Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Wuerttemberg – Servicing libraries

For nearly 20 years, the Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Wuerttemberg BSZ has been operating the **Suedwestdeutschen Bibliotheksverbund (SWB)**, a union catalogue serving more than 1,000 mainly academic libraries of the German states of Baden-Wuerttemberg, Saarland, Sachsen, and Pfalz, a part of Rheinland-Pfalz. Among these are several old and famous university libraries like Dresden, Freiburg, Heidelberg, Leipzig, and Tuebingen.

The union catalogue comprises 10 million title records of all media types from books to electronic resources with nearly 30 million holding records of participating libraries. Cataloguing is done online and primarily in the union database. Nearly 9 million data from external sources like Die Deutsche Bibliothek, English Books, Casalini libri, etc. are integrated and can be used for cataloguing and acquisition. As a result of the national cooperation of libraries, complete and up-to-date personal name, corporate name, and subject heading authority files are available and can be linked to the title records. The data necessary for acquisition can be downloaded to the libraries' local system also. In addition, BSZ supplies title and local records in a daily or weekly import file.

Unlike procedures used by, e.g. OCLC, primary cataloguing in the central database is crucial, multiple copies are recorded locally but the titles are not changed.

SWB has multiple functions:

- Supporting efficient cataloguing: only an average of 22% of all records has to be catalogued, while 78% are supplied by union titles or data from external sources,

- Delivering up-to-date, complete and standardized data to the respective local OPACs of the most prevalent vendors in Germany (HORIZON by DYNIX; Libero by LIB-IT; Aleph by ExLibris; SISIS, etc.) and locally developed systems like OLIX in Baden-Wuerttemberg,

- Supplying tools to aid search and information retrieval for end users but also for libraries that use the SWB online catalogue for interlibrary loans.

Access via WebPAC

BSZ offers a search access to the union catalogue via Horizon. The WebPAC is located at:

URL: http://webpac.bsz-bw.de/WPstart.html?bw.verbund

HORIZON WebPAC is based on a frequently updated HORIZON union catalogue database. Several improvements for the display of holdings have been implemented:

- Library codes are displayed in alphabetical order

- Up to 5 holdings per library are shown after the respective library code

- Circulation restrictions are analysed and displayed behind the call number

- Search for related literature is enabled

Via Z39.50 BSZ offers its holdings to the libraries that participate in SUBITO3. Access via Z39.50 for other services must be applied for and arranged with BSZ.

Online ILL

BSZ supplies the libraries in the union with a system for electronic sending and processing of interlibrary loan requests. Online ILL provides the opportunity to make requests directly after searching the SWB ILL-catalogue. Thus ensuring quicker processing and delivery as well as high transparency and user-friendliness.

Online ILL for end users will be implemented in the second phase.

Online ILL was developed within the cooperation of all German library unions and can thus be used on the same system in all German unions.

New Union Cataloguing System

The SWB union uses a reliable but proprietary system that runs on a BS2000 mainframe computer. In 2002, BSZ finished an intensive evaluation phase of thorough tests with union cataloguing systems of various vendors. System technology, architecture, application functionalities (staff search, cataloguing, WWW OPAC), export and import functionality and interfaces were tested in various test environments including training and workshops. Since the beginning of 2003, BSZ is in the process of tendering and choosing a new union cataloguing software. Among others, real-time and reliable supply of participating libraries, stable response time performance and a thoroughly tested system configuration are crucial criteria for the routine installation of a new union cataloguing system. Highly complex workflows in cooperate cataloguing - of more than 600 participating libraries of the SWB union - and the German rules and formats, which differ from international standards demand a great deal from the performance of the new union cataloguing software and database. These demands have been documented in an extensive description and are available to software companies within the Europe-wide call for tender.

If the current range of performance is guaranteed, the cataloguing database can be migrated to a new system.

To avoid needless time pressure for choosing and the migrating to a new union system, BSZ has stabilised and enlarged its current system with regard to hard- and software.

Further requirements will be developed by BSZ as before.

These requirements comprise special functionalities like:

- Export routines for local systems without MAB2 import

- Specific check routines, e.g. of single collections, call numbers (groups) etc. BSZ will also further develop duplicate check routines delivered by the vendor, as this is necessary to maintain a high standard of bibliographic quality.

- Card printing files to be made available to libraries to enable them printing their cataloguing cards if needed and card catalogues for small special libraries or to complete existing catalogues. This service was considerably reduced during the last two years and will only be available in exceptional cases in the future.

- The library list BIBINFO contains all information relevant to libraries and end users: e-mail address and homepage, hours, contact persons, and in future special collections and specializations. BIBINFO is linked to Online ILL.

- BIBINFO was reprogramed to ensure communication with the new union system via an interface in the medium term.

Local Systems

BSZ advises and supports libraries in choosing, installing and running a local library system.

BSZ comprehensively supports in particular smaller libraries of universities of applied sciences, universities of cooperative education, museums etc. Currently only HORIZON by Dynix is being used. BSZ is responsible for software configuration, migration of old data, on-site installation and training of staff.

BSZ offers full service to academic libraries of the SWB union: the local system is run on servers in BSZ, this solution includes routine mode as well as back up solutions. 14 libraries are using this service at the moment. Three libraries temporarily used this service to bridge the time of server breakdowns.

