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Bulgarian National Library

Annual Report 1995

ALEXANDRA DIPCHIKOVA

St.St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Sofia

The economic and political situation in Bulgaria in 1995 reflected directly on the activities of the St.St. Cyril and Methodius National Library. The publication of the Decree of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Bulgaria, which gave a special status of eight national cultural institutions, the National Library included allowed a certain increase in funding in comparison with the preceeding years. Unfortunately owing to the high inflation rate and the heavy economic situation of the country was not adequately felt in the activities of the library. The most important outcome was the relative raise in the salaries of librarians, with the subsequent hope that in future it will stop the drain of highly trained professionals and will create conditions to draw well trained young staff. The annual budget (about 900 000 USD) has greatly reduced the acquisition of new literature; technical innovation relies chiefly on donations and participation in international projects.

Work on new legislation in the field of librarianship for 1995 continued with discussions on a draft for a Decree of the Council of Ministers regulating the activities of the types of libraries in Bulgaria. The Decree published early in 1996 among others outlines the principal activities of the National Library. Alongside with traditional functions (The Archive of Bulgarian Literature,

the Center of the National Bibliography, the Archive of Documents from the National Revival Period, The Research Centre for Librarianship Science, Bibliography, Book Science and Archival Studies etc.) the National Library is nominated as a Center for the envisaged national automated library-information network (NALIN). This recognition of the leading part of the National Library in the process of the creation and distribution of bibliographical information is ground for hopes for greater Government funding of library automation in future. The delay in normative measures for the guaranteeing of the legal deposit under new conditions still is cause for concern. The Library has noted a lasting trend of the number of non-deposited books and other library material. For the past year the management of the library concentrated their efforts on the resolution of this issue before government bodies and the establishment of conditions for discussions of the problem with the Guild of Publishers in Bulgaria.

Construction work on the new building of the Library continued in 1995. Partial completion of building operations which is expected in 1996, will considerably change storage conditions of library stocks and improve services for the reading public. Under present conditions the solution of this problem was through the optimal variant - the adaptation of an existing industrial building as a book-storage building. The main difficulty for the realization of this project for a short period is insufficient funding from the budget.

Work on Automation of processes in libraries continued over the passed year through the opening of a local automated network of 50 work stations. This made it possible to utilize the data bases accumulated for three years for the whole library. Technological conditions for on-line use of these bases have been created, thus realizing a step ahead in the building up of the National Automated Bibliographical-information Network, centered around the National Library. Specialists from the National

Library are confident that retroconversion of library catalogues in Bulgaria should be done on the basis of pooling efforts and the use of all possibilities to achieve a multiplication effect in each library. The project for the preparation of bibliographical data bases for Bulgarian books on CD ROM, based on printed National Bibliography for the entire period of its existence (since 1878), drawn up in the Library is ample proof of the selection of this approach. The First stage (1878-1944) will be funded by a Regional Library Program RLP) of the Open Society Institute.

The serious financial difficulties before the Library recently have resulted mainly in routine activities on conservation and restoration of collections. The necessity of a national policy in this field stimulated the Union of Library and Information Officers in Bulgaria to begin work on the preparation of a National Program for Conservation and Restoration of collections, which will be subject of broad discussions among professional circles, and proposed to the Government for funding. The National Library is an active participant in this program, with the awareness that its collections will be among the principal objects of conservation and restoration in future.

The National Library has shown interest in participation in international co-operation through the provision of Data bases to users abroad. The realization of this co-operation was not possible in 1995, however the conference organized jointly with the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) and National Commission of Bulgaria for UNESCO on "The Development of Information and Library Networks in the Countries of Central and Eastern Europe as a Part of the Global Exchange of Information", Sofia 5-9 May 1995, with the participation of experts from CEE countries, consultants from UNESCO and the Netherlands is a step in this direction.

Since January 1996 the St.St. Cyril and Methodius National Library has a new management. In my capacity as former Director and participant of CENL over the past years I avail myself of the

occasion to thank colleagues from National libraries in Europe for their co-operation and I am confident of the successful development of co-operation in future.

The National Library of the Czech Republic

Annual Report 1995

VOJTICH BALIK
Národní knihovna, Prague

Politics

The National Library Board has been executing its tasks in the time period subject to this report: a conclusion has been delivered about the Klementinum to become the definitive seat of the National Library, i.e. about necessary reconstruction and adaptation of the whole baroque complex to comply with modern library services requirements. Now, technical as well as archeological feasibility studies have to be performed, and then, the proposals and plans for a new Library building will probably be, after decades of discussions, put aside. The budgetary plan of the year 1996 has been analyzed several times, as operating amount assigned by the Ministry of Culture does not allow even to buy any foreign documents or to pay for salaries of all staff, etc.

New Library Organization Document along with a new Organizational Chart has been delivered, describing changed tasks and responsibilities resulting from integrated system implementation, development of automated network between libraries as well as from the fact that an entirely new Library Division - Central Repository - has been established.

Legislation

According to the new Law on non-periodical literature, ie. on legal deposit, the number of free exemplars the publishers must render to entitled libraries has been reduced from 16 as before to 4 resp. 5 (two of them coming to the NL) starting from January 1996.

Construction

A new Central Repository of the NL for ca 4 million volumes has been finished. It has been reconstructed from a former factory hall in Prague, at 15 km distance from Klementinum. Moving of Library collections from or between several remote repositories, as well as of material, devices, and staff is going on.

Automation

Implementation of the ALEPH system, selected in early 1993 by the consortium of four Czech and Slovak main libraries as the most convenient for their common CASLIN project (ie. Czech and Slovak Library Information Network - realised with the support of The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, and The Pew Charitable Trusts), is going on. Conversion of all National Bibliography records from CDS/ISIS into ALEPH system has been performed (now ca. 130 thousand records). In addition, a new programme supporting conversion from the so-called Czech/Slovak exchange format into UNIMARC is now at disposal for all libraries enabling them to start cooperation with the CASLIN Union Catalogue.

Several NL bibliographical databases have been made available, both on Internet and in LAN, e.g. NL catalogue, foreign periodicals, articles from Czech newspapers and journals,

etc., and in addition, participants of ISBN, library and information institutions directory, etc.

The NL retrospective conversion programme is going on: scanning of the NL General Catalogue is to be finished, and the Czech National Bibliography of the 20th century is going to be scanned in turn. But for the time being, the NL is looking for financial means so that further steps of retroconversion process could be performed.

Conservation and Preservation

After opening the Central Repository, conservation and preservation activities focused on preparation, organization and assisting process to moving book collections from or between various Library repositories. Since book collections are to be redefined, a new organization of Library holdings has been proposed.

The NL digitization programme concerning old manuscripts and printed books including namely a special software has made good progress. After having published two significant medieval manuscripts on CD-ROM, a complete digitization unit has been established in Klementinum and contract on technological part of the process agreed with special private firm. A special series of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme has been set out named *Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica*.

The micrographic preservation programme is being developed as well, and in addition, joined Czech/Slovak working group on coordination was active.

The NL has compiled a National Preservation Programme which is now to be promoted through libraries.

Public Relations and International Cooperation

The NL continues in promoting its mission and activities through the general public, using both mass media and its own initiatives. The Prague Book Fair, held in May, is traditionally a good opportunity for the NL both to present its new library activities and to open doors to attractive baroque premises of the Klementinum.

The NL Society (i.e. Friends of the NL) was established in Autumn 1995, taking over the mission of the former NL Foundation.

The Library hosted several important events, e.g. the *XIX. Congress of International Association of Bibliophiles* (September 1995).

A grant awarded by the *Open Society Institute - Regional Library Program* enabled NL to organize the international seminar *Opening of the East European Library* on cataloguing standards, retrospective conversion and digitization of manuscripts (November 1995), as well as to prepare publications dealing with seminar topics.

Another important event was the *Memory of the World Joint UNESCO/EC Meeting* of experts on Technology (Memory of the World Sub-Committee on Technology), held in Klementinum in March 1996 with financial support of the European Commission. The results concern recommendations of classical preservation methods, reviewed standards of digital data capture, and the proposal of the structure for digitized manuscripts and old books.

A number of exhibitions were prepared, some of them meeting major public interest. E.g. the exhibition the *Memory of the Nation*, i.e. most rare items of NL collections, accompanied with press conference, was successful to provoke public interest in problems of preservation and access. Presentation of *Bosniaca 1992-1995*, i.e. Bosnian book production, contributed to call public attention to the Bosnian problem.

The Royal Library of Denmark

Annual Report 1995

ERLAND KOLDING NIELSEN

Det kongelige Bibliotek, Copenhagen

The Royal Library is the National Library of Denmark, the University of Copenhagen Library for theology, the humanities, social sciences and law as well as the Danish Museum of Books and Printing.

The Royal Library is open to the public and comprises three service points in buildings on the Castle Island [Slotsholmen], in Fiolstraede and at Amager. Access is possible directly or through the public libraries, other libraries or research institutions, and the Library also takes part in international library cooperation.

The library in politics

In 1986-87 long-term plans concerning the future of the Royal Library were drafted comprising the physical structure, organization, resources and services, together with the setting up of new goals and strategies.

In continuation of this an extension and a renovation of the National Library, on the Harbour Front has been granted in 1993-98 as well as the building of new central stacks and an extension of the University Library functions at the University of Copenhagen Amager in 1993-97. Furthermore, public services will be extended and renovated at all three service points. The most extensive

building renovation is taking place at the Harbour Front with the construction of 'the Black Diamond' at Christians Brygge, which will be connected to the present library building on Slotsholmen (the Castle Island). This building is to be finished before the end of 1998.

Due to renovation of the old buildings on Slotsholmen the main building will be closed to the public from 1 July 1996 until the middle of 1998. During this period the users will be served from the access points in Fiolstraede and at Amager. A temporary reading room will be established at Amager.

Within the new buildings the collections of the Library will be reorganized and relocated; large parts will be placed on open shelves for public self service. This task will partly be fulfilled by addition of new staff, but mostly by the present staff with the consequence that ordinary activities have to be reduced during the planning and construction years.

As a consequence of the new buildings the appropriations for building operations and maintenance have been increased. With the opening of the new buildings the activities of the Library will be expanded, both with respect to extent and to goals and objectives. One of the implications of this is that the Library will increase its research, exhibitions, and other cultural activities, and the necessary appropriations will be stipulated in a contract between the Ministry of Culture and the Library on the total business activities of the Library for the years after 1997.

Legislation (legal deposit)

The importance of electronic documents is increasing. It has therefore been a priority at the library to adapt to receiving and handling this type of document. The legal deposit law in Denmark is from 1927 and does for obvious reasons not refer to electronic documents. The Royal Library has in cooperation with the State and University Library in Århus worked intensively on promoting

a revision of the legal deposit legislation. This is now under way. In the meantime the Royal Library has started the necessary changes in procedures for receiving digitized documents which at the moment are currently mostly in hard form (CD-ROM). The library has also launched a project analyzing the development of information in networks, thus enabling the library to receive electronic information whether it arrives in hard form (CD-ROM) or in dynamic form (networks and databases).

New building / construction problems

The Royal Library is renovating and constructing at all three service points. The renovation of the Royal Library in Fiolstraede is the last major change in a process started in 1992-93 to remodel the service point in Fiolstraede into a modern research library for the students and faculty of social sciences and law. The goal is to renovate the library with respect for the historic building yet giving students and faculty the best possible service with a good number of work stations giving access to all sorts of electronic information.

Construction of new central stacks, offices and university library facilities at Amager started in 1995. This extension will be completed in several stages. The first is a completion of new central stacks and offices for the library. The next stage is to enlarge the building and turn it into its final use as a modern library with open shelves.

Work on the Black Diamond, the extension on the Harbour Front, has until now mostly been visible outside where the routing of the road has had to be changed and excavations for the foundations is well under way. As the new building is to be connected to the present library building, staff will have to be temporarily relocated and extensive alteration and construction on the existing buildings has begun and will continue in the coming years.

Building activities at this intensive level create a variety of temporary changes. The Building Planning Office has in 1995 relocated 102 persons, 14.499 meters of books a.o. material thus clearing 47 offices and stacks, and this is only the beginning.

While architects, engineers and construction workers deal with the building, the library staff has started preparing the contents of the new library buildings. The IR-project (Information and Reference) prepares what information and reference tools are to be placed on open shelves when the library opens again. The first goal is to define an overall policy for information and reference works on open shelves relating to the three locations of the library and the specific functions thereof. The general concept has been agreed upon and the work on a more detailed level of choosing titles for the various information and reference collections has been begun.

The next step is the physical preparation of materials, the OK-project. A system has been developed and tried out which makes it possible to keep the material in the stacks as long as possible, preparing changes in the catalogue without having to handle the material more than once, i.e. when the label with the new physical position of the material is put in place.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion of already processed data

The core of the library, the online catalogue REX, has been changed, now running on a so-called twin-system, i.e. the catalogue is now split up onto two machines. The twin system is only a temporary answer to the needs of the library. The Royal Library has therefore in cooperation with three other big libraries of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs begun work on developing a national and institutional strategy for the library's edp-development and finding a replacement system as of 1997.

The most visible sign of the ongoing electronic development is the World Wide Web Service. The homepage of the Royal Library offers information on the library and its services, it offers full access to the library's online-catalogue REX by means of a specially developed WWW-interface, and the visitor can browse in part of the library's collection of prints and photographs, to mention but a few of the services which are under continued development.

An important part of the library's development of information technology is the DD-project. The purpose of the project is to develop a plan for giving the audience access to the library's collections in digitized form via Internet and establish the technical requirements for doing this. In short the goal is to establish Digitized collections on Document servers (hence the abbreviation DD) which can be distributed from the library's servers via WWW for use in as well as outside the library. Four main projects each consisting of a number of smaller projects have been started:

- Establishing digital servers and mass storage units on Internet, primarily for giving students and professors of the University of Copenhagen access to the library's collection of CD-ROM databases (a CWIS-system).
- Establishing digital collections
- Establishing a WWW-informations system for the Royal Library
- Promote access to and the use of Internet / WWW

Conservation and preservation of the collections

In 1995 the Department of Preservation was reorganized in three sections consisting of the Bookbinding & Conservation

Workshop, Photographic Studio and the Collections Inventory. The Department of Preservation works across all departments of the library and the Head of Preservation has the overall responsibility for preservation, binding and conservation. The Council of Preservation has as a result of this organizational change received a new mandate. In this forum the head of preservation, the board of directors and the department heads discuss and plan the politics of preservation thus making coordination and delegation easier.

The Department of Preservation lends its expertise to a number of external clients and work on a series of projects financed by outside sources such as the music collection of Carl Nielsen, the company archive of GN Store Nord (The Great Northern).

The photographic studio has begun preparations for working with digitized photography thus being able to service photographers as well as the publishing business with the latest technology.

Public relations

The library produced three major exhibitions in 1995.

Small State and Super Power. Danes and Russians meet. 1815 - 1995 produced in cooperation with the Danish National Archives and the Russian State Archives. The exhibition shows for the first time documents hitherto hidden in closed Russian archives. Many things changed with the system change in 1991, among others access to public archives. In 1993 a new law for Russian archives was adopted. The library's idea of showing documents pertaining to Danish Russian relations is but one of the results of the agreement of cooperation between the Danish and Russian Archives signed in 1993.

The exhibition *Clandestine Printing* was produced to commemorate the liberation at the end of World War II, 50 years

ago. The exhibition does not only show parts of the large and unique collection of illegal printing from World War II, it was also the first presentation of a major collection in the Danish Image Base on the Internet, as a series of photographs from the years of occupation are now scanned and accessible in the library's image base on the Internet.

