



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 Conference of the European National Librarians (CENL)

1. 1. Management of the library:

2003 was jubilee for the National Library of Bulgaria. All efforts of the staff were directed to celebrate with dignity the 125 Anniversary of the Library. The main goal of the celebrations was to put the National Library of Republic of Bulgaria and some of its most serious problems in front of the attention of the Bulgarian society.

2. Funding

During 2003 the basis source of finance of the National Library was the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture - 1 454 837 Bulgarian leva (746 070 Euro) – 85,94 % of the whole funding, including 118 410 leva (60 723 Euro) special grant for purchasing new computers. The Library's own income is 257 479 leva (132 040 Euro) – 14,06 % of the whole funding. The own income was in proportion 67.60 income from provision of services, 26.46 from rents, 5.99 from sponsorship and 0.24 others. The National Library received 15 433 leva (7 914 Euro) sponsorship by private institutions and donations from individuals to purchase valuable collections, and to support publishing, exhibitions and other cultural events. The major part of the income from provision of services is from sales of library cards for readers (38.21 %) and from Xerox copying of library documents (25.24 %). The expenditure in 2003 to the amount of 1 803 725 leva (938 833 Euro) is covered by the incomes in proportion 79.46 % by the subsidy and 20.54 % by own incomes i.e. according to 2002 the part of the expenditure, ensured by the own income, raised by 4 % on account of reduction of the part of the subsidy.

3. Legislation

In 2003 there is no change in the legislation.

4. Buildings

In 2003 the printing office was moved in the central building of the National Library from the building in Izgrev district to create a better organization and coordination in the work. Repairs were made in the rooms of the printing office of the Library – they were financed entirely by own funding.

5. Staffing matters

In 2003 the number of the staff is 288 persons, 39 of them are researchers, including 14 Ph.D. persons and 1 professor.

25 new professionals came to work in the Library, including 4 new graduated librarians. 20 persons left the Library – 3 resigned, 3 – because of reduction of the staff and the others at their free will or because of the end of their agreements.

18 librarians participated in qualification courses: 1 took part in a 3 weeks training by “Courants du Monde 2003”, organized by the French Ministry of Culture; 3 specialists finished courses in the Center for continuing education of the Union of Librarians and Information Specialists and Officers in Bulgaria (ULISO); 14 librarians participated in French language courses from the Program “Formation a l’Europe” of Institute Francaise de Sofia.

6. Information technology and networks

The second stage of the creation of the Library Automated System began. The Government of Republic of Bulgaria gave a special grant of 100 000 leva for buying 70 new computer configurations and for substitution of the basic software product from ISIS to WINISIS. The LAN was enlarged and that ensured new working places in the different department in the Library. The OPAC databases were currently renewed:

- - Electronic catalogue of the Bulgarian and foreign books;
- - United catalogue of the foreign periodicals;
- - United catalogue of the foreign books;
- - Articles from Bulgarian journals, newspapers and miscellanies.

In connection to the 125 Anniversary of the National Library a new design was made to the Website of the Library (www.nationallibrary.bg). A new Website, gathering all Southeastern European National Libraries (www.seenl.com) was made. The realization of the site was possible thanks to the project in the framework of the Communication strategy for integration of Bulgaria to EU (Work Program 2003).

7. Legal deposit of materials

The control on legal deposit of materials in 2003 was done by checking the databases of the National Agency for ISBN to search the declared titles from the publishers and to send official letters for the found lacks. 326 303 bibliographic items were deposit, including 250 363 sent to the depository libraries in the country and in the Library collections were deposited 75 940 bibliographic items. 133 publishing houses were visited and as a result were collected 1456 titles of books not deposited in the Library, 36 maps, 40 CDs and diskettes, 10 titles audiocassettes and 2736 bibliographic items periodicals.

8. Acquisition

In 2003 the development rates of the library collections continued to be stable.