Full service comprises the weekly import of title records from the union catalogue to the respective local system. This service is offered to and used by HORIZON databases on site. This includes also the import of updated borrower data at the beginning of each term from administrative databases to the local system.

The service is complemented by BSZ developments like email notification, InterCard interface etc.

BSZ supports 40 HORIZON libraries, and further installations are in the planning.

New Services

The new union system will fulfil a number of currently established services:

- UNICODE
  Up to now, libraries with literature predominantly in Chinese, Japanese or Korean could only participate in the union catalogue with transcribed records or not participate at all.

- Automatic supply interface
  the union system offers the possibility of synchronising bibliographic data in the local system automatically and promptly with the libraries' records in the union database.

  This calls for an interface that allows the local systems to search the activities that are relevant for synchronisation in the union catalogue and to automatically download the necessary data.

  This results in higher flexibility for libraries, especially for those libraries that record their acquisitions in the union catalogue and depend on real-time synchronisation.

- Retro conversion batch import
  the batch import of title and local data of participating libraries has to be facilitated and improved by a defined duplicate check.

- Integration in the digital library
  the union database is a core component of the digital library and must as such form an overall supply of digital services together with the other components. This is done via the Z39.50 interface and the WWW interface.

BSZ Digital Library
The direct use of full texts, pictures, teaching and learning material, and electronic resources of all kinds at the office or at home will make up the main piece of service provided by the Digital Library that is offered on the Internet.

BSZ participates in several projects in these kinds of online access and offers the achieved search functionalities for regular use. This service differs from Internet search engines in its quality of content and reliability.

- Theses and other university publications are available in full text on university servers. Videos are easily accessible. BSZ virtual media server is the regions presentation platform and offers all these publications at once. At the same time they are recorded in the union catalogue and can be retrieved in several ways.

- SWBplus, a new database containing reviews, abstracts, table of contents, and similar information about publications is part of the media server and thus connected with the union database. It can also be used on its own.
  (URL: http://www.bsz-bw.de/SWBplus)
- The search engine for academic libraries (SWIB) offers structured retrieval of objects of the virtual media server and other data sources using the protocol of Open Archives Initiative.
  (URL: http://www.bsz-bw.de/javaswib/EnterQuery.jsp)

- Metadata are acquired in various forms (Dublin Core simple, Dublin Core qualified, DLmeta). These data are used for cataloguing and offered on the virtual media server. In coordination with the participating libraries, BSZ virtual media server is registered as joint data provider with Open Archives Initiative. Containing about 210,000 available objects it is one of the biggest free information services linked to library databases.

- A registration and cancellation service for persistent identifiers (URN) was established in coordination with the German Library. For the first time online resources remain available when their addresses have changed.

- The "joint Internet portal for libraries, archives, and museums" (BAM) enables the user to search the data of libraries, archives, and museums simultaneously and to navigate from search results to respective digital representations.
  (URL: http://www.bam-portal.de/)

Services for Museums and Archives

Museums

BSZ provides technical and documentary services for museums: on the one hand, databases recording museum objects are installed and run on a central server at BSZ, on the other hand, BSZ provides a contact person for questions regarding content and offers advice on uniform electronic recording of museum objects from day one.

In autumn 2000, BSZ was assigned the coordination of the state's project MusIS by the Ministry of Science, Research and Art. This project will install a common museum information system (http://www.bsz-bw.de/musis/) in all state museums. This system is based on a relational database and serves the scientific documentation and administration of collections with regard to multimedia, archival and library objects.

Das BSZ now supports 5 museums and runs the system IMDAS-PRO by Joanneum Research Graz on a central server.

Archives

Following a productive cooperation in the DFG project BAM (libraries, archives, museums) there were further contacts between Landesarchivdirektion Stuttgart (LAD) and BSZ.

Since the middle of 2000 BSZ has been running the LAD WWW server on http://www.lad-bw.de. This so-called web hosting means that all WWW pages are on a powerful computer ("hosted server") in BSZ. This computer is connected to the Internet. BSZ is responsible for running this machine (hardware, operating system software) and for the application software for running a WWW server. The LAD creates the sites contents and loads them up.
In the meantime BSZ offers, configures and services further tools and applications as well as databases for creating and presenting WWW pages. By offering this service

BSZ also takes over all back up safety measures (firewall etc.) for the LAD. BSZ gives advice to LAD in all technical questions.

Summary

The Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Wuerttemberg runs the Suedwestdeutsche Bibliotheksverbund, a database that is used by more than 1000 libraries. Maintaining high bibliographic standards and providing added features (URLs for full texts, authority files, ILL etc.) it supplies OPACs and thus is an essential tool for search and interlibrary loan.

Supporting local systems in libraries and museums complements this core service.

In addition BSZ's digital library offers innovative services according to current standards (OAI, XML, Dublin Core, Z39.50 etc.).

Ltd. Bibl. Dir. Dr. Marion Mallmann-Biehler
Tel. ++49 7531 88 2352
marion.mallmann@bsz-bw.de

Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Wuerttemberg
Universitaet Konstanz
D – 78457 Konstanz