The past year was the tenth in the existence of our national branch. We did not organise big festivities for this anniversary, hoping a successful IAML Conference in Amsterdam 2009 will be a better landmark.

Preparations for that Conference are becoming more and more concrete in several fields. As a result you will receive this announcement (shown: wooden-shoe-key hanger with announcement card) after this session. It also mentions the webaddress: www.iamlconference2009.nl

There was much happening in the past year in the digital field. Within one year our printed Newsletter evolved to an electronic form, that is more pervasive in the library-organizations of our members. For the (few) members who expressed a preference for the printed version, printing on demand will remain an option. Reactions so far are positive.

Digital matters were the subject too of the seminars, organized by our Program Committee, for instance, the chances with podcasting in interactive promotion of a music department and the possibilities of FRBR (Functional Requirements for Bibliographical Records) in cataloguing.

The Training Committee organized a new course for so0called "front office employees" in public libraries, this time on jazz; while last year's course on basic concepts in classical music was so successful, that several extra-courses have been held. Moreover, the courses in world music and pop music were repeated once again. Because of more need for music cataloguing, a course in cataloguing printed music was organized in cooperation with a library-education institution.

With some delay the so called "Pop-database" became operational. Although use started only about four months ago, this new tool indeed came out to be effective to its goal - to advise libraries of any size on forming and cleaning up their collection of pop CDs.

The Printed Music Committee saw the beginning of a new national booking system for public libraries: "Seek and Book", enabling people to find, book and borrow materials, including printed music, even in the smallest of public libraries. The system works well, but there is the risk of an unwished side effect on forming and cleaning up collections (and not only for printed music). Too many public library organizations are thinking the same way: "We can always borrow elsewhere printed music, so let's clean up with even more enthusiasm!" Of course, we will follow developments and effects.

For Outreach, many usable volumes of printed music were made available. Until now, about five hundred volumes were sent to the Department of Music of the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad in Serbia.
In the field of copyright, a more practical way to handle the European rules has been developed by the copyright organization. This is a step we welcome, although there are still problems to discuss, for instance the juridical issue: when is an organization "public"?

After we advocated last year with the Dutch music publishers the necessity of implementing ISMN, the reactions were reluctant. We are very pleased that the publisher of Dutch music, Donemus, has decided to start using ISMN. We hope other publishers will follow soon.

Finally, I like to thank all enthusiastic members of the NVMB for their help and inspiration.

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