



Repubblica di San Marino

Biblioteca di Stato e Beni Librari

Report 2004

Here is a report on the economic and financial planning, project management and implementation of the National Library and Book Patrimony of the Republic of San Marino:

Allocations: overall budget allocations for 2004 amounted to € 87,650.00, Higher allocations would have allowed to enhance the quality of services and develop special projects.

Legislation: A redrafting of the legislation regulating our Institution was proposed long ago. The legislation currently in force dates back to 1909 (Regulation No. 85 of 23 March 1909 as subsequently amended on 7 February 1914 and on 1-2 March 1920). A panel of experts has been recently set up to study and elaborate as soon as possible a new, modern legislation that also takes into account the changes and developments experienced by the National Library over the last few years, especially in terms of new formal relations established both domestically - with executive bodies and the Government – and internationally.

Premises: After a number of meetings and discussions that have seen the active participation of the Minister of Culture, some rooms of Palazzo Valloni, where the National Library has its seat, have been reassigned to our institution after 12 years, during which they were used by the University. Some of the rooms will host special sections, some others will be used as offices by the staff. In this regard, the Government's Economic and Financial Plan for 2006 provides for the possibility of moving the whole Library to more suited premises or, in alternative, the restructuring of existing ones.

Staffing: This year the Government has started a reform of the Public Administration and in this context has conducted an in-depth analysis of staff requirements, account being taken of experiences and expertise acquired by employees in the various sectors, and of ways to best exploit human potential. A rearrangement of the public sector has also been "encouraged" by the effects of the world-wide economic crisis, whereby policy-makers have also paid greater attention to minimizing and avoiding wastes.

Information technology and IT network: In an effort to overcome the fragmentation of libraries in San Marino and render efficient and well-organized services to students, researchers and the public at large, a project has been elaborated to create a San Marino single catalogue. With a view to limiting the considerable costs of this project, the National Library has set up a connection with the server of the Interdepartmental Centre for IT

services of the University of San Marino. Such connection has enabled, in the short term, to best exploit the various databases of the cultural institutions involved in the project which will reach its final stage with the creation - online - of the Single Catalogue. Users will thus be able to view the whole book patrimony of the Republic. The catalogue will be something unique and valuable not only for San Marino users, and an extraordinary achievement that will be fulfilled in the very near future, since the project is already at an advanced stage. The Project also includes the creation of an official website of the National Library of San Marino.

Deposit of printed matter: Law No. 31 of 19 December 1957, "Mandatory consignment of printed matter to the Governmental Library", still in force, will be updated in the framework of the new legislation.

Acquisitions: In 2004, € 23,200.00 were allocated and actually disbursed for the acquisition of books, bibliographic and audio-visual materials from public and private entities. A further amount of € 3,026.86 was used to buy national and foreign periodicals made available to the public at the newspaper library of our Institution.

Preservation and Conservation: In the course of 2004 budget allocations for preservation purposes proved once again to be inadequate. Our National Library has started the microfilming of retrospective periodicals, and - most urgently - of a great deal of material belonging to the Manuscript and Antiquity Sections, while making at the same time considerable efforts to seek cost-effectiveness. The activities performed by the Restoration Laboratory, set up within the National Library in 1993, include research, preventive action and recovery of hard copies. More in detail, an analysis of "pathological files" prepared for each volume or document requiring conservation treatment is made prior to such treatment. Another objective pursued by our Institution is the ongoing training of its staff, including development of special skills in the field of restoration. Over the next few years we expect to have trained and highly skilled staff capable of treating ancient materials even belonging to private individuals. During 2004, agreements were made to allow our staff to attend special training courses arranged by the Foundation for the Preservation and Restoration of Books of Spoleto (Perugia, Italy).

Services to the readers: Readers of the National Library and Book Patrimony only have to pay for photocopying. In case of interlibrary lending, shipping expenses have to be covered by the borrower. Users are allowed to freely use the video library, the newspaper and magazine library, the documentation centre, the reading and consultation rooms. Restrictions are envisaged only in case of consultation of ancient or precious books and materials which is subject to prior authorization and supervision by the Library staff. Among services most requested during 2004 there were cooperation and assistance to students preparing their thesis or dissertations. Lastly, always in 2004 a study was started to draft a new internal Regulation and a new Charter of Services to the readers.

Cooperation: Domestically, the National Library actively cooperates with virtually all San Marino institutions, participates in the implementation of relevant projects and provides expertise and professional support. The National Library also seeks external consulting for other projects and/or exhibitions, workshops, symposia, conferences, etc..