8399 title books in 8572 volumes and 62 issues on CD-ROM got in the main collections of the Library by legal deposit. The number of newly receipts Bulgarian books increased over 2000 volumes according to 2002. We received 1789 books in 1836 volumes by international book exchange. The received titles by international book exchange increased their number according to the previous year. 334 titles foreign books in 416 volumes and 11 CD-ROMs were donated to the Library. The bought titles unfortunately were twice less than 2002: 48 titles in 111 volumes.

According to the way of acquisition the new receipts of books were distributed in the following order: 87 % by legal deposit, 7.4 % by exchange, 4.1. % donations and 1.1 % purchased. Bulgarian editions are 87.9 % and the foreign – 12.1 %. 64 % from the foreign publications were received by exchange, 31 % were donations and 3.9 % were purchased. 10 titles periodicals were received by subscription and 91 periodicals were received as donations by projects or by different institutions and 1164 were received by international exchange.

During the Jubilee year the permanent shortage of funds for purchasing new issues for the main collections continued, although the total amount of the acquisition funds was increased compared to the previous year. Our efforts were directed mainly to ensure donations and development of projects. Despite the achieved better results regarding the quality of the donated and received by exchange publications, that could not compensate the purchase as the best way for selection and acquisition of profile publications.

8.2. Acquisition of Special collections: During 2003 there were supplied:

- 10 Bulgarian old-printed books, 5 books on Church-Slavonic and 2 rare Greek books; 11 volumes old-printed Arabic and Ottoman books, 8 Arabic and Turkish manuscript; 2110 documents for Bulgarian Historical Archives for the collections of the great Bulgarian poet Peyo Yavorov, collection of Sharkovi family and collection of Filip Mahmudov, including 90 photos.

9. Preservation & Conservation

9.1. 9.1. Adequacy of funds for conservation:

25 440 sheets from the departments of the Library were restored, 41 000 running meters from the collections of the depository and 16 500 running meters from the collections of the reading rooms were preventively cleared.

9.2. 9.2. Major microfilming or digitisation programmes for preservation:

For the needs of the library service and preservation the collections of periodicals, manuscripts and documents, pictures and portraits, maps and graphics were currently microfilmed. The microfilming was financed by outer resources under contract or by direct payment (exhibitions, readers' orders.)

9.3. 9.3. Staff issues relating to conservation:

On May 13 and 14, 2003 Bulgarian restaurateurs participated in the Austrian-Bulgarian training session "Tradition and innovation. Restoration of paper, parchment and photos". The lecturers were from the National Library of Austria. On July 8, 2003 was opened the exhibition "Preservation of the cultural visual heritage. Conservation and restoration". It showed the cooperation between Library Laboratory for conservation and restoration and Northeastern Document Center for Conservation (NEDCC) in Andover, USA.

10. 10. Services to readers

10.1. The readers of the National Library were 19 963 persons. They visited the Library 112 101 times and the loaned documents were 381 981. The continuing problems with the newspapers and journals during the last years are the main reason for the reduction of the volume of the used literature – almost 20 000 volumes less than 2002. There was no essential change in the content of the used literature, except for some diminution in the Social sciences, Politics and Economy Section due to the reducing interest in the press, typical for the 90-ties of 20th century. There is some increase in the Technical Section due to the growing searching of computer literature – periodicals, books and references. The major problem for the librarians and readers was the enormous quantity of unbound periodicals left in the reading rooms.

10.2. Interlibrary loan: the realization of the state orders was about 50 % due to the impossible implementation of the orders for titles, published after 2000, because some of them had not been put in the catalogue yet. The planned orders of the international interlibrary loan grew by 12 % and the refusal were only 17 % due to the opportunity of using vouchers. Foreign library orders for Bulgarian publications grew up.

11. 11. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

11.1. 11.1. Cultural events: The National Library of Bulgaria won the National Award "Hristo G. Danov" of Plovdiv Municipality and the National Center for book at the Ministry of Culture of Republic of Bulgaria for its contribution to the librarianship.

11.2. 11.2. Exhibitions: There were organized 28 exhibitions, most important of them were:

11.2.1. 11.2.1. Bulgarian: "125 years of the Russian-Turkish war 1877-1878 and the Liberation of Bulgaria"; "Ilinden-Preobrajanie revolt in the collections of the National Library"; "Yavorov's imaginary world. 125 years of the poet's birth"; "Tribute to Aleko. 140 years from Aleko Konstantinov's birth".

