

National Széchényi Library, Hungary

1997/1998 report

for CENL

1. The two most important results in 1997 were:

1.1 we built the structural network throughout the entire library building; it serves both the computer system and the telephone system;

1.2 We announced an international tender for an integrated computer system. The winning system is AMICUS.

2. Our economic difficulties are due to our unchanged central budget support and the annual inflation of 18–20 %. We used credit to build the network mentioned in point 1 and repayment of the loan is adding to our problems. We received separate target support from the ministry for the purchase of AMICUS.

3. In December Parliament passed the act on "*Protection of cultural goods, museum institutions, public library service and public education*". Part III, Chapter III of the act deals with the national library.

4. The government regulation issued in March 1998 is a revised regulation of the legal deposit system. The regulation also covers film, video and electronic documents. The number of copies of printed documents to be supplied has been reduced from 16 to 6 copies. Two of these go to the national library and the remainder to other libraries.

5. The library would like to build underground stores. This year we are having the plans required for a building permit drawn up. A decision can then be expected on whether the store can be built.

6. The library's acquisitions in 1997:

	Stock 31/12/1996	Acquisitions in 1997	Losses in 1997	Stock 31/12/1997
Books	2,283,538	25,680	3,541	2,305,677
Periodicals	322,442	6,360	101	328,701
Manuscripts	956,950	6,108		963,058

Music scores	175,358	808		176,166
Maps	183,652	1,538		185,190
Small printed materials	2,690,054	13,698		2,703,752
Pictures, engravings	290,527	20,122		310,649
Microfilm negatives (descriptive units)	138,786	1,723		140,509
Microfilm positives (descriptive units)	122,197	1,793		123,990
Educational slide films	13,760			13,760
Recordings, audio tape	22,663	1,148		23,811
Other documents (photo, xerox)	51,936	943		52,879
Videocassettes	5,987	888		6,875
Total:	7,257,850	80,809	3,642	7,335,017

7. We are following the practice of previous years for the protection of holdings. An additional task is microfilming the archive (typewritten material) of the Hungarian broadcasts of Radio Free Europe and copying the audio tapes.

8. We are elaborating the national library's digitalization plan in 1998.

9. In 1997 we set up the computer network for 12 readers' places, but we have not yet had the funds to buy computers.

10. In March we opened an exhibition held to mark the 150th anniversary of the 1848–49 Hungarian revolution and war of independence. It will be open for a year.

11. In addition to the publications of the national bibliography, the library published 8 books and four library periodicals.

12. We have made no progress in the area of retrospective conversion. However, it is an achievement that the current latest five issues of our publication *Hungarian National Bibliography. Bibliography of Books* can now be read on the Internet as an electronic journal and can be downloaded by subscribers.

13. We are taking part in the work of IFLA, CENL, CDNL, LIBER and FID.

14. Our library's total number of employees has been reduced to 600 (1994: 792).

Budapest, 8 April 1998

Géza Poprády
Director General