

**NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
LJUBLJANA, SLOVENIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN
NATIONAL LIBRARIANS (CENL)
2006**

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Management of the library

The National and University Library (NUL) is a public institution. Its founder is the Republic of Slovenia, the founding rights and obligations are performed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. As evident from the name of the library, it performs the functions of the Slovenian national library, acting as the University of Ljubljana library as well, the national library system development centre, and according to the IFLA definition it is the central research library in Slovenia. The NUL operation system is based on six divisions, each of them consisting of several departments, centres or services. Senior management is represented by the Managing Director and three Deputy Directors with specific responsibilities (library programmes; university library system; general administration and finance). There are two supervisory bodies, the *Administrative Council*, supervising the legality of operation, along with monitoring, analysing and evaluating the operation of the library, and the *Advisory Council*, which monitors and evaluates the work of the library on behalf of the library founder.

Priorities in terms of programming guidelines have been specified by the *Resolution on the National Programme for Culture 2004-2007*, passed by the Parliament of the Republic of Slovenia, whereas the library's strategic goals have been determined by the *2004-2008 Strategic Plan* which defines the following priority strategic tasks:

- Conservation and preservation of the national written cultural heritage,
- Provision of free access to information and publications,
- Development of hybrid and creation of a digital library, and
- Strategic partnerships with NUL's environment.

Annual priorities were defined in the 2006 Work Programme. The library has been monitoring effectiveness, efficiency and quality of products and services through

performance measurement, based on annual library plans, and by using a set of performance indicators defined in the Strategic Plan. Performance evaluation makes use of the BSC (Balanced Score Card) methodology as well. In terms of quantity, the majority of the 2006 programme objectives were achieved or even exceeded the planned targets. However some of the planned objectives were not thoroughly accomplished, in particular in the intake and distribution of legal deposit copies (decrease of 5 %, compared to 2005), in spite of growing efforts to address the problem; due to higher prices of periodical publications, coupled with additional taxes on acquisition of foreign-language literature the number of titles purchased by NUL declined when compared to 2005; a 9 % decrease from 2005 can be seen in the number of items received via international exchange of publications; the field of investments (maintenance and renovation of the building, equipment) also experienced negative trends.

In March 2006 the library established a new division under the name Digital Library Development and Strategy which encompasses the following three departments: E-Library Creation, Management and Maintenance (dealing also with tasks of NUL's inclusion into the global virtual library); the Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Department (working on development and maintenance of the digital library portal, institutional web pages and digital repository, at the same time providing access to digital collections of other co-operating institutions; in addition, it takes care of the web harvesting application, along with databases by NUL to be included in international database systems); and the Centre for Co-ordination of Digitization of Library Materials (whose task is to supervise digitization activities carried out mainly by external companies, only a lesser portion of items being digitized by the library itself).

The library reorganized its financial management functions, finally introducing a fully operational automated Management Information System which allows for an efficient management of allocated finance, earmark spending control and a tighter control of expenses during the year. An important activity in this context can be seen in applying for and managing finance received mainly through co-operation of the library in the so-called European projects. Project financial management thus called for introduction of EU accounting rules. The »Adopt a Book« Programme, aimed at raising funds to preserve and restore the most precious items from the holdings, has been resumed. All specific measures have been taken to ensure a smooth adoption of the new currency, the euro. With regard to the overall budget, labour cost share has diminished compared to 2005, as well as overall library costs per active library member, lent item or costs per newly created bibliographic record. The analysis of data, covering the last decade, clearly shows that NUL has been continually increasing the degree of efficiency when it comes to the use of inputs, it has carefully planned the improvement of various working processes, along with an increase in the range and quality of services and products, in spite of the finance remaining more or less the same in real terms and the number of library staff which has essentially

remained unchanged over the decade. Despite newly introduced electronic services and considerably upgraded offer of full-text library materials in digital form, there has been a steady growth in the number of library membership, visits made to the library and loaned items in 2006 as well, along with noticeable increase in the number of the so-called virtual users.

In 2006 NUL successfully completed the process of acquiring a quality, modern and easily recognizable image of visual communication to reflect all recent shifts in corporate identity and organization's behaviour. At the end of 2006 the library had already started implementing changes in visual communication elements. In mid-Autumn the library web pages were completely overhauled. The reconstruction was based on thorough user study, thus including relevance of contents, various functionalities and effective visual design (<http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/>).

