

**CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS**  
**CENL- ANNUAL REPORT – 2006**  
**THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY “St. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI”**  
**Skopje, Republic of Macedonia**

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**1. Management of the library**

The NUL "St Kliment Ohridski" holds dual function being a national and university library. The Library is a national bibliographic centre, national referral centre and central library headquarters. In addition, it is a research and developmental centre for librarianship and centre for the preservation of written cultural heritage for the Republic of Macedonia. The National INIS Centre-Macedonian focal point to the INIS System operates within the NUL as well as the ISSN Centre and ISBN and ISMN Agencies.

The Administrative Council consisting of 5 members, 1 appointed from the Ministry of Culture, 2 representatives from Local Authorities, and 2 representatives from the Library staff manages and monitors Library activities, gives recommendations regarding the Library programme, strategic as well as the annual operating budget and makes decisions on capital investments.

Efforts have been made in order to adjust the Library strategy to the needs of continually changing environment regarding new technologies, new processes and user needs. By introducing new processes significant improvement is expected in the domain of accessing and disseminating scientific information.

**2. Funding**

In 2006 the National and University Library received 675.970,00 EUR from the budget of the Republic of Macedonia (Ministry of Culture). The amount covered program activities, operational and running costs.

The NUL has its own annual income, which is variable. In 2006 the NUL's annual income was 42.000,00 EUR.

### **3 Legislation**

Library strategy is in line with the *Law for Libraries* (2004) and the *Law for cultural heritage protection* (2005). The statute of the NUL was redefined in accordance with the legal acts contained in these *Laws*.

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, preservation and conservation of library materials as well as improvement of conditions for work.

### **4. Buildings**

The NUL is situated in the building which was constructed in 1972. During 2006 two big reading rooms were renovated, the air conditioning was improved and metallic chests were purchased for storing Archival copies.

As the lack of space has been a problem for several years now, at the end of 2006 the Macedonian Government approved the project for building an extension to the actual Library building. Establishment of modern Digitisation Centre is planned in the new part where digital processing of documents will be organized. In addition, it will house special collections' offices, storage for the collections' funds, and also, modern reading rooms. The construction itself will start in 2007.

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

### **5. Staffing matters**

The Library operations were carried out by 120 staff members. Ten of them are contractual workers. Six staff members hold Master's degree and one doctor's degree. There are 9 librarian advisers and 20 senior librarians.

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

The technical equipment of the Library was enhanced by 49 new PCs and 5 laptops (obtained by purchase and donation). At the moment the Library has at its disposal 150 PCs. New Alpha server DS25 was installed.

COBISS.MK (Co-operative Online Bibliographic Information system and services.MK) represents autonomous library information system with its own shared bibliographic database being set up in Macedonia. COBISS.MK as part of COBISS.Net enables users to download records from any of the COBIB shared bibliographic databases and from the OCLC catalogue. In addition, it enables free exchange of bibliographic records, created in the autonomous library information systems of the countries using COBISS system. In Macedonia 22 libraries (mostly public) joined the system until now. Another 20 libraries (mostly academic and/or special) will join the COBISS system at the beginning of 2007. The establishment of the shared bibliographic-cataloguing database COBIB.MK represents the basis for building complete library and information system that will hold information on library holdings in Macedonia and the other participant countries in this system.

The Conference and Study Centre (CSC), established in 2005, provides modern technology and friendly atmosphere for work. Many lectures, workshops, seminars, conferences, video links were organized in it during 2006.

## **7. Education of Librarians**

The National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski", being a central library for the Republic of Macedonia and in line with the legal acts, organizes training and education of librarians. The lessons are outlined in the internal Library Statute for organizing library courses on the basis of international standards. Staff of the NUL and librarians from all other types of libraries throughout Macedonia may follow the courses.

## **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 collection of electronic and web editions in the form of 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 pointed out that we cannot collect all the copies of Macedonian publishing production.

