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Slovak National Library in Matica Slovenska

Annual Report 1995-1996

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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 Parliement. 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 metodical 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 sytem 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, Z.39.50 clients, and WWW browsers. Implementation of circulation module is planned for September and foath 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, desinfection, 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.