



**НАЦИОНАЛНА БИБЛИОТЕКА  
„СВ. СВ. КИРИЛ И МЕТОДИЙ“  
ST. ST. CYRIL AND METHODIUS  
NATIONAL LIBRARY**

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**ANNUAL REPORT  
to the Conference of the European National Librarians (CENL)  
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## **1. Main tasks, accomplished by the National Library in 2009**

The last year was very intensive, but also successful for the National Library of Bulgaria. The main tasks that we accomplished during this year are the following:

- The Law for the public libraries in Bulgaria entered in force on 6<sup>th</sup> 2009 and started the procedures for elaborating the necessary regulations to this law. In the law there is a special chapter, in which one the National Library was recognized as a state cultural institute of national importance and as a center in the National network of the public libraries. Experts from the National Library prepared the new regulation for its activities. Our specialists participate in the elaboration of the other subnormative documents (standards etc.), related with the Law for the public libraries in Bulgaria.

- The National Library as a complex cultural and scientific institute, that has unique place in the national cultural life – the National Library continue to be visited by citizens from different age, professions and social

circles. Over 13 000 readers were registered and there were over 161 000 visitors (readers, visitors on our web site and visitors to the organized cultural events). Over 20 exhibitions were opened in the National Library, two of which were organized as parts from big national programmes: „The Bulgarian Bolgrad School. Dream and reality. 150 years from its foundation” and „Lyuben Karavelov. Life – work – age”. The total number of the organized cultural events of national importance is 130.

The scientific team of the National Library had several significant achievements through the year - two studies and fifty articles in scientific collections and magazines were finished and published. Assistants from the library took part as authors or as compilers in the writing of another 10 editions. The others were co-edited with competent publishers. This fact proves the big interest from the cultural society to the scientific editions of the National Library.

- National and international projects:

„*Virtual library – Bulgaria*” (*Building of an Unified National Library and Information System*). During last year (the year before the start of the project) we practically converted the data in COMARC format. The total number of the converted records so far is 864 790. All these data are from all the main national data bases: Bulgarian books 1992 – 2007; Bulgarian books 1878 – 1944; Bulgarian books 1944 – 1991; Bulgarian music editions 1878 – 1944; Bulgarian official editions 1944 – 1991; Foreign books 1878 – 1993; Foreign books after 1993; Old printed books 1806 – 1878; Periodicals in Bulgarian; Periodicals in foreign Cyrillic; Foreign periodicals; Bulgarian articles from newspapers 1992 – 2008; Bulgarian articles from magazines and collections 1992 – 2008; Bulgarian dissertations and research works 2006 – 2007; Subject index; Author index; Index of series.

All the documentation for the system was prepared.

The hardware was fully renovated with new computer technology: 3 servers, 130 computer stations, 8 multifunctional devices, 5 UPS that ensure continuous electricity supply of the active engineering.

A joint operational plan for 2010 was elaborated with the Slovenian side. This plan includes the final procedures and the training of the specialists.

The enormous work, exercised by the Bulgarian team was admitted at the conference of all countries that are members in COBISS, which was hold in November 2009 in Maribor. The National Library of Bulgaria was pointed out as the biggest institution in the project.

- „*Manuscripts and documents from the Bulgarian lands XIII – XVII century*” – *I stage*: Inventory of the Slavonic manuscripts, Volume 1. Biblical books.

The project is the biggest national initiative, related with the preservation, restoration and description of the second collection of Slavonic manuscripts in Bulgaria – the collection of the Bulgarian Orthodox Church. It is really very necessary and in time, because it has been found that the

collection is in a very bad physical condition. The restoration saved several of the unique documents from XIV – XVI century that had been in the process of destruction. 112 press-marks, mainly of biblical books, were arranged, numbered and filmed. The first stage of the project was finished by editing the big first volume of „Inventory of the Slavonic manuscripts in the Church-Historical and Archive Institute to the Bulgarian Patriarchate” that presents dozens of extremely valuable Bulgarian documents from the XIII to the XIX century.

