Elisabeth Niggemann

German National Library Licensing Service for Out-of-Commerce Works (VW-LiS)
German legislation on (orphan and) out-of-commerce works

- New law came into force on January 1, 2014
- For literary works, also with visual parts, out of commerce, and published before 1966 in Germany
- Libraries, archives, museums and educational institutions
- Noncommercial purposes
- Public register of Out-of-commerce works
- Right holders can object
- Remuneration
- „One-stop shop“
Workflow VW-LiS

DNB pool of candidates

Cultural Heritage Institution

DNB Licensing service

VW-LiS

VG WORT relaying to licensing

DPMA Register

license granted

license rejected

no opt-out

opt-out
Pool of candidates

DNB holdings

<1966 Germany monographic

MVB indices of books in print, eBooks

- automated
- based on different matching criteria
- updated daily

Pool of candidates in numbers:

- 1.67 m. total
- 1.26 m. out-of-commerce
- 76,000 available
- 330,000 unknown (multivolume works)

+ exclusion of titles with eBook edition in metadata record
+ event-driven reviews with possibility to exclude titles
Next steps

- Extend pool of candidates (multivolume works; works not in DNB holdings (pre-1913))
- Documentation and quality management
- Periodicals
- Deal with ethical/ legal questions regarding mass release of works online
Use of VW-LiS

Registered for VW-LiS so far:
- 32 cultural heritage institutions
- state and university libraries, DNB

Reasons for licensing:
- content-related (projects, special collections)
- requests by library users (digitisation on demand)
- common goal: increase availability of 20th century material
Licences Aug 2015 - Jan 2017
More information

In English:  https://www.dnb.de/EN/vwlis
In German: https://www.dnb.de/vwlisfaq

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