



*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)*

## Netherlands, report 2008

In the following lines you will find a description of activities within our National Branch, De Nederlandse Vereniging van MuziekBibliotheken, Muziekarchieven en Muziekdocumentatiecentra (NVMB). This is a combination of my national report as told in Naples, with notes I made after that Conference.

In 2005 our National Branch [www.nvmb.nl](http://www.nvmb.nl) ([link is external](#)) formulated goals for the period 2005 –2009: We decided (besides going on with our regular activities) to invest in:

- More cooperation between members of our national branch;
- More international cooperation with other IAML members;
- More frequent use of the NVMB-mailing list;
- Keeping a close track of developments in library work as a whole;
- Organizing educational activities embracing all music librarianship, repeated with intervening periods;
- Breaking into new developments in the field of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as well as we can;
- Making the actualized database of pop music ("Popdatabase" ) accessible on our website;
- Bringing about a well-organized function to preserve printed music;
- Making the access to music collections as broad as possible;
- Promoting a well functioning Inter Library Loan (ILL) system for printed music;
- Preparing and organizing the IAML - Conference 2009 in Amsterdam.

How far are we in 2008 with our ambitious plans? Are they still real? Are we capable to cope with the trends in library work as a whole?

Besides the preparations for the Conference in Amsterdam next year, the work in our National Branch went on. A little bit about the way we organized our branch: We have several Committees in our National Branch that each cover a part of our activities .In our National Board meet members working in the several types of music libraries, some being active too as a member of a committee. In this way we want to have all kinds of music-library work represented as well as keep in touch with activities of the committees.

At the moment (August 2008) we have as Board-members:

- Mrs. Els van Swol just started as our secretary, working at Muziek Centrum Nederland, Amsterdam, being Chair of our Program Committee.
- Mr. Martie Severt, treasurer, working at the Music Library of the Dutch Broadcasting, President of IAML, strongly involved in both International AML and National Branch activities.
- Mrs. Hanneke Kuiper, working in the Public Library of Amsterdam, Chair of the Public Libraries Branch of IAML, Chair of the Committee on printed music.



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- Mr. Willem N. Rodenhuis, working at the University of Amsterdam ("Mediastudies & Theaterwetenschap, Muziekwetenschap"), representative for the music departments of the Universities in The Netherlands and The Netherlands Music Institute in The Hague.
- Mrs. Ank Schonewille, working at ArtEZ- Conservatory in Zwolle, representing the music librarians working in Conservatories (academies of music).
- Mr. Luuk Hoekstra, working at the music library of the orchestra "Holland Symfonia," member of the Editorial Staff of our Newsletter.
- Mr. Gert Floor, Chair of the Netherlands Branch, working in the music dept. of a public library in the small town of Heiloo (North of Amsterdam), being a member of the Committee on education.

About our membership: last year (2007) we had: 65 institutional members, 9 personal members, and 18 special members.

Because there is no specialized education in music librarianship in The Netherlands, our national branch formed a Committee on Education in 2000, to fill this gap by organizing courses on subjects that came out by research to be the most wanted. Courses, especially meant for front-office information work were organised about world-music, pop music and classical music (basic theory and history). In 2007 this Committee organized a new course: *Jazz a little, jazz a lot!*, given by Wouter Turkenburg, Head of the Jazz Dept. of The Hague Conservatory. This two-day course was organized in Amsterdam and Tilburg (in the South of The Netherlands).

The basic course *Muziekvragen aan de Informatiebalie? Vluchten hoeft niet meer!* (Questions about Music at the Information-Desk? You Don't Have to take Flight Anymore!) was given again by Mieke van Heijster (Codarts-Conservatory, Rotterdam) and Ria Warmerdam (NBD-Biblion, Leidschendam). They gave this course three times in the past year for local or regional library institutions.

Although it was clear that there is big interest in a course about how to keep a "good" collection of recordings and printed music, the Committee didn't succeed in organizing such a course the past year. A new attempt will be made after next year's IAML conference in Amsterdam.

We have developed a good relationship with the Library Education Organization "Stichting GO" in The Hague. In the past, this foundation organized some courses in cataloguing printed music, given by Els van Swol and in April this year a course in musical ideas important for music cataloguers by the same teacher. Next year the basic course *Muziekvragen aan de Informatiebalie? Vluchten hoeft niet meer!* will also be offered by Stichting GO.