Finance and funding

In 2006 NUL received SIT 1,483,100,772 (= EUR 6,188,870) as its annual grant from the budget of the Republic of Slovenia (Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Higher Education and Science), a rise of 5 %, compared to 2005. This rise in grant funding is largely due to extra money, received from the Directorate for the Information Society and intended for library's digitization efforts (SIT 90 million = EUR 375,563), whereas the regular grant remained nominally the same as in 2005. The library's own earnings (sales of goods and services) amounted to SIT 191,868,921 (= EUR 800,655), 11,5 % of the gross expenditure. A slight fall, compared to 2005 (13,6 %), which was due to reduced project involvement. The overall library budget was SIT 1,674,969,693 (= EUR 6,989,525). The annual grant had started to fall in real terms since 2001 and that despite considerable rises in expenditure on digital library development, maintenance and replacement of information technology infrastructure, along with preservation and restoration activities to address the acid paper problem. In 2006 the labour costs amounted to 50,66 % of the library budget (SIT 848,479,899 = EUR 3,540,644), a decrease when compared to 2005 (52 %) and result of several measures. SIT 116,631,724 (= EUR 486,656) – 7 % of the overall expenditure - were spent on acquisition of information resources. Electronic resources represent 39,7 % of the amount spent on information resources. SIT 210,872,939 (= EUR 879,957) were spent on investments and maintenance of the building; NUL spent SIT 496,635,108 (= EUR 2,072,422) on operational expenditure (general costs, programme and project costs) and another SIT 40,432,815 (= EUR 168,723) on depreciation. Fees for use of a second library site amounted to SIT 154,748,000 (= EUR 645,752).

Overall library costs per active library user (member) amounted to SIT 122,572 (= 511 EUR), but taking into account virtual library members, then the costs come to SIT 88,256 (= 368 EUR), a 34 % fall from last year's level. The overall costs per physical visit amounted to SIT 7,398 SIT (= EUR 31) and SIT 973 (= EUR 4) with

virtual visits included. The overall library costs per lent item amounted to SIT 2,941 (= EUR 12).

In pursuing the programme the library did not achieve all planned objectives within the framework of information resources acquisition (compared to 2005, a decrease of 6 %), microfilming and investments and maintenance. In 2006 NUL spent SIT 64,941,000 (= EUR 270,994) on digitization of library materials, which was substantially insufficient to follow the current practice of European national libraries in their wide-ranging response to user needs in the area.

Legislation

NUL was deeply involved in the preparation of the new legal deposit legislation (see Legal Deposit of Materials heading). Apart from the new Legal Deposit Act, In 2006 there were no significant developments in the legislation which would alter the library's position and its operation. A number of implementing regulations stipulated by the 2001 Library Act have yet to be adopted (for instance, redefinition of professional qualifications required to enter the profession), together with the legislation to determine public servants salary scale.

Buildings and plant

In 2006 the already known problems related to library buildings continued to mar the library performance: operation on two separate locations and hardly functional premises make it difficult to offer open access to library materials and modern information services to users. A long-term solution to the lack of space in the Slovenian national library can be seen in a new library building, the construction of which has been delayed for more than ten years. The building project has been taken over by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, whereas NUL has been assigned the task to modernize and update the all too long existing plans in terms of the programme's aims and priorities. The main efforts in 2006 can be seen in further acquisition of the land and the signing of the contract on the transfer of lands acquired by the Municipality of Ljubljana on to the previously mentioned Ministry, thus enabling the beginning of the first phase. However, financial support from the national budget to cover the 2006-08 time span would seem uncertain.

Installations to control microclimate conditions were completed in all book stacks, workshops and computing services premises, along with improvements in video surveillance and security system in general. The Serials Collection working areas and stacks were also completely renovated, a new book lift was installed and storage area for *slovenica* publications from abroad adapted.

Staffing matters

Compared to the previous year, the number of employees financed by the Ministry of Culture in 2006 did not increase: at the end of the year the NUL staff numbered 139 employees (136 FTE, three people employed as replacement for illness leave).

Another 9,2 FTE employees were financed from extrabudgetary sources (Council of Europe, project funds). In order to cope with the increased amount of work and to ensure that the opening times stay within the present limits NUL had to resort to outsourcing (complementary recruitment) and other collaborators were also hired on contractual basis, together with students.

