

Annual Report of the National Széchényi Library for 2004

**by István Monok, Director General
Budapest, Hungary
July 11, 2005**

We have closed our strategic plan for 2002–2004 and evaluated it in a report. We have drawn up our plan of action for the years 2005–2008, it has been approved by the National Library Board of Trustees and on this basis we have begun to elaborate our strategic plan for these years.

We have drawn up our new Rules of Organisation and Operation according to the organisational structure reducing the management hierarchy that had been planned for years and in compliance with the changed regulations.

Through the 2004 annual acquisitions budget (26 mHUF), the special supports received for this purpose (16 mHUF), the deposit copies and gifts, the library's holdings have increased by 92,740 units. In the interest of retrospective accessions we examined 38,320 lots of 97 Hungarian auctions (compared to 32,091 lots of 83 auctions in 2003) for the purpose of recommending protection or possible purchases. We submitted 104 of the lots to the National Office of Cultural Heritage for protection and we were able to purchase 14 protected items, partly with the support of the Office.

Our collection was enriched with important gifts returning to Hungary from abroad: a gift of 58 valuable items from the widow of Géza Teleki (in places with possessor record of Pál Teleki), the book legacy of Bálint Hóman jr., 9 cases of grey literature from the 1980s from György Maurer. We took delivery of György Faludy's collection of 2868 books. In addition to receiving, classifying, registering and distributing 2.5–3 million items, the deposit copy service had to submit claims for 4068 publications (individual titles).

In the area of book processing, from 2004 we introduced the use of subject headings based on the National Library's Thesaurus, and at the same time we simplified the ETO classification.

In 2004 all processing of serials was done in the NEKTÁR system.

In the course of the year we began the continuous expansion of the NPA database with the holdings and location data of serials with Hungarian imprints reported by libraries in the National Document Supply System (ODR).

We began work on the feasibility studies for building the Humanities Literature Database on the basis of the Hungarica Information database, the social sciences material of the Repertory of Periodicals, and the library sciences material of the MANCI database jointly with external institutions in the areas concerned.

The national bibliographies of books and periodicals were published.

On December 31, 2004 40,260 readers held valid (annual) reading cards. 12,890 persons visited our library with day cards. Under the regulations in force 3155 persons were issued annual cards free of charge and 1657 persons were able to use the library's services with a day card free of charge. The library had 194,999 visitors on the 268 open days and supplied them with around 1.5 million documents.

In 2004 the Special Collections Division drew up its Rules for the bibliographic description of special documents, making it possible to make bibliographical records of the holdings of the special collections in our AMICUS integrated system.

Work continued on the digitisation of maps (17th–19th century maps of Transylvania and the counties), while the Manuscripts Collection digitised our language relics, enabling remote access to this outstanding group of sources that attracts wide interest.

In 2004 the Hungarian Electronic Library (MEK) launched full service of its Electronic Periodicals Archive and Database. The database contains 347 titles. Thanks to support from the

Ministry of Informatics and Telecommunications, digitisation of the Basic Library of Hungarian Studies began in 2004.

One of the most important achievements of 2004 was completion of the first phase of retrospective conversion of the card catalogue of books in the National Library, with support from the Ministry of Informatics and Telecommunications. Within this frame the records of 400,000 catalogue cards of books published between 1952 and 1976 were entered into the online catalogue.

Another major development in 2004, also with support from the Ministry of Informatics and Telecommunications, was creation of the system of Readers Professional Workstations (OPM). We placed 121 new workstations in the reading rooms, 100 of which belong to the OPM system. The reading room computers operate as terminals. There are screens, mice, keyboards and earphones available on the tables for readers. We can now provide full, free internet access and the use of word processing, table, database, image and HTML editing programs. Electronic mailing is authorised on all stations. Databases and electronic documents not available in the OPM system can be accessed in the Media Reading Room, where the videos and films in the Collection of Historical Interviews are also available.

Subscriptions to databases within the frame of the project from funds obtained from the Electronic Information Supply meant a further expansion of the electronic data supply, and access to the MTI Press Databank and the Web of Science databases was also made possible by support from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage.

Another priority informatics task was carrying out the AMICUS upgrading. From 2004 we are adopting the LibriCore upgrades, we switched from version 3.2.7 in use from the launching of AMICUS to version 3.5.1, then to 3.5.2, and in November we began to test the beta version of 3.5.3.

Within the frame of the National Library's Digital Library project we have transferred the supply and receipt to our storage. We have drawn up the users' handbook for the National Library's Digital Library.

The most outstanding of our exhibitions were Klimt, Schiele, Kokoschka and Art of the Dual Monarchy – The World of Yesterday, and Maps of Europe 1520–2004.

In our publishing policy we successfully pursued the practice begun earlier of issuing our publications in joint editions with prestigious, quality publishers (Osiris, Kossuth, Helikon, Argumentum). Two volumes appeared in the Libri de libris series, three in the National Library series, and four in the Amor Librorum series. Outside the series, the most successful books of the year were facsimile editions of: Benyovszky Móric madagaszkári jegyzőkönyve 1772-1776 [Records of Móric Benyovszky in Madagascar in 1772–1776], and Nostradamus mester proféciái 1557 [Prophecies of Master Nostradamus 1557].

The Library Institute participated actively in implementation of the library development strategy of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, it successfully co-ordinated the national EBSCO licence, provided training and assistance for libraries applying for access, and it organised the 2nd World Gathering of Hungarian Librarians. It conducted library marketing studies in three county seats, as well as a survey and analysis of internet access of libraries in Hungary. It carried out expert and consulting activity on holdings management and library technology.

As a new task the Library Sciences Library began to create a European Library History Collection.