

THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
NATIONAL LIBRARIANS

2006-2007

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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 of the library: performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement

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.

For the year 2006 the Contract between the SNL and the Ministry of Culture was agreed and signed by both parties. According to this fact the financial means were assigned for these main activities:

- Development of library and information services – acquisitions of library material
- Library services of the SNL
- Literary archives and literary museum activities
- Availability of culture and support of using the culture vouchers
- Development of the Project KIS3G (library and information system of the 3rd generation)
- Priority projects (support of cultural activities, presentation of cultural activities abroad, acquisitions of library material, acquisitions of museum objects, project on informatization of culture)

In connection with the preparation of a new Strategy of Slovak libraries' development for period 2008-2013 the SNL has formulated a strategy for national library and its priorities. The strategy defines these main goals:

- Libraries for knowledge society
- Informatization of libraries
- Library and information services for disabled users
- Program for preservation, sustainability and conservation of traditional information carriers in the Slovak Republic
- Education of library staff and human resources development
- Construction and reconstruction of library buildings
- Information education of children and youth

2. 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 2006 (cca 3.7 mil. Euro) enabled to fulfill all basic tasks of the SNL. Besides the regular budget, the extra budget for capital investment (cca 300.000 Euro) was approved by the Ministry of Culture as well as extra finances from external resources (foundations, grants...).

The incomes earned by the SNL (2.6 % from regular budget) were returned back to the state budget.

4. Legislation

The legislative framework for the SNL is set out in the Library Act no. 18/2000. The new article concerns fees charged for distributing the works via circulations in the libraries. The change was done in accordance with the change in the Copyright Law. There have been no other changes in 2006 in the legislation that might influence the library's activities.

5. Buildings

In 2006 the SNL has prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Culture the project on reconstruction of the main library building. The project was approved and the SNL receives the financial means through the Ministry of Economy (European structural funds). The reconstruction will start in autumn 2007 and its goal is to prepare the background for public sector – information for innovations. The reconstruction will concern the rebuilding of the foyer which will serve the needs of public (so called “noise zone”). The first floor will seat the study rooms – so called “silent zone”.

At the beginning of 2007 the SNL has received the financial means from Norwegian funds which will be used for reconstruction and technical equipment in the branch of the SNL – Deposit Vrútky. It will serve the needs of digitization, microfilming and restoration and conservation.

The requirement to build a new deposit (close to the main library building) is still in process.

6. Staffing matters

The total number of staff in 2006 was 299 employees. From them 19 employees passed their studies in various levels of higher education (11 employees the 1st degree of university studies, 1 employee the 2nd degree of university studies and 7 employees PhD. studies).

There were no major changes in management structures.

All issues concerning HR were discussed with trade union organization.

During the whole year the librarians from the SNL and from other libraries were trained for the Virtua integrated system and for working in MARC 21 format.

Thanks to European social fund 40 long-term unemployed persons registered at the local Labour Office were accepted for various kinds of work.

7. Information technology and networks

Within the framework of the Project on digitization of culture the new server was purchased. It is running from July 1, 2006.

Project on digitization strategy – planned financial means were used for preparation of the questionnaire and analysis.

The scanner A3 with cradle and planetar scanner (including software) were bought to serve the users needs.

Retrospective conversion of catalogues from various systems and formats was done on the national level within the KIS3G Project for the libraries which join to the project.

8. The digital library

In accordance with the Program of digitization within the project on Slovak Digital Library the SNL has prepared the Strategy on digitization of cultural heritage (http://www.viks.sk/digitus/strategicky_plan_digitalizacie.htm), the project Slovak Digital Library – branch workplace of the SNL in Vrútky and at the end of 2006 the SNL has purchased the program system Vital for digital objects management. This system is used when building up the digital library Memoria slovac (<http://www.memoria.sk>).

The digitization of library material covered the digitization of old and rare books (11.166 pages), study literature (3.250 pages) and serials (16.258 pages).

Electronic library services were done via electronic document delivery service (EDD). The SNL has used the services provided by VPK (Virtual Polytechnic Library), SUBITO, EZB and EDO (by the University Library in Bratislava). Scanning of the documents forms an inseparable part of the electronic services. In 2006 3.779 pages of documents were scanned for the SNL employees and users of the library, as well.

9. Legal deposit of materials

In 2006 no changes in Legal deposit Law were done. There is the intention to prepare the modification concerning electronic resources (online) and their inclusion to the act.

10. Acquisitions

The total number of acquired material (library and archival materials) in 2006 represent 64.344 items. The Ministry of Culture supported the purchase of documents (mostly foreign documents) with the extra budget financial means in total sum cca 118.000 Euro.