Amongst the 139 employees, financed by the Ministry of Culture, 6 employees (4,3 %) held PhD degrees, 13 (9,4 %) MA or MSc degrees, 64 (46 %) university degrees, there were 22 staff members (15,8 %) with post-secondary education, 16 (11,5%) with secondary education and 18 (13 %) with less than secondary education. As to further formal education, 28 employees were active at various levels of higher education (4 at doctoral level, 12 at MA or MSc level, 10 at graduate level and 2 at secondary level). PhD degree was taken by 2 employees and another 2 employees successfully completed their graduate studies.

The library staff regularly attended various forms of continuing education and training (courses, seminars, lectures, meetings, presentations etc.), altogether 233 participations, a drastic fall from 2005, due to lack of finance. 4 employees took initial professional qualifications to enter the profession and another 3 were granted licence to actively participate in the union catalogue building.

Information technology and networks

In the light of finance available the most important objective in 2006 was nevertheless achieved and that can be seen in smooth operation of the infrastructure needed to support all services intended for library users, especially the development and maintenance of the network and servers which support the business information system and the digital library.

In 2006 hardware and software needs required to do the job substantially increased when compared to 2005. On the one hand, this is due to a greater range of electronic services and an update of working processes. On the other, there has been an increase in the offer of library-created digital collections, while NUL has also set about the digital archive to store electronic publications (now received as legal deposit copies, following the 2006 Legal Deposit Act) on a long-term basis. Acquisition of new workstations quite apart, it was necessary to upgrade the storage array, replace a number of obsolete workstations, improve safe data storage software and ensure the highest level of network security (anti-virus protection).

In the years to come NUL will have to give some serious thought to investment in the IT infrastructure in order to achieve greater efficiency and use of IT facilities. By the same token, major attention will have to be paid to upgrading hardware, software and communication equipment to be able to develop its digital library. To provide reliable, long-term access to digital resources a second trusted location will have to be set up, which will be feasible only with additional funding. The complexity and extent of tasks to be carried out will call for competent experts in the field of computing sciences.

The digital library

In the field of digital library development the library's planned objectives for 2006 were met, nevertheless the amount of on-going activities continued to lag behind the current requirements both in the extent and range of digital library collections, which was due to the already mentioned insufficient staff and finance resources. In co-operation with experts from outside the organization *The Digital Library of Slovenia Development Strategy – dLib.si 2007-2010* was completed and published. The purpose of the document was to devise a strategy leading to creation of a comprehensive national digital library to cover the 2007-10 period, along with in-depth discussion of activities needed to achieve the goals.

The digital library portal development - dLib.si (<http://www.dlib.si/>) was taking place at four levels: content management, legal issues, technological development, and digital library marketing and promotion. New digital content was added to collections of photographs and older articles, whereas two collections were started from scratch, the poster and scientific articles collections. A total of 364,170 titles were digitized (representing 358,786 articles), together with 223,462 scans. By the end of the year the portal was enabling access to six digital collections. In addition, special attention was given to promotional activities, aimed at several groups, such as individual library users, libraries, publishers, editorial boards of scientific periodicals, government agencies etc.), along with creation of various partnerships. At the end of the year the library installed Heritrix web crawler, version 1.6, later upgraded to 1.10, together with Web Curator Tool (WCT), developed by the National Library of New Zealand and the British Library. The library became the first in the world to use it under Windows environment, thus contributing a WCT Installation Guide for Windows which can be accessed at <http://webcurator.sourceforge.net/>. The dLib.si portal was moved to a new server (NUKWEB1), which can be considered as a step towards greater functionality and security.

Acquisition of electronic materials, combined with building and provision of unlimited access to digital collections called for an adequate legal framework in terms of acquiring permission to include and publish digital contents within dLib.si. Digitization of copyrighted material was hindered by copyright protection regulations, so the bulk of materials selected to be digitized was copyright-free, resulting in major additions to the collections of older articles, posters and photographs and drawings. As to precious manuscript material *Protestantica* collection was digitized in the framework of the Biblia Slavica project.

As European Library member, NUL continued to actively participate both in the development of the portal and digital content offer. The library co-operated in the TEL-ME-MOR and EDL projects (The European Digital Library Project), while digitization on demand service was introduced through co-operation in the EoD (E-books on Demand) project.