The Committee on printed music started its work in 1999 to improve interlibrary loan of printed music. Interlibrary loan has strongly improved over last year and other subjects now require attention: digitization of printed music is a new subject this committee is working on. An electronic questionnaire about use and initiatives in this field is being developed.



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The solution of a "depot", where every music institution in The Netherlands could offer music materials (the earlier mentioned "well-organized function to preserve printed music"), is not working to everyone's satisfaction, unfortunately. A new analysis of the situation will be made.

As to the NVMB *Nieuwsbrief* (Newsletter) and website, last year was most important. Without any problem the Editorial Board made the change to a complete electronic version that is received with enthusiasm by our members. There were more discussions on the mailing list, especially about the management of music materials in public library.

From the start of our national branch, the Program Committee has been a very important committee, organizing study-meetings, both yearly one-day and one-afternoon courses. The Committee tries to find subjects that are interesting to most music librarians, regardless of where they work. They succeeded again last year, with a one afternoon course covering subjects such as cataloguing in FRBR, the use of the so-called "Aquabrowser," and a demonstration of the new online catalogue of the MCO (Broadcasting Music Centre).

The one-day meeting was all about the concept of the so-called "library experience" and the different ways possible to use this concept.

This year's afternoon-meeting (in the morning we had our assemble) gave more information about results doing cataloguing with FRBR and about the ways music librarians can be more enterprising, possibly a very important aspect of music library work!

Unfortunately the project "Popdatabase" that should have helped with keeping a good actual collection of pop music CDs, had to end. Too few people helping to fill the database and continuing costs made continuing this project impossible.

Outreach cooperation with the Academy of Arts in Novi Sad (Serbia) was continued last year. More than 20 boxes with ca. 50 books of printed music a box, i.e., around 1,000 books of music, were sent to the librarian, Mrs. N. Djacic. She sent us many words of gratitude and a beautiful artwork, that I gave to Mr. Ian Borthwick, music librarian in the Public Library Haarlem, which was one of the principle donors.

It is great pleasure that we announce that a satisfactory solution has been found for the problems about the historical collection from the "Mij. Toonkunst" in Amsterdam. This collection will go to the University of Amsterdam and the work on access and other care for the collection will be continued by the same music-librarian -musicologist as before (Mr. Simon Groot).

Our requests to music publishers in The Netherlands for using ISMN have had no positive result. The members of the Nederlandse Muziek Uitgevers Vereniging (Dutch Society of Music Publishers) didn't approve our proposal.

Although these activities are more behind the scene, our branch is involved in some R-Projects.



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Many activities within our branch were devoted in the past year to the preparations of the Conference in Amsterdam next year. The work is in progress and we hope to offer many participants, of IAML as well as of IMS, an interesting conference week in July 2009. Please see the website at [www.iamlconference2009.nl](http://www.iamlconference2009.nl) ([link is external](#))

The past year it became clear another time, that although our national branch is important for members, it is very difficult to influence developments in the library world around us. Important business mergers of institutions and conjunctions of libraries to bigger entities took place in the past year, resulting in fewer members of our branch. We expect that we will have the same outcome next year. Since last year, at least 6 appreciated colleagues have left music library work, and not because of age. It is unsure whether they will be succeeded in the institutions where they worked.

New ideas about what a library (consequently its music department) should be lead public libraries towards more attractive designs and more activities, wher as this need to be combined with more attention for the patron. So far so good, but as a consequence it leads to a diminishing of the collections, where for printed music the attractiveness of the cover appears to be an important criterium for survival in the visible collection of the department. In this way there are smaller attractive collections in the department and bigger ones in storerooms, so that we as users and players of music are more dependent of a suitable catalogue system to find them.

One result of this is that at least two public libraries have sold their entire collection of CDs. The reason given was that everybody downloads music or is able to do so and what is not possible to download, you can hire at the “Central Discotheque Rotterdam” (indeed a very good and very well organised loan system for the whole country).

It will be clear after this report that we have been able to accomplish some of the points mentioned in 2005, some we will not succeed and some we're trying to manage. At least must be stressed, that without the help and inspiring ideas of our enthusiast members, there would have been no result at all!

We will see in 2010, after the Amsterdam Conference of 2009, where we will be, in the vivid, sometimes turbulent (music) library world around us.

*Gert Floor*  
*IAML (The Netherlands)*