

NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (NUL): ANNUAL REPORT 1999

for CENL

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MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

After Slovenia had become independent, National and University Library had to adjust its acts to the new adopted cultural legislation. In 1998 the Government released a new legal Act on Creation of the National and University Library and in 1999 a new Draft of NUL's Statute was prepared, which has already been approved by the Library Board but has to be acknowledged by the Government, as well. Preparations for the new organisational structure within the Library are going on, too,

Because the preparation works for the new library building has been progressing too slowly a new solution of acute space problems had to be found. After having a call for tender a new location for additional space was found. For the temporarily removal of some departments to the new location a plan was prepared. These departments will in future move to the new Library building close to the existing one.

In 1999 a new reorganised Information and Reference Centre was opened. It is equipped with 18 networked personal computers, thus enabling our users to carry out their online searches on their own. Further 10 working stations are planned.

FINANCE AND FUNDING

NUL is financed mainly by the Ministry of Culture. The gross expenditure in 1999 was SIT 933 million (= US\$ 5.134 million), which shows an increase of 14,34 % over the previous year, but this is again due to rise of inflation rate (8%). The Library was trying to get the most

from sales of goods and services (SIT 141.233 million,) nearly 15,14 % of the gross expenditure) and is increasingly required to do so. SIT 92.383 million (= \$ 508.241) were spent on library acquisitions, an decrease of 12,85 % over 1998.

LEGISLATION

There has been no changes or progress in the matter of Library legislation.

BUILDINGS

At present, the Library still works on two separate and, at the same time, deeply connected projects: renovation of the existing building, and continuation of initial phases for the new one. Renovation has finally brought about some important changes. New locations have been prepared for Information and Reference Centre and also for Loan and Document Supply Department. What is especially remarkable is that this renovation was carried out without interrupting the daily working process of the staff and availability to users of the reading rooms and all provided services.

STAFFING MATTERS

No change, NUL remains seriously understaffed. Trying to fulfil the annual working programme in past years we always had to employ part-time workers and students. In 1999 the employment of students was drastically reduced because of the lack of money.

LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

No change, we still do not have a new Legal Deposit Act.

Because of an explosion of new publishers NUL has to stress largely on claiming missing titles from them.

ACQUISITIONS

In 1999, there was a total amount of about SIT 92.383 million (= \$ 508.241) spent on all kinds of library acquisitions, not counting the legal deposit intake.

We continue to develop in-depth research support around some traditionally strong areas (humanities and social sciences).

Some 395.000 items were taken in (of which 348.098 legal deposit copies). 99.452 items were added to the collection while 295.823 items (mainly legal deposit copies) were dispatched to

other libraries in Slovenia. Accession of books: 18.271; periodicals: 53,500 items (=nearly 3,000 current titles); 1.689 accessions of sound recordings and 2.040 accessions of printed music; nearly 2.300 accessions of cartographic and pictorial material.

Most important acquisitions in 1999:

- Manuscript and Rare Books Collection
- Title of Nobility Document of Michelangelo Zois
- legacies of well-known Slovenian writers (Mira Puc Mihelic, Alojz Rebula, Jakob Savinsek)

- Map and Picture Collection
- 9400 slides from legacy of Marijan Lipusek

- Music Collection:
- legacies of some important Slovenian composers (Pavel Sivic, Primož Ramovš, Bojan Adamič)
- material from Ljubljana Opera archives
- and a very rare print *Regole armoniche* by Vincenz Manfredini (1775)

CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

Microfilming of Slovenian periodicals has been continued, whereby priority is given to most ancient daily newspapers and those receiving heavy use. In this way, some 137.500 shots were prepared in 1999. The Preservation Department restored 26 damaged bindings, 15 books, 2,821 separate sheets and a number of acid-free boxes and folders to store the items. Some projects have been outlined and financial support has been obtained from the Open Society Institute – Regional Library Programme (Budapest), as follows: digitisation of an important collection of Slavic manuscripts; electronic cleaning of nationally important sound recordings, now available on vinyl records; and organisation of workshop dealing with a special topic (in 1999 conservation and restoration of parchment, paper and old bindings) to improve the skills of staff.

The head of the Conservation & Preservation Dept. successfully participates in the Eurocare Project EU 1681 (LACLEPA - Laser Cleaning of paper and Parchment), taking on her own part of the research involved..

SERVICES TO READERS

In 1999 NUL's membership amounted to a total of 11,200 registered users (7,500 students among them). The number of visits reached an impressive 200,000. About 3.500 new members were registered in 1999. Interlibrary loan and document delivery services (also international) increased for 6%.