- *Project „Digital Archives and Documents: Promotion, Research, Preservation”.*

- This project finished on the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2008. In 2009 in the National Library was held the project exhibition „Digital Archives and Documents: Promotion, Research, Preservation. One realized project”. The exhibition presented the bigger potential of the National Library in this kind of projects in the field of cultural heritage.

- *TELplus project* was officially finished by „Day of the European Library in the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library” in November 2009. A lot of information about the project and the European Library was presented to the Bulgarian society and to representatives from the TELplus Office.

- *„The project BG0046 : ”Digitalizing and preserving the written legacy of Bulgaria”* started in 2009. The project was approved to being funded according the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area. According to the Memorandum of Agreement about the implementation of the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area Bulgaria receives financial subsidy in the amount of 21,5 mln. Euros to finance projects in several fields of priority from 2007 to 2011. One of these fields is the preservation of the European cultural heritage. Our project is related with enlargement of the Digital Center, elaboration of digital copies of unique documents from the funds of the National Library (Slavonic manuscripts from the XIV century; sidjili from the Oriental Department collections; Bulgarian periodicals from 1878 to 1940), creation and development of „National Register of the books, edited in Bulgaria” (Books in print) in partnership with the Bulgarian Book Associate. The project started in 2009 with the organizational activities and all the tender procedures.

- We concluded an agreement and a contract for participation in „*World Digital Library*” (WDL). For this project the National Library prepared and provided digitalized rare collections, along with their metadata.

## **2. Other important tasks that were accomplished in 2009**

- *Adoption of new book stores*

We started to adopt some new book stores outside the central building. The bookstore of the Archive of the Bulgarian book was moved from the village of Osoitsa to the village of Meshtitsa, municipality of Pernik. We

started to use a new book store in the village of Gutsal. We moved in this book store the archival and the reserve funds from the last book store in the village of Podgorie and the foreign periodicals from the one in the village of Benkovski.

All these activities were done from over 80 employees from all the sections in the National Library. These employees were organized in teams and succeeded in moving over 400 000 volumes of books and other documents for over 450 work days.

### **3. Digital Library**

The Digital Library Department was created in 2009, based on the existing Photo Laboratory - Digital Centre Section. Its activity aim at implementing the following tasks:

- Digitalization of documents from the separate collections and funds of the National Library in order to preserve them and provide broad internet access for consumers;
- Preparation of the digital images with the Docu Ware computer programme to organize them in the Digital Library – connection of the entered bibliographical system to the scanned images;
  - Creating and maintaining a digital archive;
  - Organization of virtual collections in the European Library portal through conversion of a database from Docu Ware to Dublin Core XML international format;
  - Providing readers with access to digital services;
  - Artistic production of materials for exhibitions, organized by National Library through digital imaging;
  - Taking pictures and preparation for the library web site information about exhibitions and other cultural, public and scientific events, organized in the National Library;
  - Organization of the work of expert groups in the National library for improving the selection criterions of digitalization and determining the priorities of the digital selection;
  - Organization and control of the creation of system of standards for collections description and also for the description of their documents, for improving the information structure of the digitized objects;
  - Participation in national and international projects for digitalization.

Digitalized are documents from the special collections of the following departments: Manuscripts and Old Printed Books Department, Bulgarian Historical Archive, Oriental Collections Department, Maps and Graphical Section and also from the main fund of the serials.

Scanned are generally 35 396 files of different types of documents:

- Manuscripts-8861 files;
- Old printed books, rare and valued publications-215 files;

- Archival documents, including photos and portraits-730 files;
- Graphic documents-695 files;
- Serials for this period 1878-1944-24 895 files.

The taken digital images together along with the input bibliography information are uploaded for using on internet:

- Six new documents massifs have been created (Docu Ware cabinets);
- Changes in 10 cabinets have been made;
- Transfer of documents from one documentary massif to another have been made (removed and added again in DW) – 70 documents, 9 463 files;
- New documents have been added in Docu Ware – 488 press-marks (archive documents), 730 documents for DW, 29 640 files.

