

Annual Report for 2005

National Széchényi Library

In 2005, the National Library Board of Trustees accepted the national library's new strategic plan for 2005-2008. In our new strategic plan, collection management and stock protection, any national library's basic duties, are of high priority. Since both these areas require substantial funding, to supplement the Ministry of Cultural Heritage's budget, additional resources are to be mobilised. Besides obtaining subsidies and increasing incomes, we rely heavily on the private sphere's support, especially for our stock protection and investment programs. In addition to boosting the national library's social capital, the publication of the institute's scientific work and its regular exhibitions represent a major source of income.

The library's organisational structure underwent big changes in 2005. Thus the newly formed directorates carry out their activities in close co-operation with each other, which leads to a more efficient management system than the former framework. In addition to managing their own units, each director has responsibilities for library-level tasks. For example, the director of collection management and processing is also responsible for acquisitions and processing in the whole national library. Similarly, in addition to acting as system manager, the director of informatics ensures the co-ordinated IT development of all units. Finally, the director of special collections and scientific work is in charge of research conducted in the national library. Over the past year, the library has been "mastering" the new organisational framework, while continuing its activity according to the strategic plan.

Collection development, processing and the national bibliography

Due to financial constraints, it was only in the area of journals and regular foreign orders that the 2005 acquisitions were left untouched. We were not in a position to purchase multiple copies of current publications to have one on the free shelf and another in the collections, or to buy retrospective library documents from the 89 different Hungarian and innumerable foreign auctions, or material to use for swapping with foreign partners. Consequently, the number of items missing from the free shelves and from stocks has grown further. So did the number of foreign Hungarica publications whose acquisition is delayed year in, year out, and which will eventually be painfully missing from the national library's collection.

Through deposit copies and present, the library's stocks increased by 92 603 units in 2005.

During the year, we managed to process one bequest and one library of outstanding significance. We compared some six thousand works, pieces from the collections of the historian József Deér and that of the poet György Faludy. Both collections have contributed eminent books and copies to our stocks. József Deér's legacy included the literature of early and late medieval Hungarian and world history in German. György Faludy's library has, in turn, given us autographed copies of contemporary literature, works about history and cultural history mainly written in English, as well as a large number of multiple copies of contemporary books.

The collection scope of the *Hungarian National Bibliography Books Bibliography* has been extended to the group of electronic documents. Beside the items of printed books, in the 2005 booklets (in all their available forms), bibliographic items were given of the electronically published books as well.

In 2005, the National Periodicals Database grew by the bibliographic description and location of 1327 titles, of which 564 are current titles, and another 763 are retrospective ones (from before 1970). Bibliographic data were corrected in 2451 records (ISSN, providers' unified description, etc.), while 57 records were deleted (as they were cast off or because a library has been closed down). Based on the NSZL thesaurus, all new records have been classified with subject headings.

In March 2005, a new organisational unit called the Bibliographical Department of the Literature of the Humanities was launched in the NSZL. Its duties include the establishment of the Literature of the Humanities Database, the design of its service and operational model, and eventually co-ordination of building the database. The planned database is built in inter-institutional co-operation, and contains Hungarica articles, in addition to articles and studies published in Hungary.

The popularity of the Hungarian Electronic Library (MEK) has increased spectacularly over the past year, with the central server registering over 5.5 million visitors. In addition, the mirror servers outside the national borders, the Electronic Periodicals Archives and Database have received another one million users. Of the MEK's manifold activities, special attention is due to its operating the NSZL's Digitisation Committee and the setting up of the internal recording system of internally produced electronic documents.

Service development and extension:

Despite our limited institutional budget in 2005, we have achieved a considerable increase in readers' visits owing to a major reform of the readers' service. The use of our reading rooms and our documents has gone up by 44%. We have 14% more newly registered readers, and the number of reference questions submitted in writing, thus the number of our distance users (Libinfo/Inform) has risen by as much as 63%. Consequently, our revenues from subscriptions are 10% more, while incomes from reprographic services have grown by 55%.

