Ceci n'est pas une pipe.
Heritage Library

- Memory institution
  - Collects + preserves (and investigates and makes accessible for the public)
  - printed and published heritage
  - for the long term
Heritage Library

Collection

- Not only ‘rare books’, ‘preciosa’ or ‘special collections’
- Materials that are typically collected by libraries: Books, Manuscripts, Periodicals but also: maps, prints ...
Heritage Libraries in Flanders

- Survey of 2006
- About 250 in Flanders & Brussels
Heritage Libraries in Flanders

- Survey of 2012
  - Often part of ‘other’ organisations: a museum, an archive, an abbey, a public library, a university, a conservatory, a company...
  - Collection care is not always a priority <> importance of collection
  - Large backlogs/arrears for
    - Cataloguing
    - Digitisation
    - Conservation
Lacking means and expertise

No funding for individual libraries from the Flemish government

(Political) ‘solution’ (?) for this problem

= Flanders Heritage Library
Not a national library

- Similar tasks
- Cooperation is desirable but not self-evident

Culture is not a (federal) state affair

- Flemish community
- Cultural heritage policy = decree
Not a library
No collection
No (acting) librarians
FLANDERS HERITAGE LIBRARY - STAFF

- Core:
  - Coordinator
  - Staff member
  - Cataloguer
  - (Project assistant)

- Sometimes:
  - Temporary personnel
  - Interns
Network of six diverse but equal partners
Flanders Heritage Library - Partners

- Largest collections
  > 50% of the known collections in Flanders
- Geographical spread
- (Small) history of working together
Informal platform (2004-2007)
- Enhancing the visibility
- Influencing policymakers

but also:
- Finding common interest
- Realising quick wins
- Building trust between partners

Formal organisation: established end of 2008
Mission

= Developing and sharing expertise

- Collection management
- Cataloguing
- Digitisation
- Preservation and conservation
- Public engagement & Communication
Flanders Heritage Library - Methods

- Projects
  - Different domains
  - Different partners
    - The staff
    - The six partners
    - Other libraries in Flanders and Brussels
  - Different approaches
    - Proces-driven versus product-oriented
  - Different outcomes
Relevant to the six founding partners

- Networking
- Cooperation
- Sharing expertise
- Visibility
- A challenge they cannot overcome on their own (e.g. digitisation)
Flanders Heritage Library - Results

- Supporting the whole field of heritage libraries
  - Manuals
  - Surveys & reports
  - Workshops & seminars
  - Discussion groups
  - Coaching
  - Website & newsletter
  ...

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Flanders Heritage Library - Budget

- Annual budget: about 300,000 euro
- Expenditure 2015
  - 250,000 – 4 fulltime equivalent
  - 95,000 – overhead (e.g. hosting, rent, insurance…)
  - 35,000 – project means
  = deficit of 80,000 euro
  - Project grants, recuperating expenses, reserves
  - No fee for the partners, on the contrary!
Flanders Heritage Library - Balance

- Always balancing
  - Between partners
  - Between partners & field
  - Between field & government
  - ...

[Image of a balance scale with books on both sides]
Belgian Newspaper Catalogue 1830-1950
- 7,200 titles
- Over 100 institutions
Short Title Catalogue Flanders

- Online database with detailed bibliographical descriptions of editions printed/sold in Flanders and Brussels before 1801
- 22,300 editions
- 40,500 copies

Valorisation initiative: improving the database and increasing awareness for a broader audience
**Collection Management Plan**

- Initiative with 6 partners
- Result: 6 individual collection management plans
- Next step: collection agreements within the network
COMETA

- Model for registering collections
FLANDRICA.BE

- Virtual Heritage Library
  = Portal small selection of digitised materials
- Website with 600 items
- Expertise and learning programme for digitisation and online dissemination
NEWS OF THE GREAT WAR

- Digitisation project
  - Executed by VIAA in cooperation with FHL
  - 270,000 pages of ’14-’18 newspapers
- Coördination of the nomination of this collection for Memory of the World
Deposit of digital publications in Flanders

- Feasibility study for a legal deposit of Flandrica
  - International best practices
  - Business models
  - Raising awareness
  - Increasing public support
  - Inspiring policymakers
Crowdfunding platform
- Raising funds for conservation projects
- 11 projects
- 6: 100% successful
- 35,000 euro
- Toolbox with tips & tricks
Old Book & New Media

- Travelling exhibition (Frankfurter Buchmesse)
  - With National Library of the Netherlands
  - Parallels between post-incunabula and social media
OLD BOOK & NEW MEDIA
Universal Procedure for Library Assessment

- Statistic model for registering damage in heritage libraries
  - Set of rules
  - Forms
  - Training
  - Logistics support
  - Publication
Information

- Website
- Monthly newsletter
- Facebook & Twitterfeed
Contact details

Eva Wuyts
VLAAMSE ERFGOEDBIBLIOTHEEK vzw
p/a Hendrik Conscienceplein 4
2000 Antwerpen
T: 03 338 87 92 - 0495 776 111
E: eva@vlaamse-erfgoedbibliotheek.be
www.vlaamse-erfgoedbibliotheek.be