



НАЦИОНАЛНА БИБЛИОТЕКА „СВ. СВ. КИРИЛ И МЕТОДИЙ“
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ANNUAL REPORT
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Management of the library: Performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement

In 2015 the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library continued to perform its activities and tasks as a state cultural institute of national importance, according to the Law for Public Libraries. They are related to the acquisition, processing, organization, preservation and providing to Bulgarian and foreign citizens with printed and other works, published in the territory of the country.

The St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library could report that in 2015 there were made 84 154 real visits and were registered 12 343 readers. They used 541 629 library documents (books, periodicals, data bases, cartographic, graphic, musical editions, manuscripts, archives, old printed and rare books and other types of documents). The number of the virtual users of our services is still increasing – in 2015 there were 611 816 visits on the website of the National Library and 111 014 visits on the national electronic catalogue. The enrichment of our digital collection with different periodicals provides users from all over the world with the unique possibility of using the Bulgarian periodicals from a distance.

In 2015 were registered also over 25 000 visits on cultural events, organized in the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library – exhibitions, book presentations, conferences, visits of official delegations and guests, educational excursions and tourist visits.

Funding

Based on the Law for Public Libraries, the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library is a state cultural institute of national importance – secondary administrator of budget funds to the Minister of Culture. The funding is made by a budget in two directions: from in-house incomes and from subsidy. Regularly during the year were submitted different motivation claims in written form – letters of advice in a determined structure, about arisen legal circumstances by different corrections of the library budget, which transfer it in a Specified plan – annual. In 2015 were also paid in time all the due taxes for the library membership in different Bulgarian and international professional organizations, as well as the expenses for the business trips of the employees in the country and abroad.

Buildings

In August were made some routine repairs in the National Library building and on the roof and windows of the bookstore in the village of Bogdanlia. The in-house yards, corridors and enclosed places in the library were thoroughly cleaned. The bookstores were revised and partially cleaned. The main and current electrical voltages were periodically registered, as well as the electricity consumption by the leaseholders and the request for different current repairs.

Staffing matters

In 2015, according to a written order by the Minister of Culture, the library staff was reduced from 242 to 212 persons. The newly employed persons were 18. 61 employees leaved the institution due to different reasons.

In the same year the employees from the specialized library staff received training in the following courses: using the software COBISS 3/Records transfer and information about the collections; COBISS 3/Acquisition-Monographs; COBISS 3/Cataloguing – basic course; COBISS 3/Cataloguing – Editing of CONOR; transfer to COBISS 3/Cataloguing with normative control.

Employees in different administrative and economic posts also took part in some specialized courses at the expense of the National Library: intensive course from the series labour law; accounting record activities in the budget – new moments in the European financing; accounting record activities in the budget – European projects; electrotechnical safety; instruction for health and safety at work.

Information technology and networks

In 2015 the operating databases were updated. In the databases of the Digital Library were put links for access to the various descriptions of the digitalised documents. They were added also new fields and information in order to be converted and sent for access through the online portals of the European Library (11 digitalised documents). Created was a new digital collection - Oriental documents / Bulgaria and the Balkans available online through the website of the library. It was created a new digital collection - Oriental documents/Bulgaria and the Balkans, which is available also online through the website of the library.

The central router for access to Internet was also changed, because after repeated interruptions and connection tests it was found that the hardware was damaged. The relevant network cables of the local network were changed. There were bought four laser multifunctional devices for the needs of the accounting office, secretariat, ISBN Agency and the cataloguing.

Digital Library

The primary task of the Digital Library in 2015 was the digitalization of valuable, rare and threatened by physical destruction documents from the National Library.

The total volume of the digitized original documents, included in the Digital Library to December 2015, was approximately 317 131 files. They were organized in 29 collections, distributed in 11 332 records in the software for organization of the digital content. The whole information was 7 TB disk space for the backup servers' storage.

The lists of the new digitalized titles were updated each month the website of the National Library, as well as those, which had to be digitized in the next month. The lists of all the digitized so far periodicals, distributed in the relevant collections, were also updated. The descriptions to the individual collections in the Digital Library were currently updated - in the Bulgarian and English version of the website.

For each document were created detailed metadata to facilitate the consumer use. The increased volumes of digitalized resources, the easy and free access to them, the variety of different types of documents with quality images, supported by comprehensive descriptions, contribute to the continuous increase of the interest in the Digital Library of the National Library.

In relation to the other main activity of the department – to present the cultural program of the National Library, the specialists made, processed and archived the photos for all the events during the year – exhibitions, book presentations, conferences and other cultural events, related to the activities of the National Library (123 events, presented by 7 050 files) and selection of the photos for the “Photo Gallery” rubric, which accompanied the information about the events and exhibitions on the website of the library. The team of the “Digital Library” participated in the preparation of the exhibition “Go! For like the sun is knowledge!” and “The star moment of Bulgaria. The Unification – 130 years”.

During the year our regular contacts with the European Library and Europeana, related to the conversion of metadata according to the specific requirements of Europeana and the migration of digital content to the European Library and Europeana respectively. The description of the collections, which are already in the European portal, was updated. In 2015 the activity of the department continued to be promoted by presentations, participation in discussions and forums and by presenting the latest information on the website of the library.

Legal deposit of materials

In 2015, at the National Library were deposited and distributed 296 346 library units (75 000 of them in the library collections and 221 346 – in the deposit libraries in the country). 3 746 books and 4 760 serials were acquired as a result of the control on the Law for legal deposit of printed and other materials.