The popularity and use of the Readers' Professional Work Stations system (OPM) is a 100%. Lacking the necessary resources, in 2005 we were unable to purchase new computers. However, in order to ease the demand, introducing the WiFi (WiFi = Wireless-Fidelity) system has proved to be an effective, nevertheless cheap and fast solution. This cableless innovation enables readers to join the network through their own laptops.

Two new services launched in 2005 in answer to readers' demands have very quickly found popularity and a growing market. Charging fees for our provisions, we now take commissions to prepare special literature bibliographies, and do press monitoring and article search. These specialised services make considerable contributions to the library's revenues.

In the course of 2005, 3216 questions about widely different topics were addressed to the Libinfo group's website. According to the internal regulations of the service operated in the form of a consortium, the final answers to all incoming questions were formulated and transferred to the inquirer by Libinfo's moderating group within NSZL. As an annual average, outside consultants answer about 34% of queries, while in all other cases credit is due to NSZL's Libinfo group.

In 2005 there were major developments in the Microfilm Collection. After years of waiting, we finally managed to buy a Zeutschel 10.000 digital camera (which scans documents up to

A/1 size, is stock-friendly and comes with a book cradle), which we have installed in our department's photo service unit in the Buda Castle. This acquisition is complete with a colour printer, which enables us to print digital copies of even our institute largest documents (Xerox 8142 wide colour format printer). In the Microfilm reading room, two new Screen Scan A/3-type microfilm scanners have been installed. This service has gained such popularity that the documents scanned from microfilm doubled from the previous year.

Activities of special collections

It is a great achievement for the *Manuscript Collection* that the *Bibliotheca Corviniana* has been included into UNESCO's Memory of the World Register. We joined the Memory of the World program more than 15 years ago within the framework of the international consortium of the libraries that keep the Corvinas. Following the scanning in of *Our Language Relics* in 2004, "laboratory work" on the digitised material was continued in 2005, and the related bibliographic descriptions were mostly completed. One of our most significant modern stocks, namely the *Collection of Petőfi Relics* was also digitised. On the level of metadata, the computerisation of the recently processed *fond lists* has been started. And what is even more remarkable, so has the digital description of *discreet manuscripts*. The maintenance and supplementation of earlier recorded electronic catalogues and bibliographies is an ongoing project. We have also started organising into databases our *Hungarica Manuscripts*.

In the *Collection of Small Prints*, it was a high-priority task in 2005 to sort the 850 thousand obituaries, put them into strict alphabetical order, restore them, prepare them for microfilming and to compile a detailed list of the material. By December 2005, a total of 587,981 obituaries had been sorted into alphabetical order.

In 2005, the *Collection of Theatre History* organised the *Theatre in Northern Light* exhibition. The Osiris Publishing House issued its *Theatre History Album*, which does not introduce the collection by groups or by document types, but offers an overview of the 200 years of Hungarian theatre history through the material presented.

With substantial contribution from the *Map Collection*, the *Geographical names as access points to database records. KSZ/5. Library and special literature information regulations*, came out in 2005.

Co-operating with the Budapest Semmelweis Medical University, the *Collection of Historical Interviews* continued doing interviews with doctors, as a result of which we have nine complete interviews. Related to research into contemporary history, the development of the digital chronology database of events between 22 October and 4 November 1956 is continued. With financial support given by the *National Radio and Television Body*, we went on with the continuous recording of the five national television channels' programs as started in 2001, ensuring that the records are researchable and digitising and processing news broadcast in peak evening hours.

In the *Music Collection*, the application of AMICUS has started (*in a real database*, using the experience gained in the 2003/4 test database). Following the 11th May 2004 inauguration of the Studio built with Japanese government support, our audio-services have been resumed.

Managed by the 16th and 17th Century Book History Department, within the retrospective national bibliography work, for the 4th volume of the Old Hungarian Prints (RMNy) we

continued describing supposedly Hungarian polemical essays, catechisms, poems commissioned for special occasions (e.g. weddings and funerals) and sermons printed between 1656 and 1670, as well as Biblical Czech publications, etc.