Unfortunately, we cannot report any progress in expanding opening times (lack of staff, renovation of the building), but the new reorganised information centre with 18 networked personal computers has largely contributed to users availability to information.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Among important recent projects of R&D Department the following should be mentioned: retrospective conversion of the card catalogues – Phase 1 and 2 (105.000 bibliographic records were converted and included in local online catalogue, co-operation in CERL project, digitisation of the so-called Kopitar codexes (12,000 pages of old Slavonic codexes), digitisation of photographs of Ljubljana, which were taken after the earthquake in 1885,

digitisation of portraits of important Slovenian authors, concept and design of original and later improved version of Slovenian National Bibliography on CD-ROM, .. There are a number of other on-going projects: the two terminological dictionaries of librarianship (one with national significance, and the other gathering 16 nations and institutions around a multilingual dictionary), the already mentioned preservation Laclepa Project, electronic cleansing of old vinyl recordings.

NUL also acts as the main advisory and monitoring library centre in the country for all library types (public, academic, special, school libraries). The centre deals with many research projects on its own. One of the projects we should mention is development of public library services for blind and weak-sighted visitors.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

In 1999 NUL has carried out an extensive education and training programme. 1360 librarians attended courses for basic, specialist and continuing education. 30 professional titles were awarded.

NUL has prepared about 100 different guided tours of the building, presentations and instructions in using its information and bibliographic facilities.

EXHIBITIONS

In 1999 six exhibitions took place on the Library premises and on other locations. The exhibitions were prepared on various scales, mainly to celebrate important anniversaries of renowned men of both national and international posture.

Very noticeable was the presentation of Tibet because some accompanying activities of the same topic were held, too..

PUBLISHING

The Library continued to publish the Slovenian National Bibliography both in printed form (8 volumes) and on CD-ROM. Two important international cataloguing standards (ISBD(ER) and ISBD(CM)) were translated in Slovenian language. Together with other listings new manuals for UNIMARC Format structure updates were issued, too. Four monthly periodicals continued to appear in regular intervals. A 1999 Education & Training Directory was also published.

CATALOGUING AND OTHER TECHNICAL PROCESSES

NUL contributed some 35,000 records to the COBIB national union catalogue (monographs and articles). In 1999 over 60.000 bibliographic records from the remaining catalogues (the catalogues 1948-1988) were converted and included in union catalogue. The total increase of inputs to the local database was 40,000 records, thus reaching the total of 470,000 records. Update of the Slovenian National Bibliography on CD-ROM was also published.

LIBRARY CO-OPERATION

NUL is a member of the most important library associations, among them IFLA, FID, Aslib, BLA, LIBER, IBBY, and CERL. NUL continues to actively participate in a number of standing and executive committees, belonging to the previously mentioned bodies, contributes papers for international seminars and conferences and publishes articles in international journals. NUL is taking part in annual meetings of directors of European national libraries and of directors of national agencies ISSN, ISBN and ISMN.

In the framework of exchange of library professionals we successfully co-operate with Czech National Library. In 1999 six librarians from that institution visited our library and eight librarians from NUL took part in an expert visit to Prague.

NUL regularly provides national bibliographic records to the OCLC WorldCat database. Some 20,000 UNIMARC records have been successfully included into the CERL Hand Press Book database. A librarian from NUL is a member of CERL Executive Committee where she actively participates in preparing suggestions for development and design of this database.

SPECIAL EVENTS:

In 1999 NUL organised two international conferences.

- "Public Libraries in new Europe" in co-operation with Goethe-Institut from Zagreb, French Institute Charles Nodier from Ljubljana and Open Society Institute from Ljubljana.

In the light of economic and social changes, especially changes in the field of information and communication technology, all libraries, and in particular public libraries are faced with new responsible tasks: how to enable the realisation of common human rights to individuals and groups and how to make possible their active participation in social environment. Therefore, a redefinition of their role is necessary and libraries will have to put forward their mission more effectively than ever before. The answers to the questions, how to plan and present the tasks of libraries and what should library environment look like to evoke the trust of the public in the power of its function, were searched for by renowned experts from Germany, France and Slovenia. The conference was accompanied also by exhibitions of modern furniture and equipment and photos of successful operation of individual libraries. About 157 participants from 13 countries took part at the conference.

- Annual ELAG (European Library Automation Group) Library Systems Seminar.

The meetings aim at in depth discussions of particular library automation topics and at the promotion of informal exchange of ideas and experience. The topics covered are technical and meant for participants with computing backgrounds. New automation projects in the participating institutes and countries are presented and discussed. The applications operational at the organisation hosting the seminar get particular attention.

The main theme of 1999 ELAGS seminar was "Managing Multimedia Collections". The meeting was held at Bled, there were 71 participants coming from 23 countries.