Management of and Access to Print Collections in National and Repository Libraries in Europe: collection for use or for preservation

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Abstract

Purpose: This paper examines current European policies concerning the preservation of printed documents. Both legal deposits and repositories are discussed. The results are based on an e-survey that was conducted at the beginning of 2012. In addition, the use and knowledge organization of these depositories and repositories are discussed. The results of the survey are analyzed in the paper with the proposals on ways to develop both national and international policies based on these findings.

Design/methodology/approach: Survey.

Findings: There are many different ways in which printed resources are preserved in Europe. The main motivation has been the desire to preserve the national cultural heritage. There clearly is a need to encourage more co-operation and planning at the international level.

Research limitations/implications: The paper is based on the European experiences and perspective.

Practical implications: The authors propose a model to promote European co-operation in encouraging the use of less widely used printed documents, more efficient work processes and more economical storage of these documents.

Originality/value: The paper describes a model promoting international cooperation between institutions involved in the storage and dissemination of the printed documents.

Keywords: legal deposits, repositories, collection policies, co-operation, Europe

Paper type: Case study
1. Introduction

Currently, there are three main trends visible in the academic document management:

- cost-effective management, especially storing and delivery of printed documents
- the digitization of scientific communications
- the plethora of publications

All of these trends are both interconnected and interacting. The need for cost-effectiveness arises on one hand from the current economic crisis in the public sector that has triggered considerable financial cutbacks in budgets of the higher education institutions (ARL 2009) and on the other hand by increasing competition in the marketplace for delivery of documents e.g. digitization of the older printed resources.

The digitization of the scientific communication started to happen in the 1990’s when the scientific journals adopted policies encouraging internet access. This was supplemented by back catalogue digitizing at the beginning of this millennium which improved the possibilities of the scientific community to access more resources than ever before – in those institutes that can afford the costs involved in the acquisition of these resources. The move from a printed book-culture to a digitized world is still on-going: the trend seems to be that both printed and digital cultures exist side by side.

The number of published documents is astonishing: netcraft.com has estimated that there are 663 million internet sites in the world and Google has calculated the number of the books in the world to be about 130 million (Parr 2010) and it is believed that about 50 million scientific articles have been published. For the library community these numbers mean that no library in the world can collect all the resources; for the academic community it means that the management of this mountain of published documents is no longer possible with traditional types of knowledge organization.

Thus there clearly is a need for a radical rethink within the library community about how management and dissemination of the knowledge should be organized and especially on the models appropriate for organizing co-operation (Saarti 2005).
2. Legal depositing and repositories in Europe

There are mainly two types of mass collection building for printed materials, i.e. legal depositing and repositories. The former type is older and it is based on mainly national legislation. The building of repositories is much younger: it started in the 1950’s. Most of the repositories have been established during recent decades. In this chapter we will discuss the history and main functions of these two types of collections with the aim being to identify the different solutions for both types.

2.1. Legal depositing in Europe

The legal deposit system was created in the 16th century. The main aim has been to preserve a nation’s print heritage although most institutions perform several other tasks that depend on the national policies.

Legal depositing can be defined as follows:

“Legal deposit is a statutory obligation which requires that any organization, commercial or public, and any individual producing any type of documentation in multiple copies, be obliged to deposit one or more copies with a recognized national institution. It is important to make sure that legal deposit legislation covers all kinds of published material, that is, material generally produced in multiple copies and "offered to the public regardless of the means of transmission," in order to differentiate from "archival" which refers to records, either governmental, corporate or personal and which are usually unique items, not available for public distribution and more of a private or personal nature. It should also be remembered that public distribution could mean "performance" or "display". As an example, a radio or television program could be considered as "published" for legal deposit purposes when it has been broadcast. Within the electronic publications environment, it should be noted that a "one copy item."
such as a database stored on one server, could be subject to a legal deposit requirement since it is made available to the public through a technology enabling the public to read, hear or view the material.” (Lariviére 2000, 3.)

Lariviére’s definition reveals that even though the purpose of the legislation in different countries may share many common aspects there are also clear differences. Most countries rely on a legal instrument of some sort in order to ensure the comprehensiveness of their national deposit collection (exception: Netherlands, voluntary agreement). (Lariviére 2000, 3, see also A synthesis… 1992.)

The legal deposit started when King Francois the 1st of France issued a decree called "Ordonnance of Montpellier" in 1537. The idea was to collect all published books “which deserved to be seen” to be able to refer to the original work “as first published and not modified” (Lariviére 2000, 6). Books were not allowed to be sold unless one copy had been deposited to the royal library.

