

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS**  
**CENL- ANNUAL REPORT – 2005**  
**THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY “St. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”**  
**Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**

**Director: Borko Zafirovski**

**Address:**

Blvd. Goce Delcev 6

PO Box 566

1000 Skopje

Republic of Macedonia

Tel/fax: ++ 389 2 3226 846

Email: [kliment@nubsk.edu.mk](mailto:kliment@nubsk.edu.mk)

zafirovski@nubsk.edu.mk

URL: [www.nubsk.edu.mk](http://www.nubsk.edu.mk)

### **1. Management of the library**

In line with the new statute adopted on 26.05.2004, the National and University Library's work is organised by 13 organizational units (5 sectors and 8 departments).

The Library is governed by Administrative Committee consisted of 5 members. It supervises the Library programme, both strategic and financial plans as well as the annual operating budget and brings decisions on capital investments.

Being national and university library at the same time, the NUL "St Kliment Ohridski" has made efforts to adjust its strategy to the needs of continually changing environment regarding new technology and user needs. By introducing new processes we expect significant improvement in the domain of accessing and disseminating scientific information.

### **2. Funding**

In 2005 the National and University Library received 47.000.000,00 MKD or 758.000 EUR from the State budget. The amount covered program activities, salaries and all other monthly expenses.

The NUL has its own annual income, which is variable. The total sum of 2005 annual income amounted 4.200.000,00 MKD which equals to 67.740,00 EUR.

### **3. Legislation**

The statute of the NUL was redefined in accordance with the legal acts contained in the *Law for Libraries* and the *Law for cultural heritage*, which the Government passed on 15 September 2004.

The accent is given to the promotion of educational role of the library, the use of digital technology, digitization of documents and promotion of shared access to digital cultural heritage, improvement of conditions for work as well as accent on preservation and conservation of library materials etc.

#### **4. Buildings**

The lack of storage space remains unsolved problem. 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.

On the other side, 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 establish specialized reading rooms or information centres.

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

#### **5. Staffing matters**

During 2005 the staff at the National and University Library consisted of 114 employees and 13 contractual workers and students.

On recommendations of Government new employments are not allowed.

#### **6. Information technology and network**

During 2005 upgrade of hardware infrastructure of the library system in Macedonia was achieved.

The establishment of the shared bibliographic-cataloguing database COBIB.MK represents the beginning of the Project (VBMK) and it is the basis on which complete library and information system will be built.

During 2005 the staff at VBMK (Virtual Library of Macedonia) Center, founded in 2004, has worked on regular coordination activities, provision of professional help during development and operation of library information system.

At the same time, the staff was engaged with, and paid attention to the following activities: improving the Internet connection of the other servers in the Library and Information System; exchange of ISDN with ADSL connections in the libraries - members of LIS; organisation of COBISS training for 10 librarians, who are now qualified for work in the System. One academic library entered the COBISS.MK system. One librarian has obtained trainer license.

The total number of records in COBIB.MK database at the end of 2005 was 325826, which includes all kinds of library documents.

As a result of the long-term strategic partnership between the Library and the British Council Macedonia, new and modern Conference and Study Centre (CSC) located at the

NUL was established and was officially opened in 2005. CSC is the project initiated by the Director of NUL. The Center aims to create new forms of local, regional and international debate and knowledge interchange, to improve the information and IT infrastructure of the NUL and to strengthen Macedonia's integration into Euro-Atlantic processes. It can be used for organizing lectures, presentations, workshops, seminars, conferences, distance learning etc. and is open for all citizens and groups from governmental, business or civic sectors.

### **7. Education of Librarians**

In absence of LIS studies in the educational system of the Republic of Macedonia, the National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski", being a central library for RM and in line with the legal acts, organizes training and education of librarians. Thus, the NUL has renovated the Training Centre, where basic and advance courses are being organised. The courses are outlined in the internal Statute for organising library courses on the basis of international standards for library processes. The courses are organized for the staff of all types of libraries. They are carried out two times a year (in May and November) and the participants receive corresponding certificates as per the articles contained in the Statute.

### **8. Legal deposit of materials**

The NUL obtains legal deposit of Macedonian publishing production in accordance with the current 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.

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 2005, NUL received 38.324 items of various library materials, out of which 24.792 items are legal deposit.

NUL collections were enlarged for 6196 titles of monograph publications, 22.994 units of serial publications and 9134 items which belong to the Special collections (cartographic and art materials, photographs and drawings, exhibition catalogues, music CD-ROMs, small prints etc).

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.

On international exchange and donation basis 6237 foreign titles were received and 1382 Macedonian titles were sent abroad.

Special accent was made on selecting and donating books from Macedonian publishing production for the newly founded Macedonian cultural centers abroad. Thus, 900 books are on everyday access to interested readers in the Macedonian Cultural Center in Sofia, Bulgaria, 580 titles were sent to Library of Congress and newly organised Center in Washington, USA, and 320 books were donated to the Department of Macedonian Language at the Faculty of Philosophy in Bratislava, Slovakia.

