

## Werk

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**Autor:** Christophory, Jul

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## Kontakt/Contact

[Digizeitschriften e.V.](#)  
SUB Göttingen  
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 1  
37073 Göttingen

✉ [info@digizeitschriften.de](mailto:info@digizeitschriften.de)

## **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).