



НАРОДНА БИБЛИОТЕКА "СВ. СВ. КИРИЛ И МЕТОДИЙ"

ST. ST. CYRIL AND METHODIUS NATIONAL LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT

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to the Foundation CENL

Management

During the year 2000 the "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library tried to reserve its functions and tasks on a national and international level. Our main concern and responsibility was the preservation of Library funds. Special attention was paid to the unique collections of manuscripts and documents that represent the national written heritage.

We made all the possible efforts to develop the automation of library processes, the acquisition, the elaboration of the National Bibliography of Bulgaria.

The National Library provided professional services to readers and organized a rich cultural program.

Unfortunately in 2000 too, the National Library faced serious problems in its work due to the insufficient finances.

Funding

The "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library is a budgetary institution being a secondary manager of state credits to the Ministry of Culture. The library activities are basically financed

from two sources: incomes from economic activities of our own and subsidy from the state budget which are in proportion 18% to 82% for the fiscal 2000 year.

There is a drop in the subsidy in its absolute amount observed in the last years that reasonably creates difficulties in the financial support of the library. The measures taken by the managers of the National Library to overcome them are: reduction of expenditures by limiting the purchase of stationary and other materials and the phone taxes; some technical and organizational decisions made for restricting the overhead expenses.

The library obtained additional financing from sponsors and participated in various projects. The funds originating from such sources were used only in appropriation and to the will of the sponsors. Another way of indirect financing were endowments of library holdings and computers.

Legislation

Some changes in the legislation concerning the National Library took place in 2000.

- The National Library was approved a national institution by the latest cultural law provisions.
- By the law for obligatory deposit of copies of printed and other materials for the first time the National Library was officially appointed to compile, publish and circulate the national bibliography.

Staffing matters

The Ministry of Culture settled the number of the staff to 284 people and no lay off or changes were made in the structure of the library. The salaries were assigned according the legal codes available for all budgetary organizations. No overdraft for salaries as approved by the Ministry of Culture and no financial exposure to the personnel were reported in the last year. Salaries, social and health insurances were paid to the rate plus an additional pay at the end of the year. Despite the limited budget the managers of the National Library lead a successful social policy so that no conflicts with the trade unions had arisen.

Legal deposit of materials.

In 1998 a draft law for the obligatory deposit of printed and other materials was elaborated, widely discussed and passed to the Parliament. It was in compliance with the national tradition. Voted in December, 2000 the law became effective from the 1st, Jan, 2000. The changes made are as follows:

- Widening the range of the documents liable to deposit. According this law all materials printed on electronic carrier by Bulgarian physical persons or corporate bodies should be deposited. The requirements include all publications in Bulgarian language and concerning Bulgaria that have been imported in a quantity showing an intention for commercial or other reasons for wide circulation in the country.
- Reduced number of the obligatory copies. Deposited copies were reduced from 20 to 12. It was decided taking into account the free market economy orientation of the country and support for the private publishing also the Council of Europe's recommendations for limiting the acquisitions by means comprised in the law for obligatory deposit.
- Changes in the subjects of the obligatory deposit. The new law demands the printed production to be deposited by the publishers and not by the printers as the former version requested.
- Concession provisions for publishers and producers obliged to deposit. The money value of the deposited copies and their postage are credited as production costs.
- Defined are the responsibilities of the institutions – recipients of the copies in respect to their preservation and usage. They are obliged to: preserve the copies sealed with "Deposit"; publish bibliographic information for free and international reference editions and data bases; use the total prints information only for the needs of the national statistics.

- Sanctions are updated for persons who do not deposit the obligatory number of copies.

Acquisitions

The subsidy provided by the Ministry of Culture for acquisition of the latest publications and other information carriers was strongly limited. It was hardly possible to plan its lay out due to the sporadic grants. The funds were cut down and the most remitted in the last three months of the year. So to balance the distribution of resources between the second – hand acquisition of manuscripts, old – printed, rare and valuable books, new publications and electronic editions turned out impossible. Hence other ways of acquisition had priority (especially of foreign titles and various documents) such as the international exchange, donations, work out of projects for non-governmental organizations.

The acquisition through purchase was 4,7% of the total number of new titles.

Subscriptions were taken for all-important Bulgarian serials held in the basic stocks and in the reading rooms. The subscriptions for foreign serials was limited to 13 titles being 1% of the total. Renewals of the subscriptions to the informational databases of INIS FRANSIS and PASCAL on CD-ROM were done, too.

