National Licences in Germany: One Way to Improve Access for Science and Research

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Higher Education and Research in Germany

- 682 Institutions of Higher Education and Research
  - 88 Universities
  - 190 Universities of Applied Sciences
  - 94 (Private) Colleges
  - 30 Academic Special Libraries for Applied Sciences
- 280 Research Institutes organized in 4 Research Societies
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

- Self governing research funding foundation
- Private not for profit association
- 9,000 peer reviewers from scientific institutions
- Elected review boards for 27 funding programs
  - LIS Group - Scientific Library Services and Information Systems
  - German National License Program
Levels of Licences

- Local Licenses
- Consortial Licenses
- National Licenses
- Multinational Licenses

University of Frankfurt: 193 license contracts

- 30% Local
- 51% Consortial
- 19% National
- 1% Multinational
The Mission 2004

- To improve nationwide access to scientific literature independent of the financial strength of a single institution
- To get better conditions by acting on a National level
- To support access from workplace as an important condition for innovation and research
Criteria of the DFG I

- **Access** for all Higher Education and Research Institutions mainly financed by public funding
- and Academic special and state libraries
- and Governmental Institutions and German Institutions abroad
- **User Group I**: Students, faculty staff, walk-in-users, remote access included
- **User Group II**: non-institutional access to private persons with permanent residence in Germany *

* Not included in all contracts
Criteria of the DFG II

- Usage via server of licensor or licensee
- Metadata at no extra cost to local / union catalogues and any other library and information system (incl. search engines)
- Local hosting expressively permitted on the server of licensee
- Quarterly user statistics in COUNTER compliant format no later than 3 weeks after end of quarter
- Authentication procedures: ip check, username / password, shibboleth
- German law applicable
Financial Conditions

• Total amount of money spent since 2004: 70 Mill Euro
• General policy: single payment
• Price strategy:
  • Basis is the single license fee
  • Multiplication depends on estimated value and penetration
  • Limit 12fold
Work Flow

- Suggestions from Libraries and Research Societies
- Selection, negotiation, and submission of proposals to DFG (done by a small group of libraries)
- DFG’s review process:
  1. Review Boards (scientific experts)
     - Importance for research and education
     - Price performance ratio => ranking
  2. Financial votes by Joint Committee
- Free of charge registration via www.nationallizenzen.de
Actively participating libr.
Steps of the Program

1. Complete text based collections (54)
   - Early English Books online; CIAO; Library of Latin Texts
2. Journal Archives (49)
   - ACS; Elsevier Journal Backfiles; Nature Archives
3. e-Book collections; reference works (14)
   - Parts of Elsevier, Springer, Net Library; WBIS
4. Complete Journal Collections (incl. curr. iss.) (12)
   - Oxford Univ. Pr.; AIP; Ann. Rev.
5. Long term contracts but no perpetuity
   - Cochrane Library
Benefits

• Central funding supports dissemination of content

• NL Classics = free of charge supply for institutions and private users

• Opt-in model to fund „most wanted“ current content
  • Works well for small or medium sized collections

• National License includes „ownership of content“

• Better prices and conditions than for regional consortia or local contracts

• DFG‘s criteria lead to standardization of contracts
Challenges

• Standardisation of contracts was not reached in one step
• Free riders and windfall profits (on the customers‘ side)
• Some required products do not meet criteria
• Some publishers can not produce backfiles
• Local Hosting is not implemented yet
Lessons learned

• Central funding is sometimes crucial for the dissemination of scientific content

• Freedom of research and teaching does not allow governmental decisions on what to buy

• Content reviews and financial decisions must be separated

• Negotiations by a small number of institutions increases experience and prevents monolithic structures

• Transparency of the process is crucial
Lessons learned

• Experienced publishers accept DFG‘s criteria
• Smaller publishers and aggregators have difficulties
• Archival collections easier to handle than current subscriptions
  • Opt-in model (handling; coordination)
  • Multi year contracts
„There is only one thing more expensive than education: no education“

(J.F. Kennedy)