

Ministero per i beni culturali e ambientali

Biblioteca nazionale centrale Roma

Annual report 1998-1999 to

CENL CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

Director: Dr. Livia Borghetti

Address:

Viale Castro Pretorio 105.

00185 Roma - Italy

Tel.: +39 06 49891

Fax: +39 06 4457635

e-mail: bncr@caspur.it

<http://www.beniculturali.it/librari/bncrm>

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

A three-year project called *Progetto qualità in biblioteca* (a total quality project in the library) was started at the beginning of 1998. It is intended to improve services and put them up to the needs of the public.

The first step was to reach a better knowledge of the public and its needs and of the obstacles to their satisfaction; the point of view both of the staff and of the public were analysed in a customer satisfaction survey. The final objective is "the continuous improvement", by keeping a constant eye to new needs and looking for the ways to satisfy them.

MAJOR INNOVATIONS

The library building was planned at the end of the fifties, and it is therefore no longer suitable to nowadays needs; a transformation in the architecture of the readers area has been planned last year, and will shortly take place.

The aim of the new project is a more rational use of the enormous readers area: new reading rooms for music and multimedia, science and technology will be created; the special collections (Oriental, Roman, cartographic), which were till now together with the rare books and manuscripts, will have a room by themselves; the computer network will be expanded and new services improved.

Moreover, in the last years works necessary to restore the building and to improve the environment have been carried on and are still in progress. Because of them, some of the reading rooms were closed in turn.

Anyway, the library has always continued to be open to the public, and delivery of books has never been interrupted.

FINANCE AND FUNDING

In 1998 the library was funded from the State for an amount of Lit. 3.000.000.000 (1.549.370 euro), just the same as in 1997. This budget was completely below the needs and it was supplemented with a new allocation of Lit. 12.000.000.000 (6.197.482 euro) to cover also long-term projects. Staff expenses are not included.

LEGAL STATUS

No change (the library and its staff depend on the Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali).

LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

The total number of copies received on legal deposit in 1998 was more than 66.000.

BUILDINGS AND PLANT

See Major innovations.

ACQUISITIONS

In the year 1998 the library purchased foreign books, periodical/serials and digital electronic texts for an amount of Lit. 1.413.000.000 (730.000 euro). The library acquisition funds being completely inadequate, they have to be integrated year by year with additional funds from the Ministry.

Thanks to these additional settlements, some outstanding new acquisitions were possible: two Italian humanistic manuscripts, a great number of autograph letters by contemporary authors (the greatest part by Gabriele D'Annunzio), some 15th century editions and the entire archive of Antonio Bruers (1887-1927), particularly important for his relations with the Italian intellectual world.

CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

17.301 volumes were bound in 1998.

As a result of a microfilming plan of the local pages in the main national newspapers, 336.000 photograms were produced. All manuscripts have been microfilmed in the past years; new ones are regularly microfilmed as soon as they arrive.

As to digitisation, the D'Annunzio manuscript and autograph collections, owing to their importance and frequent consultation, will be the first ones to be digitised.

IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The Library's database has now more than 500.000 bibliographic records. A retroconversion project of library catalogue since 1958 is starting and will be completed into next two years. It will allow to retrieve about 600.000 new records, doubling the contents of library's database.

The new OPAC is now developing and will be available into few months both via Internet and Intranet.

A CD-rom about the library and its services was realised and presented at the IFLA 64th Conference in Amsterdam.

The library web site has been created.

SERVICES TO READERS

Admission to the library is free. 140.925 temporary cards and 897 annual ones were delivered in 1998.

Local lending has greatly increased in 1998: there were 5.067 registrations (2.688 in the previous year), the volumes lent were 25.597. On the opposite, the number of books requested by other libraries has decreased (920 loans), owing to rising in the fees. 549 books were requested from abroad.

3.800.000 photocopies and 20.187 photograms had been supplied.

EXHIBITIONS

Seneca: Mostra bibliografica e iconografica was arranged during the year 1998 and opened in January 1999.

Two exhibitions have been planned for the end of 1999, the first about Elsa Morante's manuscripts, the other about photography and literature (*Le camere dell'incanto*).

PUBLISHING

BOMS, *Bollettino delle opere moderne straniere*, is an union catalogue of foreign acquisitions in Italian state libraries; it is published yearly. Next volume, 1997, is now to be published also on CD-rom.

Quaderni della Biblioteca Nazionale, number 7, 1998 (*Benedetto Croce e la letteratura dialettale*), that includes the proceedings of a conference held in the library.

Bollettino bibliografico dei nuovi acquisti, number 12, 1998.

Seneca: Mostra bibliografica e iconografica, the exhibition catalogue, edited by the BNCR has been printed by Fratelli Palombi editori, Roma.

CATALOGUING

Two retroconversion projects started: RECA, the retrospective conversion of about 500.000 records of books printed between 1958 and 1990; *Periodici in SBN*, 36.000 titles of periodicals for about 45.000 records.

Having been accomplished the sixteenth century catalogue (2.120 editions catalogued in 1998), a new project aiming at cataloguing XVII century editions is going to start.

LIBRARY COOPERATION

The main international projects in which the library takes part are, beside GABRIEL, CERL (since 1993) and ISTC, since 1992, in cooperation with the British library.

STAFFING MATTERS

The library and its staff depend on the Ministry of culture. Since many years the main problem is shortage of staff (405 units in 1998), because people retired is not being replaced, while the number of readers and services increase. Temporary solutions were adopted, such as "conscientious objectors", working in the library only for 10 months.