Thank you very much for accepting my paper and your interest concerning examples of good practice in the gray area between library and collection management in Germany.

During my whole professional life I had to deal with normally separate managed aspects of information – the aspect of library management with regard to my responsibility for two mall museum libraries: the library of the Theatre Museum and the Film Museum, both funded by the city of Duesseldorf, and the aspect of collection management with regard to the strong relation between library and collection in both institutions.

Introduction
Within this paper I will present examples of good practice at Duesseldorf, the capital of North-Rhine Westphalia, the state with the highest number of inhabitants in Germany. Afterwards I want to summarize the convergences and show how this work can be re-used in different contexts and different communities. In a regional, a national, and a European context projects aim to preserve the cultural heritage and make it accessible to the public.

The German Research Funding Organization ("Deutsche Forschungsgesellschaft") supports projects of university libraries in order to establish Virtual Specialized Libraries ("Virtuelle Fachbibliotheken") comprised of digital resources of high value. Different types of resources can be found here as well as a platform for electronic publishing, tutorials for e-learning and actual information services, for example newsletters, RSS-Feeds. The university library, funded within the program of coordinated nationwide acquisitions of scientific libraries for this subject, is responsible for this additional information service, too.

Other examples for good practice are catalogues of special document types, for example autographs and assets, compiled by all types of institutions – archives, libraries, museums. Alternatively we have the possibility to search documents concerning a subject, independent of the type of institution owning the material – a single portal offers access to information in archives, libraries and museums in Germany.

Last but not least – an example coming from the museums themselves: The museum community in North Germany has established a portal to museums in Schleswig-Holstein and Hamburg to attract visitors and raise interest for the treasures within the region and its museums.
In Europe initiatives towards more digitalization have been developed - may be seen as a reaction to digitalization initiatives in the U.S., from enterprises like Microsoft or Google - and focus on the cultural and structural diversity within the continent.

A very brief history of the Theatre Museum
The Theatre Museum Duesseldorf collects, archives, and presents German theatre history by the example of the city and the region (i.e. North-Rhine Westphalia). The museum is located in a historical building (called House of the Court Gardener), which belongs to an ensemble together with another building and the park around it in the city centre of Duesseldorf (extant since the end of the 18th century). The museum has a large collection and a library, presents exhibitions, and offers space for performances and a small coffee shop, which is outside and used especially during the summer.

The museum was founded in 1947 by the donation of Gustav Lindemann. Together with his wife Louise Dumont he founded the Schauspielhaus Düsseldorf in 1905, a private theatre, which existed until the beginning of the 1930’s. After the death of Louise Dumont and the political changes in Germany Gustav Lindemann had to leave the theatre, which became a performing location of the Municipal Theatre, and he started to compile the archive of his theatre. The theatre building was destroyed during the Second World War and not rebuilt afterwards. The archive was rescued and moved to a space near the Rhine River and the Art Museum of Duesseldorf.

During the 1970’s the scope was extended and exhibitions became important. The archive became a museum and was located in the historical city centre in the neighbourhood of the Heinrich-Heine-Institut.

In 1988 the museum moved to its current location. The museum has had a website since 2004 (http://www.duesseldorf.de/theatermuseum) and in 2005 the collection had to move to another place because of the growth of the holdings and changes in the regulations concerning fire protection. The museum now has two sites: exhibition, stage, and library in the city centre and the collection, located near the university.

Union Catalogue of libraries within cultural institutions at Duesseldorf
One early and successful example of cooperation is the Union Catalogue of Duesseldorf’s Cultural Institutions. It was the first computer-based union catalogue of special libraries in the field of art and humanities in Germany and started in the 1980’s.

The librarians use the Rules for Alphabetical Cataloguing In Scientific Libraries ("RAK") and after a first migration the machine readable exchange format for libraries ("MAB") as well as the authority files of the German scientific libraries ("PND" for personal names, "GKD" for institutional names and "SWD" for subject headings).

The project is coordinated by the Public Library of Duesseldorf and comprises about 310,000 bibliographical items (January 2010). Between 10,000 and 15,000 bibliographical records are added every year.

The catalogue provides access by names, titles and subject headings and tries to meet the special needs of art historians, for example by recording the participating artists within group exhibitions or all the venues of touring exhibitions.

The catalogue is accessible through diverse portals:
• On the local level – as individual online catalogue (http://www.duesseldorf.de/gdk/ > opac), together with the holdings of the University Library, the library of the University of Applied Sciences, and the Public Library (http://www.duesselbib.de/)
• Within specialized portals – together with other national and international art libraries (http://www.artlibraries.net), together with other German film libraries (http://digibib.kobv.de/vkfilm) and through the Virtual Specialized Library Media – Theatre – Film (“Virtuelle Fachbibliothek Medien – Bühne – Film” - http://www.medien-buehne-film.de)

Scripts for the transfer of data had to be written, but no additional work by the librarians had to be done to integrate the union catalogue into these portals.

