysa Demoor, of Ghent University, some 256 contributors have been engaged, who are experts in their field, with many contributors writing several articles.

The DNCJ contains 1,620 articles, which cover many aspects of British and Irish journalism in the nineteenth century. 37% of this total are entries relating to newspapers and periodicals; 30% of the entries relate to journalists/ editors; 8.6% to publishers/ proprietors; 6% to illustrators; 2.2% to printers. Articles are in order A-Z, and there are very full indexes, providing access to by genre to: Illustrators, Journalists and Editors, Printers, Publishers and Proprietors; there is an index to all the titles of newspapers and journals. There is a Bibliography of 101 pages. There is also a very detailed General Index. Illustrations appear throughout the text, offering the prospect of detailed searches for names and subjects.

There is a wealth of information provided in this dictionary, so just a few examples of the entries can be indicated here:

- George Eliot and her writings for the Westminster Review.
- Medical journalism
- Natural history journalism
- Radical press journalism
- Illustrators - Tenniel, Keene, Cruikshank, Browne,
- Irish press - Dublin

The DNCJ shows us how the worlds of newspapers and periodicals overlapped to a significant degree. Many periodicals carried a great deal of news. Many
The IFLA Working Group on Newspapers had very recently achieved Round Table status when I was appointed Head of the British Library Newspaper Library, in 1989. I found that my new duties included active participation in the Round Table’s work as its Secretary and Treasurer. I soon met my new international colleagues in Paris at the IFLA Conference where the Round Table had organised a seminar on La Presse de la liberte (1). This was an eye opener for me. Much of my career before arriving amongst newspapers had involved official publications. Newspapers, products of editorial independence, were not only at the other end of the spectrum from publications which reflect a governmental agenda, but as the Paris seminar demonstrated were so highly esteemed as a necessary means of communication with oppressed communities that journalists, printers and distributors were motivated to surmount all difficulties and run great personal risks to ensure the availability of uncensored news. I was convinced that libraries have a mission to collect, preserve and make newspapers accessible, for in spite of newspapers’ transient currency they capture moments in time in ways which no other medium can match.

The Round Table inherited the Working Group’s priorities - preservation microfilming, cataloguing guidelines, a world directory of major newspaper collections. To progress these and to consider other issues more effective and extended contact with Round Table members would be essential. Regular Spring business meetings were introduced, which made it possible for more Round Table members to participate in extended discussions concerning work in progress. At first these meetings were hosted by member institutions, sometimes in conjunction with other relevant gatherings. Thus a 1994 London meeting hosted by the British Library was scheduled to permit attendance also at a NEWSPLAN Conference and meetings in Washington DC were linked with meetings of the US Newspaper Program. After one meeting in the Library of Congress the Round Table adjourned to a nearby restaurant. We were shown into an upstairs dining room, apparently deserted except for a small group in one corner. One face was familiar from its frequent appearance on British TV news bulletins - Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the House of Representatives. We ordered and were enjoying our meal when the Gingrich group departed. At that moment I became aware for the first time that there had been another shadowy presence, as the Secret Service agent on protection duty emerged from behind my seat, and I realised that I would have been directly in the firing line if he had considered it necessary to deploy his weaponry.

Better communication with Round Table members and others interested in newspapers was recognised as an urgent priority and in 1993 the first issue of the Round Table’s Newsletter appeared, edited by Beti Smith, was able to assume these responsibilities. In 1996 Hartmut Walravens became Chairman in succession to Robert Harriman. The basic pattern of meetings and events continued as before but with a new strategic emphasis on outreach to geographic areas not previously reached. In this way the word has been spread in Eastern Europe, South Africa, Australia, South America, China and Singapore. There is always a substantial core of knowledge gain and exchange of experience at these events, but also...
memorable cultural experiences and pleasant social occasions. I have been privileged, as a Personal Affiliate member of IFLA, to participate in some of these events, and so have become aware myself of the changing scene. New challenges and priorities are emerging as the survival of the printed newspaper seems threatened by the possibilities of electronic publication. Digitisation seems to offer both a solution to the access problem and continuing uncertainty over its role in preservation. I remember with especial pleasure the 2002 meetings in Finland, when we attended a superb performance by the Bolshoi Ballet company in the mediaeval castle at Savonlinna and enjoyed a generous reception hosted by the Regional Governor in Mikkeli. 2004 in Shanghai was a once in a lifetime experience bringing the beginnings of an understanding of the mysterious Orient. My most recent attendance was in Salt Lake City, 2006, experiencing below the Wasatch Mountains fresh aspects of the USA, which is now my second home.