The exhibition *F. L. Ae. Kuntzen (1761-1817) Dansk hofkapelmester 1795* (F. L. Ae. Kuntzen Danish Court Conductor 1795) is the last to be shown in the hall of library before we open again in new and enlarged surroundings. The exhibition will be shown in two institutions in Germany in 1996.

The 5th bookseminar took as usual place in the spring. The general theme was The Book in Denmark 1850-1920, including topics such as: translated literature in the end of the 19th century; the bibliography in Denmark at the end of the 19th century; technological influence on the art of illustration in the 19th century; the schoolbook and its use in the country; the development of dictionaries of technical terms in 19th century in Denmark.

International cooperation

The library is represented in a number of international organisations.

National Library of Estonia

Annual Report 1995 - 1996

IVI EENMAA

Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu, Tallinn

The Library in Politics

In 1995 the parliamentary elections took place in Estonia; during the election campaign all political parties very actively used the services of the NLE Reference and Information Analysis Centre.

The NLE has initiated the drafting of bills for the ratification of several international legal acts on cultural matters as well as for the amendment of a number of national laws and Government regulations. This initiative should considerably support the development of libraries and the establishment of information systems as well as promote international info-integration.

Construction problems

In 1996 the additional insulation of roofs and terraces commenced; we hope to complete the works by 1997.

The preserving conditions of NLE collections have gradually been improved - in 1995 filters were installed into the air conditioners and air channels of the building.

The growth of our collections required another reserve stackroom to be taken into use; it was equipped with metal shelves and now 31 stackrooms from among the total of 34 are filled with books. The increasing number of readers necessitated to expand the reading room of periodicals; the lighting of reading rooms was also improved.

Automation

The development of information technology in 1995-1996 followed the guidelines of the project "Information System of Estonian Libraries", adopted in 1994. New multiuser software based on SCO UNIX was purchased and installed for the indexing of national bibliography. The NOVELL Netware was installed mainly for the Reference and Information Analysis Centre but being also used by the Union Catalogues Department and expanding the network of PCs. The NLE presently operates 75 PCs and 34 terminals. The number of Internet access points has increased, now amounting to 60. A new communication channel was built connecting the NLE with the reading room in the parliament building, enabling to facilitate communication between the two buildings.

Throughout 1995 and at the beginning of 1996 preparations continued to select a new integrated system: under the terms of the competition 8 different systems were tested, information regarding the corresponding companies was analysed, different libraries using those systems were visited. The final selection preferred INNOPAC (Innovative Interface, USA).

During 1995 the compilation of an Estonian universal thesaurus was commenced.

At present the following bibliographical databases are maintained and supplemented in the Reference and Information Analysis Centre:

- **BIBLIOGRAPHIA IURIDICA ESTONICA.** Estonian law bibliography, 1918-1940.
- **EMOR.** Articles on market, public opinion, media and household research, since 1992.
- **LITTERA.** Estonian literature, since 1995.
- **MAJPOL.** Articles on political and economic issues published in the Estonian press, since 1993.
- **PINFO.** Articles concerning politics, law and economy, 1991-1992.
- **SEADUS.** Legislative acts of the Republic of Estonia in foreign languages, since 1991.
- **VARIA.** Articles on various issues; personalia, since 1994.
- **OIGUS.** Articles on legal issues published in the Estonian press, since 1994.

In addition to them 4 electronic databases and 61 CD-ROM databases are available to the readers. Two news agencies - ETA and BNS - send us information daily.

Conservation and Preservation of the Collections

In 1995 the climate of the stackrooms was profoundly studied, determining the temperature, the humidity, the composition of air, the condition of materials on paper carriers and some other indicators. Proceeding from the results the preserving conditions are gradually being improved, one major step being the installation of filters into air conditioners and air channels in 1995.

In December 1995, at the initiative of the NLE the Library and Archival Materials Preservation Board was formed at the Estonian Librarians Association. The task of the Board is to deal

with major preservation problems of the 7 largest institutions with preserving functions: the NLE, the Tartu University Library, the Library of the Estonian Academy of Sciences, the State Archives, the Historical Archives, the Tallinn City Archives, the Estonian Literature Museum.

Since 1996 the NLE started cooperation with the Tallinn City Archives and the Library of the Estonian Academy of Sciences for evaluating the condition of their collections. This work is based on a methodology worked out in the NLE Preservation Department.

Public Relations - the NLE as a Cultural Center

The NLE continued to carry out cultural activities also during 1995-1996. Like in the previous years, exhibitions constituted the major part of this work, the corresponding number during a year and a half was 81. Art exhibitions dominated, amounting to 46 of the whole. In addition to them our visitors could also enjoy exhibitions of books, photos, posters, postcards, etc. To mention the most significant examples: "Scripta Manent", an international exhibition on bindings and calligraphy with 72 participants from 13 countries who also attended a thematic conference; "Estonian Silverwork from 17th-19th century. The Collection of Marje and Alur Reinans", also supplemented by a conference; "The Furniture and Design of Martin Szekely"; "Estonian Silverwork from the Collections of the Estonian Art Museum". The NLE has also become a very popular site for presentations - 24 book or CD presentations took place here during 1995. The wide public's keen interest in the NLE as a cultural center but also as an impressive architectural monument is proved by over 420 guided library tours during 1995.

The staff was and is continuously informed of the library news by a weekly news release.

The publishing work of the NLE is characterized by over 50 titles that were issued during 1995.

International Cooperation

The NLE takes pride in 2 new information centers: in 1995 the Information and Documentation Centre on the Council of Europe was festively opened in the NLE. The opening ceremony was attended by Mr. Daniel Tarchys, Secretary General of the Council of Europe as well as the President and the Prime Minister of Estonia. The Centre is responsible for the dissemination of information on the goals, activity and achievements of the Council of Europe. Since January, 1996 the readers of the NLE can use the new, well-supplied German reading room, the aim of which is to promote the studying of the German language and to introduce current information on Germany in a variety of areas. The nice tradition continues - the Japan Foundation Special Programs for Japan-Europe Cultural Exchange donated a valuable collection of Japanese books for the establishment of a Japanese Information Center in the NLE; preparations are in process for opening the French reading room in autumn, 1996 - the first contribution by the French state of over 1,000 books has already arrived. The Information and Documentation Center of the European Union is also planned to be opened in the NLE. During 1995-1996 noteworthy donations have also been received by the Danish Cultural Institute and the Embassy of Switzerland (art literature) as well as from different Finnish institutions (varia). All the above mentioned events and supplements to our collections were strongly supported by foreign embassies, proving their continuous efficient cooperation with the NLE. In 1995 two significant cooperation agreements were concluded: the representatives of research libraries of the Baltic states signed a statement of intent aiming to establish a common strategy for the development of information technology in the libraries of the Baltic region; the same year witnessed the signing of a cooperation agreement between the NLE and the National Library of Poland. Cooperation continues under the two joint projects with the

Helsinki University Library (HUL): the project of microfilming Estonian newspapers from 1918-1945 and the project of HUL card catalogue conversion into electronic format. Both projects started in 1993. Under the corresponding cooperation agreements concluded in 1992 the NLE also continuously cooperates with the National Libraries of Latvia and Lithuania, particularly in the field of automation.

In 1995 members of the library staff presented 31 reports at national or international conferences and seminars.

**Helsinki University Library
The National Library of Finland
Annual Report 1995**

ESKO HÄKLI

University Library / The National Library of Finland, Helsinki

The Library in Politics

The financing of the functions of the National Library and the national resource libraries in a number of different subject fields, has been debated during the winter. The Ministry of Education decided to treat the national resource libraries as a part of the regular library service of the universities and not to make any special grant available for them. Libraries are maintaining that the Government has to assume a responsibility for the research library network as a whole, because the new budgeting practice is not paying enough attention to it. According to libraries, a national strategy for scientific information is needed.

A temporary agreement on the financing of the National Library has been reached. It divides the sources of the Library's budget into two parts, the major part being an ear`marked National Library grant and the smaller part coming from the budget of the University. According to the Library a better distinction of its functions into these two categories is still needed. Internally, the Library has taken major steps to better adapt its management to the requirements of the accountability. The

Library has been divided into two main cost centres and internal budgeting and costing is being developed further.

To strengthen the university library network the Ministry of Education gave to Helsinki University Library the task to develop the cooperation between the university libraries. A coordinating board has been set up for that purpose. On their own initiative, university libraries agreed on financing one fulltime job of a coordinator and development officer. The post is located in Helsinki University Library.

The Government has adopted a new strategy for the information society on the basis of which the Ministry of Education has launched an action programme. The programme, focusing on information technology, also covers libraries, archives and museums. With its help the National Library has started two major projects, one dealing with digitization of existing collections, one with electronic publishing. A number of other institutions are participating in the projects.

In order to create a basis for the development strategies, the Library took the initiative to prepare a scenario of the future of the networked library environment.

Legislation

A revision of the existing legal deposit law shall start during 1996. A preliminary agreement has been achieved on the principle that the law should cover networked documents with the exception of dynamic databases.

A new university law, common for all universities, is being debated. The National Library is mentioned in the most recent draft. About several other points there is still disagreement and it is uncertain, when the draft can be submitted to the Parliament.

Buildings

At the beginning of 1998 the Library will take over the adjacent large building which at the moment is being renovated and adapted to its needs. The Library will reorganize and develop its local services, which will be gathered in one and the same place.

A decision on large new underground stacks is awaited from the Government in connection with the state budget for 1998. The stacks will be shared with the National Archives. Thus, the Library will be able to gather also its collections in one place.

Automation

Two major decisions have been made on converting the rest of the catalogues to make them available in electronic form when the new premises are opened. The conversion of the National Bibliography will be completed by the end of 1997 by the Library's own retroconversion unit. With the help of a special grant the conversion of the catalogues of the Library's internationally well-known Russian collections has been started and the work will be completed in 1998. A large part of the work has been contracted out to the National Library of Estonia which will record the data directly into Helsinki University Library's online database. At the same time a new database of the oldest part of the National Bibliography will be completed.

The major public libraries' union catalogue database MANDA has now been opened for public use. It is an important step towards a common computerized network for all types of libraries.

In cooperation with INION (Moscow) a new bibliographic database of the Finno-Ugrian research (Bibliographia Studiorum Uralicorum) has been produced on CD-ROM.

Public Relations

During the autumn 1995 the Library had functioned 150 years in its main building. This event was celebrated by a number of arrangements for the great public. The Library received plenty of positive publicity. Also a concert for specially invited guests was given.

Publicity has also been received on the occasion of various publications and projects. The large catalogue of the A.E.Nordenskiöld's map collection was completed in 1995. The first part of the national bibliography of the early Finnish literature (up to 1700) was published in the summer 1996 and publicised by the Minister of Education. The literary magazine Books from Finland has been published for 20 years by the Library and it was celebrated in June 1996. A major project, the critical edition of the collected works of Jean Sibelius, was launched in May 1996 and it received much attention.

At present the Library is working on a new policy for public relations, because publicity has become an important part in the efforts to secure the necessary financing.

International Cooperation

The Library has participated in the work of LIBER and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Bibliotheca Baltica. The Director has been President of these two organizations. He also represents the Nordic national libraries in the CoBRA.

The Library is one of the national libraries behind the development of GABRIEL. It has participated in the EU Project ONE and in the Working Group on Authority Files of IFLA. The Library is the National Focal Point of the Library Programme of the EU.

Special emphasis has been laid on cooperation with libraries in the Baltic countries and the St Petersburg area.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek as Competence Centre

Annual Report 1995

KLAUS-DIETER LEHMANN

Die Deutsche Bibliothek, Frankfurt/Main, Leipzig

Collection and long-term preservation

In 1995 the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig recorded accessions of 297,284 publications, of which books accounted for 141,666 and bound volumes of periodicals for 37,074 (for 71,327 current periodicals). Accessions at the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main numbered 310,083 publications, including 122,845 books and 39,861 bound volumes of periodicals (for 67,141 current periodicals). Additions of musicalia and music recordings at the Deutsches Musikarchiv are reflected in the Frankfurt figures.

Total library holdings exceeded the 14 million mark during the reporting year (Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig: 8.1 million; Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main: 6.2 million).

As an archival library for German language and literature, Die Deutsche Bibliothek signed the Agreement on Cooperation for the Continuation of the Task Group "Sammlung Deutscher Drucke" along with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, the Herzog-August-Bibliothek Wolfenbüttel, the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen, the Stadt- und Universitätsbibliothek Frankfurt am Main and the

Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. In doing so, it extends the Collection of German Publications from 1450 to 1912 to include the years beginning in 1913 and cooperates in the provision of specific services.

More and more publications are now offered and distributed in digital form, whether on floppy disc, magnetic tape or CD-ROM or in non-material form as networked publications. The Advisory Council and the Administrative Council have approved the Basic Policy Paper for Die Deutsche Bibliothek, which addresses the following issues:

- the need for long-term preservation of digital media
- cooperation between Die Deutsche Bibliothek and publishers
- collection guidelines
- technical infrastructure
- national bibliographic records
- availability

In the recommendations outlined in its paper entitled "Electronic publications in the collections of literature and information at academic libraries" (1995), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft [German Research Association] emphasises the need to ensure the long-term preservation of such media by establishing clear legal deposit regulations and supporting Die Deutsche Bibliothek in meeting its responsibilities with respect to preservation and bibliographic records. Although the legal deposit laws currently in force do cover digital media distributed in physical form, new legislation is needed for the collection of so-called networked publications. A task group is presently drafting an amendment to the law in cooperation with the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

Within the framework of the Telematics Programme of the European Commission, the European national libraries have sponsored a detailed study on the digital archival library which provides a sound basis for national legislative initiatives. Members of the steering committee were the British Library, Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the Royal Library of the Netherlands. The results of the study were discussed at a workshop in Luxembourg in late December and approved by publishers and library representatives.

Performance requirements suitable for a public invitation to tender have been prepared with respect to the implementation of the technical concept for preservation and access at the new library building in Frankfurt. Thus the library has achieved a level of development that ensures an appropriate degree of planning security in the transition from print media to digital publications and a step-by-step expansion to become an electronic archive.

With its Leipzig Centre for Book Preservation, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has shaped a strategic concept for the preservation of the cultural heritage and set new standards for technical implementation. The mass deacidification facility developed in cooperation with Battelle treated roughly ten tons of books in routine operations during 1995. The paper-splitting technique for the mechanical strengthening of paper was used to process 40,000 book pages. Microfilming and manual restoration augment the total programme. More than 110,000 items were processed for the purpose of conservation. Experts from 30 countries will participate in an international conference on Preservation and Access to be held in Leipzig during the Leipzig Book Fair in 1996. The conference is sponsored by the European Commission on Preservation and Access and Die Deutsche Bibliothek.

Processing, bibliographic records and central services

All new accessions were processed with the required degree of currency for descriptive and - keeping with currently applicable restrictions - subject cataloguing.

The number of CIP notices rose again in 1995. Presently, 3,779 publishers participate in the programme. A total of 226,948 publications were indexed in the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie, roughly matching the 1994 figure.

In addition to bibliographic processing, Die Deutsche Bibliothek is also intensively involved in the development and expansion of authority files. The Name Authority File (PND) is currently being established in cooperation with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, the Hochschulbibliothekszentrum Köln and the Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. The Subject Authority File (SWD) is maintained in a cooperative effort with the participation of the Bibliotheksverband Bayern, the Nordrhein-westfälischer Bibliotheksverbund, the Bibliotheksverbund Niedersachsen/Sachsen-Anhalt/Thüringen, the Südwestdeutscher Bibliotheksverbund and libraries in Austria. Editing and data processing for both the PND and the SWD are performed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek. The SWD currently contains more than 600,000 keywords and references.

