

THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
NATIONAL LIBRARIANS

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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.

In March 2010, the Minister of Culture decided to recall Doc. Dušan Katuščák from the position of the General Director and, at the same time, the Minister appointed Ing. Katarína Krištofová, PhD. to the position of the General Director of the Slovak National Library.

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

The Slovak National Library (SNL) is the supreme state cultural, information, scientific and educational institution in the field of library, bibliography, literary museum, literary archives and biography activities. It is an inseparable part of the library system of the Slovak Republic which forms a part of the state information system. The library system of the Slovak Republic consists of the National Library, scientific, academic, public, school and special libraries.

The SNL was established on July 1, 2000 after the split from the Matica slovenská. Martin is the seat of the SNL.

The Slovak National Literary Museum and the A. S Puškin's Slavonic museum in Brodzany form parts of the SNL.

The SNL is an initiator, author and place of implementation of national strategies (Strategy of development of Slovak librarianship for years 2008-2013, Digitization strategy in Slovakia, etc.). It is a participant of various national and international projects (Computerization of libraries in the Slovak republic, The European Library, European Digital Library – Europeana, Creation of network connecting research, academic and special libraries, Slovak Digital library, etc.).

In December 2008 the Ministry of Culture has approved the material "Strategy of development of memory and collection institutions and restoration of their national infrastructure in the sphere of culture". The SNL intends to participate at the preparation and implementation of two following projects:

1. Building up of the Centre for deacidification – which directly concerns the digitization project
2. Digitization of textual material and library collections (libraries, archives, non-material cultural heritage, etc.)

Project Memory of Slovakia – national excellence centre for research, preservation and access to national cultural and scientific heritage of Slovakia – belongs to most important outputs of the SNL in the field of science and research. The project was prepared in cooperation with University in Žilina – Faculty of Natural Sciences. In 2009 the project was approved and it will run in 2010 after receiving financial support.

Within the framework of the KIS3G Project, the SNL has continued in building the union database Slovak Library. It ensures the conversion of local catalogues of new participant libraries to MARC 21 format in the common software Virtua.

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 2009 (4.6 mil. Eur) enabled to fulfill all basic tasks of the SNL.

Besides the regular budget, the extra budget for capital investment (cca 632.840 Eur) was approved by the Ministry of Culture as well as extra finances from external resources (foundations, grants...).

The incomes earned by the SNL (151,4 % from regular budget) were returned back to the state budget.

Legislation

The legislative framework for the SNL is set out in the Library Act no. 183/2000. No changes were done to this act.

The SNL has actively participated at the preparation of restatement of Copyright Law especially from the point of view connected to project of mass digitization and consequently from the point of view of accessibility of digitized material. In September 2010 there will be organized a new run of meetings at the Ministry of Culture.

The SNL intends to initiate the change of Legal Deposit Law with respect to new kinds of material covered by the legal deposit.

Buildings

The reconstruction of the main library building is the highest priority for the next future., especially extending of its deposit capacity. The SNL intends to build up the technological park in Vrútky (Slovak Digital Library, Mass deacidification of documents), and to reconstruct entirely the historical building of the Slovak national literary museum.

Staffing matters

The total number of staff in 2009 was 269 employees. From them 17 employees passed their studies in various levels of higher education (4 employees the 1st degree of university studies, 10 employees the 2nd degree of university studies and 3 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.

Information technology and networks

In 2009 the SNL in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and the firm Swan was connected to regional virtual private network (WAN VPN). Building up the VPN network made possible to use telecommunication services – IP Telephony.

The digital library

In 2008 the SNL has established a specialized department for building the digital library. This department performs activities and projects relevant to digitization and digital archiving including projects on European level – TELplus, EuropeanaTravel, Europeana v 1.0.

For the purpose of the European Library the Slovak Digital Library has prepared more than 200.000 pages of recognized texts from newspapers and journals especially before the year 1918.

From 2009 the running of digitization technological line consisting of 2 digitization robots has started. By the end of 2009 600.000 scanned objects were prepared. In April 2009 the project Europeana Travel oriented to travelling has started. The SNL will provide its postcards, maps, travelogues and other documents

Acquisitions

Within the framework of the priority project called Acquisitions of library material in 2009 the SNL has received financial support from the state budget in the total sum 150.000 €.

These titles belong to remarkable acquisitions in 2009: Allgemeine Weltgeschichte für Kinder (1779), Thesaurus Pharmaceuticus (1587), De Architectura X. (1550).

Preservation & Conservation

The SNL through its special department restores and preserves historical and recent material on the state level with the aim to save historical value of the originals. It ensures the application research used technologies and materials. It takes care of non-water deacidification of paper. Preservation is oriented to cleaning, disinfection, treating the binding surface, pH measurement. Application research is oriented to analysis of materials used for restoring and preserving, and to preventive preservation of collections.

Services to readers

In 2009 the SNL has offered several kinds of services to readers through Services department: circulation services (9.418 registered users, 171.121 loan transactions), interlibrary loans, international ILL, reference services, Ask the library, services of Council of Europe information point, services of Patents' centre, coordination of the Slovak project on national licence of EBSCO databases, services of study rooms, Internet services, reprographic services, electronic document delivery, scanning, etc.

With the regard to make services to readers more relevant, the SNL has initiated the project "Deduplication of bibliographic records in the union database". This project involves those BIB records which were downloaded when converting local catalogues of Slovak libraries – participants of the union database – to common union catalogue "Slovak Library".

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

In 2009 the SNML has organized several remarkable conferences and seminars:

- the 39th international congress ABDOS 09.
- 9th Martin's Literary Spring
- 10th Week of Slovak Libraries
- Milan Hodža's Days
- 100 anniversary of Jozef G. Cincík
- Ways of Slovak Book

New publications in 2009:

- Yeomanry in Slovakia during modern times
- Guide to Slovak historical libraries, vol. III.
- Manual to genealogical research in Slovakia and abroad, vol. 2
- Source documents to history of Slovakia and Slovaks
- Preservation of cultural heritage - proceedings

- Professional journal “Knižnica” (Library) published monthly
- Biographical studies, vol. 34

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, The European Library.

Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

On October 26, 2009 The A. S. Puškin’s Slavonic museum in Brodzany has celebrated its 30th anniversary. Various cultural events were accompanied this occasion.

Other notable information

The SNL documents and explores biographies and genealogies of significant representatives of Slovak history, art, science, technology, social, politics and economic life in Slovakia and abroad, as well. Special attention is devoted to building up the biographical documentation as a source base for research, editing and information activities. The SNL intensively contributes to creation and publishing of important dictionaries. It offers the basic information service from the areas of biography and genealogy.

The SNL acts as a special public archives. Its main goal is to acquire archival documents oriented mostly to written and photographic material of Slovak writers, and composers. Archival collections are accessible in the special reading room.

The Library System Department has organized accredited retraining course for librarians under the title “Education of librarians for knowledge society”. 23 participants have passed final exams and have obtained Certificate with state validity.

Organisation chart

The Slovak National Library consists of following 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
- National Bibliography Dpt.
- Archives of Literature and Arts
- National Biography Dpt.
- Slovak National Literary Museum
- Slavic Museum of A. S. Puškin
- Slovak Digital Library