In the space of twenty years an always small number of activists, brought together through the IFLA Newspaper Section and its precursors, has raised awareness and the profile of newspapers as library materials which are worthy of efforts to preserve and make them readily accessible. This has been achieved through a continuing programme of events and publications. It is a notable IFLA success story.

References:
2. IFLA Newspapers Section. Newspapers in international librarianship…ed. by Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King. 2003. (IFLA Publications 107)

Memories of the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers
Geoff Smith. Secretary and Treasurer, 1995-1999

I succeeded Geoffrey Hamilton as Newspaper Librarian of the British Library in 1994 and as Secretary and Treasurer to the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers at the IFLA Conference in Istanbul in 1995. I had already attended the 1994 and 1995 business meetings of the Round Table in London and Washington respectively.

By then the Round Table was well-established, chaired since inception by Bob Harriman, and with the BL Newspaper Librarians, Eve Johanssen, Geoffrey Hamilton and then myself as successive Secretaries Also already established was the unorthodox (in IFLA terms) pattern of holding a separate annual business meeting away from and at a different time to the main IFLA conference.

The Round Table was a terrific body to be involved with from a professional point of view. It put you in touch and in collaboration with key peers in newspaper librarianship around the world, and allowed first hand discussion and exploration of the issues and technical developments relating to newspaper preservation and access that the members were all wrestling with.

At the time there was firm consensus that microfilming was the most secure way to ensure the long term preservation of newspaper content. Access to full-text content was possible via online databases such as NEXIS and TEXTLINE and locally via CD-ROM versions of recent years of major titles, but the technology for digitization and indexing to allow access to page-image versions of newspapers was still in its infancy, though generating great interest in their capabilities for revolutionizing access historic newspapers.

The US Newspaper Program and UK NEWSPLAN were coming towards the end of their survey and recording of local newspapers and existing microfilm, establishing priorities for new microfilming and providing models for effective nationwide collaboration.

Consensus on what to do with physical copies of newspapers once they had been filmed was less clear-cut, particularly for papers from other countries for which the ‘national archive’ justification for retention was weak.

Round Table business meetings, usually whole-day, allowed much lengthier and more focused discussion that the short time allowed for meetings at the main conference. However the open sessions and workshops at the main conference were very important in communicating to a wider professional audience and in bringing in speakers on the newspaper history or librarianship of the country hosting the conference.

Dealing with the IFLA bureaucracy was always an interesting challenge, including the recurrent topic of why he Round Table had surplus funds (generated by the London conference some years before) and why we did not wish to remit them to IFLA HQ as requested, and the need to lobby against IFLA’s proposal to disband Round Tables, which they believed were too informal (and found more difficult to regulate). In the end the compromise was successfully reached that the RT would become a full Section, having previously existed under the auspices of the Serials Section.

I look back fondly to my time at the BL Newspaper Library and my involvement in the IFLA Round Table on Newspapers, which I continue to regard as one of the high points of my professional career.
News from the IFLA Section on Newspapers – No. 19, April 2009

IFLA Round Table on Newspapers and IFLA Newspaper Section

Ed King, Secretary and Treasurer, 1999-2009

On my arrival as Head of the Newspaper Library at the British Library in 1999, I took over the role of Secretary of the Round Table on Newspapers from Geoff Smith. It took me well over a year to understand the workings of IFLA and how and where the role of the Secretary fitted into the overall landscape that is the International Federation of Library Associations. It took a while to realise that the activities of the Secretary were continuous, all the year round! There were two principal areas of activity: planning to realise the Business Meeting of the Section which takes place in the spring of each year; and planning the Open Session (and the Standing Committee meeting of the Round Table) which takes place normally within the main IFLA General conference held in August each year.

