

CENL REPORT

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE

ANNUAL REPORT 1999-2000

Major Events

During the specific time 1999/2000 the major event for the NLG was the acquisition of a plot of land of 51.000 m² so that the new library building could be built there (see building).

The introduction of new technology in the NLG as it is reported below in the relevant chapter is considered an other important fact for the Library modernisation.

Management

As many times in the past special efforts for a new organisation of the Library were unsuccessful we proposed a bill for the establishment of totally indispensable departments such as Preservation and Microfilming as well as Accounts department.

We tried to face the problem of the very small number of employees working in the Library with employment of personnel through new projects and temporarily with the public sector procedures. Of course, these are half measures and the problem remains.

A programme of staff training was held during the second semester of 1999 on computerised systems of data processing services and network applications.

Measures were taken for upgrading the working conditions of the staff and for the improvement of the users environment.

Regarding the collections we made a general census and moved a big quantity of printed material from the central building of the Library into its two annexes. On this occasion we made arrangement of the space, whose lack is the biggest problem of the library.

We are working to introduce a policy for entrepreneurship with library thesaurus, products and many other activities of the NLG.

Finance and Funding

The Government supports the NLG financially but the Library needs much more money because it has to face big problems not only of the present but also of the past.

Since 1998 a project sponsored by the EU has been launched for the modernisation of the Library. It has supported new technology subjects, census of collections and their removal to other buildings, binding, purchases of books, retrospective cataloguing, library digitization, hiring of personnel and so on.

Legal Status

We are working on the extension of legal deposit to non-book material published in electronic and digital form in order to complete a bill that passed in 1997.

A bill has been proposed to Parliament for the establishment of the Department of Preservation and Microfilming as well as for that of the Accounts department.

Building

The lack of an appropriate building for the needs of the Library in the new era is the biggest problem that it faces. Besides the old neoclassical building two other annexes have been rent but they are insufficient to solve the problems of space. Lately the University of Athens has donated a plot of land to the Library of 51.000m² on its campus so that a new building could be built there. The procedures for its exploitation have been set out.

At the same time we have started the procedure of acquiring another building as a mid-term solution until the erection of the new building of the Library.

Acquisitions

The main way of the enrichment of the NLG collections is the legal deposit. Its indicator increased significantly during the specific time 1999/2000 so that the legal deposit together with the donations and purchases has increased the acquisition indicator by 25% compared with the previous year.

The funding of purchases was also high due to the above mentioned project of modernisation of the NLG.

Among the acquisitions significant historical items were included:

- Manuel Malaxos, *Nomocanon*. Manuscript codex, last part of 16th century.

- Ξενοφώντας, *Λόγος περί ίππικης. Ιππαρχικός-Κυνηγετικός*. Εκ Θεάτρου εν Οξο νία, [1673], 182[28] pp, 8vo .

Fine copy of a beautiful Oxford edition, from the Seldonian Theatre Press. Text in Greek and notes in Latin.

- Abbe Nollet, *Lecons de Physique experimentale*, tome 4eme, Paris, MDCCXLVIII, 535pp., 8vo.

An interesting treatise in Physics. Includes 5 folded plates with illustrations of scientific experiments.

- John Galt, *The Life of Lord Byron*. Colburn and Bentley. London, 1830, xii, 372pp., 8vo.

- C. Hopf, *Geschichte des Herzogthums*, Athens, 1205-1460 [=History of Athens under the occupation by the Francs], 4o, 372 pp.

Autograph manuscript in German, written in 1852. It contains 6 genealogical tables.

- Στεφάνου Δ. Ρώση, *Σύστημα Παιδαγωγικής*. Έν' Αθήναις, 1911, 132pp., 8vo.

An introductory exposition of the theories of General Education. One of the first attempts of its kind in Modern Greek. The emphasis is on practical teaching and work in class.

- Anthony Dell, *Isles of Greece*. Geoffrey Bles, London [1926], 226pp., 4vo.

First edition with 24 plates. Sold at auction by Chelsea Public Library.

Preservation

Since 1999 a big programme has started and is now in progress of fire safety. It should be finished till the end of the year.

