

Master thesis is devoted to the currently completed and running projects and initiatives focused on digital libraries in the Federal Republic of Germany. The initial chapters are a brief survey of the recently used terms. The second chapter deals with the problematic of open access and its promotion. The third chapter concentrates on the German conception of the information policy and its main representatives: **German Research Foundation** (Die Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, DFG, <http://www.dfg.de>) and **Federal Ministry for Education and Research** (Das Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung, BMBF, <http://www.bmbf.de>) and connected operational programmes. The fourth chapter introduces the key initiatives in digital library area: **The Information and Communication** (Information und Kommunikation, IuK, <http://www.iuk-initiative.org>) and **The German Initiative for Network Information** (Die Deutsche Netzwerkinitiative, DINI, <http://www.dini.de>) and their role at the emergence of the digital library projects. The German particularity consisting in the process of certification of servers and its prerequisites are described in more details, too. The fifth chapter sketches the chronological line of development and aims to show some selected projects composed into integrated system: opening of electronic dissertations to the public, the Open Access Repositories Net, and the network of particular virtual libraries – so called **Special Subject Collections** (Sondesammelgebiete, SSG, <http://webis.sub.uni-hamburg.de/webis/>). It describes the preparations to run **The German Digital Library** (Die Deutsche Digitale Bibliothek, <http://www.deutsche-digitale-bibliothek.de/>) as well. The final chapter summarises the contribution of the Federal Republic of Germany in the field of digital libraries. [Author's abstract].