

THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
NATIONAL LIBRARIANS

2004-2005

August 2005

Address:

Nám. J.C. Hronského 1
036 01 Martin
SLOVAKIA

WWW: www.snk.sk

e-mail: snk@snk.sk

Tel: +421/43/4301802

Fax: +421/43/4301802

Director:

From November 8th, 2000, in accordance with the Library Act as well as with the result of the competition announced by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic **Doc. PhDr. Dušan Katuščák, PhD.** was appointed to the position of the General Director by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

Contact Person: Mrs. Jarmila Majerová

e-mail: majerova@snk.sk

1. MANAGEMENT

The Slovak National Library (SNL) belongs to the supreme state cultural, information and education institutions which fulfill the tasks defined by the Library Act. The partial tasks for each year are specified in the Plan of Activities.

Previous period is considered to be successful. In principle, all major tasks defined in the Plan of Activities for year 2004 were fulfilled.

The management of the library was realized via regular meetings of the top management, via regular meetings of experts and via guidelines and instructions.

The publishing of updated Working order of the SNL is the most important fact which has to be accomplished in the near future. Despite all our efforts and good results, there are lot of problems which affect effectiveness and social import of our work.

2. MAJOR INNOVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

According to the government resolution no. 801 from July 17, 2002 on the Program of computerized libraries and to the project on Library and information system of the third generation (KIS3G) the SNL has procured, installed and implemented the common library and information software Virtua in the Slovak libraries. In the Virtua system we have started to build up the central catalog Slovak Library (www.kis3g.sk) and the digital library Memoria slovacica (www.memoria.sk). In 2004 more than 10 libraries were connected to the project (up to August 2005 – 22 libraries).

The SNL has taken steps in the area of the preservation of cultural heritage of Slovakia. On the base of the SNL initiative the government of the Slovak Republic has approved the Program on preservation, stabilization and conservation of traditional media of information (government resolution no. 766 from July 10, 2002).

3. FINANCE AND FUNDING

The Slovak National Library is the state budgetary institution and is funded through the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture.

The budget for 2004 (cca 2.5 mil. Euro) enabled to fulfill all basic tasks of the SNL. Besides the regular budget, the extra budget for capital investment was approved by the Ministry of Culture as well as extra finances from external resources (foundations, grants...).

The incomes earned by the SNL (2 % from regular budget) were returned back to the state budget.

4. LEGAL STATUS

The SNL has participated at the preparation of the new Decree no. 421/2003 on Registration, Withdrawal and Inventory of library collections.

In accordance with the Act no. 428/2002 on Preserving the personal data the SNL has prepared the Security project of the information system of the SNL.

5. ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK

The SNL has successfully fulfilled the commitments in the area of acquiring of the electronic resources for Slovakia. The subscription of access to the database EBSCO within the eIFL Direct project was paid from the SNL budget. The development of such a kind of service is considered to be one of the SNL priorities in the future. The SNL actively participated at the building of the Union Catalogue – part Monographies. The bilateral contracts were signed with ten partner libraries contributing to the Union Catalogue. Within the KIS3G Project the SNL has organized the trainings for a new library and information system – Virtua. The trainings were oriented to libraries which will participate at the project.

6. BUILDINGS AND PLANT

The intention of the SNL is to improve the deposit for large collections. The project for new space was submitted to the Ministry of Culture. The Ministry of Defense of the Slovak Republic has conveyed the buildings (former barracks) which helps to solve insufficient space in current deposit. The project for large reconstruction of the main building was submitted to the Ministry of Economy and approved as the project funded from European structural funds.

7. ACQUISITIONS

The main source of acquisitions is the legal deposit, purchase (domestic and from abroad), reserve collections and international exchange of documents. Besides traditional media the SNL has acquired electronic resources and full-text databases which are available via reference services. In 2005 the SNL has prepared the steps towards the completion of basic „slovakical“ collections by purchase of microfilms of Slovak newspapers from Hungarian National Library in Budapest.

8. CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

In 2002 three scientific and research departments with national importance were accredited in the SNL. In 2004 the the Department of restauration and conservation of documents was connected to solving the scientific project of state importance. Conservation and preservation of collections are main tasks which are fulfilled by the National Library.

The Book Restoration and Conservation Division is responsible for activities which concern monitoring of physical conditions of books and periodicals kept in the main deposit. Continually the restoration of damaged material from library collections is done and restored old and rare books are kept in special deposit with temperature and humidity measuring.

Taking into account very modest space and technical equipment the division offers its services to various customers.

High esteem was given to the work of the division.

