Conference report

INFORMATIE 2003

Held 18–19 September 2003, Brussels, Belgium

The bi-annual conference INFORMATIE 2003 is the focal meeting place for librarians and library suppliers in Belgium[1] INFORMATIE 2003 is organised by the VVBAD (Belgian Association of Librarians, Archivists and Information specialists) under the inspiring leadership of Marc Storms. A full-fledged exhibition is part of the event and more than 40 exhibitors gave act-de presence:

– 3M Belgium
– ACMIS
– ADLIB Information Systems
– Advanced Security Technologies
– Arco
– Ardatis
– CAMI
– CIPAL
– CSA (Cambridge Scientific Abstracts)
– Diensten Wetenschappelijke Technische Informatie (DWTI)
– EBSCO Information Services
– Forrez
– GEAC
– IVS
– Jan Van Laarhoven boeken
– Kno-Tech
– Koninklijke Bibliotheek Nederland
– LIBIS-Net
– Lorensbergs Ltd
– Mediargus
– MedioEurope
– Myriade
– NBD/Biblion
– NEDAP
– OCLC PICA
– OVID Technologies
– Oxford University Press
– PIMC
– Sercu-Microdata
– Sleepers
– Springer Verlag
– Square Information Systems
– Swets Blackwell
– Thomson - Gale
– Vanden Broele Graphic Group
– VCOB
– VUB

More about these companies is to find at www.vvbad.be/databanken

A strong issue during the conference was the future of Flemish Union Catalogue of Public Libraries (VLACC2)[2] for which the tender[3] has gone out already before the event, but no choice at that time was made regarding the awarded proposal[4]. The tender focussed on strengthening the core business of the

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[1]Secretariat INFORMETIE 2003 (VVBAD), Statiestraat 179, B-2600 Berchem, www.vvbad.be.

[2]The VLACC2 database will provide access for cataloguing and ILL to 1 m bibliographic records and 25 m item records.

[3]The tender document consisted of more than 500 pages and the VCOB had invested more than 7.5 person years in compiling that document and the library automation vendors may not have been too pleased which such an extensive list of questions.

[4]In the mean time we have learnt, that the combination of Ardatis and Innovative Interfaces, Inc. (III), has been awarded the contract and the Millenium software will be installed to constitute the Flanders Digital library.

participating libraries by using more Information Technology to improve its services, such as introducing RFID for circulation, security and self-service desks. It is foreseen, that the more than 300 participating libraries, will be able to

- – optimise internal workflows,
- – digitise more cost-effective, and
- – prepare for more participation by their citizens in the Flemish Information Society.

Of the many presentations, see www.vvbad.be/informatie2003.html, the presentation by Hans de Canck, project manager of VLACC2 with the VCOB (The Flemish Centre for Public Libraries), stipulated, that "the choice of a particular vendor to automate the VLACC2 doesn't mean that the Flemish libraries will be hostages of the vendor for the next 5–10 years". Existing vendors will look at the developments with suspicion.