

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

Annual Report for CENL

July 2001 – June 2002

Management of the Library.

No changes have been made to the institution's legal status over the past year. However, we should mention the arrival of Mr Jean-Noël JEANNENEY on 22 March 2002 to replace Mr Jean-Pierre ANGREMY as chairman of the institution.

In 2001, the BnF's overall functioning was effective and stable, including the first concrete achievements of the objectives defined in the corporate project for 2001-2003. The first report on the corporate project shows encouraging results, both for indicators with a predefined goal and for follow-up indicators.

Funding.

The basic 2002 budget represents a figure of 128.6 M€ divided up into 99.7 M€ for operating expenses and 28.9 M€ for investment. The State grant amounts to 98.7 M€ (+ 2.7 %) for operating expenses and 9.5 M€ (+ 2.6 %) for investment. The institution's own resources account for a little less than 10 %.

This budget includes the implementation of the first year of computer equipment renewal, the financing of the first stages of work for securing the Richelieu site and the scientific works connected with the Richelieu collections, an increase in acquisition credits and testing of the legal deposit of documents on-line.

Staffing Matters.

The overall level of staff numbers dropped between 2000 and 2001 by 1.63 %, from 2822 to 2776. This decrease mainly affected civil servant employees.

Particular emphasis was placed on two organisational changes within the institution. The first of these is the yearly interview process, which was extended to all members of staff from June

2001, the second concerns the setting up of measures for adjusting working hours and the specifications for an automatic system for managing work time.

There was a very high level of training activity, amounting to 16 290 days in 2001, i.e. a 36 % rate of growth with respect to 2000, mostly for training staff how to use the new functions of the information system.

Information Technology.

The past year was devoted to implementing the second stage of the information system: completion and deployment of cataloguing, monograph acquisition, storage and financial interfaces in February-April 2002 and ongoing development of a system for managing the legal deposit of monographs. One thousand people were trained how to use these applications.

The installation of the catalogue production module included the conversion of the MARC 21 format into INTERMARC (bibliographical) and conversely, for retrieving and exporting bibliographical entries. The BnF's authority files were also put on-line in May 2002.

The *Bibliographie nationale française, livres et publications en série*, was made available on the web in July 2001 and since November 2001 its entries can be downloaded in UNIMARC ISO 2709 format.

Since May 2002, the main BN-OPALE PLUS catalogue includes almost all the printed documents (books and periodicals), whether these come from the free-access reference collections in the reading rooms or from the heritage collections in storage, as well as digitised printed documents.

The retroactive conversion of catalogues of special collections has been continued by making available 140,000 entries for prints on BN-OPALINE and by adding 151,000 Arsenal heritage entries and 120,000 entries for maps and plans.

BnF's connection with the high- speed, French research network, RENATER 2 (155 megabits as compared with 2 megabits previously) in September 2001 has improved access to the BnF website.

Access to electronic documentation was facilitated by the installation of a RENET workstation, in June 2002, providing access to all the digitised resources (CD-roms, data bases, electronic periodicals, digital library and BnF "Signets").

In January 2002, the BnF endowed itself with a security charter for the protection of personal data and information systems.

The Digital Library.

GALLICA, the digital library set up by the BnF, aims to put a selection of documents which are not subject to copyright and that are representative of its collections, on-line.

Since 1999, digitisation has been carried out according to three-year plans. In November 2001 the 2002-2004 three-year plan was defined with two main goals:

- the completion of the heritage and encyclopaedia library, which puts the priority on periodicals and dictionaries;
- continuation of the theme-based approach with the travelling theme (*Voyages en Italie*) and digitisation of BnF's collections (illuminated manuscripts, incunabula), with occasional collaboration with other libraries or institutions (for instance, with the Bodleian Library for the Gaignières collection included in the Prints and Photographs Department).

In addition, different data structure concepts have been tested to improve access to the digital library collections, for instance, the project on *Le Rêve* by Zola, carried out in cooperation with ITEM, CNRS laboratory.

For the past year the following achievements stand out: the completion of *Voyages en France*, the entry on-line of *Voyages en Afrique* and the *Publications des sociétés savantes d'Aquitaine et de Lorraine*, as well as additions to the digital library.

Digitisation of the *Revue de synthèse* in text mode in collaboration with the Foundation for science and the Albin-Michel publishers has been completed.

Lastly, digitisation, for commercial purposes, of the reproduction department's retrospective ektachrome collection has been completed.

The entire BnF web site continues to be monitored and tested to improve its content, organisation and presentation. In October 2001, a one-year survey on use of the web was started in cooperation with France Télécom, as part of a research project subsidised by the Research Ministry. Another study, begun in April 2002, concerns the way in which users perceive the BnF site.

