



The Netherlands – 2016

The Dutch IAML Branch (Nederlandse Vereniging van Muziekbibliotheken, NVMB) reports as follows:

As was the case in 2014–2015, the number of public library music collections as well as the number of specialized music librarians working in the public library sector has dwindled, due to budget cuts and retirements. Music librarians' tasks are often taken over by more generally qualified colleagues, specialists in media and culture, for instance. Although such a broad outlook certainly has its advantages, it may also lead to the loss of badly needed expertise. Practical solutions may sometimes be found by using the colleagues' collected wisdom and expertise. However, one very unfortunate development must be reported: NBD Biblion, the central distributor of books and other media for Dutch public libraries, will discontinue its selection and delivery service for sheet music on 1 September 2016. This will certainly create problems for libraries lacking a music specialist.

The general situation of the Conservatory libraries and the libraries of other specialized institutions (Conservatoires, Documentation centers, Universities) has remained more or less the same as in 2014–2015.

A plan for the future of the music library of the Dutch public broadcasting companies was submitted to the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. Central elements of this plan are: 1. Selection of the (many) items which are valuable from the viewpoint of Dutch radio, television and media /popular culture history; 2. Selection of items not available elsewhere in The Netherlands; 3. Creating a definitive housing solution for the selected items. There is some hope that this plan will be accepted.

The NVMB Board is in touch with the Royal Library about the quality requirements for music with regard to the Nationale Bibliotheekcatalogus Plus project. This project aims at creating a central information resource for all Dutch public library patrons: a central catalogue of all Dutch public libraries will be combined with selected digital resources. The input of the Board is highly valued by the Royal Library.

The Board also took the initiative for a new inventory of Dutch music collections. There is no recent overview; however, there is a lot of information scattered over several websites. A working group of NVMB members has started to map out all this information.

The NVMB organizes two Network Meetings for the membership and other interested persons each year.

On 19 May 2015, a Network Meeting was hosted by the University Library of Utrecht. The day started with the General Assembly, during which Martie Severt (RILM Netherlands) gave a talk in which he looked back with warmth on his forty years' personal history as a music student and music librarian (starting as a student in 1974 in the very same building!) and at the same time expressed his great satisfaction with all the possibilities for accessing information we have today. This was a fine prelude for this Network Day's theme, "Patrons at the centre!" Libraries are changing very quickly; librarians are taking up new roles; managing collections is not their only or most important task anymore. After the General Assembly, three presentations about this theme were given, from different perspectives and

institutions. Ina Klaren (Deventer Public Library) informed us about the Deventer Library of Curiosity project. This project aims at facilitating people to share their passions and interests through their favourite books, CDs, LPs and DVDs. These can be brought to the new premises of the library, where two artists, Gonnie Kleine and Alied van der Meer, create a work of art out of them and collect the personal stories related to these favourites. All stories can then be added to the digital Encyclopedia of Curiosity: www.bibliotheekvannieuwsgierigheid.nl. The next speaker, Joost van Gemert (Utrecht University Library), elaborated on the role of a university library in 2016, which is: supporting researchers and students in all phases of the research and publication process. This includes, of course, collection management and courses in information skills and reference management, but also advisory roles on data management and archiving, Open Access, licences and copyright, and so on. Everything is done in close collaboration with faculty and students; teaching information skills and reference management, for example, is always part of a regular student's course. The third presentation was given by Wilma Abbink (Librarian, Prins Claus Conservatory, and Groningen). She presented the Information Literacy game developed by her in close cooperation with the Conservatory teachers. There were several reasons for choosing a game as an educational tool: it fits in with the student's way of life (present day students are digital natives!), it is interactive, and it stimulates critical thinking. Wilma also pointed to the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) which are available 24/7, and she informed us about the regular meetings (on a national level) of librarians involved in information literacy teaching.

This Network Day was concluded with a tour, guided by Joost and his colleagues, through the completely renewed Utrecht University Library City Center. The historic buildings have been completely redesigned and function as a central point where students meet, study, and gather information. After that there were, of course, drinks and networking.

On 17 November 2015, a Network Meeting was hosted by NBD Biblion, the central distributor of books and other media for Dutch public libraries, with offices in Zoetermeer. In the morning, Marco Weij, Head of Sales and Service, and Ria Warmerdam, NBD Subject Specialist for sheet music, informed us about NBD Biblion and its activities. We also had an extensive tour through the printing and binding department. In the afternoon, we heard lectures about three Dutch Special Music collections. Ditmer Weertman (University Library of Amsterdam, Special Collections Department) gave us a survey of the Nederlands Jazz Archief (Dutch Jazz Archive) which has been housed in the University Library of Amsterdam since 2012. The archive contains, among others, more than 40.000 sound recordings and several thousand archival documents. Ditmer Weertman's talk was followed by a presentation about the Beiaardcentrum Nederland (Dutch Carillon Centre) by its Board member Simeon Bodden. Simeon gave a historical overview of carillon playing and music in the Low Countries, which flourished from the mid-14th century on. Today, Dutch and Belgian carillonneurs are mostly employed by the municipalities. There is a specialized school for carillonneurs in Amersfoort, which also has a comprehensive collection of carillon scores. The third and last presentation was given by Eric van Balkum and Jan Jaap Kassies, who were both music librarians at the Netherlands Broadcasting Music Library until its closure in 2013. Eric and Jaap presented the Muziekschatten (Music Treasures) project realized by this library. About 5.000 items from its huge collection (more than 300.000 items) were digitized and are now publicly accessible and downloadable. Among these 5.000 items are many compositions created especially for broadcasting purposes (music for radio plays, for example) and all kinds of popular music arrangements tailored to needs of the Dutch broadcasting performers of the time. Again, the Network Day ended with drinks and, of course, networking.

The IAML/IMS Conference Music Research in the Digital Age (New York, June 2015) was attended by a respectable number of NVMB members. Several Dutch delegates blogged about the conference on the IAML and NVMB websites.

NVMB had 40 institutional members and 11 personal members on 1 January 2016. The President is Jantien Dubbeldam, the Secretary is Nienke de Boer, the Treasurer is Martie

Severt. The Board members at Large are Cora Mulder, Ria Warmerdam and Joost van Gemert. There were three most informative issues of the Newsletter, edited by Ria Warmerdam. The Program Committee and the Committee on Sheet Music continued their work, in close cooperation with the Board.

Joost van Gemert

Board Member, IAML / The Netherlands (NVMB)