

Werk

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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- á the old library act is obsolete, due to the change of political regime most of the legislation is on longer applicable, but there is yet no new act,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.