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Title of the paper:

Interlending policy and OCLC strategy in the National library of the Czech Republic

Abstract:

National Library collects, preserves and provides access to Bohemical materials published here and elsewhere in the world. It has rich collections of foreign language publications, primarily in the humanities and social and natural sciences. Autonomous part of the National Library is the Slavonic Library with its collection of materials relating to original literary works in Slavonic languages.

National Library is a centre of interlibrary loans for international and domestic services in the Czech Republic. Domestic services are governed by law that defines general rules. Libraries can make the best of their own strategies concerning its application, e.g. lending rules, pricing, reciprocity etc. Systems of electronic document delivery as EDDO, VPK etc. can be used to satisfy requests for reprographic copies, all of them have to be transformed now according to new agreement with our copyright agency.

National Library cooperates with other Czech libraries to provide ILL services to handle orders from abroad. Main instruments are union and local catalogues with the view to satisfy requests at the soonest. ILL uses world-known systems, e.g. SUBITO, BIBSYS, RERO, British Library, COPAC and another online and e-mail forms. This service accepts all types of requests from libraries worldwide including OCLC on-line forms.

National Library was one of the first European institutions, which began to send their records to OCLC WorldCat. Not long with that Modul FirstSearch and ILL followed in fertile using and increased the number of satisfied requests from Czech users. It became an active supplier library as well and therefore enabled better availability of funds in Czech libraries. It formed quite a unique strategy, which hangs together with the function of our institution as the centre of Bohemian literature.

Complete paper:

1. Introduction

We would like to present a brief overview of interlending strategy of interlibrary loan department in the National Library of the Czech Republic as a representative of the Bohemian literature and its availability for the world. In this paper, the main focus laid on OCLC, since it has become an inseparable and essential part of ILL.

2. Interlibrary loans in general, internal interlibrary loans

Interlibrary loans play an important role in librarian services since there is still not money enough to satisfy all users demand for literature from a single library fund. The National Library as a centre for interlibrary loans is responsible for creating and managing recommendations which define the basic rules and standards. It arises mainly from the Law 257/2001Coll. and practical experiences on the other hand. The cooperation of libraries within certain regions are ensured by 14 regional libraries, which provide expert advice, information, training, analytical and research services, methodological assistance and consultancy, and it cooperates in introducing new technologies.

According to the Librarian law, all materials should be lent for free inside the Czech Republic, only copies can be charged. Mostly the print version is used, since sending of electronic photocopies is allowed only under special terms: on the basis of lately convenient between DILIA, a representative of the author's corporations and the securer of their rights, and the National Library, libraries can obtain a licence which enables them to ensure electronic works to end users. An agreement must be signed, a user account in delivery system created and royalty fee paid. The use of single articles from journals and parts of books up to 25 pages is allowed just for personal purposes. Biggest centres of electronic document delivery are: EDDO built up by our library (<http://doc.nkp.cz>), VPK by National Technical Library (<http://www.vpk.cz>), and e-PK by National Pedagogical Library (<http://www.epk.cz>). Making deals with foreign libraries is still not possible but we hope for a change in the future.



The most important sources for holdings' identification within Czech libraries apart from local catalogues are union catalogues and portals UIG – Uniform Information Gateway (<http://www.jib.cz>) which allow searching in all union catalogues at once, and EZB

(<http://ezb.nkp.cz>) for electronic journals. For interlibrary requests, all possible forms can be used, but the most widespread and favourite are e-mail and on-line orders. Several libraries accept only certain forms of request, which define their local rules. Paid services among libraries are charged through subscription accounts, cash or postal orders. All registered libraries obtained a location symbol for a better lucidity, which consist of three alphabets and three numbers and are added to database of Czech libraries.

3. International interlibrary loans

International interlibrary loans are ensured by six centres: The National Library of the Czech Republic (headquarters) for Bohemical Literature, humanities and social sciences; National Technical Library for engineering, applied sciences and related fields; National Medical Library for medicine, health sciences and related fields; Academy of Sciences for scholarly and scientific fields; Moravian Library and Research Library in Olomouc both with a general collection – each of them with its own strategy, prices and deadlines but with a respect to IFLA recommendations and guidelines. All ILL centres use IFLA voucher payment system and their charges to foreign institutions do not vary too much. Other Czech cultural institutions usually do not participate in ILL because of problems with currency and customs. They are free to choose any intermediary which suits them, but with a focus on a specialization of each centre.

3a. ILL for Czech users

The National Library enables both Czech libraries and own user to fill an electronic order for a loan or a copy accompanied by their content to prices and conditions. Only satisfied requests are charged and the fees vary according to the place of its publication. The availability of all requested documents must be verified in Czech sources by users themselves first, and they have to contain exact bibliographical information, otherwise the order execution is not guaranteed. The processing term's maximum length is 3 months from the order date but most of the photocopy requests are fulfilled in a few days and the loan request in a fortnight mainly because of the speedy services of foreign libraries, such as SUBITO, BIBSYS, British Library, OCLC and similar library systems. Since NL cooperates with libraries all over the world and makes a strategy for ordering regarding past experiences, most of the requests are fulfilled successfully. The most used ways of payment are subscription accounts and IFLA vouchers. NL has been using Aleph for managing ILL requests for more than 2 years which simplified many processes connected with the order treatment.