Legal deposit of materials

The previous Legal Deposit Act (valid until October 2006) dated from 1972 and after more than three decades it became largely obsolete in all its stipulations, owing to important changes in the library environment (socio-political changes, rapid growth in the amount of electronic publications). The Act required deposit of 16 copies directly to NUL: due to this elevated number of copies infringements of the Act by printers had been growing more acute, particularly when it came to legal deposit of publications, intended for re-distribution to other libraries. Over the last ten years NUL has been indeed successful in obtaining legal deposit copies to complete its own collection (intake increase of 29 %), whereas the share of copies intended to be distributed among other libraries within the system has dropped by 32 %; in 2006 a decrease of 10 %, compared to 2005.

A new Legal Deposit Act was passed in the middle of 2006, thus introducing a number of significant changes, the most important being: the new act extends legal deposit to electronic publications of all kinds, at the same time requiring their long-term preservation in the digital repository, maintained by NUL; publishers are responsible for the sending of deposit copies (formerly printers); the number of deposit copies is reduced from 16 to 4, with the exception of publicly funded publications which will continue to be deposited in 16 copies; altered re-distribution of publicly funded publications (16 copies distributed among 13 libraries); a decrease in number of copies, retained by NUL (from 4 to 2, with adverse effect on library's lending collection as well as on the extent of the international exchange of publications); colophon is mandatory in all publications. Since the Act came into effect only in mid-October 2006 all the consequences for NUL have yet to become known. The new act has ensured the collection of electronic publications, but in the area of printed publications its regulations do not follow international recommendations on the purpose of legal deposit (long-term preservation of publications and bibliographic control), thus the majority of the national publishing output will be deposited in 16 copies and subsequently distributed to selected libraries as a means of providing access to information to all citizens.

NUL maintains that the new legislation in the field will cause a drastic rise in the amount of work (especially administrative tasks, such as maintaining registries of publishers etc.), and electronic publications collection and their subsequent archiving will inevitably require considerable investments in hardware and software equipment, along with adequate staff support.

Acquisitions

NUL's intake of library materials includes acquisition of information resources via legal deposit, purchase, exchange and gifts. In 2006 133,906 items were taken in, thus legal deposit copies represented 91,296 items (68%), purchase 12,336 (9 %), exchange 4,166 (3 %) and gifts 26,108 items (20 %). Compared to 2005, a decrease can be noted in the number of purchased and exchanged items, with a notable increase in items received as a gift. The 2006 total intake amounted to 36,584

volumes, again a decrease when compared to the previous year (38,766 volumes). At the end of 2006 the library collections amounted to 2,495,140 volumes, an increase of 1,5 % compared to 2005. Monographs represented 48,5 % of the total library collection. Exchange of publications included 145 libraries and other organizations from all over the world.

In acquisition of electronic information resources the library gives priority to purchase through library consortia. Electronic resources were acquired mainly within the framework of the COSEC national library consortium, a member of the international eIFL.net consortium. In 2006 the library purchased altogether 41 licensed electronic databases, 24 of which via consortia (16 with national and another 8 with university licence). Thus NUL provided access to 14,469 licensed full-text electronic journals. Remote access to information resources was provided to members of the Ljubljana university libraries without having to register with NUL. Figures on use of the remote access service show steep rise from the last year.

Preservation and conservation

NUL is by law required to operate as the national conservation and preservation centre for library materials and is thus responsible for long-term preservation of the national written cultural heritage. One of the most important strategic objectives can be therefore seen in adequate storage, preservation and conservation of library materials on analogue carriers, together with ensuring suitable conditions to preserve digital material as well. Activities in the field of library material preservation are carried out and co-ordinated by the Conservation and Preservation Centre, consisting of a restoration centre, binding service and a cultural heritage laboratory which employs researchers participating in a number of international projects within the area (for instance, PaperTreat and SurveNIR).

In 2006 major attention was given to prevention of further decay and damage (portion of library materials were moved to a separated site with optimum storage conditions) and physical protection of volumes (acid-free book jackets and envelopes, folders and purpose-made boxes; special treatment of archival copies; preservation equipment to store most precious items). Compared to 2005 the amount of restored items increased, and the Centre continued to systematically review the state of NUL's special collections (audiovisual materials, manuscripts, cartographic and pictorial collection), along with the Serials Collection, coming up with plans to preserve the items. The number of staff and amount of finance available for long-term preservation of publications unfortunately do not meet the needs. Careful analysis of the paper samples, carried out in the framework of PaperTreat and SurveNIR projects, shows that 36 % of monographs, published after 1850, have already become brittle and eventually unavailable to readers. Every fourth book is bound to become brittle over the next 25-year time span without providing proper storage solutions and sufficient finance to support mass deacidification treatment of books that have not yet become brittle. Despite intensive care and concern about the

