

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

ANNUAL REPORT TO C E N L

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1996 statistical survey

holdings (total) ca 5,600.000 items

(incl. ca 9.000 ancient manuscripts, ca 3.500 incunabula)

addition 64.871 items

decrease 1.156 items

users enrolled 27.268

visitors 756.029

loans 552.908

publications 125 (incl. 44 monographs)

staff (FTE) 479 (plan 502)

expenditures for purchases, operation & staff (total) 167,071.000 Kc (i.e. ca \$ 5.760 mil.)

(incl. salaries + personal duties 78,122.000 Kc, i.e. ca \$ 2.700 mil.)

expenditures for investment (total) 13,609.000 Kc (i.e. ca \$ 0.470 mil.)

National Bibliography

standards: UNIMARC, AACR2, ISBD, LCSH Czech version (English version to be prepared)

availability:

- printed format: books - monthly

other material - yearly

- CD-ROM - quarterly updates (resp. monthly upd. on floppy for books and articles)

containing: books - ca 120.000 recs (1980 -)

articles - ca 390.000 recs (1991 -)
serials - 8.795 recs (1990 - 1996)
doct. theses - 4.720 recs (1989 - 1995)

RETROCON co-operative project (i.e. NL + regional State research libraries) has been launched with the support by Ministry of culture covering the whole Czech book production of the 20th century (ca 500.000 recs, to be completed by the year 2000).

- on-line: <http://www.nkp.cz>

OCLC WorldCat (new acquisitions)
The Czech National Library served as testing site for UNIMARC > USMARC OCLC conversion program development.

Politics

In the time period subject to this report, the NL had to face serious financial difficulties. Very insufficient amounts could be spent on foreign books, library equipment, and SW; in addition, only direct intervention of the prime-minister himself enabled the NL to subscribe foreign periodicals for the year '97. An exceptional solution to cover lack of means for salaries (cutting off operational money) had to be agreed on with the Ministry of culture. Besides, it was for the first time the NL fell behind with payments for amortisation of buildings and equipment. Technical and archaeological feasibility studies for future reconstruction and adaptation of Klementinum as definitive seat of the National Library have not been started, yet, due to budgetary cuts of autumn '96.

Since about a year ago, the new Central repository has been working on standard basis as planned, housing more than 2.5 mil. volumes, and all special preservation & conservation departments a/o. So the dramatic space problem of the NL is coming to a close.

For about last year time period, the NL has been facing permanent increase of the visit rate and of the volume of readers' requests. Therefore, the whole library services area shall be reconsidered, reflecting mission, task profile, and audience of the other Prague research libraries.

As a result of parliamentary elections of summer '96, the new government declared i.a. more attention to public libraries, and, on the other hand, to position of so called national institutions (i.e. the NL included). However, only rather general discussion has started till now on principles and policy concerning the matter.

Legislation

New legal deposit legislation (effective from January 1996) has not contributed to completeness of national document collection, where still 20-30% items are missing, as estimated.

Construction

First part of Klementinum heating system reconstruction has been accomplished. In Summer '96, the reconstruction activities provoked both a number of temporary organisational arrangements, and shut down of library public services for the time period of six weeks.

Automation

Implementation of the ALEPH system met with some difficulties both in HW, and SW area, so that not all of system modules have been applied, yet. OPAC was open for the public in March '96, but circulation module is still waiting for a relevant amount of data. The cables of high capacity information and communication network have been extended through the whole Klementinum area and linked with the Central repository.

A new version of NL graphic home page has been designed on URL: <http://www.nkp.cz>. The CASLIN (*Czech And Slovak Library Information Network*) Union catalogue has been open, comprising now 210.000 recs on www in ALEPH. The cooperation is based on contracts binding libraries involved to adhere to UNIMARC or CS Exchange standards, as well as to minimum structured record instruction recommended by the NL. In addition, catalogue of ca 40.000 foreign and Czech serials from the time period since 1965 is available.

More than 3 mil. cards of NL general catalogue (universal collection) have been scanned as first step of 3-stage schedule of retrospective conversion process. Now the Library is preparing this graphic form of the catalogue available to readers, while the 2nd stage (OCR or manual retyping) and 3rd stage (tagging, i.e. structuring into UNIMARC format) are starting to be performed.

A CD-ROM has been published with Czech version of Hague Consortium UDC file (60.000 notations).

Conservation and Preservation

Move of library material has been realised from or between various Library repositories (2.6 mil. volumes, i.e. more than 67.000 m). New reorganisation of Library holdings is going on. The digitisation unit is working now on regular basis. Some 20 items (mostly Jesuit manuscripts) have been digitised, being valuable and frequently used historical material. A special series of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme named *Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica* is going on. Instruction named *Structure of Digitized Old Books and Manuscripts* has been presented to UNESCO by the Library, with the aim to promote unified access to electronic documents produced anywhere (see URL: <http://www.nkp.cz/externi/digit/digit.htm>).

Public Relations and International Cooperation

The NL continues in promoting its mission and activities through the general public, using both mass media and its own initiatives. The Prague Book Fair, held in May, is traditionally good opportunity for the NL both to present its new library activities and to open doors to attractive baroque premises of the Klementinum.

Assistance of The NL Society (i.e. Friends of the NL) was very effective in fund-raising for NL digitisation programme. Besides, the additional dotation for subscription of foreign periodicals appeared only due to Society activity.

The NL participated in a number of international organisations and meetings, e.g. IFLA, CENL, LIBER, ABDOS (*Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Bibliotheken und Dokumentationsstellen der Ost-, Ostmittel- und Südosteuropaforschung*; the conference '97 is held in Prague), CERL (*Council of European Research Libraries*), ISBN & ISMN, ICAU (*International Club of ALEPH Users*), IAML (*International Association of Music Libraries*), ELAG (*Electronic Libraries Association Group*), *PHARE Library Development Project*, INFOS (annual conference on library information services, Slovakia) etc.

The NL (i.e. Deputy Librarian) is active member of the UNESCO International Advisory Committee of the *Memory of the world programme* and of its Sub-Committee on Technology. Two weeks special UNESCO training seminar on old rare documents digitisation methods was organised in Autumn in Prague for international experts.

In addition, the NL participated in international meeting on *PHARE Library Development Project*.

A number of exhibitions were prepared, some of them meeting major public interest. Besides, the Library with its Tychoniana collection participated in organising exhibition on Tycho Brahe in Denmark and Sweden.

A number of very important visitors appeared in the Library, e.g. Ms. Ase Kleveland, minister of culture of Norway, American writer Elie Wiesel, Mr. Václav Klaus, Czech prime-minister, Ms. Barbara Schleihagen, Director of EBLIDA, Mr. Leo Voogt, General Secretary of IFLA, etc.