



National Libraries in the Digital Era

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**Abolish Barriers: the role of libraries in an evolving Europe
Helsinki, 7 May 2010**



National Libraries

“Custodians of the nation’s intellectual heritage, thus providing organisation, access to and preservation of the national imprint in all media” (IFLA).

The Digital Era: user demands

- **Changing user demands:** they expect the services to be closely related to their community or their workflow.
- **Complication:**
Users: researchers, general public
Not a well defined community

The Digital Era: towards digital collections

- Definitions: which items are to be collected?
Websites? Tweets?
- Print and/or digital
- Digital born publications
- Digitisation of the print collection
- Preservation

The Digital Era: co-operation between libraries

Blurring borders:

Everybody wants to have access to all kinds of information: cultural, scientific.

Towards a national digital library with different front-offices: national library, public libraries, research libraries

The Digital Era: co-operation between heritage institutions

Blurring borders:

More and more publications do not only contain text but also research data, audiovisual material.

These different elements become more and more integrated.

Position of the National Library

Co-operation within a network becomes essential.

The meaning of an institution is not only defined by its traditional “core business” directed towards its own identity.

Also by its identity in a network: the number and type of partners and the relation with these partners.



KB, National Library of the Netherlands

- Towards a digital collection
- Access
- Preservation of the collection
- The KB in the libraries' network
- The KB in the network of cultural heritage institutions
- The international network

Towards a digital collection

Strategic plan: priority # 1

To offer everyone everywhere digital access to everything published in and about the Netherlands:

- more and more born digital publications are collected
- all Dutch books, newspapers and periodicals from 1470 will eventually be digitised.

Towards a digital collection

Strategic plan: priority # 1

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Conditions for public/private partnerships:

- public domain
- non-exclusive

Improving Access

Strategic plan: priority # 2

To foster the establishment of a joint, national information infrastructure that exploits the possibilities of the digital world optimally. The result will be that everyone can search in the entire paper and digital holdings of the Dutch scientific and public libraries: a national digital library.

The KB will play an essential role by ensuring access through its e-depot. We will improve access to the digital collections by a variety of search facilities.

Preservation of the collection

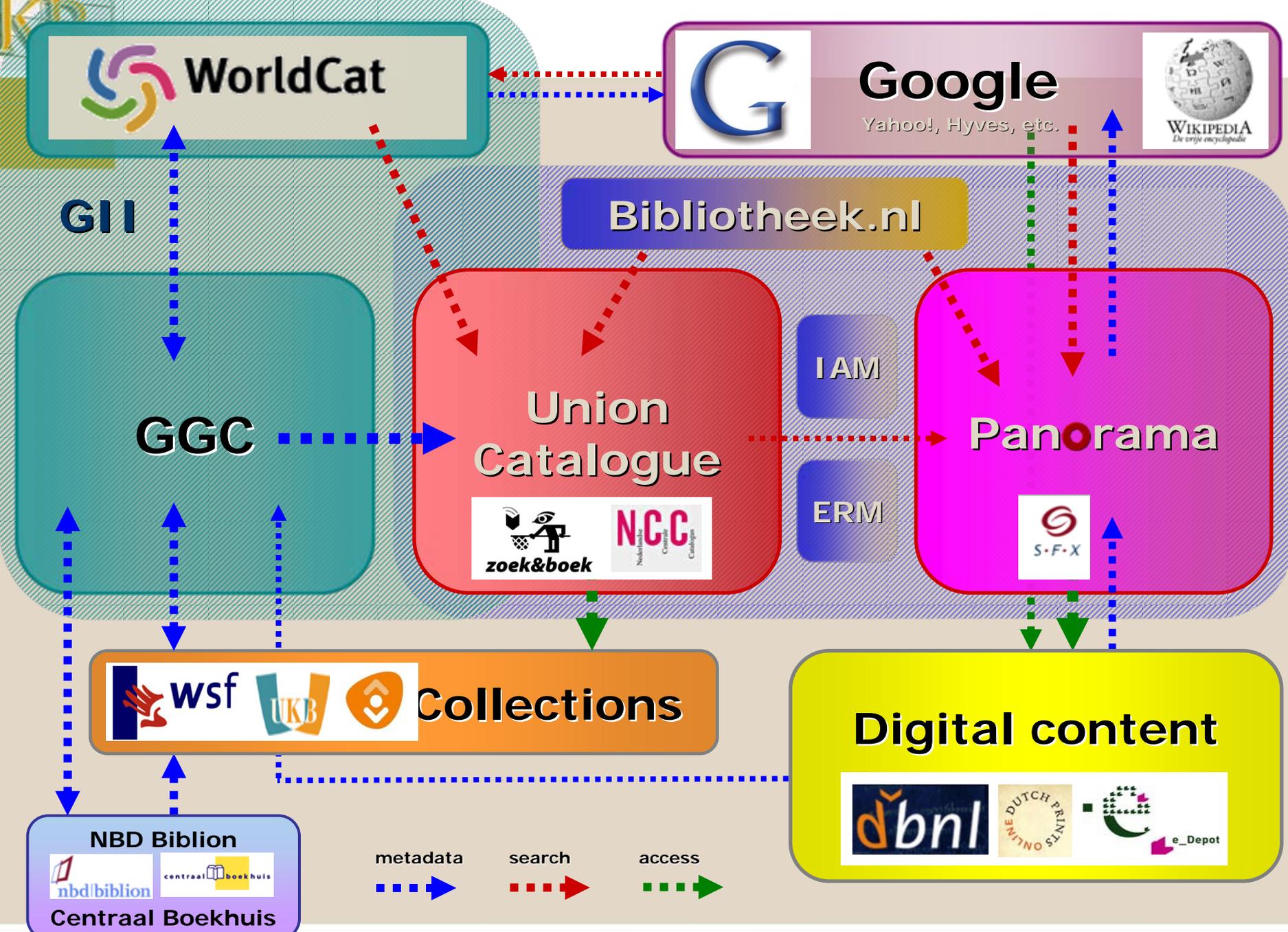
Strategic plan: priority #3

To guarantee long-term storage of digital information. This is a necessary pre-requisite for future access to digital information. The KB aims at a new, affordable, scalable and long-term storage facility for digital information (“e-depot”), operational in 2013.