## **10. Special collections**

In three successive years researches were made in the funds of National Library "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in Sophia, R. Bulgaria and in the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade for the purposes of finding important manuscripts and/or old printed and rare publications which are of interest for the Republic of Macedonia.

## **11. Preservation and conservation**

In the course of 2005 the staff at the Laboratory for Conservation and Preservation worked on conservation and preservation of 4500 sheets handwritten material of old printed and rare books as well as periodical publications, part of NUL's holdings. For the first time this year we worked on preservation of materials that are not standard library materials, but they contain paper in their base, such as graphic sheets, drawings in pencil, fresco sketches.

Beginnings were made in digital preservation of library funds. A part of special collections (old Slavonic manuscripts, arts and drawings) was digitized.

Microfilming and binding of library documents is regularly carried out both for the NUL's needs and for other institutions and individuals.

## **12. Services to readers**

The Library was visited by and services were given to about 140.000 users (including the visitors in organised groups and the visitors to the cultural events organized by the Library). During 2005, NUL registered 3015 new users.

The NUL offered more appropriate access to OPAC.

The Referral Centre performed 500 searches for 250 users (scholarly workers, researchers scientists and students) 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. Also, 420 documents were provided through International interlibrary lending. 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.

Macedonian eLibraries (MeL) is a consortium of national libraries which joined together to expand their library profile from paper-only to digital services. This is done by coordinated

acquisition of electronic resources for libraries, efforts to improve the ICT infrastructure in RM and to improve library services toward digital content. Three main projects and areas of work have been outlined by MEL Board members, and they are: coordinated acquisition of e-journals via eIFL net; computerisation and communication; digital libraries.

On 23rd March 2005 NUL signed Agreement for donation of equipment within the ICT4ICT project, led by Mid Sweden University, Sundsvall and financed by the SPIDER Program (Swedish Program for IT in Developing Regions). The subject of the agreement was donation of computer and networking equipment, the purpose of which is to provide use of computers as well as Internet services for public use within the building of the National and University Library. The equipment consists of desktop PCs, wireless access point and other necessary accessories.

License Agreement was signed, also, between the NUL "St Kliment Ohridski" and Elsevier (the Licensor), Amsterdam in which the Licensor grants to the NUL the non-exclusive right and license to use free of charge the products and services of Elsevier's SCOPUS for one year only with possibility the following year to subscribe to their products. SCOPUS is the world's biggest bibliographic database and it offers powerful and innovative search and browse facilities.

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 and University 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 holdings.

One of the most important cultural events during 2005 was the celebration of 60th anniversary of the establishment of the first government of the Republic of Macedonia. For marking this jubilee several events were prepared at the Government of RM, the Macedonian Parliament and at the National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski". The exhibition "60 Years Macedonian Government" was organised in the premises of NUL, for which a catalogue was prepared and published. Speeches were delivered by Borko Zafirovski, NUL director, and Ivan Katardziev, academician. The exhibition presented to the Macedonian public included documents, photographs and video-recordings, as well as monographs and periodicals referring to the continuous development of the executive Government in Macedonia in the period from 1945 to 2005, that is, the time from the first established government of the Democratic Federal Macedonia, to the government of contemporary and independent Republic of Macedonia.

In the World Year of Physics when physics and its importance in our everyday lives was worldwide celebrated, the NUL together with the Union of Macedonian Physicists

organised very interesting exhibition that attracted many visitors. The exhibition was dedicated to the life of Albert Einstein, his great ideas and his influence in the 21st century. In this way the 100th anniversary of "miraculous year" in which A. Einstein published three important papers describing ideas that have since influenced all of modern physics was marked.

In cooperation with the Embassy of France in Skopje and the French Cultural Centre and in honour of the French consulates in Macedonia, the NUL organised another attractive exhibition of documents and photographs entitled "150 years presence of French diplomacy in Bitola and Skopje".

On the occasion of The World Book and Copyright Day many books were presented to Library users, the message by Koiciro Mazura as well as the national message written by Goran Stefanovski, the well known drama author and academician were read in front of the guests and distributed throughout our state. The celebration was moved to Veles, the town of culture for 2005, where the programme continued.

The National & University Library "Kliment Ohridski"-Skopje traditionally prepares and hosts several annual exhibitions: "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 has worked on intensification of the cooperation on national and international level.

Macedonian Agencies and Centres for ISBN, ISSN, ISMN, INIS has worked in collaboration with publishers and with international organizations and databases in the frame of their everyday work.

International cooperation initiatives are gradually increasing. The NUL is a member of IFLA, CENL, LIBER, EBLIDA, IAML, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN.

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.

Agreement for cooperation was signed with the National Library of China.

In the framework of UNESCO-ROSTE Project "Enabling access to, and delivery of scientific information in South Eastern Europe" a fact-finding mission was organised in the countries of South-East Europe by International Network for the Availability of Scientific Publication (INASP). NUL has its participation and has given its support by presenting the situation in the Library regarding access to, and capacities to deliver scientific information.