

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY OF THE NATIONAL SZÉCHÉNYI LIBRARY (NSZLDL)



Nowadays, most authors use a word processor for writing, and only after the digital version is produced does the document appear on paper and subsequently enter NSZL as a deposit copy. As digital storage has a number of technical and environmental advantages, the readers' and publishers' demand for a system whereby deposit copies may be received, processed and supplied electronically is fully justified. .

NSZL DK or the digital library (DK for short) may thus be understood as the national library's extension of the library tasks to the virtual space. At the same time, it is much more than that, as on a click of a button the user can start reading the text immediately. In other words, breaking through the barriers of traditional libraries, DK can offer quick and reliable tailor-made services to several thousand readers simultaneously, without readers having to travel, wait or queue up. On the other hand, it is a huge relief for publishers as well, because they can meet their obligation of supplying deposit copies virtually, without having to deliver them and pay for postage. The service system is open to anyone that registers. Publishers defined according to the NSZL collection scope and the law on deposit copy servicing may supply their publications online, once they have registered with certain required particulars. Furnished with the library's search and browse functions, the incoming document is ready for readers to access.

The opening page of DK (<http://oszkdk.oszk.hu>) is designed with a reader-cantered and user-friendly approach in mind. Thus, its design is as simple as possible, trying to burden readers with as little information as possible so that their attention is directed straight to the main point, namely to the electronic documents. When uploading the page, the **Find** function is active, as this is what most users apply for exploring the stocks of the digital library. The hit list can be narrowed down according to document types to books or images, and for a more special search the detailed search form is also available. For those who do not yet know what to look for or are just familiarizing themselves with the DK, the **Browse** or the **Top favourites** options offer a virtual space. Following the service development trends of the Internet in the 21st century, the digital library has been equipped with a number of web 2.0 services.

OpenSearch – Browsing the pages of DK, it is possible to include the page's search into the search services of our web browser. Nowadays, most browsers include two lines: in one we enter the known web address, and in the other something that we wish to track down on the worldwide web. Thus, if we set the DK browser, we can always search the digital collection very easily. *RSS* – RSS channels accessible from the main page and from hit list pages help in tracking down novelties and popular documents.

Permalink – This is what we have to use if we intend to copy the data sheet of the just opened document for the purpose of further copying. This permanent link ensures that the given document should always be accessible, irrespective of changes in DK.

Bookmark – Adding favourites is no longer sufficient. Meeting stepped up demand, it is possible to add or share the actual document with other pages, and e.g. social networking and social bookmarking web services and labeling systems (FaceBook, MySpace, Google, Del.icio.us, etc.).

Zotero – The software installed under Firefox enables us to compile bibliographies and reference lists using the metadata of documents in the digital library.

In the lists originating from *searches* in DK, documents of different types and levels of access are found: The Firefox icon in the form of a globe indicates that anybody can freely access a given item. The icon representing interconnected computers refer to items that, due to copyright restrictions, can only be accessed within internal dedicated networks of libraries and other cultural institutions. These institutions have the so-called *NSZL points*, namely the work stations that ensure access to documents and provide sufficient security for them.

The *eBooks On Demand* service (icon marked eod) means that readers may order a digital version of any non-copyright protected earlier printed book, which NSZL staff will send to them within a few days.

Browsing, as has been suggested earlier, is recommended for those who are getting to know the library's stocks, selecting from the material they find. Clicking on the **Browse** on the main page, the background of the text box changes to yellow, thus helping better ori-

entation. The keywords entered here will enable us to look around in the given field. It is almost as if we were walking along the aisles of the library looking for something to read. As a result of the browse, we are offered groups of several documents. The number of documents in each group always appears next to the yellow folders.

The *Top favourites* section contains the most frequently checked documents in batches of ten items. When a book is selected, there is a short or detailed description of it as a label or a catalogue card. It is on this page that readers can choose the format they wish to read the document in. The formats available are indicated by small icons.

At present, the digital library receives mostly books; its

stock amounts to about one thousand documents. As a result of upcoming extensions and developments, visual items, including maps, photos and other visual material, as well as periodicals and audio materials in the possession of NSZL will be available from the collection.

It is hoped that NSZL-DL appears as a widely available and user-friendly digital library, beneficially supplementing the services offered in the physical spaces of the library. This is vitally important, as the success of the library activities focused on NSZL documents as well as digital services should rely on this project and similar other IT developments.

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