Attendance at the IFLA Symposium Managing the Preservation and Periodicals and Newspapers, Bibliothèque nationale de France, August 2000, allowed me some first hand experience of the issues relating to newspapers and their preservation, together with meeting many colleagues actively involved in the field of newspaper collection management in libraries. Moderating a Session at this Symposium introduced me to the need for speakers to keep to time when delivering their papers, as speakers tended to overrun their allotted times!

Spring Business meetings and Conferences

The Section Standing Committee believed that many professional colleagues could not afford to attend IFLA General Conferences each year, so outreach was sought for the Spring Business meetings of the Newspaper Section in all areas of the world. The Newspaper Section’s Business meeting was combined with Seminars and Conferences on Newspapers. This enabled those engaged with newspapers in the host country, or from the surrounding countries, to offer their experiences for the benefit of all. Newspaper Section Standing Committee members for their part, offered papers on their experiences, or on recent developments relating to technology, or to newspaper publishing in their own countries.

My first round of planning for these spring meetings started in 2001, when the Round Table took up the invitation of Henry Snyder to visit California, to hold the Spring Business meeting at Stanford University. Thanks to the unstinting efforts of Henry Snyder, all who attended had real rewards, engaging with and learning about the great riches relating to newspapers that are housed in many of California’s libraries, in particular at the State Library. It was in 2003, owing to changes created by IFLA HQ, that the Round Table on newspapers became a full Section of IFLA.

This process got into its stride with, in 2003, the spring Business meeting and conference in Cape Town, hosted by the National Library of South Africa. In 2004, the Shanghai Library hosted the Newspapers Section and we all learnt a great deal about newspaper activity in China. In 2005, our hosts were the National Library of Australia in Canberra, where good professional exchanges took place around new technologies, particularly the digitisation of older newspapers, with some 100 delegates attending the conference. For spring 2006, the Newspapers Section migrated to Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, to learn about recent developments relating to the USA National Newspaper Digitisation Program. The event attracted some 100 delegates. The Section also held an autumn conference in Poznan, Poland, and our hosts, Poznan University Library, were very prompt in publishing the proceedings. All who attended learnt a great deal about newspaper collections throughout Poland, and how libraries were planning to develop access to Polish newspapers via digitisation projects. In 2007, The Section organised a meeting in Santiago, Chile, where our hosts, the National Library of Chile accorded us really good facilities, and made us all feel very welcome, with the event attracting 117 delegates, with delegates from 11 countries of Latin America. In 2008, our hosts were the National Library of Singapore, and the recently built national Library was a wonderful venue for the 140 delegates who attended to hear papers from countries in the region.

IFLA General Conferences

It is gratifying to know, thanks to the development of the Web and the Internet, that these papers given at IFLA General Conferences each August are held on IFLANET, under the proceedings of each General Conference. IFLA 2002 was held in Glasgow, and I was able to use my UK contacts to secure four good
papers on the theme
Newspapers of the
British Isles, with some
emphasis on those
preserved throughout
England, Wales and
Scotland. For IFLA
2003, Berlin, The
Section’s Open Session
was on Newspapers and
Copyright
Developments: Future
Access and Preservation.
For IFLA 2004, Buenos
Aires, the theme of
Newspapers of Latin
America was selected, as
The Section specifically
wishes to publicise more
the collections and
activities of South
American Colleagues.