Digital Archive of Art and Culture (d:kult)
The second successful project I’d like to present is another initiative of the cultural institutions, funded by the City of Düsseldorf.

In the 1990’s the institutes made first steps in the field of computer-based recording and management of their collections. To get support from the municipal department for information technology and to coordinate the work of the cultural institutions the idea of another project was born. None of the cultural institutions has the money, the knowledge or the staff to establish and maintain a collection management system alone. Besides that a common project would be more effective and could establish new ways of cooperation and generate results from a multidisciplinary point of view.

About 1,300,000 printed items, 800,000 photographs, 125,000 graphics, 25,000 objects of applied arts, 20,000 art objects and more than 1,000,000 objects in a natural history collection are planned to be recorded and managed by d:kult.

This project was established within the culture department ("Kulturdezernat"). After a call for tenders the project group choose the software, which was implemented in 5 pilot institutes and afterwards step by step within other cultural institutions in Düsseldorf.

The Theatre Museum was one of the pilot institutes. In 2009 the status of the project was changed to long-term by the culture department. Meanwhile other cultural institutes became participants, for example the Film Museum and the City Museum.

Besides the cataloguing, since 2008 d:kult can present the objects on the Internet – d:kult online (http://dkult.duesseldorf.de/). Each institute chooses the objects to be made available via d:kult online. A minimal standard for the description of the objects and copy right issues have to be taken into consideration.

Advantages of cooperation on the local level
The content of the collections cover local and regional history, literature, arts and humanities, and natural sciences. Document types are autographs and manuscripts, printed matter (including books as objects), objects and visual resources – as well as the libraries within these institutions. Professional (principally library) standards and rules are used. The discussion and participation within relevant communities enable the transfer of data into other information services on the regional, national, and international level as well as the integration into specialized subject-oriented services

Virtual Specialized Libraries
As I mentioned above, the German Research Funding Organization supports projects of university libraries to establish virtual specialized libraries comprising digital resources of high value. Within the context of art & humanities I mention two examples:

• Art Historicum Net (http://www.arthistoricum.net/) was established and is maintained by the working group of art libraries (in Berlin, Cologne, Dresden, Heidelberg, Munich, Nuremberg and German art libraries in Florence, Paris, Rome). A very important part of Art Historicum Net is Art Libraries Net (http://artlibraries.net/), a search form to enable
the user to search within the catalogues of important art libraries all over the world. This catalogue uses a technique developed by the University of Karlsruhe. Art Historicum Net offers as well a platform for electronic publishing, tutorials for e-learning and actual information services, for example RSS-Feeds.

- The Virtual Specialized Library of Media, Theatre, and Film (http://www.medien-buehne-film.de/) has been created by the University Library in Frankfurt am Main, the University Library Leipzig, and the Academy of Film and TV Konrad Wolf in Potsdam. Library catalogues can be found here as well as digital resources, bibliographies, e-journals, and databases. It’s possible to cross search the whole portal or to narrow the search to one part: media or performing arts or film.

Access to one document type: autographs and assets

Autographs and assets tell us something about the life and the character of historical persons, for example scientists and researchers, artists and writers, and politicians. In Germany we have two institutions collecting information about autographs and assets. All kinds of institutions (archives, libraries, museums, collections) may own autographs and assets.

The Prussian State Library Berlin ("Staatsbibliothek Preussischer Kulturbesitz") has digitized its card catalogue, of autographs (started in 1966) and adds new records from new resources. This database, called Kalliope (http://kalliope.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/) now comprises more than 1,000,000 records from more than 100 libraries, archives, museums and other research institutions in Germany. In addition other printed catalogues, containing records from more than 300 institutions, were digitized and added. About 50 participants use an interface to edit their data themselves. Another way to contribute is the export of data from their own database via defined exchange formats (for example the machine readable exchange format of the German libraries).

The rules used ("Regeln für die Erschließung von Autographen und Nachlässen - RNA") take into consideration the special needs of this kind of material and use the library authority files to record persons, institutions and to index the content.

In addition the central database of assets (http://www.nachlassdatenbank.de/) of the Federal Archive of Germany ("Bundesarchiv") should be used. It comprises assets to be found in German archives. An existing printed finding aid was digitalized and updated. About 25,000 assets or parts of assets, owned by more than 1,000 institutions have been put in the database. About 300 participating archives use this to keep their database records up-to-date by using an editing tool.