preservation of library materials some 85 % of holdings can be considered endangered as a result of acidity, therefore migration to other information carriers is imperative, using microfilming and digitization. In 2006 164,858 microfilm shots of serial publications (older newspapers and magazines) were prepared, and 223,462 scans were made through digitization of various materials. Due to lack of finance some older titles were not included into microfilming process, but they should receive major attention in the nearest future (transfer to another medium) owing to bad condition, format, frequent use and socio-cultural dimension. The amount of digitized material was far too modest to be able to talk about systematic approach to prevention of decay.

Services to readers

Provision of quality user services can be considered as one of the NUL's essential strategic priorities. According to public sector regulations, valid for librarianship as well, basic library services are free of charge. Over the last years the library has made considerable efforts in terms of providing to its users as many electronic information resources and services as possible to compensate for the lack of modern premises and facilities. Remote access to electronic resources was already introduced in 2004, along with the possibility to place orders for the books to borrow using OPAC and the virtual reference service, called »Ask a Librarian«. In 2006 access to a number of electronic resources was provided to library users and some of them could even be accessed without registering with NUL. In the Main Reading Room wireless access to the Internet was introduced, raising awareness about the newly acquired information resources was improved, as well as user education and training to use them, and the interlibrary loan service also boasts some new services in terms of electronic document supply. The Library was opened six days in a week, reading rooms 65 hours per week and circulation desk 50 hours per week. There were 255 seats available in several reading rooms, together with 51 working stations (47 allowing access to the Internet).

Despite the introduction of sophisticated electronic services and digital collections, along with provision of remote access, the number of the so-called »physical« library members and visits made to the library in 2006 did not decrease. Compared to 2005, the number of active members (13,865) increased for 2 %, the bulk of which were students (10,381, 75 %), the great majority (92 %) coming from the University of Ljubljana. The library was visited by 226,098 visitors, an increase of 3 % over the previous year, with daily average of 1,032 visitors. In circulation (568,634 volumes), counting both in-house use and the number of items issued for home reading, there was an increase of 7 %. The number of loaned items per active member also increased, when compared to 2005 (from 38,8 to 41), as well as the availability indicator for library materials (from 97,6 to 98,2 %). The interlibrary loan service provided 13,035 documents, with efficiency indicator at 98,7 %. The amount of document delivery in electronic form increased again.

The library received 58,545 information queries (a decrease of 5 %, compared to 2005), 96 % of which were successfully dealt with. Fall in number of information queries resulted as a consequence of both improved access to electronic resources and an increased degree of information literacy with library users.

NUL's web pages were accessed 1,493,548 times, an increase of 20 % when compared to 2005. The number of the so-called virtual library users, using remote access to electronic resources, amounted to 5,087. In 2006 there was a notable increase in the use (43,174 logins, compared to 12,894 in 2005). In November 2006 the library launched a new *Ask NUL* service, well-received by the users, to complement the *Ask a Librarian* service.

382 users (increase of 12 % over 2005) took part in 37 education and training programmes on information search and retrieval. 2,863 visitors visited the library in 118 guided tours (a 20 % rise, compared to 2005) and another 1,652 took part in various presentations of special collections and other departments (a 40 % increase, compared to the previous year). During Summer opening times NUL organized library tours intended for tourists visiting Ljubljana, who were mainly interested to see the building, a masterpiece by the architect Jože Plečnik.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The main goal of library exhibitions in 2006 was again promotion of the national written cultural heritage, together with presentations of milestones in the national cultural history. The library organized 21 exhibitions on various topics, 18 of which took place at NUL and 3 in other locations. Exhibitions were open for a total of 445 days. Among exhibitions organized in co-operation with libraries from abroad two stood out: »The Growing Book: Slovenian Book Treasures« at the Bavarian State Library, Munich (Germany), and »Creators of Two Cultures«, taking place both at NUL and the National and University Library, Zagreb (Croatia).

Promotional activities of the library were carried out through advertising in mass media, co-operation with television, radio and printed media, along with participation of the staff in a number of expert meetings, conferences, presentations etc. Press conferences were held to mark the publication of a monograph issued to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the library legally performing the national function, and to introduce the library's new visual communication elements. A number of professionals from abroad, visiting NUL, were also presented with NUL's endeavours in various areas.

