

The German Resources Project

The German Resources Project focuses on improving access to German-language materials for scholars in North America and fosters closer collaboration between North American and German research libraries, particularly in resource sharing and the development of digital collections. This project was among the three original pilots of the AAU/ARL Global Resources Program, and has received additional funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to bring together librarians from participating libraries in North America with their colleagues in Germany. In a series of meetings at the Library of Congress and the University of Göttingen, Project participants established an agenda and four working groups.

The Project's action agenda includes creating a formal system of document delivery between German and North American libraries; harmonizing cataloging rules; coordinating standards for metadata development; providing new collection development tools; and fostering collaborative digital library projects. The four areas addressed by the working groups are document delivery, digital libraries, bibliographic control, and collection development.

The document delivery component of the Project relies on GBVdirekt/North America, a powerful and innovative document delivery service. (See <http://www.gbv.de/en/direkt/NA/ddhome.html>). Librarians in the U.S. and Germany have developed and tested a North American web interface and accounting structure for the document delivery system of the Gemeinsame Bibliotheksverbund (GBV), a consortium of German academic libraries. A search interface makes the holdings of many German academic and state libraries accessible and allows electronic ordering of multiple articles in a single session, transmitting each request directly to the appropriate library. The supplying library scans the article and sends the resulting image file as an email attachment to the requesting library, usually within 48 hours. The typical cost is \$10 for a document of up to 20 pages. GBV and ARL jointly manage deposit accounts for North American libraries and ARL administers billing.

The Digital Libraries Working Group (DLWG) is establishing a clearinghouse for digital projects and project proposals. The clearinghouse will foster a wide variety of digital library endeavors and bring them under the aegis of the German Resources Project, while leaving the initiative for individual undertakings with the institutions involved. One of the goals of the clearinghouse is to attract a variety of funding sources to Project efforts. A prototype clearinghouse is expected to be available on the Web on 15 October 1999.

The Bibliographic Control Working Group (BCWG) has developed two projects designed to improve the sense of community among Germanist catalogers in ARL libraries. The first project will result in the publication of an online directory of Germanist catalogers. By the end of fall 1999, the Working Group will document Germanist bibliographic control specialists at Project libraries. Subsequent participation in this directory will be solicited on relevant email lists. The second community-building project of the BCWG will create a web-based, annotated list of recommended German cataloging resources. This toolkit will include, but not be limited to, electronic resources and will be available winter 1999–2000. In addition to these two

projects, the BCWG is preparing a German translation of AACR2.

The Collection Development Working Group (CDWG) has created a prototype for identifying strong German studies collections among Project libraries. The goal of this initiative is to improve awareness of German studies resources currently available in North America and to facilitate future cooperative collection development. The prototype includes contact and collection strength information on 15–20 Project libraries that are of particular interest to German institutions. This information will be added to the German WEBIS website <http://webis.sub.uni-hamburg.de/>, which lists German research libraries with special collecting focuses, thereby creating a virtual meeting place for subject specialists on both sides of the Atlantic.

German Resources Project participants:

University of Adelaide
University of Alabama
University of Arizona
Bowdoin College
Brigham Young University
Brown University
University of California–Berkeley
University of California–Riverside
University of California–Santa Barbara
University of Chicago
University of Cincinnati
Cornell University
Duke University
Georgetown University
Georgia University
Harvard University
Southern Illinois University
University of Illinois
Indiana University
University of Kansas
Library of Congress
Michigan State University
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
New York Public Library
New York University
North Carolina State University
University of North Carolina
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Pennsylvania State University

University of Pennsylvania
State University of New York at Albany
Texas Tech University
University of Toronto
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of Waterloo
University of Wisconsin

German partners:

Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek, Frankfurt/Main
Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Hamburg
Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen
Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

The German Resources Project website is available at <http://grp.lib.msu.edu/>.

For more information, contact the Project co-chairs:

Lou Pitschmann
Associate Director for Collection Development and Management
General Library System
University of Wisconsin
Madison, WI 53706-2754
Phone: (608) 262-2795
Fax: (608) 265-2754
Email: alap@mac.wisc.edu

John Van Oudenaren
Chief, European Division
The Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540-4830
Phone: (202) 707-4543
Fax: (202) 707-8482
Email: sjvou@loc.gov



ARL policy is to grant blanket permission to reprint any article in the Bimonthly Report for educational use as long as full attribution is made. Exceptions to this policy may be noted for certain articles. This is in addition to the rights provided under sections 107 and 108 of the Copyright Act. For commercial use, a reprint request should be sent to ARL Director of Information Services, [Julia Blixrud](#).

© The Association of Research Libraries

Maintained by: [ARL Web Administrator](#) Site Design Consultant: [Chris Webster](#) Last Modified: June 22, 2002