In 2001 there were about 10,000 visits to the site each day, by some 8.200 visitors.

Legal Deposit of Materials.

- In 2001, the number of legal deposits of printed and graphic documents increased on the whole, (+ 7%) for monographs, (+ 34 %) for geographical maps and plans (+ 289 %) for music scores. The number of legal deposits of audiovisual and multimedia documents varied according to the type of media, i.e. a drop of 7.8 % for audio documents, an increase of 21.7 % for video documents and an increase of 21.5 % for multimedia documents.

The study begun by the BnF on changes to the legal deposit of printed documents resulted in the drawing up of recommendations submitted to the Ministry of Culture in March-April 2002. This memo suggested that the deposit process be simplified and that the number of examples deposited be reduced.

- As part of the three-yearly experimentation programme and more particularly the planned extension of legal deposit to include on-line resources, starting in May 2001, the BnF looked into documental, organisational and technical aspects.

The global functional model used as a framework for the experiment is based on usual automatic procedures for harvesting and archiving French surface Internet resources with regular but low frequency.

The BnF has carried out specific operations using standard facilities :

- voluntary deposit, either on a storage medium or via file transfer, of dedicated sites, including both different types of content and varied technical characteristics;
- automatic theme-based retrieval of sites dedicated to the 2002 presidential and legislative elections;
- automatic retrieval for the entire domain in June 2002 to obtain actual volume figures for part of the French Internet.

From a legal point of view, the bill on the information society, which contained an article modifying the Act of 20 June 1992 concerning legal deposit, aimed to widen the definition of legal deposit to include on-line documents and services, but was not passed. A new bill will be submitted to Parliament.

Acquisitions.

During the last year, the BnF started revising the collections development charter for all of the collection departments.

Whereas 2001 was an exceptional year for acquisition expenditure, which amounted to a total of 112 MF, it was only an average year for current acquisitions. The new resources, amounting to 4 MF, were employed to cover the increased prices of periodicals, the normal cost of monographs and to provide an increased amount and a greater variety of electronic documentation.

On the other hand, the final budget for heritage acquisitions totalled 47.25 MF, which enabled, amongst others, such outstanding acquisitions to be made as the *Livre d'heures* of Jacques II de Châtillon, the illuminated XVth century manuscript and the original manuscript of *Voyage au bout de la nuit* (1932) by Louis-Ferdinand Céline, and the *Faux-monnayeurs* (1921-1926) by André Gide to the manuscripts department ; the "Bois Protat", the oldest existing wood engraving of the western world (1370-1380), and five photographs (1860-1862) by Gustave Le Gray to the prints and photographs department ; the *Globe céleste astronomique poétique et universel pour la grande année de 2592 ans* designed by Charles-François Dupuis (1742-1809) to the maps and plans department; *la Grande fantaisie symphonique* for piano and orchestra by Franz Liszt on themes from Berlioz's *Lelio*, a manuscript with handwritten margin notes by Liszt, to the music department.

More recently, the BnF acquired the exceptional, unpublished correspondence between Nicéphore Niepce (1765-1833), the inventor of photography, and his son, Isidore, along with the oldest known heliographic print, dating from 1825.

Preservation and Conservation of Collections.

A great deal of attention was paid to preserving and protecting the collections.

Concerning preservation, the number of microfilms increased considerably (+ 6.6%) with respect to 2000 with the taking of 4,637,000 exposures of which 80.9 % were done internally. The preservation of audiovisual documents was continued with the transfer of 1760 audio documents onto CD-R and 480 video documents onto digital linear tapes. This transfer was carried out by the Technical centre studios at Bussy Saint-Georges, using an automated digital

video system accessible through the internal audiovisual system and by calling on outside service providers.

In the prevention field, the implementation of the emergency plan involved training of staff and the choosing of the storage premises for fire prevention equipment.

Lastly, in the 2nd semester 2002, decisions were made to develop a master plan and introduce emergency measures to guarantee the security of collections.

Services to Readers.

Improving services to readers is one of the institution's major priorities.

- On the François-Mitterrand site, the booking of documents via the web became a reality in July 2001, as a complementary service to on-line seats booking, which was already operational. In November 2001, the service offering direct consultation of documents was widened, increasing from 10 to 15 printed documents and from 8 to 10 microforms. In February 2002, special equipment was made available for the visually handicapped .

- The BnF pursued its policy of surveys of the public visiting the François-Mitterrand site. One study in 2001 on the summer public, mostly on regular BnF visitors, showed a drop in students and an increase in researchers. Another study carried out in April 2002 on the behaviour and satisfaction of the public visiting the François-Mitterrand site, revealed an improved level of overall satisfaction.