As regards NUL publishing activities, the library continues to publish the national bibliography, translations of the professional literature and international standards, manuals, monographs, periodical publications, catalogues etc. In 2006 39 publication titles were published altogether, 7 of which in electronic form only. The *Slovenian National Bibliography* which has been published without interruption since 1945, periodically and in a number of series, was published both in printed and electronic version. Among monographs the following three titles should be mentioned: basic manual in the field of subject cataloguing (»UDC: A Manual«), another manual to

serve as a guide to users of ISBN international code, and a comprehensive monograph («The Slovenian National Library») to mark the 60th anniversary of the library having been legally recognized as performing the national function. The following periodicals were regularly published: *Knjižničarske novice* (Library News), aimed at professional public, and the bilingual *Novice NUK/NUL Newsletter* to cover the needs of wider national and international public. Several catalogues and leaflets were also published to shed light on the exhibitions.

A selective 2006 bibliography of professional and scientific contributions of the library staff counts 116 bibliographic units (102 in 2005).

Library co-operation

Nationally, NUL has been co-operating with libraries and other organizations in the fields of culture, education and science. NUL has been working together with the Institute of Information Science (IZUM) in Maribor from the eighties onwards: they have been working jointly on the development and operation of the national shared bibliographic system, called COBISS. In 2006 the co-operation consisted mainly of monitoring the competence of library professionals to actively participate in the data input to the union catalogue (procedures to obtain the COBISS licence), focus was also on education and training of both librarians and users, testing of newly introduced modules and other programming solutions, along with co-operation in the nation-wide «Ask A Librarian» reference service.

Co-operation with the Slovenian archives and museums was mainly focused on the development and use of various methods for conservation, preservation and restoration of material, but it also included the common organization of exhibitions. Within the framework of NUL's university function the library co-operated with the University of Ljubljana, its libraries and also contributed to the work of the University Library Council.

Internationally, NUL co-operates with a great many libraries from abroad, international associations and organizations. NUL has the longest tradition of co-operation with the Czech National Library with continuing and fruitful exchange of library professionals, then with the National and University Library in Zagreb (Croatia), the National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, and the National and University Library of Macedonia. In 2006 a special agreement on co-operation was signed with the National Szechenyi Library of Hungary, including exchange of library staff.

NUL co-operates with international libraries (especially national ones) within international associations and organizations, e.g. CENL (Conference of European National Librarians), CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries) and IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Organizations) where NUL participates actively in the work of a number of standing committees (bibliography, national libraries, academic and research libraries, information technology). NUL is a founding member of *The European Library (TEL)* and in 2006 actively participated in

the work of its Governing Board. NUL also collaborates with other libraries on several international projects.

NUL is a member of many other international organizations and associations (for example, ELAG, LIBER, Aslib, IASA, NAPLE etc.), and it co-operates in the work of international agencies for bibliographic control (ISSN, ISBN, ISMN). The library regularly contributes bibliographic information to the international UNESCO-based bibliography of translations, *Index Translationum*, and to the OCLC catalogue (bibliographic records about the Slovenian publications).

Anniversaries and events

- Press conference, entitled *Nation's written cultural heritage endangered* (7 December 2006): in the framework of »PaperTreat«, an EU-funded research project, Slovenian researchers (working for NUL and the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Technology, University of Ljubljana) reviewed the state of the nation's written heritage held by NUL. The evaluation has revealed dramatic evidence on the state of publications, printed and issued on acid paper between 1850 and 1990. The speakers described the alarming situation and provided information on solutions to preserve the holdings. A lecture, entitled »Science in service of cultural heritage preservation« was also organized;
- Open Door Day (2 December 2006) to celebrate the national Culture Day: several tours of the library were organized and exhibition on a nationally very important poet Simona Gregorčič opened; overdue items could be returned without having to pay fines for late return;
- In the premises of NUL a meeting of the CENL/FEP (Federation of European Publishers) working group was organized on 19 October 2006; the group monitors latest developments in collection, preservation and archiving of electronic publications. The meeting was also attended by the representatives from Slovenian publishers and members of NUL staff;
- The library was open to students and their parents on Sunday, 1 October 2006, thus participating in activities and programs of the 2006-07 academic year opening day. A library tour was organized and information about library resources and services provided;
- Press conference was held on 15 September 2006 to mark the publication of a monograph, entitled *The Slovenian National Library*, issued to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the library legally performing the national function and being renamed NUL (formerly University Library) by the then Slovenian Government;
- A one-day conference, entitled *Building a Library* (22 May 2006) was organized; nationally and internationally renowned experts from the fields of librarianship, architecture, library equipment, management and decision-making discussed their experience and views on issues related to library construction and equipment, complemented by opinions from the audience;