Among the restored documents was included a bunch of 35 parchment sigilla, mainly ecclesiastical and patriarchal from the 17th c. to the 19th c. which were badly damaged by a flood.

We have programmed an extensive project on microfilming together with digitization of newspapers and other documents.

Information Technology

A new internal network was installed which allows us to communicate with the rest of the world through Internet.

The NLG´ Web pages allocated in the following address (URL) www.nlg.gr/ and include the history of the NLG, its structure and activities, access to its bibliographic databases and digital library as well as information about the services to users.

The Library has upgraded its integrated system of computerization with the last version of the library software ADLIB and new hardware. A web-opac module was installed so there is online access to the catalogue records of the years 1978-2000 (www.nlg.gr/adlib/nlg.htm). Servers were replaced as well as a major part of the PCs. The office software has been unified for the whole Library and new software for the accounting system was installed too.

The library software ABEKT of the ISBN database was upgraded with windows NT, web-opac and Z39.50 (www.nlg.gr/opac/zConnectEnu.html). Simoultaneously, the computerization of the archives of the ISBN system

regarding publishers prefixes and assigned isbns has started. Through this work we shall have an electronic CIP for our communication with publishers. The software Osiris for the National ISSN Center database was also upgraded with windows 2000 and the whole ISSN system was connected to the Internet.

Library digital programmes

Through the project of the modernization of the NLG a big series of University Reviews were digitized. Under the same project we did retrospective cataloguing of the bibliographic records of the Library General Alphabetic Catalogue of the years 1978-1988.

Two other research projects for digitization also sponsored by the EU were executed in the Library. The second one known as KORAES supplemented the first one entitled «Creation of full text database with the old and rare journals of the 19th century» and now we have their results. They digitized 10.000 pages of Greek journals of the 19th century and their data include both the page images of each article and the associated ASCII text to be used for the full-text access search-and-retrieval mechanism.

With KORAES a special vocabulary-based system has been developed enabling the verification of the ASCII text derived by the OCR procedure. The users access KORAES project via the Internet, using commercial web browsers (ebe.cslab.ece.ntua.gr). This system maintains the users profile, is able to apply a flexible pricing of the provided services and includes the software tools acquired for the creation of autonomous CD-ROMs with a user defined subcollection of the KORAES database. This one can easily create thematic CD-ROM based collection for scientific, educational or cultural purposes.

Services to Readers

As the computerization of the NLG has been recently introduced the Library continues traditionally its functions regarding the services to readers. However with the new technology the information about this issue has been broadened for the benefit of users with computer terminals for public use, info-kiosks, Web pages and a CD-ROM that includes a lot of information about the Library history and the services to readers.

Publications

In 1999 the Greek National Bibliography of 1995 was published and its publication on CD-ROM is being prepared.

We have started printing a catalogue of publishers involved in ISBN system. It will be ready at the end of the year.

An electronic CIP is also being prepared for our communication with the publishers and it will inform electronically the public about the forthcoming publications.

We are programming a policy of publications of the Library materials that we will undertake on our own and in cooperation with publishing houses.

Cooperation

On a national level the Library cooperates with the Greek Academic libraries for the creation of a Union Catalogue. It also cooperated with the National Technical University of Athens in a research project for the Library digitization and mainly for the digitization of the 19th century journals which have been damaged.

The Library lent manuscripts and books to other Institutions for the following exhibitions:

- a) «500 Years Printed Tradition of Neohellenism» organised by the Greek Parliamentary Library
- b) «Imperial Gifts» organised by the Byzantine and Christian Museum (17/5-1/9/2000)

On an international level it participates in projects sponsored by the EU programme «Libraries». These are:

- a. *CASA* (Cooperative Archive of Serials and Articles) for the development of a European metacatalogue of serials and articles for both professional users (such as ISSN centers, bibliographic agencies, union catalogues, libraries and publishers) and end users. (www.casa.issn.org:1999/) and
- b. *Universe* for the creation of a «logical union catalogue» for both the users and the librarians.

The NLG participates in the National Focal Point of the Programme of the EU and is a member of CENL. It is also the headquarters for the National Centers of ISBN, ISSN and ISMN and cooperates with their corresponding international centers.