In this context the KB will strengthen its international position in the vanguard of applied research in the field of digital preservation.

Network of Libraries in the country

- KB, public libraries, university libraries
- Towards a national information infrastructure
- Union catalogue for print items
- Digital content repository for relevant digital information: e-books, journals (licensed and open access), cultural heritage

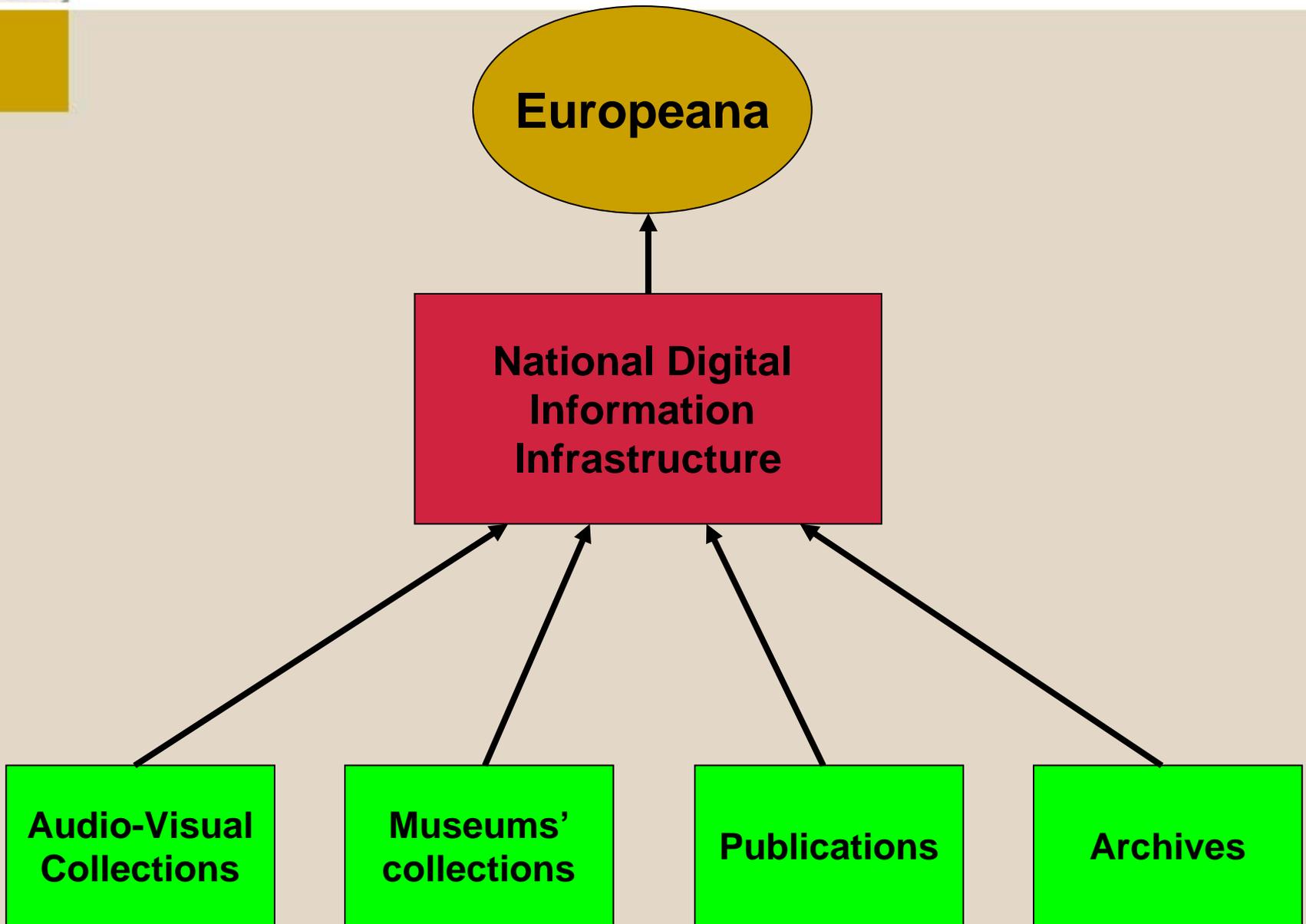


The national library infrastructure

- A national digital library
- Access through all libraries: front-offices
- Example: pilot with Elsevier Science

Cultural heritage institutions

- Borders between different types of content will blurr
- Users want integrated access
- Short term: co-ordinate preservation
- Long term: National Digital Information Infrastructure
- Neerlandiana: aggregator for Europeana



International network

- CENL: international role, parallel to the development of a national library
- TEL: aggregator for library content in Europeana
Essential: involvement public and research libraries
- Europeana: Co-operation with cultural heritage organisations

Infrastructure, Content, Access

- Joint effort in the preservation of content
(International publishers; Safe places model)

“Well in *our* country,” said Alice, still panting a little, “you’d generally get to somewhere else - if you ran very fast for a long time, as we’ve been doing.”

“A slow sort of country!” said the Queen. “Now, *here*, you see, it takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place. If you want to get somewhere else, you must run at least twice as fast as that!”



Thank you !

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