

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS
CENL- ANNUAL REPORT – 2004
THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY “St. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia

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1. Management of the library

According to its current structure and in line with the new Library's status, the Library's work is carried out in 13 organizational units, 5 sectors and 8 departments.

The Library is governed by Administrative Board, which consists of 5 members, 1 appointed from the Ministry of Culture, 2 from Local Authorities, and 2 representatives from the Library staff. The Board supervises the programme, strategic and financial plans as well as the annual operating budget and decides on capital investments.

In 2004, the Administrative Board adopted new Library's status, the Law for Libraries and the new organizational scheme.

2. Funding

In 2004 the National and University Library received 5.284.321,00 MKD or 85.000 EUR for program activities from the State budget. This sum is 12% lower than that received in 2003. This amount includes salaries and all other monthly expenses.

The NUL has its own annual income from various services: restoration and preservation services, membership fees, paid use of DIALOG database, fees for ISBN/ISSN, sale of library templates, international library loans services. In 2004 this revenue amounted to 1.556.856,00 MKD or 25.110 EUR. The income coming from rents was 982.133,00 MKD or 16.000 EUR, and also, 300.000,00 MKD, which is about 5.000,00 EUR from NUL's participation in some international projects.

3. Legislation

The new *Law for cultural heritage protection* was passed in March 2004 and was enforced on 1st January 2005.

The new *Law for Libraries* was passed on 15 September 2004. It provides better foundation for the national and university library.

In accordance with the new Laws, the accent should be given to the promotion of educational role of the library, the use of digital technology and promotion of shared access to digital cultural heritage, improvement of conditions for work, accent on preservation and conservation of library materials etc.

In 2004, the Cultural Heritage Protection Office was founded within the Ministry of Culture, which is an independent legal agency.

4. Buildings

The lack of storage space is one of the problems which still remains unsolved. Some of the library materials that are not used frequently are located into other premises (storage space) outside of the building, which are given on use to the Library.

Both the Library building and its wide space as well as its good location and frequency of clients and professional staff working in it, have always been very attractive and have drawn interest among foreign countries where they want to organize specialized reading rooms or information centres. However, this kind of cooperation has not always been possible.

Both British Council Macedonia and the German Reading Room occupy space of the Library.

5. Staffing matters

In 2004 the staff of the National and University Library consisted of 114 employees and 10 part-time workers and students.

Different Government programs demand restrictions in the number of employees in public administration. New employments are not allowed.

6. Information technology and network

The establishment of the shared bibliographic-cataloguing database COBIB.MK represents the beginning of realization of the Virtual Library of Macedonia Project (VBMK). At the same time, it is the basis for building complete library and information system that will hold information on library holdings in Macedonia, and together with the information and electronic documents from other servers in the system, will be available to the users via Internet.

At the end of 2004 an Agreement for implementation of the library information system COBISS.MK was signed, when another 14 public, university and

specialized libraries joined the system. This agreement defines the functions and activities of VBM Center that was founded at NUL, which includes activities for management, coordination and development of the LIS COBISS.MK, provision of professional help during development and operation of LIS, training of librarians and other users of LIS, and other activities of the library information service. For that purpose an upgrading of the server was made, connection to MARNET (Macedonian Academic and Research Network) was improved with wireless telecommunication equipment, new switch was installed, the electronic Training Center was renewed and equipped with 11 new PC's, and proper software was provided.

VBMK Center will be equipped with professional staff, at least 3 IT professionals who will coordinate activities, provide professional help during development and operation of library information system, and will have the role of library information service.

7. The Digital Library

NUL prepared several projects and applied for foreign donations. One of them is: *Digitization of Macedonian Specialised collections in the National and University Library for the purposes of their preservation.*

The work on retrospective conversion, though with lower pace, continued during 2004.

During the year a part of the special collections' funds (especially arts and drawings) was digitized. Thus, this material is accessible through the OPAC.

The reconstruction of the NUL's web page was initiated and first steps were undertaken.

The three main series of national bibliographies (books, serials and articles) are available as online editions.

8. Legal deposit of materials

The NUL obtains legal deposit of Macedonian publishing production in accordance with the existing legislation and the expected rate. The acquisition of electronic editions as a legal deposit is not still regulated. Enhancement is expected with the amendments that have been made to the Act of Legal Deposit in the new text of the Law for Libraries.

Under legislation right we receive 5 copies of each title published in the Republic of Macedonia out of which 3 copies are for the NUL and 2 copies for the Public and National Library in Bitola and Public Library in Shtip.

Though there is a positive change regarding legal deposit material and some of the publishers have a more benevolent attitude for their legal obligation toward the Library, it can be noted that we cannot collect all the copies of Macedonian publishing production.

We regularly collect publications that have been published abroad and were written by Macedonian authors as well as publications in which Macedonians and Macedonia are treated.

9. Acquisitions

In 2004, NUL received 38.993 items of various library materials, among them 24.882 legal deposit and 14.111 items for the two deposit libraries in the country. The distribution is made by the NUL.