The original purpose of the legal deposit was to ensure the preservation of a royal or national collection. However it became a prerequisite for obtaining trade privileges in France 1617. It also became a surveillance tool and a means of censorship e.g. to ensure that religious principles were respected. (Lariviére 2000, 7.)

The legal deposit system was abolished under French Revolution in the name of liberty, but was reinstalled later e.g. for copyright protection. In 18\textsuperscript{th} and 19\textsuperscript{th} century publishing activities flourished and mass scale publishing required new copyright regulation. The legal deposit became closely related to copyright during the 18th century, when deposit became a formality to acquire the legal protection of copyright. This started with the Great Britain Copyright Act of 1709, which was the first law aimed at protecting authors from piracy of their works. The law required that nine copies of works be deposited and distributed to several libraries in order to obtain copyright protection. (Lariviére 2000, 7.)

The first international copyright treaty, the Berne Convention was implemented in 1886. A special motive for legal deposit system was the creation of the national bibliography. For example in France there has been a law defining a provision of a national bibliography dating from 1811.

As new forms of publishing emerged, the legal deposit system has been modified to include all kinds of formats related to the national heritage. For example radio programmes,
television, films etc. have been included in the legal deposit system in many countries in a variety of ways. Today electronic materials represent a challenge. In some counties the legal deposit system requires the deposition of electronic publications, and this has been done in different ways. For example in Finland legal deposit legislation includes harvesting web sites. In table 1 some examples of several nations’ legal deposit systems are described.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Main tasks</th>
<th>Libraries involved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Preservation of national cultural heritage; national bibliography. Print, audio-visual, web-sites</td>
<td>National library, five University Libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Preservation of French heritage; national bibliography. All media</td>
<td>National Library: two copies. One copy kept, second delivered to partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>permanently safeguard and prepare for use by the general public, national bibliography text-based, graphic and audio representations.</td>
<td>Three legal deposit copies: two to National Libraries (Frankfurt, Leipzig); one to one of 16 State libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poland</td>
<td>preserve Polish print heritage; national bibliography</td>
<td>National Library, Jagellonian Library (two copies each, permanent storage); 15 other libraries: storage for at least 50 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>Availability to the library’s registered users, preservation for the benefit of future generation’s part of the national heritage, on and off line publications</td>
<td>British Library (one copy) Five other libraries can claim a copy within one year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1. Examples of different European legal deposit systems

All this has meant that collections have grown enormously and furthermore the legislation concerning the copyrights of different types of documents has evolved and thus it is a real challenge to arrange access to all the legal deposit materials.
2.2. Repositories in Europe

Print repositories started to appear in the 20th century. Their purpose has generally been to store valuable research material so it can be made available for research and education. The main functions can be defined as follows:

Repository library is a function that consists of premises and services, where several libraries reposit locally less widely used materials to be accessed by the libraries involved. The main aims are:

1) to help the libraries to optimise their space management;
2) to organize efficient and cost-effective storage and
3) arrange easy and fast access to reposed documents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Main tasks</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Libraries served</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>to store and make available material transferred from libraries</td>
<td>National Repository Library</td>
<td>All libraries and information centres</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>to store transferred material from other libraries; receive one legal deposit copy; make these available for libraries</td>
<td>Repository Library of the National Library, Mo i Rana</td>
<td>All libraries in Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UK</td>
<td>British Library acts as last resort library for monographs; UKRR arranges storage and availability of serials</td>
<td>British Library United Kingdom Research Reserve</td>
<td>All research libraries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France 1</td>
<td>to collect books and other documents that have national heritage or scientific value</td>
<td>Centre technique du livre de l'enseignement supérieur (CTLes):</td>
<td>Universities in Ile de France area in Paris</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain/Catalonia</td>
<td>to store and preserve low-use documents, ensuring its future preservation and</td>
<td>Guaranteed Space for the Preservation of Access (GEPA)</td>
<td>Universities of Catalonia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Under the aegis of the Université de Lyon higher education and research consortium (PRES) and in cooperation with the city public library, university libraries are working together to implement a new shared repository with the double goal of easing the pressure on current storage space, allowing for a sustained growth of paper collections, and at the same time providing the infrastructure for a shared collections policy in Lyon and its region from 2013 onwards.
Table 2. Examples of different European repositories

Table 2 describes some examples of selected repositories. It is apparent that the aims and needs behind the repositories have almost nothing else in common other than to try to arrange the management of less widely used documents in a more efficient way.

3. Methods and data gathered

In order to collect the data about the current situation of the legal depositing and repositing of the printed resources, an electronic questionnaire was sent to all known European legal depositaries and repositories (the questionnaire was send to 47 libraries). The survey was tested beforehand in order to ensure that the terminology and questions were appropriate.

