



The world's largest city archive uses scopeArchiv

In 1848 Dr. P. Scheltema was appointed first municipal archivist of Amsterdam. In his 37 years of work he laid the foundation for the current Gemeentearchief Amsterdam. The Gemeentearchief Amsterdam was renamed to STADSARCHIEF AMSTERDAM in 2007. The archive claims to be the largest city archive in the world. Many depots of companies, institutions, families and persons (Heineken, De Bijenkorf, Artis, Schiphol, Benno Premsele to name a few) are kept safe in the archive. The complete archive spans over 40 running kilometers and includes many hundred thousand books, drawings, photos, sound files and other objects.

In 2007 the archive could move into a new archive building called "De Bazel". The building was built between 1920 and 1926 for the later ABN AMRO bank. The building was renovated and redesigned to be the new home of the city archive of Amsterdam. This new home did cost € 65 million, everything included from buying the building, restoration works and new installations.

Mister Smit, what was the situation of your archive before the introduction of scopeArchiv?

→ Before scopeArchiv we had three different databases: one for archives, one for visual documents and one for library material.

What objectives did you have by introducing scopeArchiv?

→ Our objectives were integration of the three different database systems into one. At the same time we wanted to standardize the description of the different documents and objects. Another goal was to use the same set of descriptors to index the data.

How did you proceed with the evaluation?

→ We did evaluate several different solutions none of which matched with our requirements. At the DMS exhibi-

tion in Barcelona we learned about scopeArchiv. It was quickly clear, that scopeArchiv would be the only matching solution for the data model that Gemeentearchief Amsterdam had in mind.

What was the decisive factor that tipped the scale in favor of scopeArchiv from scope solutions?

→ Two factors made us decide to choose scopeArchiv: The Descriptors module and the flexibility in defining the input forms and the data-elements.

How was the collaboration with scope solutions?

→ The project included the installation of scopeArchiv, training for end users and data migration. Work started on February 2003 and the system went productive in June. Since then several migrations to newer versions and releases took place. During the

whole time Jürgen Brombacher was our main contact and the collaboration with him was very good.

What is the greatest benefit that you achieved with this project?

→ The greatest benefit is that we now have one system where we can describe and maintain our collections.

Was the project within the budget?

→ Yes, there was no budget overrun. And this was important as we did not have any budget reserve. It was vital to us, that we did not exceed the budget.

How did the migration of already existing data work?

→ A goal of the data migration was to keep the effort on the side of scope as low as possible. scope migrated one database and provided us with sample scripts and their knowhow which enabled us to migrate the remaining databases ourselves. This worked well in the end, but would not have been possible without the help of scope.

Has the system been accepted by the personnel?

→ The scopeArchiv system has been accepted by the majority of the personnel.

What would you make different if you had a second chance?

→ If we had a second chance we would evaluate the user interface more in accordance with our needs.

What are your future plans?

→ One future plan is integration of the two separate applications that we have now (scopeArchiv for the description and ABS/Archeion for the location of our archives and collections). Another plan is promotion of scopeArchiv in the digital information management processes of the municipal organization of the city of Amsterdam.



Mr. Frans Smit

Project Summary

Customer:

Amsterdam Municipal Archives

Project Manager Customer:

Mr. Frans Smit

Project Manager scope:

Jürgen Brombacher

Duration of Project:

February 2003 until June 2003

Licensed Modules:

Units of Descriptions, Descriptors, System administration, Query, Image-Assistant

Number of Users:

30, User-License

Database Server:

Oracle 9i on a Windows Server