NUL collections were increased by 5271 titles of monograph publications, 24.882 units of serial publications, 200 units of AV materials, and by 450 items of cartographic and art materials, photographs and drawings.

In addition, foreign monographs were purchased for the needs of the national bibliographies "Makedonika" Bulletin and "Makedonika" Bibliography.

Books and periodicals from Macedonian publishing production were continually purchased for the purposes of international exchange. The number of purchased foreign titles of monographs and periodicals was decreased due to very small budget allocated for it and also, due to the current legal regulations for acquisitions from abroad.

3043 foreign titles were received and 1623 Macedonian titles were sent abroad on international exchange and donation basis.

Special accent was made on selecting and donating books from Macedonian publishing production to libraries in other countries. In this respect, it is worth mentioning the donation of 800 latest titles to the National Library of Ukraine. On this occasion an exhibition of these books was organized in NL of Kiev.

10. Special collections

Researches were made in the funds of National Library "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in Sophia, R. Bulgaria and in the National Library of Serbia, where our experts have found important manuscripts with Macedonian redaction. Out of them 34 manuscripts (fragments) were microfilmed, also photocopies were made of 15 rare periodical publications, which were included in our collections.

11. Preservation and conservation

Conservation and preservation of old manuscripts and rare books was continually performed both for the needs of NUL and for other state institutions or individuals in the country. Attention was paid and care was taken for the overall library material where the need appeared.

12. Services to readers

The Library was visited by and services were given to about 110000 users (including the visitors in organised groups and the visitors to the cultural

events organized by the Library). During 2004, NUL registered 1800 new users. (90% of them were students from the Universities).

The NUL offered more appropriate access to OPAC.

New software and digitisation equipment was purchased, which is used for transfer of articles as per requests made by users in International library loans services.

The Referral Centre performed 400 searches for 200 users (scholars, researchers and scientists) within international e-databases. Dialog and OCLC resources were used for these purposes as well as the resources available locally among which are Internet, EBSCO, CD-ROMs, MAREBA, OPAC. Twenty two written information researches on a specific topic were made on request of individual and collective users. Also, 396 documents were provided through International interlibrary landing. Most of them were provided from UK, while the others from Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia and Bulgaria. Regular trainings regarding types and possibilities for access to various kinds of information were organized for the Library users.

Swiss Corner was organized as a project between NUL and the Swiss Embassy in Macedonia. It is a user-friendly corner consisting of 4 personal computers that provide free Internet access for users.

The increase in e-library service users points to a need for improvement and expansion of this Centre's services.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Through various forms of cultural activities, the National Library of the Republic of Macedonia is promoting national cultural values as a part of the world's cultural heritage. In this respect, jubilees of famous Macedonian revolutionaries, fighters for freedom and writers were celebrated through exhibitions of documents and materials from NUL's funds.

One of the most important cultural events during 2004 was the celebration of 60 years anniversary of the Antifascist Assembly of People's Liberation of Macedonia and 60th anniversary of the National and University Library. Special programme was prepared for the celebration of its foundation. On this occasion *A Letter of Intent* between the National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski" and The British Council Macedonia was signed regarding the construction of a Conference/Knowledge and Learning Centre within the National and University Library building.

Representatives from foreign countries (politicians, managers of libraries) visited the NUL. Exhibitions of old Slavonic manuscripts and rare books were organised for these occasions and they triggered great interest among visitors. Big multimedia program was organized on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day, which caused great interest among the users. Guests from all over the Republic come to the Library on this day.

Exhibition entitled "Books from Slovenia " was organized after the NUL received about 1000 items of monographs, donation from the National and University Library from Ljubljana.

Special catalogues and other kind of promotional materials concerning cultural events were prepared.

The National & University Library "Kliment Ohridski"-Skopje traditionally prepares and hosts several annual exhibitions: "Authors and Works of Macedonian Literary Production," "Graphic Art" and "Drawings", exhibitions of visual arts prepared in cooperation with the Association of Visual Arts of Macedonia.

14. Library cooperation & projects

The NUL gave an accent on intensification of the cooperation on national and international level.

Besides Macedonian Agencies and Centres for ISBN, ISSN, INIS, which worked in collaboration with publishers and in the frames with international organizations and databases, NUL also participated in other international projects such as CALIMERA, eIFL, ICDL (International Children's Digital Library) and Index Translationum.

International cooperation initiatives are gradually increasing. The NUL is a member of IFLA, CENL, LIBER, EBLIDA, IAML, ISSN, ISBN. ISMN Contract regarding the implementation of the ISMN was signed at the end of 2004. The ISMN Agency will start its work in 2005.

NUL is taking part in annual IFLA, CDNL and CENL meetings and conferences, as well as LIBER, ISSN and ISBN conferences in accordance with financial support and internal organisation of activities.

Agreements for cooperation were signed with the National Library of Russia in St Petersburg and the following libraries from Moscow: Russian State Library, Central City Library, All-Russian State Library for Foreign Literature, the National and University Library from Ljubljana, Slovenia and the National Library "V.I Vernadsky" from Kiev, Ukraine.