

Data, Tools and a Lab for Researchers at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek

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The National Library of the Netherlands (KB) is an active partner in national and international cooperative efforts to develop new knowledge and technology. With this demo we would like to showcase our data, our tools and our lab environment and invite digital humanists to discover the various services we provide to them.

The KB has planned to have digitised and OCRed its entire collection of books, periodicals and newspapers from 1470 onwards by the year 2030. Already in 2013, 10% of this enormous task was completed, resulting in 73 million digitised pages, either from the KB itself or via public-private partnerships as Google Books and ProQuest. Many are already available via a recently launched single entry point to (re)search the various sets simultaneously: Delpher.

The KB also develops new solutions, services and technology in (inter)national research and development projects and centres of competence. Today we are building an online lab environment where researchers can interact with the results from these research projects.

This demo will present the full text digitised collections the KB currently has and our efforts to make these large historical Dutch text corpora available as data sets by setting up a Data Service. The service provides machine readable access to the collections and enables scholars to research entire data sets rather than just individual items. Most of the data sets are freely available for research purposes and we welcome and encourage experiments and new applications.

The demo will also present the new KB Research Lab: an environment where researchers are invited to experiment with our data, new technologies and innovative prototypes.