- The number of visits to the BnF's reading rooms in 2001 amounted to 929,723 entries, slightly less than for 2000, except for the François-Mitterrand site research library. There is, however, a clear rise in the volume of documents consulted. The upward trend was noticeable during the first semester of 2002, with an average of 1031 readers and 3400 documents consulted per day for the research library and 2300 readers per day for the study library at the François-Mitterrand site.

Cultural Events, Exhibitions and Publishing.

Cultural events in 2001 continued to be organised in cycles of lectures that attracted a total of 18 300 entries.

In 2001, 18 exhibitions were organised on the institution's different sites. During the last quarter, there were three exhibitions on Eastern countries with *L'art du livre arabe*, photographs from *Voyage en Orient* and *Al Adrisi's Geography*.

During the first half of 2002, the *Victor Hugo, l'homme-océan* exhibition celebrated the author's bicentenary and the BnF also presented the works of the photographer Gustave Le Gray.

In publishing terms, the BnF edited 32 new titles, bibliographical publications, exhibition catalogues, and works resulting from symposiums, etc. to which one can also add the *Revue de la BnF*.

At the same time, on-line publishing was developed and diversified. This took the form of virtual exhibitions, pedagogical dossiers, and a bi-monthly electronic letter, *La lettre des classes BnF*, which aims to create a network of educational relays.

Co-operation between libraries.

The BnF consolidated its networks, in France and abroad, creating openings with new partners and diversifying cooperation.

- Nationally :
- Following up the assessment meetings organised by the BnF with each of its associated centres, a document was drawn up towards the end of 2001 reporting on existing conventions and laying down the prospective guidelines for future

cooperation, which could be widened to include digitisation and shared preservation projects.

The annual daily event including all the associated centres, held on 4 July 2002 in Lyon furthered discussion on the content of these cooperative actions.

- The BnF organised "professional" day events in partnership with the French documentary network. These one-day events brought together more than 200 'outside' people on 24 and 25 January 2002.
- Internationally :
- In 2001 the BnF's international policy, which had been defined in the corporate project, was consolidated. As well as some specific individual workshops, the training of foreign professionals resulted in a programmed offer, in November-December, in two fields of preventive conservation and service to the public. In addition, the project for the building of a database covering international actions carried out within the institution, is now being implemented.
- International cooperation : aside from its active participation in the workings of professional bodies, such as the IFLA, for which the BnF hosts the fundamental Preservation and Conservation programme (PAC), the ISO and the ISSN, the BnF contributed to UNESCO works by taking on the presidency of the French National Committee for the "Mémoire du Monde" programme, created in July 2001 and by being a member of the French delegation to the UNESCO General Conference in October-November 2001.
- Multilateral cooperation : the European dimension is dominant with the regular participation of the BnF in CENL and COBRA Forum meetings and BnF's investment in the works carried out by the GABRIEL technical committee, for the presentation of the new version of the web site. Another aspect of BnF's implication, in this context, is the institution's involvement in European projects, which aim to facilitate the public's access to information and documents. These projects take into account indexation and classification systems, and multilingualism (MACS, RENARDUS) and provide assistance for managers of electronic documents (METAe). BnF also continues to take part in the various CERL efforts to make a collective catalogue for works printed prior to 1830 in Europe.

Moreover, during the first half of 2002, the *Bibliotheca Universalis* programme, piloted by the BnF, led to the creation of a common access portal on the dedicated web site hosted by GABRIEL (<http://www.kb.nl/gabriel/bu>). This portal provides access to the partners' different digitised collections on the theme "Exchanges between people".

- Bilateral cooperation : BnF's most natural partners are national libraries and major foreign research libraries. BnF also maintains regular working relations with its European and Northern American counterparts. Nevertheless, BnF continues to develop privileged cooperation relationships with French-speaking foreign countries, carrying out expertise actions and offering technical assistance or training for the

modernisation and professionalisation of national libraries. The main, though not exclusive, beneficiaries are Morocco and Tunisia in the Mediterranean basin and Senegal in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A seminar on "indexation in French, indexation in Arab", organised in Beirut on 28-29 September 2001, brought together professionals from the Lebanon, Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia. Relationships with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia have been renewed as a result of a seminar organised in Phnom Penh from 26 to 30 November 2001.

There have also been new developments in bilateral cooperation with countries in Central and Eastern Europe, Romania, Moldavia, Slovakia and Russia, in areas as diverse as indexation, reproduction, digitisation and buildings.