

National Széchényi Library

H-1827 Budapest, Buda Castle Palace wing F

1996/1997 annual report for CENL

1. Legal regulation

Two pieces of legislation have been in preparation for years:

- modernised legal deposit act
- library act

despite the long drawn out preparations, neither act has yet been passed. Since general elections are to be held next year, it is to be feared that the bills will not come before parliament in the first half of 1997, in which case they will only be dealt with by the new parliament - at some unknown time in the future.

2. Construction of a store

The plan for construction of a new underground store has been included in the preparatory programme for the millenary of the foundation of the Hungarian State, to be celebrated in the year 2000. This is good news but is not in itself a guarantee that the store will actually be built by 2000, since the programme aims for the realisation of far more projects than the funds allow.

3. Structural and organisational questions

The National Széchényi Library has commissioned Ernst & Young Consultants to audit and analyse the organisation and work processes of the library, and on this basis to make proposals for organisational and structural changes which will result on the one hand in a reduction in the numbers employed and on the other will make our work more efficient and improve our services. The work is currently under way. M. Line and R. Heseltine of Great Britain are also working on this project as experts, with the support of the British Council.

4. Acquisitions data (31 December 1996):

	Stock 31/12/1995	Acquisitions in 1996	Losses in 1996	Stock 31/12/1996

Books	2,281,680	22,139	20,281	2,283,538
Periodicals	316,607	5,903	68	322,442
Manuscripts	931,418	25,523		956,950
Music scores	174,125	1,233		175,358
Maps	182,260	1,392		183,652
Small printed materials	2,674,990	15,064		2,690,054
Standards	47,476			47,476
Patent descriptions	1,521			1,521
Pictures, engravings	290,066	461		290,527
Microfilm negatives (descriptive units)	136,826	1960		138,786
Microfilm positives (descriptive units)	120,256	1,941		122,197
Educational slide films	13,760			13,760
Recordings, audio tape	21,985	678		22,663
Other documents (photo, Xerox)	49,500	2,436		51,936
Videocassettes	5,385	602		5,987
TOTAL	7,247,855	79,341	20,349	7,306,847

5. Number of readers (1996)

28,871 registered readers, 200,000 visitors

6. Automation

No progress was made in the field of retrospective conversion.

Since the second half of 1996 the Hungarian National Bibliography has been appearing twice annually on CD-ROM. We are planning to ensure on-line access for the Hungarian National Bibliography from this year and libraries will be able to download it.

7. Protection of holdings

There is no innovation in this field. Following established practice, work is continuing on microfilming, restoring and bookbinding.

8. International relations

On 6-7 February 1996, together with the Association of Hungarian Librarians, we held a copyright seminar with the support of the British Council.

On 27-29 January 1997, together with the Association of Hungarian Librarians, we organised the 5th BOBCATSSS Symposium.

9. Exhibitions

9.1. On 26th April 1996 we opened the National Széchenyi Library's museum with the title "*The nation's library - the workshop of service*".

9.2. The library's exhibition held in honour of the 1100th anniversary of the Hungarian Settlement was open from October 1996 to the end of January 1997. The exhibition was titled "*Treasures of the National Széchenyi Library*" and presented 120 of the library's most beautiful and valuable items.

Budapest, 9th April 1997

Géza Poprády