

# Overview of activities of SHB: what are our goals and opportunities

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## **Abstract**

*SHB started in 2003 as a Consortium in the same model of the Dutch University Libraries, but we are also School libraries. We balance between both sites.*

*Our goals are: to buy (cheaper) licensees to digital content of professional and scientific literature; to give support of the position of the libraries in the organizations; to stimulate innovation and professionalism.*

*Our opportunities are: to give access to digital collections; to support students (information literacy) and teachers (research, educational tools); to strengthen the influence to the school board (benchmark).*

*In this paper we will give an overview of our results, the goals for the next years and how we'll find the balance.*

**Keywords:** Digital collections, Information Literacy, Cooperation.

## **The landscape of the Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences**

In the last twenty years there were big changes for the Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences. Changes of merger to large institutes, changes of growth in the student population, changes of focus to more research in the education program. For the libraries of the institutes this was also the start of a process of growth to larger and digital collections and a higher standard of professionalism.

So in these last twenty years the libraries and the information professionals became more aware of themselves and find a special place in the library landscape. At the basis they are still school libraries. The collections has aspects of a university library and the teachers get service as in a special library.

## **SHB**

In 2003 a few libraries started the Consortium of Libraries of the Universities of Applied Sciences (Samenwerkingsverband van Hogeschool Bibliotheken, SHB). And now 30 of 37 libraries are member of SHB and there are two associate members.

Between the libraries there are differences in size and the scale of digitization. So we can help each other by sharing of knowledge and showing of best practices.

## **Results**

In these more than ten years SHB took a lot of initiatives. The first focus was (and still is) to enlarge the collections with high quality of digital professional and scientific literature. With support from SURFmarket SHB could negotiate with large publishers to get access to content for acceptable prices in relation with the (prospected) use.

SHB started a benchmark to compare the libraries and to learn of the best practices. In the last year (2013) 19 libraries took part in it. They use the results in advising the boards to manage costs and budget cuts and to improve the position of the library.

In 2006 SHB started the HBO Kennisbank project. An open access database and network of repositories for bachelor theses and publications. From 2012 the HBO Kennisbank is integrated in the knowledge infrastructure of The Netherlands.

And now SHB is an appreciated partner for stakeholders in the Netherlands, e.g. Vereniging Hogescholen (Association of universities of applied sciences), UKB (Consortium of University libraries and Royal Library), Fobid (Library Forum of The Netherlands), SURF (ICT association for higher education and research) and NAI (Network for copyright information).

### **The next years**

In our new policy plan for 2015-2018 we will make further process on this path. Our goals are:

- To improve the quantity and quality of access to professional and scientific content.
- To increase our manifestation as a partner of education and research.
- To enlarge strategic partnership with national to international contacts
- To improve the knowledge of Open Access, ICT and Education, copyrights, new back office processes, competencies for giving advice and supporting research.
- To stay an innovative platform in a network of strategic partnerships.

### **Conclusion**

In the last years the SHB libraries has grown to a appreciated partner in the knowledge infrastructure. We have already reached a lot. But we have to go forward, because of the fast developments in education and media.

### **References**

SHB: <http://www.shb-online.nl/cms/>

HBO Kennisbank: <http://www.hbo-kennisbank.nl/nl/page/home>

Library statistics: <http://www.fobid.nl/home/statistieken>

### **Biographical note**

Ria Paulides worked as a library manager in different kinds of libraries. Since 2007 she is Manager of the Library of Hogeschool Inholland, a Dutch University of Applied Sciences in the West of The Netherlands with locations in Alkmaar, Haarlem, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Delft, Dordrecht and The Hague. The library of Inholland is the first completely digital hogeschool library in The Netherlands. Since 2014 she is chair of the Consortium of Libraries of the Dutch Universities of Applied Sciences.