

Following an information published in the daily *La Tribune* on August, the 18th, the Bibliothèque nationale de France wishes to clarify that it has not signed an agreement with Google for the digitization of its collections.

However, the BnF has never ruled out a private partnership that would be in line with the strategy of the Ministry of Culture regarding digital content and respecting the principles of free and unlimited access to books exclusively in the public domain.

The BnF adds that, thanks to the support of the Centre national du Livre, it has launched a large-scale digitisation programme of its heritage collections. As a result, during a three-year period, 100,000 printed documents and a large selection of rare and precious documents – illustrated books, manuscripts, prints... – will be digitised each year. These public domain documents are easily available via Gallica and also Europeana, the European digital library.

At the same time, a one of a kind worldwide experiment has been set up with French publishers that aims to provide access, via Gallica, to a selection of copyrighted digital material commercialized through e-retailers.

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