Interest in the emerging
new technologies
resulted in the theme:
Newspaper digitisation
projects. Developments
in the online availability
of older newspapers
being selected for IFLA
2005, Oslo. For IFLA
Seoul, the desire was to
secure information of
activities in the region
regarding their
newspapers, via the
theme: Newspapers of
East Asia. In IFLA
2007, Durban, the
Section attracted four
good papers around the
theme: African
Newspapers: Access and
Technology. There was
a lively debate around
the use of technology
that would provide the
most suitable for of
access to newspapers in
future for those in Africa
who do not have access
to desktop computers
and computer networks,
as has been the case for
developed countries. The
theme of The North
American ethnic press
proved most stimulating
for IFLA 2008, Quebec,
as attention was drawn
to newspapers published
for minority
communities throughout
Canada.

The Section also gave
priority to the
publication of the papers
given both at the spring
meetings/ conference
and also at IFLA
General Conferences.
The Committee believed
that colleagues round the
world would be able to
benefit from a printed
copy of these papers, as
internet access is still not
guaranteed in many
organisations and
countries. Thanks to the
unstinting efforts of the
Chairman, Hartmut
Walravens, publication
of these sets of papers by
K.G. Saur has been
continuous, and a list of
these is attached at the
end of this paper.

Being the Secretary of
the IFLA Newspapers
Section has been a most
rewarding experience.
Newspapers are a
worldwide publishing
reality. Meeting with
professional colleagues
charged with preserving
them and providing
access to them in many
parts of the world has
been a real pleasure.
Meeting publishers and
seeing how they engage
with change, to stay
successful in publishing
newspapers is always
interesting. Many of the
issues relating to the
preservation of hardcopy
newspapers remain
unsolved. And the ever
more pervasive presence
of digital newspapers
adds urgency to the
subject of the
preservation of the
binary data by libraries
and archives.
It will be good to see
other professional
colleagues take up the
challenge of providing
leadership in these fields
to ensure that the content
and the cultural context
of newspapers is
available for future
research and enquiry.

Ed King is Head of
Newspaper Collections
at The British Library

IFLA Newspapers Section - Events held 1987-2008


1990 56th IFLA Stockholm – included papers about the manufacture of paper.

1991 57th IFLA Moscow

1992 58th IFLA India

1993 59th IFLA Barcelona: Joint Open meeting with the Section on Interlending and Document Delivery on Access to Newspapers.

1994 Round Table Business meeting, 10-11 March 1995, held at British Library Newspaper Library, Colindale; 60th IFLA Havana – Round Table Session held on 24.8.1994, with papers from Chile, Cuba and Germany; some 15-25 participants.
1995 61st IFLA Istanbul: The Round Table on Newspapers co-sponsored an Open Meeting on Open Access to Collections and Services in a Time of Change

1996 8th Business meeting (1) held at Bibliotheque nationale de Paris, 14-15.5.1996; 62nd IFLA Beijing, Open Session 130 on 28.8.1996 jointly organised with the Conservation Section, on the Theme: Asian Newspapers, see: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla62/62cp.htm; Workshop held on 29 August Microfilming or Digitisation for the Preservation of Newspapers; 8th Business meeting (2) held on 24.8.1996.


1999 11th Business meeting (1) held at National Library of Canada, Ottawa on 3.5.1999 & Mid Term meeting – Ottawa 30 to 40 attendees; 65th IFLA Bankok Open Session 140 held on 25.8.1999 on the theme: South East Asian Newspapers, see: http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla65/65cp.htm and 11th Business meeting (2)


Newspapers in International Librarianship. Papers presented by the Newspapers Section at IFLA General Conferences. Edited by Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King. 2003, 260p. (IFLA Publications 107.)


Newspapers in International Librarianship. Papers presented by the Newspapers Section at IFLA General Conferences. Edited by Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King. 2003, 260p. (IFLA Publications 107.)


Have you got news for us?

The editor of the News from IFLA Section on Newspapers would like to invite you to submit any articles, announcements, upcoming conferences, and news in general on the topic of providing and preserving access to newspapers and the news in your country or region. Please contact Pär Nilsson:

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