Another ways of collection preservation are microfilming and digitization. The microfilming of the collections is represented in the project: National Program on Microfilming for Long-term Preservation. The project on microfilming forms a part of

wider National Library Programme on New Information Technologies Application. Other new projects – the Digital Library and Archives; Preservation, Archiving and Access to Sound Recordings in the collections of the SNL; Archiving the data on physical carriers - were prepared and approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic as a part of the Program for preservation and conservation of traditional carriers.

The new security system for open stock in the General study room was installed.

9. IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The access to external resources for users and staff was improved by purchase of the technical equipment CISCO router and by building up of the high-speed connection to the network SANET (100 Mbps).

For the time being the SNL is well equipped with the PCs and facilities needed for staff and users.

10. SERVICES TO READERS

Library Services Institute in the SNL acts as a national centre for interlibrary loans, as a national coordinator of services provided from online databases (EBSCO Publishing). It organizes the activities of the National Commission for Library and Information Services of the Slovak Republic.

During the reported period the SNL has continued in designing the new Decree on ILL and IILL.

The department for information research acts as the information centre of the European Council and as information and consulting centre of the Patent bureau in the Slovak Republic.

11. EXHIBITIONS

The most important was the exhibition „Czech and Slovak Exile“ which was installed in Budapest and Krakow as well. The Slovak Literary Museum which forms a part of the SNL has prepared a lot of exhibitions concerning the most significant persons from Slovak history.

Among other cultural and professional events the most important were: The week of Slovak libraries, Martin´s Literary Spring, etc.

12. PUBLISHING

The publishing of the Slovak national bibliography (CD-ROM) continued during 2004 as well as of the journal KNIŽNICA. Among the most important publications are: Guide to Historical Libraries, II. vol. Biographic studies (vol. 30).

The information on activities of the SNL are continuously published on the web side www.snk.sk.

13. CATALOGUING

Cataloguing in the SNL is based on internationally accepted AACR2 and ISBDs. In January 2004 the Slovak translation of AACR2 was published and distributed within Slovakia. The translation of MARC 21 Bibliographic format was prepared. The

SNL is responsible for preparing the translation of other MARC 21 formats (including lists of codes) as well as related ISO standards. Moving to MARC 21 formats is coordinated with implementation of the KIS3G Project (and with implementation of the software – VIRTUA).

The Authority Department has contributed to the Slovak authority files – names of persons, corporate bodies, subject headings and series – in both local and national levels.

The director of the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Institute participates at the international project on International Cataloguing Rules.

14. LIBRARY COOPERATION

On the national level the Slovak National Library co-operates with other libraries participating in the CASLIN Project (University Library in Bratislava, libraries joining in the KOLIN Project - East-Slovakia libraries).

On the international level the SNL as a member of top library institutions and associations tries to fulfill as many partial tasks as possible.

15. STAFFING MATTERS

It seems that lack of finances and technical equipment are not the problem in many cases. The problems very often cause low level of management at all levels, insufficient professional knowledge of staff, lack of initiative, low work efficiency and working discipline, insufficient knowledge of economical limits and processes. Some departments founded in accordance with the new Organization chart did not use the chance for self-establishment and for improvement of their professional position in the field of providing better services. The solution is to improve the personal management, to develop the system of education, of further education and of professional trainings of staff.

The intention to employ more young people (graduated at the universities) for new positions and programs is very often limited by the prescribed number of staff.

16. MAJOR CELEBRATIONS

In 2004 the SNL has organized mostly scientific and other cultural events.

17. OTHER NOTABLE INFORMATION

Priorities for near future:

- to develop the KIS3G project within the Program of computerized libraries
- to connect other libraries to the common software Virtua and to prepare the contracts on cooperation
- to distribute and maintain the software for small and medium libraries (KIS MaSK) on the base of WINISIS system
- to develop the central catalog Slovak Library within the KIS3G project
- to develop the digital library Memoria slovacica within the KIS3G project
- to fulfill the task of the national deposit library
- to refresh the accreditation of three scientific and research departments and incorporate them to the programs of science and research

- to coordinate the solving of state research task on preservation of documents in the sense of the government resolution no. 766
- to solve the organization and technology of effective use of the hybrid digital and microfilming camera for the needs of the SNL and other cooperating libraries
- to gain the information sources for Slovakia in cooperation with other libraries (eIFL)
- to improve human resource management, to prepare the system of education and further education of librarians
- to take effort to get extra budgetary funds from the structural funds of European Union, from the Grants system of the Ministry of Culture of the SR
- to prepare international project and gradually develop the department for disinfection of historical book documents and archivalia for need of the SNL and the Library System of the SR to augment the deposit by the construction of the premises to the main building.