Every bibliographic citation generated by Die Deutsche Bibliothek for the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie provides the basis for a variety of central computer-aided services.

The title-card service comprised 3,662 million cards. This corresponds to the previous year's level - despite advances in library automation. The magnetic tape service, of particular importance to library associations and their affiliated libraries, distributed 9.3 million data records in 1995, an increase of 25 % over the previous year.

The number of data records includes the citations of the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie in the German MAB and the

international MARC formats (UNIMARC), the records of the British Library and Casalini Libri redistributed by Die Deutsche Bibliothek and the SWD and PND records. To a considerable extent, the increase was driven by the selective ordering of retrospective data. The floppy disc service distributed 1.633 million data records.

The current CD-ROM version of the Deutsche Nationalbibliographie was augmented through the incorporation of the DNB-CD retro, which covers books and maps published between 1945 and 1965 and comprises a total of 600,000 data records. Work on expanding the service to 1985 is proceeding on schedule. Other services include the Diss-CD (dissertations from 1945 to 1993) and the CD-DNB Musik. The latter has been extended to include the years 1976 to 1983 and now offers search options based on ISMN (International Standard Music Number) and order numbers. A CD-ROM containing both the PND and the SWD is scheduled for release concurrent with the 1996 Conference of Librarians.

Through its DBV-OSI project and in cooperation with research centres and associations, Die Deutsche Bibliothek has implemented direct communication among database systems over the international interface Z39.50. A communication module for this purpose was completed in mid-1995; inter-operability testing began in the fall of 1995. Die Deutsche Bibliothek plans to use Z39.50 as a supplemental channel for the on-line distribution of its bibliographic and authority data.

A new agreement on BIBLIODATA was concluded with the database provider STN International of Karlsruhe. The agreement takes recent developments in technology and the economy into account.

Information about Die Deutsche Bibliothek and its services can be obtained either through the Internet information server (address: <http://www.ddb.de>) or through the server of the European national libraries (CENL) under the name GABRIEL

(Gateway to Europe's National Libraries; address: <http://www.bl.uk/gabriel>).

Library use

Due to differences in development and demand, the user services (local check-out, inter-library loan, information) provided by the Deutsche Bücherei Leipzig and the Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main have been designed to meet specific local requirements. Although the situation is improving at other libraries in the region, the Deutsche Bücherei remains the library with the largest collection and the most attractive working conditions in the Leipzig area. It is the library of choice at the regional level. Its pre-1950 collections also make it particularly attractive from an inter-regional standpoint. Special collections are concentrated primarily in Leipzig.

Die Deutsche Bibliothek Frankfurt am Main has been confronted with personnel shortages in the area of library use for several years. This situation is made more difficult by the crowded conditions in the main building and the fact that 60 % of its collections are housed in a number of different auxiliary storage facilities.

Aside from these aspects, Frankfurt and the surrounding region has a better library infrastructure than Leipzig. All of these factors have affect the range of services offered.

Figures for 1995 show 43,908 active users in Leipzig and 23,892 in Frankfurt. Leipzig processed 436,084 orders; 283,252 orders were recorded in Frankfurt. While the intensity of use remain virtually unchanged in Frankfurt, it rose by 12 % in Leipzig. While the introduction of the on-line catalogue may have affected developments in this area, it is certain that the change to more user-oriented reading room collections has had a considerable impact.

The situation in Frankfurt will improve with the move to the new facility in 1997. Currently existing use restrictions and capacity shortages will be eliminated at this time.

The new building is moving towards completion precisely on schedule. By the end of 1995, all but 5 % of construction work had been contracted. Library departments and architects reached agreement on interior facility planning, making it possible to issue invitations to tender in the second quarter of 1996. The transfer of book collections to the new building is scheduled to begin on September 1st, 1996.

Building conservation measures and various renovation projects were undertaken in Leipzig during 1995.

Prospects

In spite of the library staff's strong commitment to service and its excellent performance, which produced demonstrably substantial benefits for the economy as a whole, the negative effects of budget restrictions have had a noticeable impact. Steadily rising demands and user expectations place an increasingly heavy burden on available capacities.

The situation is exacerbated by the blanket moratorium on hiring to fill staff vacancies. In addition, the number of permanent positions is currently being reduced annually, a number of responsibilities must be assigned to temporary personnel and new developments can only be financed with project funds. Die Deutsche Bibliothek has consistently taken advantage of every opportunity for rationalisation in order to fulfil its mandate. Now is it called upon to undertake a rigorous consolidation of its areas of operation. Only in this way can a deterioration in performance be avoided. This will lead to restrictions in collection efforts and reductions in service offerings. These changes should be discussed in advance with publishers and subscribers.

The circumstances described above limit the library's ability to operate effectively at a time in which the functions it performs as national bibliographic competence centre are in particularly strong demand and could be especially effective and beneficial.

This phase is characterised by profound changes in publishing, by the availability, beginning in 1997, of a highly sophisticated, modern information structure in the new Frankfurt library building and by the dynamic dimension of international networking (Internet).

It is neither investments nor the sheer size of library collections alone, but an institution's capacity to function and perform that creates added value. This capacity must be strengthened. In a period dominated by the distribution of work processes and close international cooperation, the importance of Die Deutsche Bibliothek as a full-service partner to both research and business is greater than ever.

National Library of Hungary

Annual Report 1995-1996

GEZA POPRADY

National Széchényi Library, Budapest

Management, administration, budget

With an unchanged annual budget, the annual inflation rate of 25% and an even greater increase in energy and postal charges created a critical financial situation. This critical situation still exists.

We have reduced the number of employees by 15%.

Legal regulation

In practice the current situation is an extralegal one:

- á the old library act is obsolete, due to the change of political regime most of the legislation is on longer applicable, but there is yet no new act,
- á a considerable proportion of the publishers and printing houses do not respect the old deposit copy act because of the high number of copies (16) they are required to supply. The new deposit copy act has not yet been drafted. There is also delay in the legal regulation of the problem of deposit copies of electronic data carriers.

Automation

No progress has been made in the field of retrospective conversion. The database of the Hungarian National Bibliography, Bibliography of Books for the period 1976-1991 is being loaded into the Dobis/Libis system. In addition to the printed booklets of the Hungarian National Bibliography, Bibliography of Books appearing fortnightly, from the end of 1995 this material can also be ordered fortnightly on floppy disk. The data for 1978-1995 appeared on CD-ROM in May 1996 and in the future we plan to issue two updates annually. The foreign subscription fee is 600 USD (700 USD for network use).

Conservation of the holdings

From 1996, newspapers and periodicals intended for museum preservation are no longer bound but stored in cardboard boxes lined with acidfree paper.

In the second half of 1996 we are beginning the microfilming of books in a poor condition.

Main events 1996

1. January-April 1996. Exhibition on the history of balls from the mid-19th century to the 1940s.
2. January 1996. International library conference, joint Hungarian-Dutch organisation.
3. June 1996. One of the most important Hungarian manuscripts, the Illuminated Chronicle (14th century) appeared on multimedia CD-ROM.

National and University Library of Iceland

Annual Report 1995

EINAR SIGURÐSSON

National and University Library of Iceland, Reykjavik

The library in politics

The long-awaited amalgamation of the National Library of Iceland (established in 1818) and the University Library (established in 1940) finally came into force on 1 December 1994, when the new institution, the National and University Library of Iceland (Landsbókasafn Íslands - Háskólabókasafn), was formally opened in a new building.

The change had been prepared by a committee appointed for this purpose by the Minister of Education and Culture. In addition to a representative of the Ministry, the committee consisted of representatives of the National Library of Iceland and the University Library.

This committee compiled a report on the two libraries (December 1993) and then drafted a Bill on the new library for the Minister. Based on this work, the law on the new institution was passed by the Althing, which stipulated among other things that the old libraries be closed and a new library be opened on 1 December 1994. The law also stipulated that all positions in the new library be announced as open to application. Accordingly, the director of the new library was appointed on 1 October 1994, Einar Sigurðsson,

former director of the University Library. Dr Finnbogi Guðmundsson, former director of the old National Library, retired on 1 September 1994. The National Librarian is appointed for a six-year period at a time, which can be renewed, the same applies to the Deputy National Librarian. The National and University libraries have now been merged as a new institution in a new building.

Legislation

The law on the new library was passed by the Althing on 28 April 1994, whereby it stated that the library be both a national library and a library for the University of Iceland. According to the law, its obligations are very comprehensive.

The library board is appointed by the Minister of Education and Culture, and consists of five members, two nominated by the University of Iceland, one nominated by the Icelandic Library Association, one nominated by the Icelandic Research Council, and one nominated by the Minister himself. The Minister appoints one of these five as Chairman. The National Librarian is present at board meetings together with one representative of the staff.

The amount of ISK 250,000,000 (GBP 2,500,000) was allocated to the new library in the State Budget for running the building and the library. This was considerably lower amount than recommended by the committee drafting the legislation.

Apart from the Office of the National Librarian, the library has six departments: Acquisitions Department, Cataloguing Department, National Department, Information Services Department, Circulation Department, and Manuscript Department. There is also a Systems Division, a Bookbinding Service, a Preservation Unit, and a Photographic Unit. The number of staff is approximately 80.

The law on legal deposit has not been revised since 1977. It comprises all printed material as well as sound recordings, but not films, videotapes, and radio and television broadcasts, nor any kind

of electronic publications. It is urgent to revise the law on legal deposit as soon as possible.

New building

The new building is fully air-conditioned, four floors and a basement, a total of 13,000 m². It is designed to hold a total of approximately 900,000 volumes. At present there are approximately 750,000 volumes in the library. There are about 700 reading seats, more than half of which can be connected to the library network. Already there are PCs for library users at about 80 of the reading seats. Approximately 30 of the reading seats are in closed carrels, and in addition to that there are four workrooms for groups. The entrance into the library is on the 2nd floor, where the reference section, circulation, and information services are situated, together with the administrative offices and technical services. Next to the entrance and outside the security gate, there is an exhibition area, a cafeteria and a conference room with a capacity for up to a hundred guests. Most of the reading seats, books and journals on open access, a textbook collection and the audiovisual department are situated on the 3rd and 4th floor. On the 1st floor there are departments with restricted access: the National Department, together with special collections, and the Manuscript Department. There are special reading rooms for these departments. In the basement there are stacks, including compact moveable shelving, as well as technical equipment.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion of already processed data

Automation was an important part of the preparations for the amalgamation of the two libraries. The integrated library system *Libertas* (called *Gegnir* in Icelandic) was bought from SLS (Information Systems) Ltd in Bristol in 1990, and cataloguing

together with OPAC was taken into use in 1991. At the same time a contract was signed with Saztec Ltd on converting most cataloguing records for foreign books to electronically readable form. Other holdings, including Icelandic items, have been catalogued into the system by the libraries themselves, but that work has not been fully completed.

The national bibliography, an annual edition, is downloaded from Gegnir for printing; also a bibliography of sound recordings. In addition to the OPACs, numerous PCs are freely available to library users, with access to Gegnir, word-processing, CD-ROMs, and the Internet.

Conservation and preservation of the collections

Due to relatively stable weather conditions and minimal air pollution, paper deteriorates at a slower rate in Iceland than in most other countries. Nevertheless there is a huge amount of material in the library in need of repair or protection by means of filming or copying.

In the old National Library there was a photographic unit, and such a unit is in the new library as well, in fact with much better equipment.

The old National Library and the National Archives ran jointly a preservation service, but there will be a special small preservation unit for the new library only. It will be taken into use at the beginning of 1997.

There was a bindery in the old National Library and there is one in the new Library as well. This bindery is responsible for repairs and the more difficult binding, but other binding is done outside the library.

Public relations

The Icelandic people are only about 260,000 and it took a long time to complete the new National and University Library building, which is one of the largest public buildings in the country.

The timing of the opening of the library was no coincidence either, because 1 December 1918 was one of the landmarks of the nation's road to sovereignty and that day is always remembered as such, although it has been overshadowed of late by the National Day, 17 June, but that day in 1944 Iceland became a republic.

International cooperation

One of the heads of department in the library is on the board of NORDINFO (The Nordic Council for Scientific Information). The library contributes to the IFLA ALP Project as well as the IFLA Core programmes. The library also participates in CENL as did the old National Library.

National Library of Ireland

Annual Report 1995-1996

PATRICIA DONLON

The National Library of Ireland, Dublin

The National Library of Ireland is administratively part of a Government Department (Department of Arts, Culture and the Gaeltacht). At present legislation is being drafted the intention of which is to give the Library greater autonomy under a Board of Management.

The work of the Library during the past year was made more difficult by restrictions on recruitment to the public service. Because of shortages of staff, bibliographical projects were delayed.

The Library's photographic collections are due to be moved in the course of the next six months to a building in another area of Dublin (Temple Bar) where they will form a national photographic archive. The new building will provide optimum environmental conditions and an opportunity to provide new services to users. An imaging system to provide better access to the collections is being planned as part of this project.

Work will start in July on the development of a building to house microfilming, conservation and binding services. Building work is expected to take one year. The major use of the building will be for a programme of newspaper microfilming under the cooperative NEWSPLAN project. A priority list for filming based

on rarity and fragility of files has already been established in a published report.

A longer term building project is the adaptation of an adjacent building as a "plug-in" development. The main idea behind this development would be to offer user friendly services to a broad public. Towards this objective, it is intended that the building house an open access collection, an audio visual unit, facilities for access to computerised databases, and conference facilities.

The Library is very aware of the need for the retroconversion of its catalogues. Because of the financial implications, it is likely that this work will have to be done on a phased basis over a number of years.

As indicated above, preservation programmes are receiving high priority in the Library's planning. A new disaster plan is being prepared and, in addition, to the NEWSPLAN project already described, it is intended to put in place a Gaelic manuscripts copying project. In this project, the benefits of preservation microfilming and of imaging are being assessed.

Throughout the year the Library continued to implement its policy of promoting its collections and increasing public awareness of its services. In June the Library collaborated with the Irish Manuscripts Commission in mounting an exhibition on the Irish material in the Vatican Archives. As a major repository of material relating to the Great Famine, the Library marked the 150th anniversary with an exhibition and a 200-page illustrated book. The book was launched in November by Ms Avril Doyle, T.D., Minister of State responsible for the national commemoration of the Famine. The Library also contributed copies of relevant material to other commemorative exhibitions mounted by libraries and heritage centres around Ireland.

On the second Sunday in September the Library contributed to European Heritage day by providing an open day which was well attended. The main feature was the Famine exhibition; this was supplemented by displays of visual material and four video

presentations on aspects of the collections at locations in the main building and in the premises at 2-3 Kildare Street. The Day was well publicised in the newspapers and on the radio and attracted many people who had never before visited the Library and were pleased with the opportunity to learn of its services and view some of its collections.

The National Library of Ireland Society continued its policy of achieving a high public profile and invited a panel of distinguished academic and public figures to lecture to the Society. Among some of the speakers were George Huxley, Brendan Bradshaw and Marina Carr. Prof. Roy Foster also delivered a very informative lecture entitled "A continual apology: W.B. Yeats, Irish history and the problem of biography".

