A STRATEGY TOWARDS THE
BIBLIOTHEQUE NUMERIQUE
EUROPENNE (EDL)

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A STRATEGY TOWARDS THE BIBLIOTHEQUE NUMERIQUE EUROPENNE (EDL)

1. The BnF today

2. Gallica

3. A response to Google’s announcement

4. Principles for a Bibliothèque numérique européenne
The French national Library today

Several locations

- In Paris (4 locations)
- Outside Paris (3 locations)
- Open to readers (Tolbiac, Richelieu, Arsenal, Opéra, Avignon)
- or specifically dedicated to preservation activities (Bussy St Georges, Sablé/Sarthe)
The French national Library today

Collections

- 12 million printed volumes
- 250,000 manuscripts
- 12 million prints and photographs
- 800,000 maps and charts
- 1 million sound recordings
- etc
The French national Library today

- 2 800 staff
- budget 2006 : 140 millions euros
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Gallica : the digital library of the BnF

- 80 000 digitized books and newspapers
- 80 000 digitized images
Gallica : the digital library of the BnF

Is used by :

- Mainly researchers
- Teachers
- Librarians and publishers
- « Enthusiasts and autodidacts »
Gallica: the digital library of the BnF

- A comprehensive collection of the major works of knowledge in the world
- Focused on out of copyright material
- Free of charge
Gallica : the digital library of the BnF

• Not only a selection of treasures but also « collections of sources »
• Substantial sets of printed matters (books, journals, maps) organized by the library
• Relevant tools for research purposes
Gallica : the digital library of the BnF

New priorities in development policy

• Academic journals : partnership with publishers (CAIRN)
• Daily newspapers : 26 titles (over 3.5 millions pages) digitized with OCR
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- December 14, 2004: Google announces the project of digitizing some 15 million printed volumes (4.5 billion pages)
- January 22, 2005: Jean-Noël Jeanneney, president of BnF, publishes «When Google challenges Europe», in Le Monde
A response to Google’s announcement

A bushfire: reactions from newspaper, medias, public opinion, politicians, minister of Culture, president of the French Republic

Europ on the march: six countries sign a letter which called Brussels to join the initiative; European meeting on culture; réactions of 23 national libraries of the union; etc....
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Principles for a Bibliothèque numérique européenne

- Priority to printed matters
- Choice of books to be made by national libraries
- Works representative of European history and culture
- Multilinguism, as a reflection of the cultural diversity of the U.E.
Principles for a Bibliothèque numérique europeenne

- Out of copyright Books, but also books under copyright, within the limits of a previous agreement with the beneficiaries
- Partnership between libraries, editors, authors and booksellers
- Partnership with other digital libraries (OAI)
Principles for a Bibliothèque numérique européenne

- Search of private fundings in addition to public grants
- Definition of a viable, middle-term economic model
Conclusion: the contribution of the BnF

• A mass digitisation test: results available in June 2006
• Fresh digitisation: from 5,000 books/year to 30,000 (2006) and 150,000 (2007)
• Consultations with French research libraries
• Reinforced cooperation with a group of national libraries of the Union.