



**International  
Federation of  
Library  
Associations and Institutions**



## NATIONAL LIBRARIES NEWS MAY 2023

*The following stories have been submitted from colleagues in national libraries around the world. The Newsletter is prepared by the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR).*

### National Library of Australia

Australia's pride in their sporting achievements have helped its international reputation and is a source of pride for sports crazed Aussies.

'[Grit & Gold: Tales from a Sporting Nation](#)' is a celebration of Australia's rich sporting heritage and its effect on Australian culture over the years. The exhibition retells the stories that have brought joy, sorrow and everything in between to every Australian household (and sports pub) on game day and beyond, through a collection of books, magazines, paintings, drawings and photographs

The Exhibition takes visitors on a journey from local sporting carnivals to worldwide events, covering moving stories of dedication and passion to the evolution of inclusivity in major sporting events and is an exhibition for anyone who has stood on the sidelines cheering on their children or in a grandstand supporting their favourite team.

From 9 June to 5 November 2023

### KBR (National Library of Belgium)

You find this month's mayor topic of KBR below:

KBR preserves the oldest illustrated manuscript in Dutch, Jacob van Maerlant's *Rijmbijbel*. Because of its famous author, luxurious character and artistic level of illumination, this 13th-century codex is among the international masterpieces of the Middle Ages. On the occasion of the publication of the book "*De Rijmbijbel van Jacob van Maerlant: het oudste geïllustreerde handschrift in het Nederlands*", the manuscript is put on display at the KBR museum.

<https://www.kbr.be/en/rijmbijbel/>

<https://www.kbr.be/en/projects/rijmbijbel-of-jacob-van-maerlant/>

## **Library of Congress**

### **Ada Limón to Reveal Poem for NASA Europa Clipper Mission During Live at the Library in June**

U.S. Poet Laureate Ada Limón is revealing a new poem that will fly into space aboard NASA's Europa Clipper mission on a years-long journey to explore Jupiter's icy moon Europa. The poem, first shared publicly during a special reading at the Library of Congress, will be engraved on the spacecraft set to launch in October 2024. Now members of the public are invited to add their names to fly with the poem — like a message in a bottle from Earth — traveling billions of miles as the mission investigates whether the ocean thought to lie beneath Europa's icy crust could support life. As part of the "Message in a Bottle" campaign, names received before midnight Dec. 31 will be stenciled onto a microchip, to accompany the original poem by Limón, titled "[In Praise of Mystery: A Poem for Europa.](#)" To sign, read the poem and hear Limón read the poem in an animated video, go to: <https://europa.nasa.gov/message-in-a-bottle/sign-on/>

### **Library of Congress Festival of Film and Sound Announces Full Lineup of Rare Cinema and Special Guests**

The Library of Congress National Audio-Visual Conservation Center announced the full lineup of rare cinema and special guests to be featured at the inaugural Library of Congress Festival of Film and Sound. The new four-day film festival will be held June 15-18 in association with AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center in Silver Spring, Maryland. The festival's theme of "Music and Sound" includes two presentations with Oscar-winning motion picture sound designer and sound mixer Ben Burt, and a program about composer Max Steiner by his biographer. The rare films shown in 35mm include W.C. Fields in "So's Your Old Man" (1926), "Submarine" (1928) from director Frank Capra, James Cagney in "Ceiling Zero" (1936), director Dorothy Arzner's adaptation of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play "Craig's Wife" (1936), the final silent film of Douglas Fairbanks, "The Iron Mask" (1929), and the newly restored print by the Library and Martin Scorsese's Film Foundation of the lost classic, "Memory Lane" (1926).

### **Library of Congress Completes Digitization of Yongle Encyclopedia, Largest Reference Work of Pre-Modern Era**

The Library of Congress has completed a years-long effort to digitize the [Yongle Encyclopedia \(Yongle dadian 永樂大典\)](#), the largest reference work created in premodern China, and possibly the world. Digital publication of the 41 volumes held in the Library's collections provides open access to one of the most extensive attempts in world history to capture the entirety of human knowledge in book form.

### **Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens Papers Open for Research at the Library of Congress**

A major portion of the papers of Supreme Court Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, spanning primarily from 1984 to 2010, has been processed and organized by Library archivists and is now opening for research. The newly opened portion amounts to about 741 manuscript containers. Stevens' most recent files from 2005 to 2010 will remain closed until October 2030, according to Stevens' gift agreement with the Library.

## National Library of Finland

### [First report on the National Library of Finland's carbon footprint released](#)

According to the first carbon footprint assessment of the National Library of Finland, most of the Library's emissions in 2019 were generated by procurement and energy consumption at its facilities. In the coming years, the intention is to investigate the carbon footprint of other operations, including digital services and digitisation. This requires close cooperation with the University of Helsinki and the CSC - IT Centre for Science.

The National Library's goal is to be carbon neutral by 2030.

### [The National Library of Finland becomes the parent organisation of the Finnish e-library](#)

Grandmother and child sitting on a couch reading an e-book.

Picture by Suvi-Tuuli Kankaanpää

The Finnish nationwide e-library will become part of the National Library of Finland when an associated project funded by the Ministry of Education and Culture and coordinated by Helsinki City Library concludes at the end of 2023. The National Library will establish a separate e-library unit to develop and coordinate the service. The e-library opens in early 2024 and will offer e-books, audiobooks and digital journals on loan. Its development will continue based on feedback from libraries and customers.