National Library of Lithuania

Annual Report 1995

VLADAS BULAVAS

Lietuvos Nacionalinė Martyno Mazvydo Biblioteka, Vilnius

Library in Politics

A significant milestone in Lithuanian library development was the introduction of the new Law on Libraries which was passed on 6 June 1995. In comparison with the previous Law on Public Libraries of 1936, which was in force until the Soviet occupation in 1940, the new law expands its jurisdiction to research libraries and to the National Library. Concerning the latter, the law states that "the National Library of Lithuania is the main public scientific library, national press archive, and also the depository for Lithuanian publications, as well as for the most significant scientific and general publications of foreign countries, and a co-ordination centre for national bibliography, state registration of Lithuanian publications, information, scientific research work and methodological activity". The law determines library system, network, financing and other aspects of library activities in Lithuania.

To some extent, the passing of the new law influenced the establishment of the Library Science Centre within the National Library. Besides its scientific activities, it will function, as the guiding and co-ordinating research centre of Lithuanian libraries.

A change in financing the library occurred. Now the National Library is granted not by the Ministry of Culture, but directly by the Ministry of Finance. However, the inadequate financing, especially as a severe banking crisis struck Lithuania at the end of the year, remains the main obstacle in library activity.

Legislation

An acute problem of recent years was to secure as full as possible the set of Legal Deposit in the National Library. With the emergence of numerous new publishers and periodicals after the collapse of the communism, many of them not bothering with the delivery legal deposit copies to libraries: therefore, over 85% of published production obtained by the National Library in 1995 must be considered as success. The Government, anxious to improve the situation, in August 1995 has established the Mass Media Board which is responsible to exert influence upon publishers and printers in legal deposit issues, thus certain progress should be expected in this field.

At the end of the year the National Library appealed to the Government with request to expand legal deposit to all kinds of microforms, audiovisual recordings, sound records, CDs and software.

New Building

In spite of strained budget the work for 4,624,000 Lt on the library annex, the construction of which started in 1992, was executed. With the framework of the building completed, work on installation of electricity and water supply, communication, fire precaution and security systems began.

At Sapiega Palace (17th century building), another site of library's construction activities, a heating supply based on Danish technology was installed. However, a planned restoration work on

this valuable building was postponed, because no financing was provided for this purpose.

Automation

During 1995 the library was attached to Internet with 15 PCs connected to it. Constant maintenance of a computer network goes on. Home page of the library was created in which additional and updated information about current library activities and events are continuously provided. A WWW server was installed in the library, enabling global information search in WWW system. Computer hardware for 38,000 Lt was acquired.

The most important databases serving library users were: ES - database of European Union documents, SUVKAT - database of foreign serials Union Catalogue, SUTART - database of international agreements, BKC - database of analytical bibliographic descriptions. To provide publications with international standard number for books and serials databases are being created: ISBD - for books, ISMN - for musical publications, ISSN - for serials. Subject headings database was converted into UNIMARC/Authorities format. The creation of names file database in UNIMARC/Authorities format is in progress.

The Lithuanian Integral Library Information System (LIBIS) was established officially by a decree of the Minister of Culture (25 September 1995). The formation of LIBIS Board, under the chairmanship of library's director Vladas Bulavas, and the approval of Board's regulations followed.

A public tender for the LIBIS project design was announced on 30 September 1995. It was won by the Kaunas University of Technology Computing Centre group, who has prepared specifications and draft project.

Conservation

The event of the year in the conservation realm was the obtaining and launching into operation a leaf casting machine and mechanical conservation equipment produced in Denmark by Mr. Per Laursen. This fact is of special significance, as such equipment is unique in Lithuania. On this occasion, an appropriate workshop guided by Mr. Laursen was held in October.

The main trend in the collection preservation was the preventive conservation. The work in this direction resulted in cleaning 3.687 linear meters of shelving in the main depository and biological examination of pollution in the Lituanica collection.

Among the proposals submitted to the Lithuanian National Committee of UNESCO was the point of library's future involvement in the "Memory of the World" Programme.

After rather smooth arrangements and intensive preparatory work, a preservation programme which will have a tremendous effect on Lithuanian printed heritage, especially old periodicals, as well as written documents, has materialized. On 7 February 1995 a protocol of agreement between the National Library of Lithuania and the Library of Congress about the joint project of microfilming rare and fragile Lithuanian materials was signed. The Library of Congress agreed to provide the National Library with microfilm cameras, other necessary equipment and supplies for fulfilling the project. The official inauguration took place in May. The project actually covers all Lithuanian serials from the 19th century to the present as well as other valuable publications, including rich Judaica holdings stored at the library. This long-term assignment should solve the question of preserving the above-mentioned materials.

Public Relations

A total of 190 exhibitions were staged at the National Library in 1995. A number of exhibitions were arranged at other Lithuanian public libraries and abroad (in Estonia and Latvia). Performances by a chamber choir, several ensembles and the Christmas concert were among highly rated musical events. Presentations of newly released books enjoyed great popularity with library users and friends. In October, in cooperation with Lithuanian publishers association Knygu Centras, a book fair was launched at the library. It attracted considerable public and media interest.

Berniukas Zirniukas, the library puppet theatre, traditionally remained a highlight of culture activities and the centre of attention especially among children. The theatre who celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1995, gave 39 performances as well as charity concerts to disabled children.

International Cooperation

As limited financing did not allow the purchase to become the main source of foreign acquisition, the Library to a large extent continued to rely on exchanges and donations. The former source, however, was hampered by constant price rising of local publications. Nevertheless, a slight upward tendency in international book exchange is being felt lately.

1995 was the start of actual cooperation with NORDINFO. The National Library, together with other Lithuanian major research libraries, submitted proposals on the NORDINFO support programme. Activities in this area are gaining momentum.

The library participated in the preparation of *Handbuch der historischen Buchbestände* (general editor Prof. Bernhard Fabian of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität, Münster) providing

research materials on historical collections (14th century to the present) in Lithuanian libraries.

In 1995 the National Library became member of FID and EIA.

National Library of Luxembourg

Annual Report 1995

JUL CHRISTOPHORY
Bibliothèque Nationale de Luxembourg

The library in politics

Because of a heightened awareness of the importance of cultural institutions during the year of Luxembourg - Cultural City of Europe - the library occupied all the year over a prominent position.

The project of a new extension for the library at Kirchberg greatly profited from this favourable climate and so made significant progress in 1995.

Special events like Open House Days and prestigious exhibitions underpinned our ambitions to play a more important part in the cultural life of the next decade.

New building

In May 1995 the Government finalised its decision to offer the National Library new storage facilities at Kirchberg, close to the institutions of the European Union and the Higher Institute of Technology.

Beside large storage areas, a new médiathèque and a special reading room for researchers on the European integration are

planned, especially in the context of the projected European Research Library.

We also try to find adequate space there for restoration and book-binding facilities.

Automation and retroconversion projects

The highlight of 1995 was the conclusion of our first retroconversion project with the French firm Jouve. 45.000 new bibliographical records could be added in December to our SIBIL files which were so brought up to 280.000 titles, comprising about 80.000 Luxembourg titles corresponding to 150.000 volumes, newly equipped with bar-codes.

But it did not prove possible in 1995 to start the same operation with our foreign literature holdings which make out more than three quarters of our total collections.

1995 also saw the first experiments with Internet, and the implantation of our local area network. Three more Luxembourg libraries applied for active membership in the shared cataloguing Luxembourg SIBIL network.

The lending operations were fully automated over the last months and are fully operational since March 1996.

Conservation and Preservation

In the way of conservation and preservation no notable progress was made in 1995. We still lack any systematic conservation policy for our ancient collections and just carried on the usual microfilming activities in order to forego any further manipulations of some fragile books, periodicals or newspapers.

Public relations

In the context of the cultural year an unusual record of publications, events and exhibitions could be presented, thanks to special credits available for the occasion.

Among the outstanding exhibitions shown in 1995 - let us mention: The Dreyfus affair, Freemasonry in Luxembourg, Catalonian Literature, Charles Gimpel (a photographer among the Inuit), Luxembourg music sheets and manuscripts books of medicine and pharmacopoeia from the 17th to the 19th centuries, illustrated 16th Century books from the town library of Trèves (with illustrations by Hans and Ambrosius Holbein) etc.

Among the publications let us mention the 50th volume of the Bibliographie luxembourgeoise, covering the year 1994, a new guide of Luxembourg libraries, a new catalogue of Luxembourgish school-books etc.

On November 23, the National Library took an active part in the organization of the Fourth Day of Luxembourg Libraries which ran under the title: Information highways and Luxembourg libraries.

In the autumn quarter, staff members of the National library offered a training course in 'Cataloguing Luxembourgish publications' to the members of the ALBAD (Association des bibliothécaires, archivistes et documentalistes luxembourgeois).

National Library of the Netherlands

Annual report 1995-1996

WIM VAN DRIMMELEN
Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague

The main mission of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek as the national library of the Netherlands is to preserve the national printed and written heritage. Apart from the deposit collection of printed material, the KB has a high level collection of scholarly literature in the humanities and a number of special collections comprising incunabula, medieval and modern manuscripts, early printed books etc. The coverage of the social sciences is less in depth; scientific literature is not actively collected. In 1995 the KB had an estimated 2,200,000 bound volumes.

The Library in Politics

After many internal discussions the strategic plan 1996-1997 was issued in October 1995. The plan contains a description of the KB's tasks and position as a national library which was first set out in a memorandum endorsed in late 1994 by the State Secretary of Education, Culture and Science. For the years to come policy decisions are formulated concerning the innovation of services, the deposit of electronic publications, conservation, collection-based research, the scholarly collections, user-orientation and the promotion of staff expertise.

Discussions with the government on financial problems which arose after the transition to a new regime under the Higher Education and Research Act, continued. Solutions for capital expenditure and building maintenance were agreed upon, but the costs of library personnel are a growing burden. Personnel costs are only partially covered by government funding.

Depository Library

In the absence of a statutory requirement for a depository library in the Netherlands the KB tries to make voluntary arrangements with publishers and other information providers to deposit offline media as well as documents that can be consulted online. On the initiative of the KB the Royal Dutch Publishers Association prepared a set of recommendations for its members concerning the deposit of offline media. With Elsevier Science an agreement was reached on a national depository library license. About 400 scientific journals will be deposited as electronic files and made available for on-site access.

The Library Building

The public rooms were renovated and in part fundamentally altered. The most drastic change concerned the moving of the reading room for the depository library from the ground to the first floor. Plans were made for the construction of a new entrance.

Information Technology and Automation

After a formal EC tender procedure the implementation of a new network-infrastructure has started. The existing 10 Mb Ethernet will be replaced with a new cat 5 UTP cable network for data and speech with 100 Mb capacity. A security policy was

developed concerning both procedures and technological components that will be implemented as part of the network in 1996.

At the end of 1995 80% of the hardware for the central systems was not older than two years. Old hardware, with high maintenance costs, was replaced by new machines.

At the workplace (desktop) level about 30% of the installed base was replaced by new equipment. As a result of a pilot to investigate the effects of a migration from DOS to Windows, about 20% of KB users are now working with Windows.

The retroconversion of the old card catalogue with some 700,000 entries was continued. As part of an employment project extra staff is available to carry out the job.

The KB is developing an Advanced Information Workstation (AIW) which integrates information services, network navigation tools and PC utilities. The first version became operational in April 1996. An important part is a metadatabase containing descriptions of secondary electronic resources. The project is carried out in cooperation with AT&T which brings in its knowledge of existing tools and systems which are used as building blocks for the new workstation.

InfoServices, the network service on behalf of the Dutch academic research network SURFnet, was continued. The expertise of InfoServices is put into the development of Alexicon, the KB network information service (<http://www.konbib.nl>). Discussions have started on the integration of Alexicon in the KB organization and on the relation between Alexicon and the Advanced Information Workstation.

The Dutch Committee for the Innovation of Academic Information Services (IWI) formulated a research plan which will be funded on a fifty fifty matching base by the government as well as the universities and other research institutions, including the KB (NLG 4 million in 1996). The KB submitted proposals for

several projects, for instance a pilot project for the deposit of electronic publications and the indexing of Internet Resources.

Conservation and Preservation Collections

During the past years the KB carried out several investigations on conservation and preservation. The results were used for the development of a scenario for selecting Dutch documents for preservation. The recommendations will be used for a government plan for cultural policy during the years 1997-2000.

In 1996 the KB started the input of data in the Netherlands Register of Microform Masters (NROMM), which will also be a part of the European EROMM database. Moreover, the KB is putting some 45 newspapers on microfilm preceding a national preservation plan.

Public Relations

The KB organized four major exhibitions: Dutch military books 1795-1995, work from Hendrik Werkman illegally printed during World War II, ten years of fine printing in the depository library, and the techniques of Dutch book illustrations in the 19th century. The KB published several bibliographies, catalogues, brochures, reports and periodicals. In 1995 the national bibliography, issued by a commercial publisher, was published on CD-ROM for the first time.

Preparations have started for the celebration of KB's bicentenary in 1998.

International Cooperation

Innovative projects are carried out in close cooperation with other national libraries in Europe under the auspices of the COBRA Forum. The KB participated in the supervising

committee for the NBBI study on the deposit of electronic publications and will be participating in the projects Biblink and Desire. Moreover, the KB contributed to the setting-up of Gabriel - Gateway to Europe's National Libraries. Elsewhere, work progressed on the projects UseMarcon, Mecano and INCIPIT.

In recognition of their common interests and objectives, the British Library and the KB have signed a collaborative agreement in September 1995.

The National Library of Poland

Annual Report 1995-1996

ADAM MANIKOWSKI
Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw

Collections

In 1995 the National Library added to its collections 112,592 new documents. In December 1995 the collections of the National Library totalled 6,841,866 units, including, among others 1,839,375 newer books, 159,381 old prints, 102,800 units of music collections, 71,635 units of cartographic collections, 14,852 sets of manuscripts.

Automation

In 1995 a momentous decision was made for the future of automation of the National Library. The National Library bought the integrated library system INNOPAC of Innovative Interfaces, USA, which will be installed at the National Library in 1996 and 1997. The purchase of the system was possible thanks to the grant of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA, received in 1994. A tender was held for the installation of a computer network in the new building of the National Library. The major investment related to the network will be made in 1996 and financed from the

budget and the Andrew W. Mellon grant. The new building of the National Library will receive a fibreoptic connection.

Thanks to these investments it will be possible to speed up automation of catalogue and library services produced by the National Library and provide access to them over the network to remote users.

Databases

In January 1995 the first CD-ROM was published containing the current national bibliography "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" database 1986-1994 (98,000 records), bought already by 150 libraries and institutions at home and abroad.

In 1995 the work was in progress on automating catalogues of books and periodicals of the National Library, databases of individual parts of the national bibliography, catalogues of special collections and union catalogues. In general the National Library possesses over 500,000 descriptions in electronic format.

For several years now other libraries have been using the National Library databases. The "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (weekly national bibliography) is currently subscribed to by 300 Polish libraries. Only in 1995 70 new libraries subscribed to "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny". Thanks to the offer of the National Library small and medium-size libraries could begin automation of their own catalogues.

Also worthy of mention is the preparation of the database and publication "Bibliography of Serials - New, Ceased and Changed Titles 1985-1994" (to be published in the first half of 1996) and the "Bibliography of Underground Monographs 1976-1994" (work begun in 1993). Also preparations were completed for automation of the "Index to Periodicals", which starting from 1996 will be compiled and available as a database, and also - as heretofore - in hard copy.

