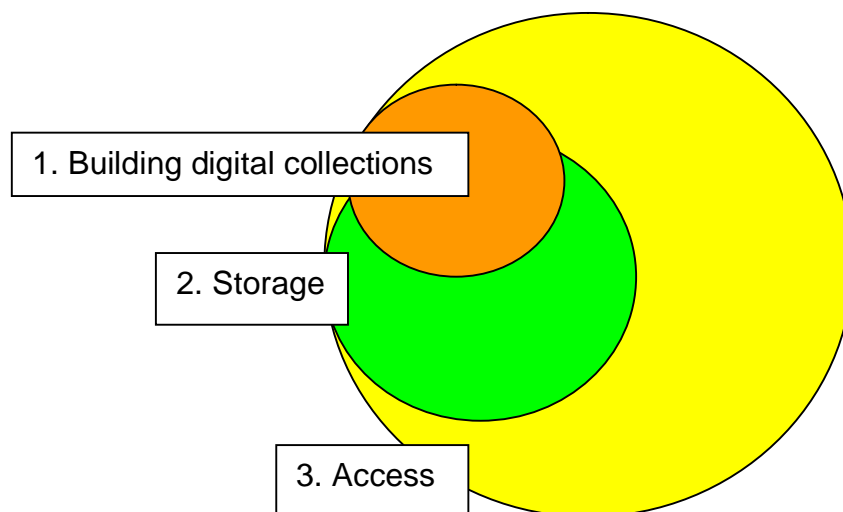


Reinventing the Tricycle

*Key note paper proposal
Martin Bossenbroek*

The digital library is our future. Now that users search for information more and more on the internet instead of visiting physical libraries, we see a shift in focus from the physical to the digital library. The KB's new strategic plan for 2010-2013 cannot but reflect this same shift. As we are in the middle of its drafting, I am glad for this opportunity to share our thoughts with our colleagues on our way to the future.

To reach its digital goals, the KB is considering to start three main programmes: 1. Building digital collections, 2. Storage, and 3. Access. They all interrelate: where a thread is pulled in one programme, the effect is felt in the other two. This requires essential decision-making beforehand. E.g., the illustration below shows that we intend to provide access to more information (our own and third party material) than we digitise or store.



1. Building digital collections

In its collecting policy, the KB focuses on Dutch history, culture and society. We strive to collect all material that is published on these subjects in the Netherlands. Our utopian ideal is to digitise all this material, for which we closely collaborate with university libraries. Since digitising everything is, of course, virtually impossible, we must prioritise. Another of our aims is to digitise as efficient as possible. By enhancing efficiency, we intend to reserve the largest part of our budget for scanning and OCR and the smallest part for selection, copyright issues, preparation of materials, quality controls and project management. Working as cost efficient as possible ourselves while forcing our suppliers to do the same, allows us to maintain our leadership position as a centre of competence in the field of digitisation. Building digital collections also involves copyright problems. A major question is how to tackle these in relation to large-scale digitisation projects. Since last year, the KB has been active in informing public opinion and governmental policy makers about copyright being a large stumbling block for libraries. An article featured in a leading Dutch newspaper and *Alexandria*, and we sent a submission to the European Commission's *Green paper on*

Copyright in the Knowledge Economy. We also took the lead in drafting a common Green Paper reaction co-signed by major Dutch museums and archives.

2. Storage

The KB is well-known for its leading role in the research into digital preservation. It employs the coordinator of the Netherlands Coalition for Digital Preservation and it also hosts the European Alliance for Permanent Access. The e-Depot of the KB guarantees long-term storage to enable permanent access, by way of migration and emulation strategies. Its international e-Depot is an archive which offers academic publishers long-term storage of their electronic publications, according to a safe place model. An important point of discussion in the storage programme is whether all digitised and born digital material should be stored with the same high level of permanency.

3. Access

Providing access to collections is a library's core business. Digitally, however, this is not always possible for material in which third parties own copyright. It begs the question whether we should only digitise and store material to which we are allowed to provide onsite and/or remote access (see illustration). Access to third party material can be given via licensing, by collaborating to integrate our information with those of others, or by aggregation services or linking. The KB is also committed to closely work together with the public libraries to introduce a nationwide identity management infrastructure via the National Library Pass.