

Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (BnL)

National Library of Luxembourg

Annual report 2004-2005

Management of the Library

Director: Dr. Monique Kieffer

The recent development of an automated statistics tool based on the ISO norm 2789:2003 ("International library statistics") should improve the completeness and coherence of BnL's statistical data.

Funding

The budget has increased in 2004 and 2005. Major efforts have been made to develop electronic services and the digital library.

Legislation

The status of the Luxembourg cultural institutions has been redefined by a new law in force since the 25th June 2004.

For the BnL it contains the following new dispositions:

- the legal deposit is extended to digital publications,
- the BnL has been enabled to assume functions of a university library.

Buildings

The BnL is suffering of an acute lack of space. The government decided to relocate the National Library and its annexes in a single building. In the meantime, some departments of the National Library are located in a new annexe.

Staffing matters

In the year 2005, the BnL has been able to increase slightly the number of its staff members. A special focus has been given to training programs, especially regarding information technology.

Information technology and networks

The BnL coordinates the network of Luxembourg libraries which has grown from 28 to 30 in 2005 (shared catalogue). All the libraries of the recent University of Luxembourg are now

part of the network. The BnL runs and organises the cataloguing courses for the new members.

The BnL has received a special budget from the government to develop information technologies (E-Europe). Metalib and SFX (Ex Libris) have been purchased in 2004. The BnL has implemented SFX and Metalib. The BnL has used special grants to purchase databases and electronic journals. The paper catalogue of non-Luxembourg publications acquired before 1985 has been digitised and integrated to Aleph.

The automation of the international loan now allows the users to make their orders online. Initiations to Aleph and the electronic resources do regularly take place at the BnL.

The digital library

The BnL is digitising publications relating to national heritage. A prototype giving access to the documents digitised in 2003 has been implemented. The collection of electronic journals and databases has been enlarged in 2004-2005. The new status of Luxembourg cultural institutions has allowed the National Library to extend the legal deposit to electronic publications.

Legal deposit of materials

The government of Luxembourg is preparing a “règlement grand-ducal” to define and implement the concept of collecting and storing electronic publications entered by legal deposit.

Acquisitions

Until now, the allocated budget has been sufficient though an increase of funds is necessary in order to develop the digital library.

Some of the major acquisitions are the “Tübinger Atlas des vorderen Orients”, the “Oxford Dictionary of National Bibliography” and the collection of re-impressed rare works called “Bewahrte Kultur”.

Users of the National Library can now make their suggestions for acquisitions online. This has increased the number of suggestions in a perceptible way.

Preservation and conservation

The general conditions of conservation have been improved but the funds for conservation policy are still far from being sufficient.

Services to readers

The efforts made to improve the services to the public have lead to an increase of readers and loans. The lending policy of the BnL has become less strict. Users can now borrow a more important number of items. The great success of the internet services has contributed to diversify the profile of library users.

In application of a European directive the government is preparing a “règlement grand-ducal” in order to charge loans.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Main exhibitions in 2004-2005:

- Le grand ouvrage: description de l'Égypte (12th December – 30th March 2004)
- Newspapers in Luxembourg 1703-2003 (27th October – 31st December 2004)

Since 2004, the national bibliography is available online and linked with Aleph so that reservations can be made directly.

Library co-operation

The national library co-operation has been reinforced. The BnL is the coordinator of the network bibnet.lu whose internal communication has been improved by the electronic Circalux system.