

## Werk

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## **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.