Construction of the new National Library building - access to the collections

In 1995 the construction of the new National Library building was continued. The major event was the opening in December 1995 of the new general reading room (296 seats). This gave momentum to further growth of the circulation of the collections. The growth of the use of the National Library collections is characterized by the following figures:

compared to 1994 the number of visits in the reading rooms grew by 66.0% (96,624 visits in 1995), circulation of books and periodicals by 60.0% (373,548 volumes), xerocopying services by 51.2% (257,519 copies). The construction of the new building has not been completed yet. The completion of the final part of the building that will house exhibition halls and conservation workshops is planned for 1996-1997.

Preservation and conservation

In 1995 the National Library organized a conference "Saving and preserving library collections". The conference was preceded by a questionnaire sent to all major Polish libraries, the results of which served as a basis for the preparation of a study depicting the state of preservation of library collections in Poland.

In 1995 the National Library received a grant from the Foundation of Polish-German Cooperation for financing the project of microfilming old prints and periodicals of Polish-German cultural borderland. The grant will serve to provide modern equipment for the Microfilming Unit, and within 5 years a significant part of the collection will be microfilmed. The German partner of the project is the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich.

November 1995 was marked by the official registration of the Association for the Preservation and Conservation of Archival

and Library Collections. Its members include outstanding personalities of Polish science and culture. The idea to establish the Association originated from and developed at the National Library which intends in the coming years to intensify its activities serving preservation of library collections in Poland.

Library legislation

The work was continued, began in the previous years, on the change of library legislation. In 1995 the draft acts on libraries and supply of legal deposit copies were passed to the Parliament and sent for debate and consultation to the appropriate parliamentary committees. The new Act on Libraries will include provisions on the National Library.

*European Research Libraries Cooperation
The LIBER Quarterly, 6 (1996), 298–304*

National Library of Portugal

Annual Report 1995-1996

FRANCISCO BETHENCOURT

Instituto da Biblioteca Nacional e do Livro (IBL), Lisbon

The Library in Politics

The National Library's Political Environment

After the elections of 1 October 1995 the political environment has greatly changed. A Ministry of Culture was created with a short-term strategic planning that included the separation of the National Library from the Institute for the Book and Public Libraries, both organizations recuperating their former independence and institutional role.

A new President for the Institute was appointed in April, Professor Francisco Bethencourt, who will be the Director of the National Library, as soon as it becomes a distinct organization.

At the moment (May 1996) the National Library is committed to prepare the new law which will consolidate the objectives and organizational infrastructure of a renewed national library.

The National Library's Political Role

In terms of political impact, the National Library has the following attributions defined in the organic law of the Ministry of Culture:

- To act as the guardian of the nations collective memory and as the National Bibliographic Agency.
- To promote and ensure the saving of national endangered collections, with an active role in the definition of national priorities for microfilming and digitization procedures.
- To promote the access namely by ensuring the services of inter-library loan.
- To prepare and disseminate technical information to other libraries namely regarding standardization on librarianship and information technology.
- To coordinate the National Union Database - PORBASE.

These guidelines consacrates the political tendencies within the organization which are to act as:

- a National Information Resource Provider cooperating either with the Publishers Association or with other Public Networks like the Public Libraries Network and the University Network.
- National Standards Library, promoting standardization by ensuring the liaison for example to ISO TC46, IFLA UBCIM or ISSN Center.

It clearly identifies the need to promote and ensure better access to the National Library's collections as well as the necessity to proceed towards a National Preservation Plan.

A Strategic Planning Group was created within the National Library to help in the setting up of the objectives and actions to pursue and the organizational model to fulfill them.

As the political role of the National Library is to provide access to its collections, an informal Users Group was created to assist, as a consultative body, in the organization strategic planning.

Legislation

As was stated before, 1996 will be a year of great transformations and a new law is expected for the National Library. The need to review the Legal Deposit Law is considered an urgent priority.

New Building

The project for new storage facilities, functioning next to the National Library building was presented.

During 1996 there will be discussion on the best options for new services, incorporating recent concepts of collection management and access.

Automation, Data Processing, New Products

During 1996 there will be a special project, already approved by the Ministry of Culture for the development of information technology at the National Library. The project will have three phases:

- the acquisition of new equipment, to provide the installation of recent software and to facilitate multimedia access, internal network and Internet services
- the setting of a local area network, in the whole building, in order to complete the access to PORBASE database and to provide the facilities indicated above
- the study and preparation of a tender to acquire a new automation system to host PORBASE.

Concerning data processing, PORBASE is moving rapidly to 1 million records, with over 820.000 bibliographic records and around 160.000 authority records. The annual increase of the database is of about 120.000 records.

The database characteristics show that it is a global database providing information on all subjects but with special emphasis on humanities and social sciences and, as a Union Catalogue, it is a catalogue of catalogues. The National Library is responsible for 60% of the new records, 14% being current processing and 46% of retrospective conversion/cataloguing. The contributing libraries cooperated with 40% of the new created records. The total number of contributing libraries is now 117, with a majority (60%) of libraries from the university sector.

In terms of products, the National Library issued in September 1995 the first CD-ROM of the Portuguese National Bibliography, edited by the National Library and distributed by Chadwick-Healey. It is published on a cumulative basis, twice a year, updated with current and retrospective information.

At the same time, the Directory of the contributing libraries in PORBASE was also published electronically.

Conservation and Preservation of Collections

In this area, the main objectives during 1995/1996 were:

- to raise awareness for the problems of preserving bibliographic collections, through the promotion of the national Campaign - Save a Book;
- to bring specialists to the National Library in order to discuss preservation issues among portuguese professionals. Two conferences were organized in 1995, one with Ms. Angela Lombardo, responsible for the Centro Regionale per la Progettazione e il Restauro of the Regione Siciliana and Ms. Esther Bertoletti, from the National Archive of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil;
- to participate in international initiatives like the ECPA - European Commission on Preservation and Access with relevance for the Leipzig Conference "Choosing to Preserve" to which the National Library contributed with a paper "Competing with the Dinosaurs: Efforts to Preserve the National Cultural Heritage in Portugal".
- to rationalize microfilming policies through national and international cooperation, like the one provided by EROMM - European Register of Microform Masters.

Public Relations

The more relevant event was the commemoration of the 200 anniversary of the National Library, the 29 February 1996. A large exhibition documenting the library's activities through two

centuries was inaugurated and will remain until the end of the year. There is a program of special guided visits mostly for schools.

During 1995 other exhibitions took place:

- Lisbon in the portuguese contemporary fiction: 19th and 20th century
- Portugal, the Second World War and the new trends for Europe
- The first german printers in Portugal: the 5th centenary of "Vita Christi".

A booklet with information on the National Library, in Portuguese and in English, was published at the beginning of the year.

The "Guide of the National Library" is to be issued very soon and will be available for the CENL Conference in September.

International Cooperation

The National Library is a member of international associations such as FID, IFLA, LIBER and ABINIA. It is also a member of other groups such as CERL, ECPA, UDC Consortium and EROMM.

Cooperation in Europe projects has been a special activity within the National Library planning. During 1995/1996, the National Library participated in the Concerted Action CoBRA +, as a follow up of identical membership in the CoBRA Forum, under DG XIII.

The projects from the 2nd Call for proposals in which we were involved - AIDA, INCIPIT and UseMARCON - are at their last phase. Project AUTHOR, issued from CoBRA and project

GABRIEL, issued from CENL, are still in progress and have partnership from the National Library.

Slovak National Library in Matica Slovenska

Annual Report 1995-1996

DANIELA SLIZOVA
Slovak National Library, Martin

Legislation

SNL as an integral part of more comprehensive cultural organization Matica Slovenska was involved in preparation of the new law about Matica Slovenska. Matica Slovenska is a complex organization consisting of various units and even clubs. The present law is not satisfying because it does not determine sufficiently status, responsibilities, relations and financing of the units of Matica Slovenska in the changed situation. Several versions of the proposed new law were elaborated but they are still discussed by parties involved and no one was submitted to the Parliament. However, it seems to be on a good way that SNL will be granted the status of an independent legal body in some type of consortium consisting of present bodies of Matica Slovenska by this new law.

SNL was also involved in the preparation of the new law about libraries and their activities. This law is intended to cover all types of libraries and it was rather difficult to find compromises and solutions acceptable to all, regarding various different, even conflicting interests of libraries involved. However, the librarians

community finally agreed on the acceptable text of the new law, but this law has to be harmonized with the above mentioned law on Matica Slovenska and Slovak National Library. The system of libraries in Slovakia will be affected also by a new law introducing the new territorial and administrative organization of the state and also by a decision of ministry of culture to create regional cultural centres where public libraries would be included, thus loosing their status of legal body.

SNL prepared the proposal of the new law on legal deposit covering also electronic documents. Ministry of culture charged officially SNL with the function of National Methodical Centre for Libraries and SNL cooperates now more closely with the Ministry on Coordination of Libraries.

SNL was one of the organizers of the 1st Slovak Librarians' Congress held in Nitra in May 1996 where participants formulated their Declaration expressing their interests and requirements.

Budget

The budget of SNL for the year 1995 is only slightly higher and it is not sufficient for the needs of the library, especially for the development of new desired programs and projects.

Automation

SNL continued in realization of CASLIN (Czech And Slovak Library Information Network) project we finished the conversion of existing records to UNIMARC and loading the database in ALEPH. There are now 211.000 records in the catalogue available also through Internet (see also Online services in Gabriel).

The CASLIN group accepted the international standards in the project solutions and introduces them. UNIMARC data format, ISBD and AACR 2 are being implemented throughout

the CASLIN project. SNL continued in its care to provide librarians in Slovakia with necessary tools to enable this transition to the new standards by publishing methodical handbooks and organizing trainings and other educational events for librarians. CASLIN agreed on the rules of creating records for the union catalogue.

From May 1996 all documents acquired by SNL are processed in ALEPH. The software tools and interface from ALEPH to DTP system for printing the Slovak National Bibliographies were worked out.

The transition to the upgraded version 3.2.5 of ALEPH is planned for June 1996. This enables access to our OPAC also by graphical user interface client, Z39.50 clients, and WWW browsers. Implementation of circulation module is planned for September and forth the end of the year we want to open our union catalogue.

SNL is running its WWW server on the INTERNET (see also WWW servers on Gabriel).

Installation of a new structured cabling system for its LAN enabling flexible management and development of the network for the future was finished in May. SNL has decided for the solution based on Digital's elements and equipment including optical backbone. Total costs of this project were about than 130.000 ECU and it provides 450 inlets for the network end-user devices like PCs for the whole Matica Slovenska.

SNL was asked by the Ministry of Culture to prepare a Program of electronization of libraries in Slovakia. This should be submitted to the government and after approving the proposed library information network should become a part of the state information system.

Retroconversion

SNL needs to retroconvert about one million cards of its catalogue to UNIMARC records but it has no financial and human resources for such an immense task. SNL also maintain the Slovak research libraries' card catalogue that might be source of some other 3 million records to be retroconverted and loaded to the union catalogue. There were about 37.000 records converted by re-typing up to now. SNL initiates the national program of retroconversion and submitted initial papers of the program to the Ministry of Culture.

Bibliography

National Bibliographic Institute of SNL continued in building the national bibliographic system. It was processing and publishing both current and retrospective Slovak National Bibliography. SNL is going to start publishing the national bibliography on CD-ROM in 1997. The test version of the product is ready and being tested and commented.

Information services

SNL was providing the searches both from classical and computerized information sources. SNL is providing access to INTERNET and information from its sources as well as information services based on CD-ROM. We provide services from 22 databases on CD-ROM. We intend also to install the CD-ROM server in our LAN.

Preservation and conservation

The program of microfilming is running succesfully. SNL intends to become a national centre for microfilming in Slovakia.

It should serve as methodical centre, training centre for determining and evaluating the quality of microfilms, coordinating centre for Slovak libraries cooperating in microfilming. An international cooperative microfilming project was launched that seems to be also commercially successful for SNL.

Preservation & Conservation Department

The department conserved about 13.500 books, mostly from historical fond of SNL. Conservation involves cleaning, disinfection, treatment of binding materials, measurement of acidity (pH) and total evaluation stored then in computer.

The department developed its own small scaled technology for deacidification of documents using neutralization based on no-water Wei To method. However, the capacity of the equipment is only some 1. 500 books a year.

The department is now regularly monitoring the conditions in our stores, like temperature, humidity and some other parameters.

The department is to be involved in programs of education in the area of preservation, conservation and restoration of paper, leather and pergamon.

Public relations

SNL has got a powerful DTP station from the grant of Pew Charitable Trusts and Mellon Foundation to support public relations. SNL also launched the very interesting project of multimedial presentation of the library. The first version was demonstrated in May. The final product will be a CD-ROM with Internet links.

International cooperation

Traditionally, SNL has most developed cooperation with the Czech National Library in Prague. At present both libraries are involved together in the international CASLIN project and cooperate very closely.

SNL cooperates also with the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität in Münster in the preparation of a catalogue of German documents on the territory of Slovakia guaranteed by the Volkswagen Foundation. This project is just being finished.

SNL has got a grant of 130.000 DM from the Deutsches Bibliotheksinstitut for the purchase of foreign documents including CD-ROMs.

SNL has about 700 exchange partners all over the world.

National and University Library of Slovenia

Annual Report 1995

VILENKA JAKAC-BIZJAK

Narodna in Univerzitetna, Ljubljana

The National and University Library (NUL) was established in 1774. The Library acts as a Slovenian national library and the main library of the University of Ljubljana. The library's collections comprise some 2,3 million volumes of printed books and periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, incunabulas, cartographic and pictorial items, music scores, governmental and official publications, etc.

Financial support for National and University Library is provided mainly by the Ministry of Culture. The gross expenditure in 1995 was 551 million SIT (4,011.065 \$).

Due to amended legislation in the higher education area and the new University Act the NUL can no longer be member of the University. Therefore, the University wishes to establish a new university library. On the other hand, a split of NUL into a national and university division has also been put forward. NUL has succeeded in convincing the University that this split would be highly irrational and all the more complicated to be carried out. According to the new model, which is being drafted within several working groups, NUL will probably continue to perform the university library function, but it will not be the main university library anymore.

Legislation

Extra demands regarding the main university library and the status of school libraries, laid by the University and the Ministry of Education, led to a six-month standstill in drafting the new Library Act. However, the work has resumed and the Act will bring about some novelties, concerning mainly involvement of computer and information centres in the library and information system, together with a modified method of financing the public libraries system.

National and University Library has provided to the Ministry of Culture a draft of the New Legal Deposit Act, which has been taken in consideration. The Act will probably impose a radical change in the number of copies to be deposited (5 copies instead of 16). It will also postulate ways of acquisition and conservation of publications in electronic form.

New building

The delay in construction of the new (additional) library building is to recur. Although the Act on NUL II was passed in 1994, this year the Government allocated only 470 million SIT (3,421.416 \$) for the preparation phase (1,3 billion expected). This amount is far from sufficient to start excavation works and to protect the building site. It is now evident that the building will not be completed in 1999, as initially planned. Problems related to public and storage areas are growing. NUL has been forced to hire another, the sixth additional storage place. At the same time, restoration works of the present building (considered to be a monument of national importance) are taking place.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion

National and University Library contributed 39.565 records to the COBIB national union catalogue. The annual increase of inputs in the local database (reaching the total number of 299.000) is 49.000 records of all types. The Slovenian National Bibliography within COBIB database was updated with 4.568 monographs records, 246 new serials titles and 27.569 articles.

In October 1995, NUL released the Slovenian National Bibliography on CD-ROM, listing monograph records 1989-94. CD-ROM will be updated semiannually.

