MC
MINISTÉRIO DA CULTURA

BN
BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

CENL ANNUAL REPORT
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BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (PORTUGAL)
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PORTUGAL

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1. Management of the library

The National Library of Portugal (BN) provides universal access to the Portuguese printed heritage and other relevant collections on its custody. As the national library, BN operates in the context of libraries and information services of the country acting as the standards institutions for information and documentation and as a centre of excellence in librarianship, preservation and conservation and information technologies.

In continuation of the mission and goals indicated in last year's report in 2004, BN's policy aimed especially at:

➢ Increase services to users in order to become more visible in society.
➢ Ensure the preservation of the collections for a long-term access commitment.
➢ Develop the infrastructures and cooperative efforts at national and international level, to bring together the printed and electronic national collections.
➢ Move towards an integrated quality management.

2. Handling of electronic publications and formats

The voluntary deposit and selective repository services were developed either for dissertations and thesis, in a project connected with the University of Virginia-Tech (NDLTD) and with the pilot phases of two other projects: DIMIC (Digital Deposit of Electronic Monographs Commercially Published) and DIMAC (Digital Deposit of Government Publications).

These projects are still at an early stage and conversations and agreements with publishers at the commercial and governmental level are ongoing.

Another project named RECOLHA aims at harvesting a selection of Web sites under Portuguese domain. The discussion on selection criteria and the settlement of technological infrastructures and legal issues in still on-going.

Last year was mostly dedicated to infrastructural matters concerning registry, persistent identifiers, storage and preservation of electronic publications and formats in order to enable continuing access to the digital objects. The strategic plan in action aims at a fruitful integration of search in the Portuguese Union Catalogue – PORBASE and access to digital publications, in a single action. The portal which is under development will make search and retrieval much easier with possible combination with access to external resources.

3. Funding

As mentioned in previous years, the budget of BN is rather reduced with no changes in its totals ever since 2000. In 2004 the budget for staff and current expenses represented **5.678.482** and for projects (designated PIDDAC) represented only **1.714.286** , with a contribution of **339.777** from EU funding.

A careful management and the establishment of priorities allowed BN to finish the year without debts and to fulfil its activity plan and major objectives. Top priority was given to Information Technology (networks and digital library) and also to Preservation & Conservation and Collection development.

The allocation of funds was the following:

Automation and IT (incl. digitisation) ……………………………	1.101.235
Preservation & Conservation	332.936
Acquisitions – collection development …………………………...	202.115
Building and equipments ……………………………………………..	187.653
Cultural activities ……………………………………………….......	75.305
Optical reading system ………………………………………………	62.750
Production of Braille and audio-books …………………………..	13.095

4. Legislation

There were no changes in legislation affecting BN. After elections, a new government was established in March 2005 and a new Minister of Culture was appointed.

5. Building

Work for the expansion of storing facilities although approved several years ago, as a project, has not yet a specific budget assigned to it.

Physical accessibility to BN has now an automated system which allows for a more controlled circulation of cars and people that enter BN's venue and surrounding area.

6. Staffing matters

The new system for performance evaluation in Civil Service was successfully implemented at BN implying also the adoption of principles of quality management in the library.

Staff remains one of BN's major problems as repeatedly stated in previous reports. New recruitments imply more resources (which are not available) although clearly what we need is quality, e.g. staff with different skills and competences (especially in IT and P&C areas) and not necessarily quantity. As a result, those mentioned areas are provided with outsourcing services, dependable on available financial resources and even though the work performed might be considered as reliable still there are no in-house new competences created.

7. Information technology and networks

The new release of Dynix-Horizon integrated system was implemented successfully by the end of 2004. PORBASE – the Union Catalogue of Portuguese Libraries, hosted at BN, comprises the collections of **156** Portuguese libraries. By 31 December, PORBASE held **1.300.642** bibliographic records, **1.103.490** authority records and **2.159.211** holdings records.

Cooperation in the Union Catalogue was enhanced by the development of tools for contributing libraries and for automatic upload and download of records from PORBASE. One of them, the PORBASE Directory allows libraries to review the accuracy of their UNIMARC records in their own systems, compare them with those existing in the union database and derive cataloguing records or upload them in the system, in an automatic form.