Outstanding new acquisitions relating to national heritage form part of archival collections. In 2006 the Archives acquired archivalia and personal archives relating to persons lived in exile (USA): Karol Strmeň and František Hrušovský.

In 2006 the SNL continued in accessing and using EBSCO databases for more than 80 Slovak libraries.

11. Preservation & Conservation

The restoration and conservation department solved in 2006 state research project Program for preservation, stabilization and conservation of classical information carriers – project KNIHA.sk (BOOK.SK). Its goal is to create conditions for preservation the documents produced in 1850-1990.

In 2006 the preparation of cooperation with Getty Conservation Institute in Los Angeles has started. This cooperation will represent a significant contribution to development of conservation and restoration of photographs in Slovakia. With regard to this fact the analysis of photo-documentation collections has started. The analysis will bring exact number of original photographs, reproductions, negatives, slides, postcards, types of carriers, colour photographs and negatives.

In the field of microfilming the SNL continued in cooperation with the Czech National Library. Both libraries exchanged reformatted material according to the contract signed by them.

The new technological background is planned to be located in modernized branch of the SNL – in Vrútky.

12. Services to readers

In 2006 a new service related to sending e-mail messages on approaching ending of lending deadline was introduced.

The system of fees for claims was changed by introducing a new form of sanction fees. A new version of Library and lending statute including pricelist was printed.

In the field of ILL the SNL has used online catalogues and union catalogues of foreign libraries with regard to those which enable electronic form of sending the requests. The reconstruction of elevators to the stocks had a negative influence on providing the ILL from the SNL collections in 2006.

The service Ask Library is accessible on the SNL website. The SNL continued in providing the services by the Information point of European Council and European information as well as services provided by Patent centre situated in the SNL.

In autumn 2006 the SNL closed the participation at the EIFL Direct Project. The new registration of the Slovak libraries in EBSCO Publishing was done as well as the registration of new Slovak libraries. Within the project the experimental access was enabled to these full text databases: DynaMed, Business Source Complete and MEDLINE.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

In 2006 the SNL has organized a lot of professional and cultural events. The most significant were:

- Milan Hodža – politician and journalist. International scientific conference and exhibition
- Cithara sanctorum in cultural and spiritual history of Central Europe – international conference and exhibition
- International moving exhibition “Blue blood – black ink, noble libraries 1500-1700”
- Exhibition Ľudovít Štúr and Slavs
- The 6th Martin literary spring
- The 7th Week of Slovak libraries
- Interior and exterior decoration of books and restoration – exhibition
- Rarities from the Slovak National Library collections – exhibition
- 11th Slovak Bibliographic Conference

New publications in 2006:

- Professional journal “Knižnica” (Library) published monthly
- Slovak national retrospective bibliography – electronic version
- UDC – electronic version 2001 (Slovak translation)
- Bibliography of book culture history in Central Europe
- Bibliography of High Tatras to 1918

14. Library co-operation

Library co-operation on the national level:

- Implementation of the Virtua integrated library system in the Slovak libraries within the KIS3G Project enables cooperative building of the union catalogue of Slovak libraries
- Implementation of Library and information software for small and medium libraries (KIS MaSK) based on database system WINISIS
- Conversion of library catalogues, trainings of new libraries joining to the KIS3G Project
- Activities of the National commission for library services
- Co-ordination of the national bibliographic system

Library co-operation on the international level:

The SNL is a member of various international organizations: IFLA, CENL, CDNL, IAML, ICOM, ISBN IA. In 2006 within the TEL-ME-MOR program the SNL has become the 10th member of the European Library.

15. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

In 2006 there were no celebrations (anniversaries). Events see article 13.

16. Other notable information

In March 2006 the new website of the SNL was introduced. Website operates under the SwiftSite system which enables more flexible and dynamic editing of website.

17. Organisation chart

The Slovak National Library consists of these departments:

- General Director
- Office of the General Director
- Economical Dpt.
- Information Technology Dpt.
- Acquisitions and Cataloguing Dpt.
- Deposit
- Library Services Dpt.
- Administration of Historical Book Documents and Collections of the Slovak Republic
- Restoration and Conservation Dpt.
- Library System of the Slovak Republic
- Bibliography Dpt.
- Archives of Literature and Arts
- Biography Dpt.
- Slovak National Literary Museum
- Museum of Ľudovít Štúr – excluded from the SNL on January 1, 2006
- Slavic Museum of A. S. Puškin

1. MANAGEMENT

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 basis 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 research 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 slovac 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.