As to our retroconversion projects of various card catalogues some 140,000 records (out of 500,000) have been transferred to electronic media, covering articles published between 1796 and 1945. Records will be included into COBIB union database. Catalogue cards, covering monographs published until 1945, are also being scanned (35,000 so far out of 95,000).

A CD-ROM server has been put into operation. It makes it possible for the University campus to access 40 databases on CD-ROMs, which have all been networked.

The Library has been heavily involved in continuing education of librarians from Slovenia, offering mainly cataloguing and online searching courses within the COBISS/COBIB system. 392 library professionals took part in various education schemes.

Conservation and preservation of the collections

The Ministry of Culture allocated special funds for preservation, conservation and microfilm purposes (8 million SIT=57.824\$). Through a special action Adopt a Book, aimed at sponsors, we have acquired additional 5,792.000 SIT (= 41.864 \$). Thus we were able to microfilm 6 older Slovenian newspapers and current volumes of two most important dailies. Altogether, some 240,000 shots have been made.

The Preservation Department (number of staff: 4) restored 33 books.

Public relations

National and University Library has signed a contract with the agency dealing with public relations to promote the Adapt a Book project.

The Library prepared 6 exhibitions. Two of them celebrated the centenary of birth of two important Slovenians in the field of culture. Exhibition catalogues and monographs were also prepared. A CD-ROM, bringing some 100 photographs, taken immediately after the earthquake, was published in the centenary year of Ljubljana earthquake, which devastated the city.

To make the public aware of the problems NUL is faced with, we decided to mark the 50th anniversary of the Library's formal promotion into NUL. A special Festschrift was published and several press conferences were successfully organised.

International co-operation

- National and University Library organised the international annual meeting of directors of national ISSN centres. 39 directors from 29 countries participated;
- International summer school "Libraries in the World of Electronic Media" was also organised. It was chaired by Mr. Maurice Line and Mr. John Eyre from the United Kingdom. 33 library professionals from 6 countries took part;
- A weekly seminar was organised for librarians from Bosnia and Hercegovina, sponsored by UNESCO;

- In October 1995, the Restoration Department organised a seminar on the use of leaf casting machine, which was chaired by Mr. Helmut Bansa from Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, as a part of the Bavarian Week;
- An exhibition of German research and prints on Slovenia and its people was prepared by the Südostdeutsches Kulturwerk and Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, and exposed in NUL;
- Exchange of library professionals with Narodni knihovna (Prague) continues.

National Library of Spain

Annual Report 1995

CARLOS ORTEGA
Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid

The Biblioteca Nacional collects since its foundation in the year 1712 the books published in Spain. Today the collection gathers more than six million items.

The library in politics

During 1995 two political aspects had influence on the Biblioteca Nacional. First, in Spain new elections took place in the Autonomías, that do not affect State ruled institutions like the Biblioteca Nacional.

Despite this, there is a growing interest among the Autonomías to put together in regional institutions the cultural heritage related to their culture, language or feeling. In this respect the Biblioteca Nacional has been requested by small cultural associations to transfer documents that they consider symbols of their identity.

Second, due to the Maastrich agreement, Spain has to restrict its expenses and all main public institutions had cuts in their budgets. The budget of the Biblioteca Nacional was cut from 4.300.000.000 ptas. to 3.400.000.000 ptas. This fact affected every activity of the Biblioteca Nacional, including the staff, as it is impossible to cover vacant positions.

Legislation

In 1994, a new legal deposit law was proposed. The prevailing legal deposit law is that of 20.02.73, and since 1973, publishers have increased their production extraordinarily, certain types of documents that are included in the law have proved to be of a very time consuming process like posters or calendars with practically no demand. At the same time new documents, like electronic documents have started to circulate, and are not included in the legal deposit law.

During 1994 and 1995 the new law was discussed, but with no final agreement between publishers and libraries, so it has not been adopted, and will be discussed in future sessions.

Main building/construction problems

In recent years the Biblioteca Nacional has kept its collections and has offered its services in three buildings: the main building in Paseo de Recoletos; Palacio de Perales, where the Periodicals were kept and the new stacks in Alcalá de Henares.

Palacio de Perales is an XVIIIth century building that needs at least 60 people to be maintained, with small stacks, and would need a large budget to be remodelled.

To reduce expenses and offer better service, Palacio de Perales was closed and most of the collections of periodicals were moved to the stacks in Alcalá and new reading rooms for periodicals were opened in the main building in Recoletos.

This has meant that the Recoletos building had to be remodeled in its South-East angle.

In the bottom floor, 2.000 m² were dedicated to the new Book Museum. A new Conference room was also inaugurated in Christmas, and has a very sophisticated audiovisual equipment.

The North and the South roof were retiled.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion of already processed data

Due to the increasing demand of information by the clients, and the volume of information of the bibliographic database of the Biblioteca Nacional, ARIADNA, new memory had to be added to the database. This meant an investment of 180.000.000 ptas.

ARIADNA permits on-line cataloguing of modern and rare books, periodicals, maps, printed music, recorded sound and manuscripts.

This year 57.392 new bibliographic items were catalogued on-line, which means a total of 120.541 holdings.

In spite of the severe cuts in the general budget, 40.000 bibliographic descriptions were reconverted and another 237.522 items reconverted during previous years were loaded in ARIADNA.

By the end of the year, 636.684 bibliographic records could be consulted in ARIADNA as well as 1.496.078 authority records.

Conservation and preservation of the collections

In the Biblioteca Nacional conservation, preservation and reprography are part of the same department. During the year 1.084 drawings and engravings were restaured, as well as 65 maps, 33 books, 27 periodicals 562 manuscripts, 13 scores and 50 bindings.

Although systematic binding of the collections is contracted with several private enterprises, artistic binding is done in the Biblioteca Nacional, and this year 500 bindings were concluded.

Since 1992 there is a systematic plan of microfilming rare books, manuscripts and periodicals. Last year 1.381 volumes of periodicals were microfilmed, which means 600.000 stills.

The demand of photographs or microfilms by the public that come to the Library implies that another 2.000.000 photogrammes were made.

To preserve the most rare and demanded documents, a project for digitizing was presented and named "Memoria Hispánica".

It will include manuscripts, rare books, engravings, drawings, recorded music, photographs, etc. and will illustrate every aspect of the history of Spain (social sciences, humanities, science and technique).

Public relations

The inauguration of the Book Museum in October has been a very important fact, because it has permitted that students, tourists, and other visitors are able to see the most precious books, engravings, drawings, etc. of the Biblioteca Nacional.

The Book Museum has direct access from the street through the ground floor, opposite to the Exhibition room.

In three months, 35.000 people have visited the Museum, and think it is an excellent idea to have created the first large Book Museum in Spain.

Apart from the visitors of the Book Museum, other 925 people visited the Biblioteca Nacional, arranged in 60 groups.

Public relations are performed mainly by the Gabinete de Difusión through exhibitions, conferences, round tables, book presentations, homages and seminars.

In 1995 two large exhibitions were organized: Fortuny, on the Spanish saga of painters of that name, and Memoria de la Escritura: Manuscritos literarios de la Biblioteca Nacional. Del poema del Mío Cid a Rafael Alberti.

Two other small exhibitions were installed in the entrance of Book Museum on Bergamín Editor and Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz.

This year two new series of conferences started; one on the libraries of Spanish contemporary writers, where they comment their favourite books, and the other to which the most well known writers of the World are invited to come.

International cooperation

International cooperation is oriented mainly to America and Europe.

In North America two agreements of collaboration were signed oriented to the exchange of bibliographic records; one with the Research Libraries Group, and the second with The Library of Congress.

As regards South America, the Biblioteca Nacional is member of the Asociación de Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica (ABINIA), and in 1995 the Union catalogue of rare books, "Novum regestrum" containing approximately 150.000 bibliographic records was published on CD-ROM.

This union catalogue will be increased in number of records due to the agreement of collaboration signed with the Biblioteca Nacional de Chile.

In Europe, collaboration is focused in the development of projects of the European Commission. The Biblioteca Nacional participates in the organizations/projects: "Consortium of European Research Librarians", "Author", "Chase", "Edilibe", "Ksyserror", "Biblink".

During 1995, seven librarians from ABINIA followed an internship in the Biblioteca Nacional.

Swiss National Library

Annual Report 1995-1996

JEAN-FREDERIC JAUSLIN
Schweizerische Landesbibliothek, Bern

The Swiss National Library in politics

1995 was a very important year for the Swiss National Library (SNL): we celebrated its centenary. Many events were organised, including the CENL meeting in Bern in September 1995 which was one of the high points of the festivities.

During this period, we started our fourth year of reorganisation. At the beginning of 1996, we decided to split our ten main projects into smaller projects in order to have a better view of our activities and a better control of our planning.

In April 1996, the Federal Council (the Swiss government) decided to start a new project for the federal administration to which the SNL belongs. It is intended to introduce New Public Management (NPM) techniques for a number of offices as soon as possible. Already two institutions (Meteorology and Topography) have been chosen and will receive a mandate and a global budget in 1997. Ten to fifteen other institutions will be chosen to start under this new basis at the beginning of 1998. The SNL is preparing a concept formulating the advantages of these new opportunities. As a negative consequence, the Federal Council requires that we reduce the budget by 5% the first year

and by another 5% after four years. We are now evaluating the possibilities to increase our income (representing today 0,04 % of our budget!) to compensate this penalty.

Legislation

A new law for the SNL was introduced in 1993. We are now preparing the "application regulations" giving the details of our way of working. They should be accepted by the Federal Council before the end of 1996.

Building

Work has continued on the construction of underground stacks, which was begun in March 1994. A hole 30 metres deep has been excavated for the planned 70 km of shelving. Excavation was completed in summer 1995, and the first layer of concrete was laid on September 7 1995. The building (7 floors) should be ready in time (summer 1996) enabling us to move our current collections during Spring 1997.

The second phase of construction which aims to adapt our current facilities has been defined and transmitted to the Parliament. A final decision should be taken by the end of 1996. The work could then begin in autumn 1997. The work, costing an estimated sfrs. 35 million, should last three years, i.e. until the middle of the year 2000. All the SNL staff will be disrupted during this time. We plan to keep a maximum of activities and services available to our public, but it is inevitable that there be much inconvenience to all concerned, both staff and users.

Automation, data processing, retroconversion

The first phase of our data conversion is over. The Author file (from the beginning of our collections, say 1848, until today,

around 1,100,000 records) has now been converted. During the first months of 1996 we had to merge the new production (around 90,000 items) entered since October 1993, data of the introduction of our cataloguing system, with the converted data. Substantial efforts to clean up the data were necessary after the merge of the two databases in order to offer a correct access to the end-user.

We intend to introduce further modules of our automation system VTLS by the end of 1996. Two main projects are planned:

First of all, we have to migrate the Swiss Union Catalogue of Periodicals, running at present on the SIBIL system, to VTLS before the end of 1996 because the system in Lausanne should be stopped by that date.

Furthermore, we plan to introduce a fully automated circulation system in order to maintain a good level of services during the transformation of the main building. We will then offer possibilities to the end-users to get their documentation without having to come to the SNL building.

Conservation, Preservation

We have continued our tests of mass deacidification in co-operation with the Swiss Federal Archives. Our most recent tests have been definitively accepted. The equipment we plan to use (same supplier as the Deutsche Bibliothek) will be managed by a private company. However, financial restrictions mean that we do not expect to have an operational system before the end of 1998.

In the audiovisual field, our awareness campaign entitled "A country is losing its memory" has continued. An association composed of institutions which are involved in audiovisual conservation has been formed on December 1, 1995. The founders of this association, called MEMORIAV, are the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation, the National Sound Archives, the Swiss Film Archives, the Federal Office for Communications, the Federal Archives and the SNL. The aim of this association is to

create a network of skills in the country in order to improve the dramatic situation we know today, losing every day an immense amount of important material. Unfortunately, the difficulties we have with the federal budget prevent us from obtaining sufficient resources to solve this severe problem.

Public relations

Numerous exhibitions and events have taken place at the SNL during the centenary year. Our printed annual report gives more details about these events.

Co-operation on the national level

After an unenthusiastic reaction of the Swiss German university libraries to our national network project, most of them are reconsidering their position and are now ready to co-operate. Perspectives of important changes are taking place at the library of the Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich. The possible decision to stop developing their own system and to acquire a commercial solution may provide us with new possibilities to co-operate.

In parallel, we are still working on a first step of sharing data. The two largest library networks in the country have agreed to co-operate with the Swiss National Library to create a CD-ROM using data from these different sources. This product, made with the help of the British Library and a commercial company, should be ready by the end of 1996.

In addition, the Swiss Library Association has started a project which aims to re-evaluate the principles on which cataloguing and indexing are based. The first results from this working group, in which the SNL is taking an active part, should be known before the end of the year.

Co-operation on the international level

The Swiss National Library has remained active in COBRA.

A very important step was made in 1995 by signing an agreement with RLG, California. The SNL is now member of the group and exchanges data with it. The other libraries of the country are taking advantage of this membership since they can receive most of the RLG's services via the SNL.

We are taking an active part in the EU project CANAL/LS. As part of the project, we have carried out a study on multilingual requirements of library users in co-operation with the Cantonal and University Library of Fribourg.

We are improving our ISSN centre for Switzerland located at the SNL. We maintain regular contacts with the ISSN centre in Paris.

Turkish National Library

Annual Report 1995

ALTINAY SERNIKLI

Milli Kütüphane Başkanlığı, Ankara

Introduction

The National Library, the initial establishment phase of which was realized in 1946, was eventually founded formally through a law enacted on 23.03.1950, with the purpose of gathering, making available for service and preserving in order to transfer to the future generations all kinds of materials published in Turkey along with all kinds of materials on and about Turkey and Turks that are printed abroad, and also with the purpose of playing a leadership role in the area of librarianship; later the Institute of Bibliography, with the purpose of ensuring bibliographic control, within its structure was established through a law amendment dated 18.05.1955.

The library in politics

Even though the political changes in Turkey are not directly reflected on the Turkish National Library (TNL), the Library is unavoidably affected by these changes especially on subjects pertaining to the budget and personnel recruitment.

The attempts to minimize such restraints and to provide the TNL with a more autonomous administrative structure/status having its own revolving fund, initiated in the previous years are still continuing. However, it must be stated here that no political change has ever influenced the fundamental policies of the TNL in achieving its functions like collection development and user services, especially in terms of their content.

Legislation

There is a need for legal amendments in order that the TNL, which gained legal identity by the "Establishment Law of the National Library" dated 1950 and became the first Turkish library founded by law, can keep up with the scientific and technological developments. Besides, as the said law is unable to answer the present needs, work is under way to update this law in order to enable the National Library to perform its present and future services.

The Legal Deposit Act is also very important for the TNL in order to achieve bibliographic control and collection development. The studies on extending the context (to include new types of material) and increasing the enforcing power of "The Legal Deposit Act on Printed Material" dated 1934 is still continuing.

New building

Except for the shortage of space faced in the provision of new services, there are not any constructional problems in the new building into which the TNL was moved in 1983. Since the TNL building has a modular design, it is possible to enlarge the main building by adding new modules, when the need arises for new space. For example, the construction of new modules which will

serve as the Printing House, Data Processing Unit and Culture Center are under consideration.

However, the conveyor band system set up during the construction is not functioning today, because of the production of the old technology. It is planned to set up a modern system which will facilitate material circulation, especially in user services.

Automation

Previously, the TNL, operating on a limited budget, was trying to render traditional library services for researchers. But after it moved to the new building, it launched and planned various projects in order to catch up with other modern libraries and, ensuring national and international standardization and cooperation, to become the "center of a national information network". The automation project has a priority among these projects.

