

The German Library Landscape

Germany is characterized by a decentralised federal system, especially in the field of culture and education. This system is reflected in the equally strong decentralization of the German library landscape of about 8,200 libraries with more than 10,000 service points, resulting in a wide range of libraries, organisations and associations, all acting on behalf of the library user.

Libraries in total	8,228
Public libraries	7,979
lead by professional staff	2,029
lead by volunteers/part-time staff	5,950
Academic libraries	249

Collections	365 million
Loans	471 million
Active users	11 million
Visits	201 million
Staff	22,357

(German Library Statistics, reporting year 2012)



Publications

The annual “**Report on the State of Libraries**” is published to keep political decision makers and the media abreast of current library topics and issues. Our association members, represented by the library directors, are reached through an internal information system. A bi-monthly **newsletter** and **website information** is dedicated to sharing information with library staff but also politicians and journalists.



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65jahre

German Library Association

65 Years of Empowering Libraries

Core Areas of Activity

The nationwide provision of library services to the entire population, digitization and digital media services, questions regarding copyright issues in the digital society, as well as the promotion of key skills such as reading and the systematic use of information and media: these are the German Library Association's **core areas of activity**.

For 65 years the association has represented the **interests of libraries** and their users in Germany. Through its intensive contacts to all political levels it strengthens their role in society. The association has more than 2,100 members nationwide including more than 3,000 libraries and their branches. Its sophisticated member network supports the continual development of libraries. The 16 regional chapters represent the interests of libraries on a regional level. Many regional chapters also offer comprehensive education and training programmes.

Targeted press and public relations focus towards the impact of libraries on culture and education. The association organized the library campaign **"Meeting Point Library"** which ran for six years. The main objective of the campaign, which enlisted more than 1,500 libraries nationwide and received financial support from the German Federal Ministry of Education, was to draw attention to the strengths of libraries. The campaign will be succeeded in 2014 by the campaign **"The Library as Network"** focusing on digital library services.

There are nine **committees** examining professional issues or particular library matters and advising the members. Current topics include management issues, legal issues, the development of information literacy, intercultural library services, acquisition and collection development, customer-focused services, cooperation between libraries and schools, mobile libraries, as well as children's and youth libraries.

Our Projects for Libraries and their Users



The Library Association finances its core activities exclusively from member fees but also collects extensive third party funds. In doing so, it is able to offer a broad range of additional services. This includes the internet portal on libraries at www.bibliotheksportal.de, offering a wide range of professional and library topics, the information service on EU funding and third

party funding issues, and the coordination of international cooperation provided by the library association in the context of the **Network of Excellence for Libraries**. Also in the framework of this network, the association organizes in cooperation with other partners the benchmarking project BIX Bibliotheksindex to measure library performance on a voluntary basis.

In 2013, the association launched a new programme for libraries entitled **"Reading Gives You Strength. Reading and Digital Media"**. With funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education, it aims to reach educationally disadvantaged children and youth with digital media to support reading.

Awards

Since 1987, the Library Association has awarded annually the **"Journalist Award of the German Libraries (Publizistenpreis der deutschen Bibliotheken)"** to recognize journalists who convey a well-researched contemporary image of libraries, their current responsibilities and developments.

Since 2000, the Library Association has awarded annually the **"Library of the Year Award" ("Bibliothek des Jahres")** honouring innovative and customer-focused library services.

The previous laureates are:



2014	ZBW - German National Library of Economics, Kiel and Hamburg (Deutsche Zentralbibliothek der Wirtschaftswissenschaften, Kiel und Hamburg)
2013	Stuttgart Municipal Library (Stadtbibliothek Stuttgart)
2012	Wildau Library of the Technical University of Applied Sciences (Bibliothek der Technischen Hochschule Wildau)
2011	Anton Saefkow Municipal Library, Berlin-Lichtenberg (Anton-Saefkow-Bibliothek Berlin)
2010	Konstanz University Library (Bibliothek der Universität Konstanz)
2009	Biberach Municipal Library (Stadtbücherei Biberach an der Riß)
2008	Bavarian State Library, Munich (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek)
2007	Münster Prison Library (Gefangenenbücherei der JVA Münster)
2006	Cottbus University Library at the Information, Communication and Media Centre (Universitätsbibliothek Cottbus im Informations-, Kommunikations- und Medienzentrum)
2005	Hamm Municipal Libraries (Stadtbüchereien Hamm)
2004	Dresden Municipal Libraries (Städtische Bibliotheken Dresden)
2003	Würzburg Municipal Library (Stadtbücherei Würzburg)
2002	Göttingen State and University Library (Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen)
2001	Johannes a Lasco Library in Emden (Johannes a Lasco Bibliothek Emden)
2000	Halberstadt Heinrich Heine Municipal Library (Stadtbibliothek Heinrich Heine Halberstadt)