PORBASE is now evoluting to a broader concept of accessibility not only of bibliographic records but also of digital contents. PORBASE Virtual is a new service that is now under consideration after approval of funding for a pilot-project to start at the end of 2005.

A new project known as *Patrimonia* has been approved recently and will start by the end of 2005, as well. Its objective is to create a union database of old printed collections available in BN and in other Portuguese research libraries. The database will include digitised items.

8. The digital library

The National Digital Library (BND) received European funding for digitisation of around half a million images. Selection criteria involved all collections with special emphasis on graphics (posters and engravings), maps, printed and manuscript music, cultural and literary 19th and early 20th century journals.

The digital contents are now in the process of mounting in the Website, according to the established infrastructure of linking to the respective UNIMARC records in PORBASE with an assigned PURL to ensure long term availability.

During 2004 the project for digitisation of literary archives deposited at BN was launched (http://acpc.bn.pt). New archives will continue to be added always in accordance with copyright laws.

The digitisation project known as *Treasures of the National Library* (http://purl.pt/369) was launched in January 2004 and continues with the monthly editing of a new treasure. This is an educational tool aimed at the general informed public.

9. Legal deposit of materials

The new legal deposit act is still to pass. A voluntary deposit of electronic publications and the individual agreements with commercial and governmental publishers are currently being pursued.

10. Acquisitions

BN received and catalogued **9.602** publications under legal deposit dispositions. **8.117** correspond to monographs, **636** are new serial's titles, **112** are graphics and **111** electronic publications. On-going newspapers and journals represented **67.509** issues.

The budget for purchasing foreign publications (printed or electronic versions) and valuable items from auctions and antiquarians was **156.957,96** . Among the important bibliographic items purchased are correspondence of Portuguese politicians and writers of 19th and 20th century.

11. Preservation and Conservation

The on-going project of Microfilming Portuguese Newspapers was successfully accomplished in 2004 with a total of **350.000** microfilmed pages and an investment of **34.943,99** .

The other major on-going project is dedicated to Binding and, in 2004, **4.076** new bindings were executed and **17.623** small binding interventions also took place.

The second phase of the programme *Save a Book* was quite successful: from the list of **82** items in need of restoration, **49** were adopted.

12. Services to readers

The number of BN's registered readers in 2004 was **5.721**, of which **2.074** were new readers and **3.547** continuing ones. There is a general tendency in the last

two years for a slight decrease in the number of readers and in the number of ILL users (**1.355** requests in 2004).

On the whole, e.g. in all **6** reading rooms, **52.782** requests represented **233.900** items consulted.

In 2004, and in order to automate circulation and access, BN started a project with the aim of including barcodes in all the collections. The project will continue in the next years.

BN provides scholarship grants to researchers with the financial support of **4** Foundations. These grants are aimed at European, North-American, Asian, African and Brazilian investigators whose themes are in relation with BN's collections. In 2004, **16** scholars were granted support.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The more relevant exhibitions were:

➢ *Biblioteca Nacional – interior/exterior* (National Library inside and outside) – celebrating the 35th anniversary of BN's building.
➢ *O livro científico nos séculos XV e XVI* (The scientific book of 15 and 16th century) – displaying BN's valuable and rare collections.
➢ *Hans Christian Andersen: 1805 -1875* – celebrating the bi-centenary of Andersen's birth.
➢ *Ilustradores do Quixote de Cervantes* (Illustrators of Cervantes' D. Quixote) – displaying Portuguese and relevant foreign illustrations for the Cervantes master-piece on the year of its 4th centenary.

All the exhibitions were accompanied by catalogues, postcards and web site versions.

The National Library Journal *Leituras*, issue 14-15 dedicated to Cultural Heritage was published.

14. Library cooperation

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

BN is a member of ABINIA, CDNL, CENL, CERL, ECPA, IFLA and LIBER, participating in their current activities.

BN is a member of the TEL – The European Library management board and responsible for the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity. In February 2005 BN hosted a meeting of TEL, preceded by a Seminar aiming at Portuguese librarians, about TEL's issues. In March, the 13th annual meeting of the Permanent UNIMARC Committee also took place at BN's venue.

Participation at the EU MINERVA Plus project continued during the course of the year as well as collaboration in the DELOS-NOE, EU accompanying measure.

BN organised and hosted in 2004, an international seminar about Digitisation of cultural heritage, under the umbrella of MINERVA Plus.

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