The Library regularly collects 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**

With regards to collection development, NUL received 38.951 items legal deposit out of which 10.503 were sent to other two deposit libraries in the country. The distribution is made by the NUL. The collections were increased by 5271 titles of monograph publications, 24.882 units of serial publications, 1145 units small prints, 35 geographical maps, 7 atlases, 107 photographs, 201 albums etc.

NUL prepared donations of books for several libraries. A special gift containing 1300 monograph publications was made for the National and University Library in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Books and periodicals from Macedonian publishing production were continually purchased for the purposes of international exchange..

On international exchange and donation basis 2734 copies Macedonian titles of monograph publications and periodicals were sent abroad while 770 monograph publications and 164 titles of periodicals were received. About 2000 monograph publications were sent to the public and school libraries in the country. A gift of 1300 monographs was sent to the National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## **10. Special collections**

One new significant item was added to the Old Slavonic manuscripts. It is the Holy Bible dating from 1876.

In 2006 a research in the funds of the National Library "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in Sophia, R. Bulgaria and in the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade was made for the purposes of finding out some manuscripts and/or old printed and rare publications which are of interest for the Republic of Macedonia.

## **11. Preservation and conservation**

In coordination with the Cultural Heritage Protection Office within the Ministry of Culture and in accordance with the new legislation, the Library staff prepared 12 research papers regarding revalorization of special collections as part of Library's funds.

The preservation and conservation activities were focused on curative protection of resources having cultural values.

Machine conservation was made to 3489 leaves of the following old and rare Macedonian newspapers: *Zoritsa* /1866-1895; 1877-1891, *Vardar* /1933; *Skopski Glasnik* 1937 and 1938, *Zhivopis Velikogo Novogoroda* XIII -XV century. Hand conservation method was applied to 875 leaves.

Laboratory for conservation and restoration being a Central Laboratory in Macedonia performs services for other institutions in Macedonia.

Microfilming as a method of preventive protection refers to Macedonian legal deposit. Thus, 30.000 pages were microfilmed, while digital photos were made of old printed and oriental collections.

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 136.000 users (including the visitors in organised groups and the visitors of cultural events organized by the Library).

The NUL offered more appropriate access to OPAC.

The Referral Centre performed 620 searches for 345 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, 353 primary 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.

In the framework of the Consortium activities of Macedonian Electronic Libraries, MEL, hosted by NUL, subscriptions were made to the following information services: EBSCO, Cambridge University Press Journals, Oxford University Press Journals, SAGE, Institute

of Physics Journals. The Ministry of education and science made subscription to SCOPUS.

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; computerization and communication; digital libraries.

### **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.

NUL organizes cultural events and exhibitions, book presentations and concerts. The most interesting and biggest events organized in 2006 were *Homage on Leopold Sedar Sengore* on the occasion of celebrating the Year of Sengore, then, it was The World Book and Copyright Day, The World Poetry Day and The Francophone Day. Traditionally, the Library celebrates its patron on 8 December. On this occasion a video conference was organized when Ms Lynne Brindley, chief executive of the British Library gave a very interesting presentation entitled *Libraries in the 21st century.*, in which the discussion was aimed at challenges and opportunities for the libraries and finding new ways to add value and remain relevant in rapidly changing and competitive environment.

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.

At the same time, special exhibitions were prepared for the visits to the Library made by representatives from diplomatic and foreign missions in the Republic of Macedonia.

In cooperation with the Embassy of France in Skopje and the French Cultural Centre and in honour of the French consuls in Macedonia, the NUL organized the 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. In addition, the messages by Koiciro Mazura as well as the national one dedicated to the World Book and Copyright Da, written by Pajo Avirovik, Macedonian young prose writer, were read in front of the guests and distributed throughout the country.

### **14. Library cooperation & projects**

The NUL has worked on strengthening 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 the Republic of Slovakia.