

THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
NATIONAL LIBRARIANS

2005-2006

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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.

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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 2005 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. In the interest of improvement of work effectiveness, of suitable usage of information and communication technologies in the SNL and the whole Slovakia and of creation of organization and persona lability to cooperate within the European Union projects, the new Organization order was published in April 2005.

The external advising body of the General Director is the Scientific Board of the SNL and it has meeting held on June 23, 2005.

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 2005 22 libraries were connected to the project .

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). In 2005 first steps were done in the field of setting up the conditions for preservation of documents printed after 1850 to 1990.

Within the framework of the 5th call of the 6th programme of reserach and development of information societies technologies within the eCONTENTPLUS the SNL has joined to the MINERVA Project. After approval of the project it will serve the purpose to support the European Digital Library.

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 2005 (cca 3.2 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

In accordance with the Library Act as well as in accordance with the decision of the Constitutional Court from September 2002, the SNL has solved long-term problems concerning the relations with Matica slovenská. During the year 2005 were closed and signed all delimitation protocols.

According to the decision of the Ministry of Culture, the Ľudovít Štúr's Museum in Modra was separated from the SNL and affiliated to the Slovak National Museum in Bratislava

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 central catalogue – Slovak Library.

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.

In 2005 the SNL has started to distribute Library and Information System for Small and Medium Libraries (KIS MaKS) based on the principles of WINISIS database system.

Significant tasks in the field of library services to users in all Slovak libraries were fulfilled by the National commission for library services.

The SNL has prepared the Directory of Slovak libraries (<http://www.kis3g.sk>) which contains more than 500 addresses of Slovak libraries. It is updated on a regular basis and thus it represents the most complete information database about libraries in the SR.

In accordance with the transition to ISBN13 the ISBN National Agency has prepared the information materials for publishers, libraries and booksellers which are available on the library website.

6. BUILDINGS AND PLANT

During 2005 certain technical facilities (boiler room, heat exchanger and electric transformer) were reconstructed. Still, the general reconstruction of the library main building remains one of the basic priorities for near future.

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. The first reels (45) were received in April 2006.

Thanks to the support of cultural activities of the Ministry of Culture the SNL has received the financial means for purchase of mostly foreign books which will be accessible in the Universal reading room.

8. CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

The preservation of legal deposit belongs to the most important tasks of the SNL. In 2005 the SNL has partially solved the climate conditions in its deposit because of long-term preservation of documents.

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.

9. IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

Because of improving work conditions the SNL has bought cca 100 PCs which were installed predominantly in the document processing departments. We consider this fact to be the biggest restoration of PCs during the existence of the SNL and it was possible to lay up the technical equipment which was bought in the 90ties of the last century.

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.

In 2005 the new service for users Ask the library is available on the library website. The answers are sent only by e-mail.

11. EXHIBITIONS

Among the most important exhibitions belong: Ladislav Novomeský in the outline of Slovak life, Slovak ways to freedom of Dominik Tatarka (Paris), Slovak exile of the 20th century (Rome), Blue blood, black ink. Aristocratic libraries (Zagreb).

Other notable events: The 6th week of Slovak libraries, The 5th Martin's Literary Spring.

12. PUBLISHING

The publishing of the journal KNIŽNICA has continued in 2005.
The information on activities of the SNL are continuously published on the website www.snk.sk.

13. CATALOGUING

Cataloguing in the SNL is based on internationally accepted AACR2 and ISBDs. Moving to MARC 21 formats is coordinated with implementation of the KIS3G Project (and with implementation of the software – VIRTUA).

The Slovak translation of CONSER cataloguing manual has been prepared and will be available as electronic resource.

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

14. LIBRARY COOPERATION

For the year 2005 the SNL has agreed several contracts and agreements with Central and Eastern European libraries as well as with other cultural institutions. The agreements are oriented to the cooperation in the field of scientific research and to exchange of librarians of partner institutions.

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

The attention is oriented to development of human resources. The SNL supports education and further education of its employees at each levels of education. Anyway, 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 2005 the SNL has organized mostly scientific and other cultural events.

17. OTHER NOTABLE INFORMATION

Priorities for near future:

- to ensure all tasks defined for the SNL by the Library Act no. 183/2000 and tasks approved in the contract between the Ministry of Culture and the SNL for 2006
- develop the KIS3G project within the Program of computerized libraries
- to support and put into practice the project on creation the network with information connection of scientific, academic and special libraries including their modernization
- Project on Slovak Digital Library: a) prepare the strategy of cultural and scientific heritage digitization; b) create and submit the Project on establishing of the Slovak Digital Library – branch of the SNL

- European Library – to ensure the participation of the SNL and the Slovak Library portal in the European Library via the programme TEL-ME-MOR and the development of the European Digital Library
- to put into the practice the project on Computerized libraries (Internet for public 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 and the digital library Memoria slovacica within the KIS3G project
- to fulfill the task of the national depository 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 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 augment the deposit by the construction of the premises to the main building.