



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Belgium, report 2006

Meetings and colloquia in the field of music documentation are no longer exceptional in Belgium. The VCOB, the Flemish Centre for Public Libraries, www.vcob.be ([link is external](#)), organised a well attended meeting with the subject: the future of the music department in the public library. OKBV, the Art Libraries Society Flanders, www.okbv.be ([link is external](#)), established in 2000, has broadened its scope and also welcomed libraries of music, dance and other performing arts as full members of its organisation. The first result of this collaboration was a one-day colloquium dealing with projects on making accessible iconography and documentary sources in the arts. Special guests were the Centre national de la Danse in Paris, www.cnd.fr ([link is external](#)), and RidIM.

The Royal Flemish Academy of Belgium published the proceedings of two music library meetings, one focused on the problems of the accessibility of music, the other on digital libraries for musical audio. These editions are partly in Dutch, partly in English. Another interesting publication is the inventory of Flemish Piano Music since 1950. More details are available at our MIC, the Muziekcentrum Vlaanderen, www.muziekcentrum.be ([link is external](#)), and Matrix, www.matrix.mu ([link is external](#)). I also want to draw your attention to a new user friendly version of cataloguing rules based on AACR² and the new developments in RDA to implement a Flemish union catalog, including music for public libraries.

Mapping of our musical heritage is making steady progress. Several music collections and archives as well as information files on Flemish composers are added on several sites on the internet: www.resonant.be ([link is external](#)), www.svm.be ([link is external](#)), www.matrix.mu ([link is external](#)). Matrix, a new music documentation centre, launched its catalogue with a powerful music search engine.

Digitization became an important issue. Inventory work in order to prepare the digitization of sound recordings of Flemish music conserved in several institutions is going on, but for the moment it is not yet transferred into concrete results.

The Royal Library, www.kbr.be ([link is external](#)), received the deposit in 2005 of the private sound recording collection of Yves Becko. This collection with about 20.000 records dating from 1880 till 1950, is devoted to Belgian singers and the international opera repertoire. A part of this collection is digitized in order to be integrated in the larger digitization project of the Royal Library. In general the “digital garden” in Belgium is growing well and fast, but we see too many separate flowers instead of a massive and interactive complex.

Johan Eeckeloo