Jointly with Arcanum Database Ltd., the *19th and 20th Century Book History Department* published the material of the 8th volume of Magyar Kötészet [Hungarian Book Production] 1921-1944, processed with the Folio Views for Windows using 4.20 program. This company also produced a CD, reproducing as photographs the five thousand pages of each volume published so far. The CD-ROM *Hungarian Book Production, 1921-1944. With an Alphabetical Index, Supplements and Corrections* came out for the 2005 National Book Week.

In 2005, the two basic activities of the Restoration Department, namely *restoring special collections* and *improving newspapers before microfilming* took up 1368 hours more than the planned 19,000 hours. Consequently, 676 hours less than planned (1,500 hours) had to be devoted to restoring *ecclesiastical collections*.

IT developments

The National Széchényi Library had been looking for a way to have its catalogue available through search engines, and in 2005 it achieved that through the interface of 'vizsla24', 'vizsla' users can browse NSZL catalogues.

The so-called 'cover' of the documents going into the NSZL's Digital Library has been created, which includes the short (or if required, also the full) description of the electronic document, its main parameters, and the identification of the electronic document. It is from here that the electronic document can be opened. The cover brings together the representations of the given electronic document.

Because of retrospective conversion, the number of records has grown. As a joint outcome of the growing number of professional users and the switch to the latest version of Amicus, the harmonisation of the integrated system has become unavoidable. As part of the harmonisation process, we have created a system for the storage of entry files. We have written programs for the analysis of entry files, and have installed statistical and other monitoring software both at the level of the operational system and that of database management.

Joining the European Library (or TEL for short) within the TEL-ME-MOR EU project was a high-priority task for 2005. The project was intended for the national libraries of the European Union's ten new member states. The NSZL was the first to join, applying the SRU protocol. By the end of the year (which was only the middle of the project!) we had managed to make nearly all the planned databases searchable with the help of the SRU and OAI-PMH protocols.

According to the 22/2005 decree of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage on handling and recording library documents of museum quality, NSZL delegated that keeping the national records of such documents should be one of the major tasks of the MOKKA-R Section, which has been responsible since it was set up on 17th November 2005.

Exhibitions

Our major exhibitions in 2005:

The Czech Bible over the centuries;

Pannonian Phoenix, or the Hungarian Language Arisen from the Ashes. Our Earliest Printed Scientific Books (16th-19th Centuries);

Theatre in the Northern Light. Estonian and Finnish Drama on the Hungarian Stage;

The travelling exhibition “*Blue Blood, Black Ink*” prepared in several national libraries’ co-operation has started its tour in Zagreb, and its catalogue has been produced in several languages. The NSZL’s exhibition halls have hosted a number of chamber exhibitions, besides the major ones.

Publications

We have been able to issue our publications according to plan, mostly in joint financing with publishing companies. We have managed to maintain in our profile facsimiles, books about library science and bibliography, as well as publishing sources and documents of library history.

Library Institute

The Library Institute has been active in executing the Ministry of Cultural Heritage’s library strategies. The Institute’s staff has worked in several of the ministry’s committees and the Institute has taken a key role in formulating the national digitisation plan.

In 2005, there was a national representative reading sociology survey, the data of which were recorded jointly by the Library Institute and TÁRKI. The Institute has also made literature reviews about various international developments affecting Hungarian librarianship.

The Institute has had a major role in creating librarians’ code of ethics. It has launched a book series with new content called EuroTéka. Over the past year, the Collection Development Department has taken a more and more intensive role in the activity of the National Document Supply system.

In the course of structuring the new European Book History Collection (EKGY) within the Special Library for Book History and Library Sciences (KSZK), nearly two and a half thousand items have been transferred to the EKGY’s reading room shelves from the stocks of the Széchényi Library and KSZK. 718 items of NSZL’s English, German, French, Dutch and Italian book history documents have been included in the collection. 1025 volumes from the depots of KSZK and 520 volumes from its reading rooms have been displayed on open shelves without classification or library marks.

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