- As a TEL-ME-MOR project partner, NUL organized a two-day regional expert workshop on 18-19 May 2006 with participants coming from 11 countries. The workshop discussed the research requirements in the new member states and possible ways of improving access to cultural and scientific resources, and stimulating greater participation of organizations in future EU-funded research projects, along with the involvement of TEL-ME-MOR results in the creation of national policies;
- A precious copy of the second edition of »De Revolutionibus« by Nicolaus Copernicus, dating from 1566, was discovered among library holdings in February 2006; two hundred years ago the book was erroneously catalogued as having been published in 1766;
- Visitors from abroad included: Library and Information Science students from the Osijek University (Croatia); Abdelaziz Abid (Senior Programme Specialist, UNESCO, Information Society Division); Senior Management of the Croatian national library, Zagreb (Croatia); students from the Masaryk University, Brno (Czech Republic); participants of the regional TEL-ME-MOR conference; Marshall Breeding (Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, ZDA); Dr Lu Mu-lin (Deputy Minister of Higher Education, Taiwan); participants of the WHC (Web Cultural Heritage) project meeting; Dr Katie K. C. Su (National Central Library, Taipei, Taiwan); participants of the CENL/FEP working group meeting; Robert Pestell (IFLA Section on Library Services to Multicultural Populations); Senior Management of the National Library of Kosovo, Priština (Serbia); representatives of the Union of Slovenian Cultural Associations in Serbia; Dr Huang Ling Yu (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Beijing); Dr Istvan Monok (Director General of the National Szechenyi Library, Budapest, Hungary); a group of librarians from Albania.

Other notable information

In 2006 NUL co-operated, either as leader or partner, in 10 research projects, mainly financed from the EU funds (eBooks on Demand - EoD, EDL - European Digital Library, reUSE, TEL-ME-MOR, WEB Cultural Heritage, PaperTreat, SurveNIR). Two EU-funded projects, Web Cultural Heritage (Culture2000 programme) and reUSE (eContent programme) were successfully completed. Another two projects gained national financial support: the development of KAMRA Regional Portal, involving libraries, archives and museums at the local level with an emphasis put on e-local studies, together with access to digital content; and DIZZIS (developing a digital collection of scientific and research publications which will be available through the Digital Library of Slovenia portal, www.dlib.si).

NUL takes on responsibilities for the development of the national library and information system. Thus the library offers a wide range of continuing education and training programmes intended for both library professionals and users, and in 2006

1,425 librarians (compared to 1,360 in 2005) and users participated in the courses. The library also takes care of the process of acquiring beginner and advanced library degrees, together with the system of promotion in obtaining senior degrees as a part of career development. In co-operation with the Institute of Information Science, Maribor, NUL shares the responsibility of developing the national bibliographic system, and at the same time monitors and promotes the development of the Slovenian libraries (collection of data on the national library statistics, analysis on the degree of development of libraries and library networks, preparation of the national library registry, embracing institutions which perform public service in the field of librarianship, co-ordination of activities in the field of central regional libraries, along with advisory activities).

Organization chart

In 2005 NUL developed and adopted a new organizational structure with no alterations made in 2006. Beside the *Senior Management*, the library operation system is based on six divisions (cf. Appendix): the *General Administration and Finance* Division (brings under the same roof various working areas, such as Advisory Services Office, Accounting Services, Building and Facilities, together with IT Services); the *Acquisitions and Cataloguing* Division (encompasses departments working on acquisition and bibliographic data processing); the *User Services* Division (embraces storage and lending services, interlibrary loan and document supply services, and provision of information services); the *Research and Development* Division (covers activities related to library professionals and user education and training, and also includes the development of libraries at the national level, conservation and preservation of library holdings, along with research in the field); the *Special Collections* Division (comprises all special collections, thus the Manuscript Collection, Music Collection, Map and Pictorial Collection etc.); the *Digital Library Development and Strategy* Division (includes the following three departments: E-library creation, management and maintenance; Digital information infrastructure and preservation; Centre for co-ordination of the digitization of library materials).

Appendix 1: Organization chart of the National and University Library