11.2.2. 11.2.2. Joined exhibition with foreign cultural institutions: "Bavarian Books", organized from the Bavarian Ministry of Culture; "First International Biennale of Ex-libris", jointly with the International Ex-libris Center; "100 Years of Bulgarian-USA Diplomatic Relations", jointly with the USA Embassy in Sofia; "Relations between Bulgaria and Belgium in the end of the 19th c. and the beginning of 20th", jointly with the Belgium Kingdom Embassy in Sofia.

11.3. 11.3. Major new publications:

11.3.1. 11.3.1. For the Anniversary the Library issued new multimedia CD-ROM "Guide through the Collections of the National Library of Bulgaria" with the help of Open Society Foundation – Sofia and Alliance Medica LTD.

11.3.2. 11.3.2. Monographs and bibliographies: "Ivan Vazov. Bio-bibliography. Vol. 2.", grant of the Center for book at the Ministry of Culture; "Publications in Bulgaria about the Balkans", sponsored by Center for Academic Research Foundation; "Bulgarian writers' notes. Vol. 1. 10th -15th century", grant from the National Fund Culture; "Paisii of Chilendar. Bibliography"

11.3.3. 11.3.3. The National Library continued to issue the professional journal "Biblioteka".

12. 12. Library Co-operation

12.1. 12.1. National: Librarians from the National Library took part in the organization of the Annual conference of ULISO "Library Cooperation", June 5-6 2003, Sofia.

12.2. 12.2. International:

12.2.1. 12.2.1. The National Library signed bilateral agreements for cooperation with the Central State Library of Mongolia and with the National Library of Poland.

12.2.2. 12.2.2. Project for cultural cooperation with the National Library of Iran "Bridge between the Civilizations". The First International Conference "Library and Woman", Sofia, September 25-26 2003 was held in the framework of the Project with the participation of the director of the National Library of Iran and 6 Iranian women librarian. Second part of the project was the "Evening of the Bulgarian and Iranian Women Poetry" held on November 7 2003 in the National Library. 3 Bulgarian and 3 Iranian poetess took part in it.

12.2.3. 12.2.3. The Library continued to be member in different international organizations – CENL, IFLA, Program LibEcon and ABHB.

12.2.4. 12.2.4. Regional: The Director participated in the Meeting of the Directors of the National Libraries from the Southeastern Countries, Ankara, Turkey 2003. The Subject of the Meeting was the role of the National Libraries in the preservation of the cultural heritage.

13. 13. Anniversaries. 125 Anniversary of St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library

St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library of Bulgaria celebrated 125 years of establishment on December 10, 2003. Initiative Committee was established for the celebration under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Bulgaria Mr. Georgi Parvanov and an honorary chairman was the Minister of Culture Prof. Bojidar Abrashev. The Association of Friends of the St. St. Cyril and Methodius National Library was restored on May 27, 2003 as a beginning of the Celebrations of the Anniversary. The main goals of the celebrations were to draw the attention of the society upon the National Library and to find decisions for the most important and serious Library problems. On December 10, 2003 the National Library officially celebrate 125 Anniversary by opening an exhibition "The National Library between the Past and the Future". Official guests at the opening were the Prime Minister Mr. Simeon Saxe-Coburg Gotha, Minister of Culture Prof. Bojidar Abrashev, rectors of the Universities, scientists, members of Parliament, journalist, librarians and citizens. The new CD-ROM "Guide through the Collections of the National Library of Bulgaria" was promoted at the opening. The Celebrations of the Anniversary ended with the Conference "The Library – Past and Present" held in the National Library on December 11 and 12, 2003 in two parallel sessions: "The National Library and the Librarianship" and "The Collections of the National Library – known and unknown". Special issue of the journal "Biblioteka" was dedicated to the Anniversary of the Library and a calendar with reproductions from the Collection of Old-printed and rare Books was issued for the Anniversary.

17. Organisation chart:

<http://www.nationallibrary.bg/struct.html>