One portal to archives, libraries, and museums in Germany

The intention of the BAM-Portal (http://www.bam-portal.de/) is to provide an Internet-based access point to cultural information in Germany. The partners of the BAM-Project started developing procedures to combine metadata from digital library catalogues, archival finding aids, and museum inventories allowing simultaneous research.

The portal is offered by the Library Service Centre of Baden-Württemberg ("Bibliotheksservice-Zentrum Baden-Württemberg"), also responsible for the union catalogue of libraries in South-West Germany and Saxonia as well as for the museum project MUSIS, collection management within the state museums of Baden-Württemberg.

After a search within the BAM portal the user gets a list of hits and is redirected to the resources themselves in order to present the content in the original context.

In the near future this portal may be transferred to the German Digital Library, which will be presented later.
One portal to a region – Museums in North Germany
The portal “Museen Schleswig-Holstein und Hamburg” (http://www.museen-sh.de/) offers information about the collections of the museums in general, about events, and an object database. The aim is to draw attention to the treasuries in the region and to present the diversity and richness of cultural heritage.

Within the project tools were developed to support the work in the whole museum community, for example tools to develop and manage thesauri and classifications in a collaborative way. The platform for these activities is the Special Group of Documentation affiliated to the German Union of Museums (“Fachgruppe Dokumentation” of the “Deutscher Museumsbund”).

Towards more digitization
Europa has a long history, many different traditions, and a high structural and cultural diversity. The cultural heritage has to be preserved and handed over to future generations. One approach is to archive the richness of culture through the digitization of cultural heritage by the Europeans themselves and to serve as a place for inspiration and ideas.

An important digitization project of the European Union is "Europeana" (http://www.europeana.eu/portal/), containing 6 million items from collections of cultural heritage in Europe:
- Images - paintings, drawings, maps, photos and pictures of museum objects
- Texts - books, newspapers, letters, diaries and archival papers
- Sounds - music and spoken word from cylinders, tapes, discs and radio broadcasts
- Videos - films, newsreels and TV broadcasts

Some of these are world famous, others are hidden treasures from Europe's museums, galleries, archives, libraries, and audio-visual collections.

In the future the project will build on existing multiplier networks of local institutions to bring together a consortium that represents 27 countries with broad ranging experience of the cultural sector, digital libraries, standards and aggregation services. The partners have already identified and listed some 20 million items of content which they plan to make available.

Contributing content from museums to Europeana is the aim of Athena (http://www.athenaeurope.org/). ATHENA puts the focus on museums, in order to:
- reinforce, support, and encourage the participation of museums and other institutions coming from those sectors of cultural heritage not fully involved yet in Europeana
- coordinate standards and activities of museums across Europe
- identify digital content present in European museums
- contribute to the integration of the different sectors of cultural heritage in cooperation with other projects more directly focused on libraries and archives, with the overall objective of merging all these different contributions into Europeana
- develop technical tools to be integrated within Europeana, to facilitate the access to digital contents belonging to European museums.

ATHENA tries to bring together relevant stakeholders and content owners from all over Europe and to evaluate and integrate standards and tools for facilitating the inclusion of new digital content into Europeana.

The German Digital Library ("Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek“ - http://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/) will be the German contribution to Europeana. The aim is to enable access to 30,000 cultural and scientific institutions (libraries, archives, museums). The concept and
the project plan are being developed in 2009 and 2010. The implementation and realization will follow in 2010-2011.

A network of competence has been established because of the federal structure of Germany and the fact that culture is a voluntary duty of the states, the regional and local bodies. Members are:

- Bavarian State Library
- Library Service Centre Baden-Württemberg
- State Office for Preservation and Archaeological State Museum of Brandenburg
- Federal German Archive
- German Film Institute
- German National Library
- State Archive Baden-Württemberg
- Max Planck Institute for the History of Science
- Lower Saxon State and University Library Göttingen, especially the Centre of Digitalization
- Saxonian State Library – Regional and University Library Dresden
- Foundation of Historical Museums Hamburg, the project DigiCult
- Foundation of Prussian Cultural Heritage
- Digital Archive of Art and Culture Düsseldorf

Quite a few of these institutions, already involved in the projects mentioned above, will be active partners in the German Digital Library and benefit from their experiences.

The Theatre Museum as a small institution had the chance to join the collaborative cataloguing project of the libraries as well as the project in the field of collection management on the local level. Because these projects implement professional standards and take active part in the network of their communities, it is possible make the recorded information accessible and visible in diverse contexts. On the other hand the implementation of such tools and the active participation influences the workflow and the development of the staff internally. A high degree of transparency, i.e. the documentation of the existing knowledge in the database, and the intensive occupation with the subject and the collection result in more efficiency and higher quality of the work and increased competencies of the staff.