### [Jean Sibelius Works -project's website renewed](#)

Editors Kai Lindberg, Tuija Wicklund, Janne Kivistö, Timo Virtanen, Anna Pulkkis, Sakari Ylivuori.

Picture by Marko Oja

The renewed trilingual website of the complete critical edition of Jean Sibelius's works (JSW) contains information about this large-scale collaborative project involving the National Library, the Sibelius Society, and the German publishing house Breitkopf & Härtel, its activities and publications.

JSW publishes all Sibelius's compositions as revised editions based on thorough research, each with a Critical Commentary shedding light on the musical text and an Introduction dealing with the work's history. The complete Jean Sibelius Works is projected to comprise approximately 60 volumes, the last ones appearing in 2035.

## National Library of France (BnF)

### [The illuminated manuscripts of Charlemagne's Court School now part of UNESCO Memory of the World Register](#)

Évangiles de Saint-Médard de Soissons - BnF latin 8850

In May 2023, 64 new items of documentary heritage were inscribed on the Memory of the World International Register, among which *The illuminated manuscripts of Charlemagne's Court School*. The application was submitted jointly by the Stadtbibliothek de Trier (Germany) and the Bibliothèque nationale de France, with the support of the institutions that preserve the manuscripts in France and Europe. The BnF holds three of the eight manuscripts entering the Register. Because of the *extraordinary circumstances* of their creation more than 1200 years ago these pieces emblematic of the Carolingian Renaissance and ceremonial works made during the reign of Charlemagne are among the most precious treasures of the BnF. They were described and digitised thanks to the [Europeana Regia](#) project (2010-2012) which brought together in a multilingual virtual space three royal collections from the Middle Ages and the Renaissance now dispersed.

### [Exhibition "Degas in black and white"](#)

This exhibition offers a novel approach to the work of Edgar Degas through his interest in black and white, which he expressed via prints, photographs, drawings and paintings. Driven by an insatiable technical curiosity, the artist built up a body of black and white work that was unparalleled in his time. Bringing together 160 pieces from the BnF's rich collection and prestigious loans, the exhibition follows the evolution of a passion that made Degas declare: "If I could have had my own way, I would have confined myself to black and white."

[From 31 May to 3 September 2023](#)

### [Call for contribution to acquire the Breviary of Charles V](#)

The BnF has launched a call for donations to acquire an exceptional illuminated manuscript produced around 1370 for the French king Charles V (1338-1380): the "Bréviaire à l'usage de la Sainte-Chapelle". This acquisition would enable the manuscript to join the national collections, whose history begins with Charles V, famous for his love of books and learning. The bookshop he set up in the Louvre around 1368 is the historic heart of the BnF. The "Bréviaire à l'usage de la Sainte-Chapelle" comes from this princely collection, of which only 185 volumes have been found. The call for donations is open until 31 December 2023.

## National Diet Library , Japan

### **Renewal of the National Diet Library Digital Collections**

[URL:https://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/](https://dl.ndl.go.jp/en/)

The National Diet Library has renewed the National Diet Library Digital Collections. The renewal increased the number of digitized materials that can be full-text searched and improved the content viewer. Please take advantage of the new National Diet Library Digital Collections.

## **NDL Image Bank Instagram account has opened since March 2023**

[URL:https://www.instagram.com/ndlimagebank/](https://www.instagram.com/ndlimagebank/)

The NDL Image Bank provides access to selected visual materials from the National Diet Library's collection of ukiyo-e prints, magazines, books, and other media. NDL Image Bank Instagram account has opened since March 2023.

## **As of March 2023, 1,840,000 items are available via the Digitized Contents Transmission Service of the National Diet Library**

[URL:https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/library/dcts/index.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/library/dcts/index.html)

The Digitized Contents Transmission Service for Libraries is provided by the National Diet Library as a means of making digitized versions of out-of-print or otherwise difficult-to-obtain materials available to the general public at public or university libraries that subscribe to this Service. As of March 2023, 1,840,000 items are available via this service.

## **Headline: User satisfaction survey of FY2023 has started**

[URL:https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user\\_surveys/index.html](https://www.ndl.go.jp/en/aboutus/user_surveys/index.html)

The National Diet Library have prepared a questionnaire for users. Please help us improve the usability of the National Diet Library by answering this questionnaire.

## **National Library of Singapore**

### **Research Fellowships and Creative Residency**

Applications are now open for research fellowships and creative residency programmes at the National Library of Singapore. Interested applicants are invited to work with the National Library and National Archives collections.

Applications are open until 16 June. More information is available [here](#).

### **library@esplanade collections, programmes to move to National Library Building**

The [library@esplanade](#) collections and programmes will be relocated to the National Library Building. The library@esplanade, which focuses on performing arts materials, will integrate its specialised collections into the broader National Library collection. The move aims to centralise performing arts collections, services and programmes alongside other existing arts resources at the National Library. In addition, it will offer invaluable arts resources for nearby academic and arts institutions. From August this year, familiar favourite programmes from the library@esplanade, including recitals, movie screenings, jazz appreciation workshops and showcases of original works, will be available at the National Library Building. Other offerings, such as the music studio, movies, music scores and books, will be available in the second half of 2024.