The TNL started work in 1987 on a modern computer-based information system on a national and international basis. The system installed, which is based on a thorough feasibility, systems analysis and design study, uses a Digital VAX 6610, which has a speed and capacity that are among the highest in use in Turkey. The main memory is 128Mb. and the disc memory is 10 GB which can be increased to 10 TB if required. There are 56 terminals, 21 Macintoshes and 75 PCs. All the Library hardware and software is integrated to the main system. The system can be upgraded within its configuration and is modular and the services to be offered in the future can easily be introduced.

The ALEPH Program (Automated Library Expandable Program of the Hebrew University) which was installed on the system is a well-known software program used in the libraries and data centers alike. This program is in use in more than 150 libraries and information centres around the world. It can be tailored to various types of materials such as books, periodicals,

maps, stamps, microfiches, etc.. The software consists of modules for various library services such as OPAC, cataloguing, circulation, periodicals control, acquisition, etc.

In order to increase the performance of the system and to be able to use more practical options of search, it was decided in 1996 that version 3.2-5 of ALEPH to be procured. The trial and transfer procedures of the new system are being implemented.

Until now, descriptive information about more than 500,000 books, periodicals as well as posters, stamps, and non-book materials have been converted into computer media using by AACR2 ed. 1988 revision and MARC formats. Retrospective conversion is being carried out through current projects. In 1996, 200,000 more records will be converted into the computer. At the same time, the barcoding activities of user cards and library materials are under way.

a) CD-ROM facilities: The TNL offers CD-ROM services to users. The TNL has a CD-ROM collection consisting of Bookbank, ERIC, the Oxford Dictionary, PC-SIG, Sociofile, Medline, International Statistical Yearbook on CD-ROM, Newspaper Abstracts on Disc and Environmental Library which is continually up-dated.

b) Information Networks: The library assists its users to obtain access to the world's information within the shortest possible time by securing connections to the INTERNET through X29 (Turkey Packet Switching Data Network) and a lease line.

In consequence, the National Library Network, which has access to the TNL database, also has access through the INTERNET to national and other research libraries abroad and the leading hosts such as DataStar, BRS and STN.

c) OPAC: Access to the TNL data base which contain the bibliographic records of the library collection is possible via dial-up, TURPAK and INTERNET. Access to the TNL database was made available for public use with an opening ceremony on October 18, 1993, by using the terminals located inside TNL or by

establishing links with the TNL computer system from outside. Web and Gopher pages have been designed and are being updated in order to access the National Library through the Internet.

The National Library, as part of its responsibilities is publishing the Turkish Bibliography and the Bibliography of Articles in Turkish Periodicals, and by means of use of computers since 1989. However, as the hardware and software which were procured in 1989 became inadequate in terms of answering the present needs, both physically sufficient new hardware was procured and a new software had been prepared.

A fully equipped computerized Printing House using off-set printing techniques has also established under the TNL. The Printing House prints bibliographies and catalogues, and various publications prepared in the TNL and publications reflecting the TNL along with those of the Ministry of Culture. Its has the capacity and potential to print newspapers, magazines, books, booklets, posters, forms of any size and design.

Conservation and preservation

One of the projects which the TNL will give priority is the conservation and preservation of the collection. The TNL collection of manuscripts, rare books and periodicals are given priority in the work to be held in this context. The project has two stages. In the first stage, the collection of manuscripts, rare books and periodicals will be converted to optical media. This way, the collection will be preserved and made available for the use of present and future generations. And the collection would be simultaneously accessible for users inside and outside the Library. However, as the transfer of the manuscripts, rare books and journals into microfilm has priority, the activities in this venue are being carried out.

The plans for the second stage is to set up a Pathological Laboratory. The TNL has a very valuable collection of manuscripts and rare books, currently about 20,000 volumes and developed on a continual basis. Most of these books, some of which have an extremely high artistic value and are unique copies on a world scale, are quite worn out and need to be restored immediately. The work on setting up a laboratory where these books may be preserved and restored to their original condition as much as possible and training abroad of personnel to be employed in this laboratory is started.

Public relations

The TNL, pays great importance to the human factor (users), as well as scientific and technical matters. In this context, public relations activities in the TNL is conducted by the Department of Public Relations under the supervision of the Presidency. The main objective of the department is to ensure communication between the administration and the users; to provide guidance to users about the ways of using the library; to organize and supervise cultural activities like exhibitions and conferences by establishing contacts with organizations which would like to make use of the TNL facilities.

The goals, functions and activities of the TNL are promoted by publications about the TNL or by organizing exhibitions in the scientific, cultural or artistic events on a national and international scale.

International cooperation

The TNL is making great efforts toward establishing international cooperation to achieve 'universal sharing of knowledge'. In spite of the fact that it has a short history of 50

years, with the help of the ongoing projects, it is taking great steps toward catching up with other national libraries.

The TNL activities pertaining to international cooperation are conducted by the International Relations Department, under the supervision of the Presidency.

As of 1995-96, the cultural exchange programs on the mutual exchange of publications, information and professional librarians have been signed with 30 countries. Again, during this period, contacts with 623 libraries, information centers, public and private organizations in 80 countries were established. The countries which are contacted most frequently about the exchange of materials such as books, photocopies and microfilms are the following: USA, England, France, Germany, Italy and Netherlands.

Further more much closer relations with Central Asia Turkic Republics that have just won their independences are established. These are descent from the cultural exchange programmes based on the principles of mutuallity where carried out with the other countries.

The TNL is a long standing member of international organizations like IFLA, FID, COMLIS, CDNL and CENL.

In this respect, an international symposium will be organised on 19-21 June 1996 within the activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Library.

The National Library has undertook to assist on the reconstruction of the collection within the project launched by the UNESCO to rebuild the National and the University Library of Bosnia-Herzegovina, was destructed by Serbians in 1992. These activities are still continuing.

*European Research Libraries Cooperation
The LIBER Quarterly, 6 (1996), 333–337*

The British Library

Annual Report 1995-1996

BRIAN LANG
The British Library, London

Introduction

Throughout 1995/96 the British Library has continued to consolidate its position as a world leader in library services by continuing to make the Library's services and collection more widely known and available. The Library has continued to seek opportunities for closer working relationships with the higher education and commercial sectors and with other libraries. Demand for the Library's services has continued to increase both in terms of document and record supply, and some significant additions to the collection have been made. Towards the end of the year, the Library's excellent record has been overshadowed by a substantial budget cut.

Grant-in-Aid

The Library's budget for 1996/97 and planning figures for 1997/98 - 1998/99 represent a substantial shortfall on the levels of Grant-in-Aid funding that the Library had been seeking; for example the budget for occupying, running and operating the new

St Pancras building was reduced to 65% of the funding level that the Library had been seeking.

In planning for the next four years, the Library has assigned top priority to achieving a successful opening of St Pancras. The Library has also sought to protect future investment in a limited number of critical corporate developments such as a new current awareness and document supply service (DiSCover), in the Corporate Bibliographic Programme, in 'digital library' developments, and growth in storage capacity will continue. However, significant cuts in acquisitions funding approximating some £3 million per annum have been required, and these have been targeted principally at cancelling duplicate overseas journal tiles and reducing expenditure on heritage items. The Library's annual budget for conservation has been reduced by £1 million and cuts have also been made in IT expenditure, research grants, and in service provision from the National Sound Archive and Oriental and India Office Collections. In addition, Government pay policy has capped Grant-in-Aid funded salary expenditure at last year's cash level: a reduction of some 200 posts will be required over the planning period. The majority of these posts will be lost through natural wastage, but a senior management restructuring exercise to be undertaken in parallel will reduce staffing at these levels by 20% and some 20 voluntary redundancies will be required over the next year.

New building at St Pancras

Considerable progress was made towards completion of the new building and the Library now has much greater confidence and certainty about its handover. Handover of the completed building remains, as scheduled, the beginning of 1997. Book moves into the new building are scheduled to commence in November 1996 and the opening of the first reading room to general humanities readers will take place a year later.

Legislation

An internal working party has continued to develop the Library's plans for the legal deposit of non-book materials. In January, a proposal was submitted to the Department of National Heritage seeking new legislation to enforce the comprehensive legal deposit of publications in non-print form which are not covered by the current UK legislation. It is hoped that the proposed legislation may be carried within the lifetime of the current Parliament.

Acquisitions and Exhibitions

The Library bought three important heritage acquisitions - the archive of the 17th century diarist John Evelyn, the Lansdowne Papers and the Clive Papers. The Library also received as a donation from the Delius Trust its collection of autograph scores of the composer, Frederick Delius. The Library purchased the Curzon Papers which had been deposited on indefinite loan between 1962 and 1977, the best known and most heavily-used of the private collections held by the British Library. During the year, the Library was able to continue its policy of maintaining a programme of high-profile exhibitions such as *The Glory of the Temple and the Stage; Henry Purcell, 1659-1695* and *The Earth and the Heavens; the Art of the Mapmaker*.

Automation and data processing

The Library's Information Systems Strategy was published at the end of 1995. The programme of retrospective catalogue conversions continued. Work continued on the Maps Library conversion and the India Office and Library Records European Books catalogue. Feasibility studies were undertaken into the conversion of Manuscripts and Science Reference & Information

Service retrospective catalogues. The conversion of the Newspaper Library printed catalogue was completed. During the year, over one million user transactions were recorded on Portico, the Library's World Wide Web server. Portico includes text, sound and images relating to the Library's treasures and an interactive 'virtual tour' of the new Library building at St Pancras. At the end of the period under review the Library announced the availability of its BLAISE-LINE service on the World Wide Web.

Public Relations

The Library's public relations objective has been to widen the public's perception of the work of the national library. This has been supported by explaining more fully the Library's support for business and industry, the professionalism of its staff and its ability to develop and use new technology.

The British Library's World Wide Web pages on the Internet, Portico, contains information about the Library and images from the collection. Such famous items as Magna Carta and the electronic version of the manuscript of Beowulf are available to internet users anywhere in the world. One of the Library's greatest treasures, the only complete extant copy of the 1526 William Tyndale translation of the New Testament, is to form the centrepiece of a travelling exhibition in the USA beginning this autumn.

International Co-operation

The British Library has continued to forge relations with other National Libraries. Dr Lang and Dr van Drimmelen, the Chief Executive of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, signed a collaborative agreement formalising and strengthening an already close relationship. Specific goals of the agreement included: widening of access to the two libraries catalogues and collections; shared

responses to the opportunities created by information technology; participation in European and International projects and the development of state of the art networked services. The agreement was the first of its kind between the British Library and one of its European counterparts, but was indicative of the developments made this year to pursue international cooperation, culminating in the Chief Executives participation in the World Library Leaders Summit held in New York in April 1996. The Library continues to participate in a number of EU-funded projects including BIBLINK, KSYSEERROR, UseMARCon, UNIverse, Paragon, and INCIPIT.

The Library also continues to manage the CoBRA - programme. The initial CoBRA contract expired in March 1996 and to date several feasibility studies and research reports have been commissioned and two small-scale projects are under way. Of particular interest to the Library was a wide-ranging study followed up by a workshop on the implications for national libraries of the legal deposit of electronic documents. Other studies included a detailed exposition of models for national bibliographic services. Two projects will deliver prototypes on the application of new character set standards and the linking of national authority files.

The Library and the European Commission have negotiated a new contract for CoBRA which will run for a further two years from May 1996. The new initiative called CoBRA+ will build upon and extend the work of CoBRA beyond bibliographic considerations to explore the issues for national libraries in the legal deposit, access and archiving of electronic publications and digital resources.

Lectio divina, adieu

Geisteswissenschaften im Internet: Letzte Fragen behandeln wir unter alt.atheism.moderated

PHILIPP W. ROSEMANN*

Die Geisteswissenschaften haben das Internet erst in den letzten zwei oder drei Jahren für sich entdeckt. Sehr beliebt sind vor allem in Amerika die "Mailing Lists", eine etwas erweiterte Form, das E-Mail zu nutzen. Allein im Bereich der Philosophie gibt es "Mailing Lists" zu Hunderten von Sachgebieten, die Dey Alexander in ihrem neuen Handbuch *Philosophy in Cyberspace. A Guide to Philosophy-Related Resources on the Internet* (Philosophy Documentation Center, Bowling Green, Ohio 1996) zusammen mit weiteren Information sorgfältig mit ihren dazugehörigen Internet-Adressen zusammengestellt hat.

Um Mitglied einer "Mailing List" zu werden, muß der Internet-Benutzer zunächst nur seine eigene elektronische Adresse einer Zentralstelle bekanntgeben. Wer sich zum Beispiel für Heidegger interessiert, sendet seine Adresse in einem bestimmten Format an "majordomo@lists.village.virginia.edu". Die Zentrale übernimmt die Aufgabe, sämtliche zu einem Thema eingehende Post an die Subskribenten zur Kommentierung

* This article is reproduced with kind permission from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* where it was published on 10 April 1996, p. N6.

weiterzuleiten. So entsteht für Anhänger des Surrealistischen eine elektronische Diskussion mit unbekannten Partnern. Die Qualität der Diskussionsbeiträge unterliegt gemeinhin keiner Kontrolle durch die Zentrale. In "Newsgroups" finden ähnliche Diskussionen statt, jedoch ohne die komplizierte Einsendung und Verteilung der Beiträge über E-Mail; es ist möglich, sich auf dem Bildschirm unmittelbar in eine fortlaufende Debatte einzuschalten, etwa unter "alt.atheism.moderated" über Atheismus oder unter "sci.logic" über Logik.

Mit Stellenanzeigen

Sind die "Mailing Lists" und "Newsgroups" wohl zur Zeit noch als Spielerei einzustufen, so ist die ständig fortschreitende Vernetzung der Bibliothekskataloge schon weitaus nützlicher. In Belgien ist die Zusammenfassung der Kataloge aller wissenschaftlicher Institutionen des Landes in dem über Telnet laufenden "Libis"-Katalog fast abgeschlossen. Der Benutzer kann so selbst feststellen, ob ein Buch oder eine Zeitschrift in einer anderen Institution vorhanden ist, und sich die benötigte Publikation dort selbst beschaffen oder über die Fernleihe bestellen. In Deutschland basiert das Fernleih-System immer noch auf dem komplizierten Umlauf der Bestellkarte durch sämtliche Landeskataloge. Große Bibliotheken und Bibliothekssysteme wie etwa die Library of Congress in Washington (Telnet: "locis.loc.gov") stellen ihre Kataloge Forschern in aller Welt kostenlos zur Konsultation zur Verfügung, was früher oft sehr umständliche bibliographische Recherchen erheblich erleichtert. Diese sind jetzt vom eigenen Schreibtisch aus möglich.

Praktisch ist es auch, die Kataloge führender Verlage oder großer Buchhandlungen über das Internet einzusehen, auf diese Weise neue Literatur zu entdecken und mit Hilfe einer Kreditkartennummer sogar gleich bestellen zu können. Routledge in London stellt mit seinem "Philosophy Resource Centre"

(<http://www.routledge.com/rcenters/philres/rprcmain.html>) darüber hinaus einen guten Ausgangspunkt für weitere philosophische Expeditionen in das Internet dar.

