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**CENL ANNUAL REPORT  
July 2005 – July 2006**

**BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (PORTUGAL)  
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PORTUGAL**

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**St. Petersburg 2006**

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

As indicated above the National Library of Portugal (BNP) has a new director as from 28 October 2005. The mission of BNP is to provide universal access to the Portuguese printed heritage and other relevant collections on its custody. As the national library, BNP operates, in the context of libraries and information services of the country acting as the reference institution for standards and as a centre of excellence in librarianship, preservation and conservation and information technologies.

The Portuguese government initiated a programme aiming at the restructuring of public services and, as a result, the National Library will be officially denominated Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (National Library of Portugal) and will have a new regulation and a change in its services, to make it more efficient and modern. The process is due after September 2006.

## **2. Handling of electronic publications and formats**

As a part of the work carried out on behalf of the participation of BNP's database (PORBASE) and digital library (BNL) in the TEL service, descriptive metadata using the UNIMARC format can be available also in Dublin Core and transported in XML. Technical metadata follow the METS schema and access identifiers follow



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PURL (Persistent URL) in order to ensure long term availability to the electronic publications.

In technological terms, during the year the new tool for creating technical metadata – ContentE – was tested with good results. It allows the creation of XHTML structures for the digital objects and works in conjunction with another recently developed tool – SECO, whose aim is to generate multiple copies, in different formats, of a digital object as well as text, using an OCR application.

After a period of testing, it is expected that a combined platform integrating tools for the handling of digital objects – PORBASE Virtual – become available for Portuguese users, preferably utilising free softwares.

### 3. Funding

As mentioned in previous years, the budget of BNP is rather reduced. In 2005 the budget for staff and current expenses represented **5.733.804€** and for projects (designated PIDDAC) represented only **1.059.134€**.

A careful management and the establishment of priorities allowed BNP to finish the year without debts but the activities planned and major objectives had to be readjusted to the financial situation. Top priority was given to Information Technology (networks and digital library) with reduction in Preservation & Conservation and Collection development.

The allocation of funds was the following:

Automation and IT (incl. digitisation) .....	<b>568.973€</b>
Preservation & Conservation .....	<b>139.835€</b>
Acquisitions – collection development .....	<b>76.498€</b>
Building and equipments .....	<b>166.017€</b>
Cultural activities .....	<b>55.656€</b>
Optical reading system .....	<b>44.156€</b>
Production of Braille and audio-books .....	<b>7.999€</b>

### 4. Legislation

BNP presented a proposal for the new Legal Deposit Law and a project for a new organic law to be included in the general restructuring of the public services.

### 5. Building

In July 2006, the Ministry of Culture authorized the construction of new storing facilities starting in 2007 and ending in 2009.



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## 6. Staffing matters

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

Staff remain one of BNP's major problems as repeatedly stated in previous reports. New recruitments imply more financial 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 to be reduced by the end of the year. New policies for transferring staff between institutions were approved by the government. In February and in March, BNP received teachers and probation staff (only during one year) for different areas of work.

## 7. Information technology and networks

PORBASE – the Union Catalogue of Portuguese Libraries, hosted at BNP, comprises the collections of **163** Portuguese libraries. By 31 December, PORBASE held **1.355.294** bibliographic records, **1.138.280** authority records and **2.326.440** holdings records.

Cooperation in the Union Catalogue continued to be enhanced by the development of tools allowing contributing libraries to perform automatic upload and download of records from PORBASE. Two of them are particularly significant because they allow the analysis and correction of records and duplicate deletion.

The project *Patrimonia* suffered some delay in its starting due to reduction of financial support but is now in progress. This project aims to create a union database of old printed collections available in BN and in other Portuguese research libraries. The database will also include digitised items.

As a result of a protocol with Google Scholar, PORBASE is now accessible through that service.

## 8. The digital library

At the end of July, the National Digital Library had **7.430** works available, representing 100% growth from last year. The collections present at BND are as follows:

Cartography .....	1.490
Graphics .....	3.220
Music .....	58
Serials .....	24
Dissertations and Thesis .....	210
Born-digital items .....	245
Monographs and articles .....	2.183

## 9. Legal deposit of materials

As mentioned before, a proposal for a new legal deposit act was presented to the Ministry of Culture. A voluntary deposit of electronic publications, especially for dissertations and thesis, is currently being pursued.

## 10. Acquisitions

BNP received and catalogued **15.772** monographs and **486** new serial's titles received under legal deposit dispositions, purchase and offers. On-going newspapers and journals represented **97.771** issues.

The budget for purchasing foreign publications (printed or electronic versions) and valuable items from auctions and antiquarians was **76.498€**. Among the important bibliographic items purchased are correspondence of Portuguese politicians and writers of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Literary Archives Section received six new archives from Portuguese relevant personalities of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 11. Preservation and Conservation

The on-going project of Microfilming Portuguese Newspapers had to be cancelled in 2005 due to financial constraints and is re-starting in 2006.

The conservation of the Oriental Manuscripts collection was initiated with a grant from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation.

The second phase of the programme *Save a Book* was quite successful and of the **61** adopted items, **54** are already finished. Sponsors were invited to see the work done in an exhibition that BNP held for public display.

## 12. Services to readers

The number of BNP's registered readers in 2004 was **5.305**, of which **1.956** were new readers and **3.349** continuing ones. There is a general tendency in the last three years for a slight decrease in the number of readers with an increase of accesses to the National Digital Library.

On the whole, e.g. in all **7** reading rooms, readers and items consulted were as follows:

	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Items</b>
Main Reading Room .....	31.598	161.587
Serials .....	11.732	29.601
Rare Books and Manuscripts .....	3.828	29.923
Cartography .....	209	927
Graphics .....	379	3.546
Music .....	1.200	10.299
Visually impaired .....	247	4.186

BNP 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 BNP's collections. In 2005, **10** scholars were granted support.

## 13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The more relevant exhibitions were:

- ✦ *Bocage* – celebrating the bi-centenary of the Portuguese poet Manuel Maria Barbosa du Bocage's death
- ✦ *A Casa dos Livros de Beja* – celebrating the 210<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Library with a display of some of the more relevant items offered by the Bishop of Beja, Frei Manuel do Cenáculo, to the founding collection of the library

The ceremonies also included the display of the list of all the 18<sup>th</sup> century donors.

- ✦ *Campanha Salve um Livro!* – an exhibition of the books that have been restored under the Campaign Save a Book

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



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## 14. Library cooperation

### ✦ International

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

BNP is a member of the TEL – The European Library management board ensuring its chairmanship as of October 2005. BNP is responsible for the IFLA UNIMARC Core Activity since 2003. In March 2006, BNP/UNIMARC Core Activity organized an international conference *UNIMARC & Friends: charting the new landscape of bibliographic standards*, which gathered 200 delegates from different countries (<http://unimarc.bn.pt>). The panel of speakers presented different but complementary views about bibliographic standards and IFLA's role on their creation, development and maintenance.

Other concrete cooperative actions developed during the year result in the approval of a project, issued from eContent Plus, in which BNP participates:

**DIGMAP** – Discovering our past world with digitised maps. The purpose of the project is to develop a modular software solution to allow indexing, searching and browsing in collections of digitised historical maps. The project's kick-off meeting is scheduled to October 2006.

### ✦ National

The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of PORBASE contributing libraries took place in May 2006, with the participation of 260 Portuguese librarians.

The programme included presentations and discussions about current developments and strategies for cooperation in the Union Database.

**ORGANIZATION CHART**

