Gallica today and tomorrow

Open Access to cultural Heritage - BERLIN - March 2006

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Chapter 1 (1992-1998) : Great Expectations and beginnings

- From the origin of the new library : a digital library.

- The main characteristics :
  - 100 000 books / 300 000 images
  - Mainly collections from France in french language by french authors...
  - Patrimonial, encyclopedic materials, rather rare and difficult to find materials
  - Out of copyright (65%), under copyright (35%)
  - Page mode (90%), text mode (10%)
  - The reading rooms more than the web.

- Opening of the Web site
- Giving up the under copyright materials
- Access improvement: increasing part of the full text, digitization of table of contents, summaries, abstracts,...
Chapter 3 (2002-2005): The mature age

- **A confirmed success**
  - 80,000 digitized books and journals
  - 80,000 digitized images
  - + 5000/8000 documents per year
  - ➔ 180,000 visits/month (12 millions per year on the BnF Website)
  - ➔ 1.5 millions items read monthly

- **The first public studies**
  Internet users want access to:
  - hard-to-find and out-of-print materials
  - full texts and extensive image collections

Gallica is mainly used by:
- researchers,
- teachers (Gallica as a valuable learning tool),
- librarians and publishers,
- « enthusiasts and autodidacts »
  (Internet as a major access to cultural heritage)
Chapter 3 (2002-2005) : The mature age

● A new Documentary Charter
  - Out of copyright materials
  - French culture
  - Free of charge
  - Research library (sources and tools for research)
  - Rebalance the periods (XVI until XVIII century)
  - Beyond books : the daily press, images, sounds

● Development of partnerships with new solutions of sharing (Open Access initiative)
  Many examples :
  - Mathdoc
  - Philidor
  - France in America
  - Press (La Croix, Le Temps, l’Humanité, Ouest France,...)
  - The Portal CAIRN
Chapter 4 (2005-2010): Towards the European digital library?

- **Main questions and/or challenges**
  - Which content: European thought, democracy, identity and space?
  - How to manage quantity (2 millions of documents in 2008?)
  - Which search engine?
  - How to manage the different kind of publics?
  - How to manage multilinguism?
  - Which economy for the project (relationships with publishers unions for the under copyright materials)?

- **The first steps for Gallica**
  - OCRisation of Gallica
  - Mass digitization (which content and which technical possibilities)?
  - New interface
● **As an (open...) conclusion**
  - Free of charge access for the widest public
  - Open to all kinds of partnerships (by OAI, metadata exchange)
    - Free of charge for cultural use
    - Not free of charge for commercial use (case by case, bibliographic data)
  - A complete respect of the rights of authors and publishers

● **2 references :**


  J.N. Jeanneney : Googles Herausforderung. Für eine europäische Bibliothek (Verlag Klaus Wagenbach)