Institutional orders for digitalization and digital services for readers with capacity of 9 061 files were performed. More important amongst are the copies of documents and photos for the exhibitions „Digital Archives and Documents: Promotion, Research, Preservation” – 65 files; „The High School of Bolgrad –dream and reality – 150 years from its creation” – 236 files; „Lyuben Karavelov. Life – Cause – Epoch” – 348 files; „Belgium – Bulgaria – 130 years diplomatic relations. Past and present” – 21 files. Digitalization of significant volume of materials has been made on behalf of institutions like the Centre for Slavonic-Byzantine Researches Acad. Ivan Duychev” – digitalization of two micro films – 1 119 files; Project of the University of Veliko Tarnovo with contract №65/11.12.2008 (selected frames from 28 manuscripts) – 4 177 files; the Archive of the Ministry of Interior – 760 files; project of the Church Museum – 616 files and also orders from readers. Orders to digitize documents for projects, involving the National Library - of the Bulgarian Historical Archive, the Oriental Collections Department, the International Library Loan Service, - have been implemented by priority.

In connection with the cultural and publishing activity of the National Library all the organized exhibition, scientific and cultural forums, books premieres etc. during the year have been photographed, processed and photo edited – totally 68 events, presented in 11 151 files. Digital copies for publishing of the following editions have been made:

- Paleographic album „Manuscripts and Documents from the Bulgarian Lands XIII- XVII century”;
- „Personal bibliography of Acad. Aleksandar Teodorov – Balan”;
- „Personal ordinance of Petar K. Deunov”

Important activity of this department during the year was the organization of our virtual collections in the European Library portal. Installation and configuration of Repox OAI-PMH server application have

been made and its trails have started. A database of Docu Ware has been prepared for sending for conversion in international Dublin Core XML format, which is recognizable by Repox. This was made with aim to create metadata with possibility to be used in current and future national and international projects. Virtual collection was created in the European Library portal and they were submitted for approval. The initial database, consisted of 60 931 records, was processed for conversion from XML files in Docu Ware into XML international Dublin Core format. With the implementation of these tasks our participation in the TELplus project was completed (in the frame of the program eContentPlus of the European Commission) and the National Library became a full member of The European Library. „Day do The European Library” was organized and held with participation of representatives from the European Library Office and participants from the National Library, that have worked on this project. Two representatives from the department – Tsvetanka Pancheva and Andrey Chakalov held presentation on the topic.

In 2009 were executed some preparation activities, connected with the participation of the department in international projects, such as: „BG0046 Digitalization and Preserving the Written Legacy of Bulgaria (2009-2011)”; „World Digital Library”; IMPACT.

- **The volume of the digital copies of documents has been increased.**

- **The digital materials from different collection of the National Library are available for free internet access for readers, together with their metadata.**

- **The library virtual collections are organized and can be used on The European Library portal.**

- **The number of photographed and presented to the site of the Library cultural events and exhibitions has been increased.**

- **There is successful beginning of the work on some international projects, related to digitalization, and the opportunities for recognition of the contents of the documents.**

#### **4. „Virtual Library Bulgaria” (Building an unified national library-informational system)**

The data has been converted in COMARC format. The total amount of transferred bibliographic records (until now) is 864 790. These are records from the national databases: „Bulgarian Books 1992-2007”; „Bulgarian Books 1878-1944”; „Bulgarian Books 1944-1991”; „Bulgarian Music Editions 1878-1944”; „Bulgarian Official Editions 1944-1991”; „Foreign Books 1878-1993”; „Foreign Books after 1993”; „Old Printed Books 1806-1878”; „Periodicals in Bulgarian”; „Periodicals in Foreign Cyrillic”; „Foreign Periodicals”; „Bulgarian Newspapers Articles 1992-2008”;

„Bulgarian Articles from Magazines and Collections 1992-2008”; „Bulgarian Dissertations and Research Work Qualifying 2006-2007”; „Index by Subject”; „Index by Author”; „Index by Series”.

The documents, providing the system, have been completed prepared.

The hardware has been fully upgraded by purchasing new computer engineering – 3 servers; 130 computer stations; 8 multifunctional devices, 5 pieces of UPS, providing continuous electrical power to ensure active equipment and to service the local network.

A cooperative plan with Slovenia for 2010 has been prepared. It includes the final procedures and training of specialists.