The lack of adequate and steady financing has a bad effect on the development of the collection of foreign periodicals. Destroyed is the main body of the collection. Behind the contemporary tendencies is the collection of information sources.

The undisturbed development of library collections when financing is limited and the exchange connections restrained imposes some changes in acquisition policy. A major change has been made with the narrowing of the thematic profile of the new titles. Bounderies were put to the fields with priority in acquisition: Bulgarian literature (undeposited, rare, valuable publications and manuscripts); issues about Bulgaria and its people; reference and information materials with universal or comprehensive enough character; social sciences. The acquisition of new publications on linguistics, theory of literature, history, culture and art, important monographies and studies in natural sciences and interdisciplinary sciences was kept as a tendency.

The variety of types among the new titles was restricted, too. Most of the acquisitions were printed on paper; the share of cartographic and graphic editions, audio-visual materials, CDs and these on CD-ROMs was on a decrease.

The acquisition policy although restricted by shortages in funding was steadily orientated to the acquirement of information databases on CD-ROM, securing an interactive access to the information sources through Internet. A good example is the participation of the library in the project of the Open Society Institute and EBSCO "Electronic Information for Libraries" giving an Internet access to the EBSCO information products their receipt on archived copies.

Preservation & Conservation

Some financing was allotted for binding, conservation in the "Restoration" branch, for the improvement of the preservation conditions and other activities but it was insufficient due to the limited budget of the National Library.

A growing attention was paid in the last year to the problems of preservation and conservation in the Library. Several courses were organized sponsored by the "Libraries" Branch of the Open Society Foundation: "Preservation of Library Materials"; , "Conservation and Preservation of Photoes". An alarm system was installed against unpermitted taking out of books. Research work was done on the problems of creating better condition for conservation. New stocks were furnished out of the main building in accomplishment with all regulations for preservation legally fixed.

Services to readers

No basic innovations were done in the "Readers Services" Branch during the year. The "presence" system of library holdings usage retained. The number of registered users increased in comparison with the previous year but there was a drop to the half in the issued year cards. The "St. St. Cyril and Methodius" National Library is a centre for interlibrary loan services in the country. The regulations from 1987 provide the exchange of library materials only between libraries. No direct services are rendered to individuals. More than 90% of the requests for abroad are done through our "Interlibrary Loans" Dpt.

Cultural events

Twenty two exhibitions and 9 show cases were arranged, 7 of them contained library materials and 7 were from abroad. Among the exhibitions with international participation the greatest interest was drawn by: "Bulgaria – Spain. 90 Years of Diplomatic Relations" (organized in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Embassy of Spain, the Association of the Spain Researchers in Bulgaria); "The discover of Brazil" (in co-operation with the Embassy of

Portugal); "Hector Berlioz and His Time" (in co-operation with the French Cultural Institute); the exhibition "Books from Canada" (in co-operation with the Canadian pen-club, the Canadian Consulate in Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Consulate in Canada). The most visited of the Bulgarian expositions were: "Geo Milev the Translator – Bulgarian Citizen of the World"; "William Gladstone and the Bulgarian Ressurrection"; "10 Years of Free Press"; "Ivan Lazarov - Pictures, Graphics and Documents from the Sculpture's Archives". Through the year the National Library hosted 36 lectures, books presentations, concerts.

The realization of the visiting exhibitions is funded by the organizers as for those in which the National Library is a co-organizer the funding is from the library budget.

Library co-operation

In the year the relations of the National Library with many Bulgarian and foreign libraries were developed in the same tradition. A project for conservation and restoration of the collection of photoes was undertaken with the financial support of BIEF. The preparation of an exhibition for Emile de Laveleye continued in co-operation with the Royal Library of Belgium. a draft agreement with the National Library of Greece was made and subsequently discussed. Similar agreement for co-operation with the National Library of Iran was worked out. Relations were established with the publishing house of the Russian Academy of Sciences followed by an exhibition of Russian scientific literature. Co-operation between Turkish organizations and publishers was effected in the field of Orientalistics. Our participation in the international programme for compiling a polylingual dictionary of library terminology .continues.

Major celebrations

Large exhibitions marked the 100th Anniversary of the Bulgarian National Agricultural Union, the 150th birth anniversary of Ivan Vazov(writer), the 150th birth anniversary of Zahary Stoyanov (revolutionary and writer), the 180th birth anniversary of Dr.Ivan Bogorov - all prominent figures in the Bulgarian culture and history.

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