

NETHERLANDS

There are 400 active publishers in Holland. Three huge diversified publishers formerly dominated the industry, but this changed with the 1980's recession, and the decrease in sales of high volume glossy packaged books, which brought about a restructuring of the industry. Several imprint houses were established by former editors of the three large houses and some of the independent publishers. The imprint houses publish editions under contract to the larger houses, and share in operating overheads and accounting services, as well as access to the working capital of the parent company.

The Dutch publishing industry serves a very cosmopolitan domestic market of 14 to 16 million people, in which 58 percent of the book titles are published in the Dutch language and the rest in English, German and French. Holland is a leading international printing centre and it has a long standing interchange of production with its neighbours in Belgium, France, Germany and the U.K. It is a major exporter of books to Belgium (33 percent of production) and to Germany, and has an active two way trade with the U.K. and France.

Since the English language has become the lingua franca of science, about 90 percent of the books used in Dutch technical universities are in English. Two of the largest Dutch technical houses, the Elsevier/North Holland Group and the Kluwer N.V. Group, currently publish about 70 percent of their annual scientific output in English. Corporate linkages between Dutch publishers and English publishers are beginning to form