3b. ILL for international institutions

Every foreign library is allowed to order documents from any of 6 centres mentioned above. They can make use from searching and verifying documents in union catalogues or portals displayed on libraries web pages. The electronic catalogue of NL became also a part of KVK (<http://www.ubka.uni-karlsruhe.de/kvk.html>), OCLC WorldCat (<http://www.worldcat.org/>) and other library systems. On the other hand, also unverified requests for Czech literature are accepted. According to the UPA programme, NL is responsible for ensuring the availability of Czech production which means that if a document can not be copied or lent from its own collections, it intermediates a delivery of the document from another Czech Republic for the same price. Since NL is mainly a deposit library, it's not a rare case and explains why delivery times can take longer. As already mentioned, Czech libraries are not allowed to send electronic copies to abroad, only printed articles can be sent, sometimes fax delivery is used as well. All order forms are accepted on-line, by e-mail and via OCLC system.

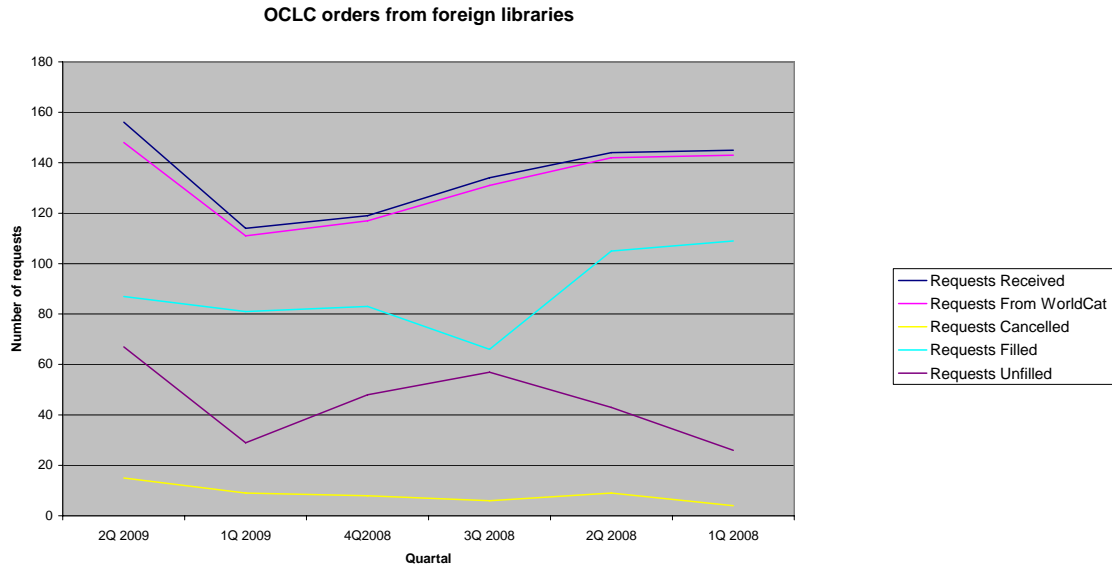
4. OCLC

It's been a long time since the National library began to cooperate with OCLC. As one of the European libraries, NL began to add its records to OCLC WorldCat catalogue. Then in 2000, NL started to use another OCLC product – Firstsearch module in a consortium with Czech research libraries and not long after it NL bought an access for ILL module as the sole Czech library. The number of satisfied requests for ILL rose since that time. NL decided to participate in OCLC IFM program which reduced the costs of OCLC orders. Since 2005 NL became an active supplier, and number of requests from foreign libraries nearly doubled.

Lender Activity Report June 2009 - January 2009

Month	Jun 2009	May 2009	Apr 2009	Mar 2009	Feb 2009	Jan 2009
Requests Received	57	54	45	36	38	40
Requests From WorldCat	51	52	45	34	38	39
Requests Cancelled	7	3	5	2	3	4
Requests Filled	46	22	19	29	26	26
Requests Filled - Loan	15	10	2	11	10	10
Requests Filled - Copy	31	12	17	18	16	16
Requests Unfilled	27	15	25	10	10	9

Main strategy of dealing with OCLC requests is connected to the function of the NL as an intermediary of Czech literature. First, the availability of the document within its own collections is verified and the citation completed, then the item is ordered from the stock. Photocopies of the articles are made in a printed format and sent by post. Loans must be considered according to the status of the item, number of its exemplars and its physical condition. As a deposit library, it keeps two legal copies of all Czech production which are excluded from lending. In case no other copies are available, funds of other Czech libraries are searched and consequently asked for a loan. From the time of receiving the item, NL accepts responsibility for the loan till its return back to the end library. In case the document is possessed by a non-Prague library, it must be delivered by post which takes certain time. That is why NL often needs more time to process an international order and requires its OCLC symbol to be entered at least three times into a library string on OCLC order. But when omitting the cases when the time for processing is not long enough or the bibliographic citation is incorrect and the order must be carried out as fulfilled, most of the requests are fulfilled successfully.



5. Conclusion

The use of OCLC has visibly enhanced the services of Czech ILL and made it more effective. We hope more Czech libraries can add their records to OCLC WorldCat, so the treasure of Czech literature can be available to more users all over the world, and on the other hand, more Czech libraries will be able to make use of participating in OCLC.