The questionnaire contained the following main sections (the questionnaire can be accessed from: http://elomake.joensuu.fi/lomakkeet/3729/lomake.html):

- questions about the library and the respondent,
- questions about the collections,
- questions about the usage,
- questions about the knowledge organization of the collections and
- questions about the collection policy.

An e-mail with the questionnaire and its aims was sent to the respondents allowing two weeks for response. Another e-mail as reminder was sent near to the closing of the deadline.

A total of nine libraries (about 20 %) answered to the questionnaire. They were:

- Azerbaijan National Library named after M.F. Akhundov
- Deutsche Nationalbibliothek
- National Library of Finland
- National Library of Norway
- National Library of Sweden
- National Repository Library Finland
All the libraries are government funded public organizations. The functions of all the national libraries are based on legislation and the primary aim is to preserve and provide access to the cultural heritage of the nation. The emphasis is on collecting printed documents (monographs and serials) but in addition, half of the libraries preserve also digital resources. The Repositories of Estonia and Finland have specialised profiles and due to the recent establishment of the Azerbaijan National Library (2007), its collections are still at the foundation stage.

Since only a limited number of the libraries responded to the questionnaire, the following results can only be considered as descriptive and thus only basic statistical methods were used in the analysis. Although due to the good response from the northern part of the Europe this survey can be generalized to the situation throughout Scandinavia and Baltic states.

4. Results

The amount of the collection in the libraries can be seen in the table 3. The time span covered by the collections varies from the early 12th century to the present day. The number of the monographs ranges between a massive 14 million volumes to around half a million and the shelf space devoted to serials lies between 10 to 20 thousand shelf metres in the National libraries, clearly lesser in the Repositories. The number of actual premises is also larger in the National libraries.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monographs (millions)</th>
<th>Serials (shelf metres)</th>
<th>Yearly increase</th>
<th>Amount of premises (square meters)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library</th>
<th>n.a.</th>
<th>n.a.</th>
<th>n.a.</th>
<th>80</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Azerbaijan</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Bulgaria</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td>19 600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Finland</td>
<td>6.2</td>
<td>160 000</td>
<td>5000</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Denmark</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8000 shelf</td>
<td>8000</td>
<td>81 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Germany</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>20 000 shelf</td>
<td>1600</td>
<td>n.a.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Library of Norway</td>
<td>0.64</td>
<td>7700 shelf</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>18 000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository Library of Estonia</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>900 shelf metres</td>
<td>1100</td>
<td>1050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Repository Library Finland</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>45 shelf metres</td>
<td>3500</td>
<td>6767</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3. The extent of the collections

The collections are almost totally available for the local use (89%). Almost half of the libraries (44.4%) permit the checking out of documents. Copying (both photocopying and digital) can be done in 66.7% of the libraries as well as allowing inter-library loans and 44.4% of the libraries demand fees for their services. All but one of the libraries reported that they have internet access to their collection database and all the resources are catalogued at the standard library level.

All the libraries also stated that there are national policies or co-operation for the depositing and repositing the documents. Most, 77.8%, of the respondents declared that this should be
done at the national level and 44.4% proposed co-operation at the international level. Only one library responded that they had conducted cost-efficiency analysis of the repositing and that it had revealed saving in space costs.

5. Conclusions and policy recommendations

Although the number of the respondents to our survey was limited, one can draw some conclusions and make some recommendations about ways to encourage better co-operation and improved services in the management of printed documents. It seems that the collection policies and solution are conducted in Europe at the national level which probably means there are overlapping collections that do not support the efficient use of the printed resources. The new logistics and digitization tools available could provide new ways to ensure a more efficient distribution and dissemination of the European cultural heritage. Naturally one has to bear in mind the special needs of the National libraries and their basic responsibility for the preservation of the national documented heritage.

There clearly is a need to conduct an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the different models of document delivery, warehousing and use. This should be done at the international level in order to enable benchmarking and comparison between different types of solutions.

The international community of library users live in a globalized world of document delivery. The library community has started to answer to this need e.g. by opening their databases to allow browsing of printed resources as well as by digitising especially the older cultural heritage. In order to permit the use of the less widely used documents that lie within the realm of copyright protection and out-of print markets, the libraries must start to co-operate and disseminate these intellectual resources in a more efficient manner. Finally the depositing and disseminating of the digital documents must be a viewed as a global project – otherwise due to the copyright restrictions the libraries will be investing huge sums for services that will be closed to the wide public.

Acknowledgements
The authors are grateful to Dr Ewen MacDonald for revising the English.

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Spain (Catalunya): http://www.cbuc.cat/cbuc_en/programes_i_serveis/gepa