12 electronic databases were available for the readers.

Acquisitions

In 2015 was drafted a project for participation in the competition session of the Ministry of Culture for financial support to the libraries for updating their collections with books and other information sources. This session was under the “Bulgarian libraries – modern centres for reading and information” programme, which was approved a grant of 5000 levs. With this grant at the end of the year were ordered 3 titles in 7 volumes of foreign documents for the National Library and were bought 55 titles in 156 volumes for international book exchange. There were also subscribed 47 titles in 1 871 sets of Bulgarian periodicals for the library reading rooms and 95 titles in 392 sets for the international book exchange. In 2015 the National Library performed international exchange of monographs and serials with 150 libraries from 50 countries. The received books were 606 titles in 623 volumes. The international book exchange with the libraries in Great Britain, USA, Japan and other English speaking countries tended to be restored and activated. The established good relations in this field with the long standing partners in the German speaking countries continued also in 2015. The library collections with documents in Romance and other languages were filled mainly by donations.

In 2015 were received as donation 677 titles of Bulgarian books in 4 952 volumes and the major part of them were used for the international book exchange.

Preservation & Conservation of the documents

In 2015 there were prepared 142 conservation and restoration statements in general. 128 of them were for library units of the National Library and 14 – for other materials. The major part of documents for restoration and conservation are from the “Manuscript-Documental and Literary Heritage Division, which provided materials from all the departments. In 2015 were processed also manuscripts from the Church History and Archival Institute to the Bulgarian Patriarchate and from the Ivan Vazov – Public Library.

During the last year the restoration program “Adopt a Book”, began in 2014, was completed. The total number of sheets, processed by the department, was 4 135. During the year the total number of restored objects from external orders was 38 with a total of 776 sheets.

The only document in the form of a paper body, received by the sector for restoration in 2015, was an album with lithographs. During the restoration were found financial documents from the XVIIIth century, which were hidden in the binding. They were recovered by the method of sheet casting and will be preserved as a material, accompanying the album.

Annually we organize prevention preservation and conservation of some collections in the storages and reading rooms.

Services to readers

In 2015, was marked a relative increase in the number of the users. Through “virtual visits” the users can use library resources remotely. Undoubtedly, the library documents, used by the Digital Library, increased the number of the users in the library’s website. The readers also used the services of the electronic library catalog, which is available on the website in the Bulgarian and English versions. The customers received timely oral and written references and consultations on various issues, bibliographical references, searches and consultations by the duty librarian informant.

There was also a reduction in the library materials, used in the reading rooms, but we believe that this is due to the possibility to use them remotely from the site of the library and to the decreasing number of received serials.

The interlibrary loan service for our users is really important. The existing online catalogs are crucial for the productivity and speed in the execution of the incoming orders. They are a professional tool for the entire library community in the country.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

In 2015 were organized 22 exhibitions, 2 of them of national importance, included in the cultural calendar of the Ministry of Culture: “Go! For like the sun is knowledge!” and “The star moment of Bulgaria. The Unification – 130 years”. The first exhibition was on the occasion of the 1 200th anniversary of the birth of St. Methodius – the patronal feast of the National Library and the professional holiday of the library and information workers. The second national exhibition was organized on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Unification of the Principality of Bulgaria with Eastern Rumelia.

The visiting exhibition “Freedom of speech. Independence of the media through the eyes of Belgian and Bulgarian cartoonists”, organized in cooperation with the Embassy of Belgium in Sofia, and the traveling exhibition, dedicated to the 600th anniversary of the death of Jan Hus, organized jointly with the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Sofia, were also very interesting to the public.

In 2015, in the National Library was held the Balkan meeting of the ISBN agencies. The

preparation and organization of the event were conducted jointly by the specialists from the “National Bibliography” department.

In 2015 the National Library organized 55 events – an increase of 10%, compared with the previous year, were presented 34 newly published books, were held scientific conferences, many official delegations from various countries visited the institution.

In 2015, the number of visits of pupils, students and foreign tourists increased 3 times compared with the previous 2014. The National Library tended to be part of the cultural routes of the visitors from the country and abroad. All the visitors received lectures and for the foreign tourists these lectures were in English, French or Spanish.

In 2015, continued the trend for broad bilateral cooperation with the embassies of the countries Brazil, Japan, Czech Republic, India, Belgium and others. In 2015 the library was visited by the following persons in connection with different working meetings with the director or in connection with various events: Mrs. Katerina Hurtaeva, director of the Czech Cultural Institute; Mr. Vasko Shutarov, director of the Culture and Information Center of Macedonia; Mr. Goce Georgievski, Minister-Counselor at the Embassy of Macedonia; His Excellency Mr. Emil Karimov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan; His Excellency Mr. Takashi Koizumi, Ambassador of Japan; Her Excellency Mrs. Ksenia Shkirlich, Ambassador of Slovenia; His Excellency Mr. Lino Bianco, Ambassador of Malta; Her Excellency Mrs. Annick Van Calster, Ambassador of Belgium; His Excellency Mr. Temirtay Izbastin, Ambassador of Kazakhstan; His Excellency Mr. Dušan Štrauch, Ambassador of the Czech Republic; His Excellency Mr. Xin Meng-ho, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea and His Excellency Mr. Ricardo Guerra de Araujo, chargé embassy of the Federative Republic of Brazil.

The National Library published nine books in print version.

Library cooperation

The National Library concluded a Memorandum on mutual cooperation with the national library of Azerbaijan.