Publikationen geisteswissenschaftlicher Literatur im Internet sind noch rar. Aus dem Bereich der Philosophie ist die elektronische Zeitschrift *Postmodern Culture* (<http://jefferson.village.virginia.edu/pmc/>) erwähnenswert, vor allem, weil die Publikation durch die Oxford University Press ihr einen gewissen Qualitätsstandard garantiert. Da jedermann im Internet Informationen anbieten kann, ohne seine Texte durch Gutachter und Lektorate prüfen lassen zu müssen, ist dies nicht selbstverständlich. Die Ausgabe von Januar 1996 bietet unter anderem einen Artikel von Mikhail Epstein zum Problem der Dialektik von Moderne und Postmoderne in der russischen Politik und Kultur des zwanzigsten Jahrhunderts. Der Autor argumentiert, daß das kommunistische Projekt einer Moderne der Superlative, angestrebt zum Beispiel durch die Schaffung eines absoluten Sozialstaates, von vornherein nur zur Errichtung einer Pseudo-Wirklichkeit haben können, deren Entlarvung auch in Rußland einen postmodernen Realitätsverlust hervorgebracht habe. Die Postmoderne als Kultur des "Pseudo"-Reellen sei überhaupt das logische Resultat der modernen Kultur des "Super"-Reellen.

Unter den Publikationen verdient - "primum vivere, deinde philosophari" - auch die Internet-Version der Stellenanzeigen aus dem "Times Higher Education Supplement" Aufmerksamkeit (<http://thesis.newsint.co.uk/>). Hier findet man einen exzellenten Überblick über den philosophischen Stellenmarkt in Großbritannien, Irland und dem Commonwealth. Eine elektronische Suchhilfe gestattet es, über Stichwörter nur diejenigen Anzeigen anzuschauen, die das eigene Interessengebiet relevant betreffen.

Überhaupt sollte man sich der verschiedenen "Search Engines" (wie Excite oder Lycos) bedienen. Dies sind Suchhilfen, die es gestatten, das gesamte World Wide Web oder Teile davon

nach bestimmten Stichwörtern zu durchkämmen. Auf diese Weise stößt man ebenso auf die Thomas-von-Aquin-Seite eines Doktoranden der Universität von Toronto (<http://www.epas.utoronto.ca:8080/~loughlin/index.html>) wie auf das Programm der Aktivitäten des "Australian Centre for Psychoanalysis in the Freudian Field" (<http://suburbia.net/~je/acpff.html>), das zur Ausbildung angehender lacanscher Psychoanalytiker einen vierjährigen Kurs anbietet.

Die meisten Seiten, die von in den Geisteswissenschaften tätigen Institutionen angeboten werden, lassen allerdings noch zu wünschen übrig. Oft stößt man auf Hinweise, die ein bestimmtes Institut oder einen bestimmten Fachbereich betreffenden Seiten seien noch "im Bau". Nicht selten stellt man fest, daß die angebotenen Informationen veraltet sind. Es gibt Ausnahmen: etwa das Department of Philosophy der University of Warwick in England, das nicht nur sein derzeit gültiges Studienprogramm, sondern jeden Dozenten mit seinen Forschungsinteressen und einer Auswahlbibliographie vorstellt ([http://www.csv.warwick.ac.uk:80/WWW/facultaies/social studies/Philosphy/](http://www.csv.warwick.ac.uk:80/WWW/facultaies/social%20studies/Philosphy/)).

Reise ins Ungewisse

Die Anwendung des Internets wirft freilich, abgesehen von seinen praktischen Aspekten, ein wirklich philosophisches Problem auf: Wird diese neue und revolutionäre Weise des Informationsaustausches die menschliche Subjektivität als solche beeinflussen? Wird das Internet uns zu anderen Menschen machen, und zu was für Menschen? Selbstverständlich gibt es auch zu dieser Frage schon Literatur, etwa das durchaus beachtenswerte Buch, das der amerikanische Derrida-Schüler Mark C. Taylor in Zusammenarbeit mit dem Finnen Esa Saarinen geschrieben hat: *Imagologies: Media Philosophy* (Routledge, London und New York, 1994).

Für eine Antwort ist es gewiß noch zu früh. Mit seiner Informationsflut und der gleichzeitig gebotenen Möglichkeit, diese so zu strukturieren, daß sie punktuell nutzbar wird, erinnert das Internet in mancher Hinsicht an ein mittelalterliches Phänomen: die Überflutung des lateinischen Westens mit neuen Übersetzungen griechischer und arabischer Literatur und die fast gleichzeitige Erfindung der Indizes zu Anfang des dreizehnten Jahrhunderts. Die Einführung dieser Hilfsmittel für effizientere Lesepraktiken und -techniken, die sich wesentlich von der mediativen "lectio divina" der Klöster unterschieden, brachte - gewiß zusammen mit anderen Faktoren - an den gerade gegründeten Universitäten eine kulturelle Revolution.

Denn die Indizes boten den scholastischen Autoren die Möglichkeit der selektiven Konsultation der ins Lateinische übersetzten wissenschaftlichen Literatur und brachten mit der Idee der "Meisterung" des überlieferten Wissens und mit seiner Zusammenfassung in "originellen" Synthesen die Geburt des Intellektuellen. Die Art der Herausforderungen, die das Internet stellt, ist also keineswegs neu.

Book Review

Higher education library and information service development: strategies for investment. International Library and Information Action for Development (Ed.). London: ILIAD, 1995, 285 pp., (*British Library R&D report* ; 6221), ISBN 0-7123-2133-0.

Georg Ruppelt (chairman of the *Deutscher Bibliotheksverband*) once said: "Bibliotheken rechnen sich nicht, aber sie zahlen sich aus."¹

Before considering this book review I doubted whether the case-study in hand was really a profitable subject for librarians and for this forum. Given that the case study concentrates on education and the library sector in solely developing countries, I asked myself if librarians in the so called "developed" countries would be interested in it.

However, I believe it is of considerable interest for two reasons. Firstly, the target group of the study concerns all those involved in library policy and planning (government policy-makers, donor agencies, library and information professionals including consultants). Secondly, most of the aspects examined are of general interest and not exclusively applicable to developing countries (such as funding, financing and investment, (project) management, resourcing and staffing).

At the moment the information environment is moving towards the so called "Information Society" due to the development of electronic information technology and electronic

¹ "Libraries do not pay their way, but they pay off." *Bibliotheksdienst*, 30 (1996), No. 1, p. 7.

media. In this environment libraries are taking on more and more the function of information agents. They provide access to literature and information and deliver them. This can be substantial in the (higher) education sector, since the participation and development of democracy as well as the economic development and the improvement of standards of living substantially depend on a satisfactory education.

The case-study examines the higher education system in developing countries. In my opinion one weakness of the account is that the definition of this key term is only given on page 19. Admittedly, higher education systems are defined differently in various countries, however a rough structure of such systems can be specified. Obviously, the education systems consists of different levels (primary, secondary, higher education) and different types (vocational training etc.).

The main questions are now: how are libraries involved in this system, what part do they and must they play, how do they view themselves, and what could be systematically done to construct, to establish an organization, to finance and invest more in libraries, regardless of whether it refers to developing or to developed countries.

Higher education libraries and information services are components of the higher education system. Hardly any other institution in the education sector reaches such a big and heterogenous part of the population as far as social strata and age groups are concerned. Not least they basically contribute to research and science and to the transfer of knowledge. Regardless of their important part in the education sector libraries and information services are often considered an optional extra when it comes to investing in higher education.

The Iliad partnership - composed of the British Council, British Library, International Book Development and (UK) Library Association - were responding to this grievance by initiating the project HEIDI (*Higher Education - Investment in*

the *Development of Information*). As a result of it the case-study in hand was conducted, and it was carried out in four countries in four different continents: Indonesia, Columbia, Bulgaria, Uganda. Definitely, the countries chosen represent a wide range of geographical and socio-economic conditions, but why just these countries - supposedly representative - were chosen is not revealed in any depth. By means of these four developing countries the defining, planning and investing in libraries and information services for higher education is examined. The fact that only a small and very choice range of countries was examined made me doubt as to whether it would be interesting for this forum. But the very point of the account is that all these aspects are represented in a way that other libraries can adapt it to their particular conditions. Therefore I believe that (for example inadequately resourced) libraries in developed countries can benefit from the results of this study, too. (Only the very special data material about the countries is not transferable to all.)

The study responds to a need expressed by development agencies and the World Bank. It is based not only on a case-study, but also on other studies, data material, a global literature survey and contributions from international experts concerned. It aims to identify and combine different strategies - taking into account the education-, the library- and the information-system as well as the information-policy - by setting out guidelines. As a result of it clear strategies for investment in libraries and information services should be and are expressed.

The case-study proceeds from a model which consists of different levels of consideration respectively of a sequence of steps, the planning circle. Its elements are: the higher education strategic policy issues (1), the library and information strategic policy issues (2), the library and information systems analysis (3) and the strategies for library project development and investment (4). The steps are based upon each other and show interactions. According to these steps distinct guidelines (consisting of a

guideline descriptor, issues analysis and guidelines for action) are defined, mostly in the form of questions. To my mind this very extensive catalogue of questions can be very well used as a kind of checklist and could be a very useful aid for librarians concerned with questions such as investment. Finally important key points, examples for demonstration, a schedule and approximate values (e.g. financial and technical sustainability) enlighten each question. The number of diversified situations and parameters described in the study is stupendous. New developments and innovations (e.g. the information sector, library automation and internet) are considered as well.

The main part of the study deals with the data material and the description of the actual situation in the examined countries, in short the research analysis. It is based upon the catalogue of questions, the guidelines. This part seems to be less interesting than the guidelines, because it answers very special conditions and circumstances within the countries chosen. It gives a complete description of the case-study countries. For those who are interested in very special details of the library system, such as the current investment in library services to higher education or the factors in provision, the buildings or the space this study is a well-founded source. It would be desirable that such detailed research existed for the so called "developed" countries as well.

I think it is also legitimate and important that the authors formulate warnings: the Western system should not be taken over at a 1:1 scale. It should be adapted to actual conditions, suppositions, measures and rules, such as economic, social, geographical conditions and other standards of value. This is the strong point of the description: it accepts a variety of situations, it is adaptable and does not consider Western systems and standards as panacea.

Since libraries are often considered as unproductive limbs in the higher education system - also in developed countries -, the key problem is to prove the effectiveness of library and information services critical for investment as well as the

economic return on investment and the rates of return. The authors gather input and output measures in form of standard and usable methods of performance indication and measurement (such as basic numeric measures, indicators of effectiveness and performance measures). In that way the authors try to answer the question of measuring economic return and make some forecasts.

Summing up it may be said that the structure of the elaborated model and the investment strategies is uniform and coherent. It is complex but also very clear because the key parameters are quoted. This facilitates "navigation" within the text and the reader can choose his/her entry with regard to the contents himself. The description is complete and is a first step in providing a coherent methodology for investment in libraries and information services in the higher education sector. As far as I can judge it, I believe that the elaborated methodology could be very precious for further research. It contributes not only to planning projects for investment but also to improving the output of the higher education sector, both in developing and developed countries. It creates a secure planning and data basis for the project management. I believe that the main questions quoted above could be answered by libraries themselves on the basis of this research, which means by working through the - as I call them - "checklists".

So, further research will be required. It has to be examined in what way and to what extent other studies could profit from it, while still taking into account the everyday problems and imponderables.

IMKE STEINBRECHT (GIESSEN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY)

*European Research Libraries Cooperation
The LIBER Quarterly, 6 (1996), 348–349*

le livre-voyageur
dissémination du livre dans l'Europe
Moderne, 1450-1830

COLLOQUE INTERNATIONAL, 23-24 MAI 1997

**École Nationale des Sciences de l'Information et des
Bibliothèques**

Lyon-Villeurbanne, France

Le colloque se propose d'étudier la façon dont la production européenne imprimée lors de la période artisanale a été dispersée, que ce soit par des moyens pacifiques, (commerce, échanges, marché bibliophilique), ou violents, (guerres, confiscations). Une douzaine de chercheurs européens interviendront lors de ces deux journées. Le colloque se déroulera en Français.

Ces journées de travail sont organisées par François Dupuigrenet-Desroussilles et Dominique Varry dans le cadre de l'axe "Histoire du Livre" du Cers (Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Sciences de l'Information). Les deux autres axes concernent "l'Economie de L'Information" et "Systèmes d'Information et Interface".

Les journées d'études se dérouleront en partenariat avec la Bibliothèque Municipale de Lyon et le Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL). Cet organisme a pour mission la

conservation et l'exploitation de l'héritage imprimé européen et, dans cette optique, il a constitué une banque de données recensant et localisant les impressions artisanales. Il réunit la plupart des grandes bibliothèques européennes et ce sera l'occasion de faire connaître au public francophone la base "Hand-Printed Book" (HPB).

Renseignements auprès de l'ENSSIB, (à l'intention de Marie-Noëlle Frachon), 17-21 Bd du 11 Novembre 1918, F-69623 Villeurbanne cedex, Télécopie: 33 72 44 27 88.

THE ESEDRA SYSTEM – DIGITAL REPRODUCTION OF ANTIQUE BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS

The Glasor company was established as a service company operating in the field of the organization of meetings, congresses, exhibitions and events of any type.

The Esedra project of digital reproduction on CD-Rom stemmed from the practical need encountered by our company during the preparations for the exhibition on “Illuminated Treasures”, which was held in Bergamo and Brescia in 1995. The Fine Literary Arts Service of the Lombardy Region had restricted borrowing of all the 128 volumes of illuminated texts from the libraries to reproduction on microfilms. Although we fully agreed with this principle, its application would have compelled us to carry out an enormous and costly microfilming operation which nobody could possibly have done in such a short space of time – the exhibition was opening in March and it was then already November.

There were basically two courses open to us: the first consisted in finding somebody who would do the work using the traditional method; the second was to “put aside” the normal techniques and look for a new approach, if possible transforming this into one of the attractions of the exhibition itself, since, like any book display, it too had the restriction of showing the public only two pages of the precious manuscripts at a time. We found it impossible to believe that in 1995 the best way to reproduce ancient documents was still based on photographic methods invented in the 19th century, with all their relative advantages and disadvantages.

We therefore opted for the experimental course and, logically, turned to the far-reaching and boundless world of computer science. We soon realized that the technological prerequisites for our ambitious project existed: over 23,000 reproductions (approximately 40,000 pages) to be stored in the memory of a computer within the time limit of three months. This type of technology had never been used before for similar applications, except for very limited projects in terms of numbers of reproductions and certainly not in those aimed at safeguarding our cultural heritage.

And this is the most important point: we tried to look at the problem from inside out and consider as a primary requirement the safeguarding of this heritage and not simply its display in a more or less attractive way.

We felt that the first possible way of safeguarding an antique document should be to make a reproduction of it which could, in most cases, be consulted instead of the original. This type of reproduction requires two main characteristics:

1. perfect readability of the contents
2. easy utilization and consultation by the average user.

1. Readability

First level readability: the possibility to interpret each grapheme on the sheet fully.

Second level readability: manuscripts, incunabula, books, documents, in their broadest meaning, are the guardians of a series of information which goes beyond mere and simple words. There are elements contributing to the interpretation of a text which do not fall within simple writing signs: decorations and ornaments – readability of the chromatic values of iconography –; use of different inks – colour, fluidity, layers, scrapings, stains (indispensable elements in any philological analysis); features of the writing support – colour, material, dry and ink lines in different colours; binding; defined dimensions.

The traditional methods – microfilms and microfiches – are cost-efficient with regard to first level readability, but these supports have revealed themselves rather difficult to preserve and not user-friendly (for example: in order to consult page 200 you have to go through all the pages).

On the other hand, to ensure perfect second level readability, a public and/or private organization must take on a considerably heavy financial burden. In fact, colour photography by a professional photographer using an optical bench is indispensable in this case.