

**National Széchényi Library, Budapest, Hungary**  
**1998/1999 report for CENL**

ad 1. After two years of preparatory work (auditing, process analysis), we have modified the library's organizational structure. The main points of this are:

- a. we have merged the book cataloguing department, the editorial office of the national bibliography of books and the ISBN office;
- b. we have merged the serial publications book cataloguing department, the editorial office of the national bibliography of serial publications and the ISSN office;
- c. we have organized the departments dealing with acquisitions into a single main department: purchasing, exchange, collection of deposit copies;
- d. we have set up an electronic document supply department within the main department for reader service and information.

ad 2. In December 1997 we decided to purchase a new integrated system. This is AMICUS. 1998–1999: installation of AMICUSad 3. Although the 1998 budget increased, we received more funds solely for wages and wage-related costs (sickness insurance, pension insurance, etc.). The material/operating budget (source) remained unchanged and in real value declined by approx. 15% due to inflation.

- Budget (approx. 4.8 million euro) 100%
- Wages 66%
- Operating (including 2.8% acquisitions) 34%

ad 4. In 1997 Parliament passed the Act regulating public library services.

ad 5. The national library has a central role through the following:

- it is the collecting place for deposit copies
- it edits the national bibliography
- interlibrary lending
- ISBN and ISSN office
- union catalogue of books and serial publications

ad 6. In 1998 the new deposit copy regulation (act) was issued. This provides for the supply of 6 deposit copies, of which 2 go to the national library (one for preservation, one for use) and it further distributes the rest to other libraries. There is a substantial increase in the number of CD-ROMs being received as deposit copies.

ad 7. The library is planning to build an underground store, similar to the solution applied in Vienna and Bern. In 1998 we obtained the first preliminary building permit. We aim to have the construction plans drawn up this year. It is our hope that construction work can begin in 2000.

ad 8. Our acquisitions fund is 2.8% of the total budget, which is very little. The situation would have been even worse if we had not received an extraordinary sum from the Ministry of Cultural Heritage for the purchase of a valuable manuscript collection offered by an antiquarian.

Data on the full holdings of the National Széchényi Library at the end of 1998

	<i>Stock</i>	<i>Acquisitions</i>	<i>Losses</i>	<i>Stock</i>
	<i>Dec. 31, 1997</i>	<i>in 1998</i>	<i>in 1998</i>	<i>Dec. 31, 1998</i>
Books	2,305,677	29,165	1,136	2,333,706

Periodicals	328,701	7,723	142	336,282
Manuscripts	963,058	11,362		974,420
Music scores	176,166	1,164		177,330
Maps	185,190	2,879		188,069
Small printed materials	2,703,752	16,613		2,720,365
Pictures, engravings	310,649	846		311,495
Microfilm negatives (descriptive units)	140,509	498		141,007
Microfilm positives (descriptive units)	123,990	511		124,501
Educational slide films	13,760			13,760
Records, audio tapes	23,811	748		24,559
Other documents (photos, Xerox copies)	52,879	489		53,368
Video cassettes	6,875	777		7,652
<i>Total:</i>			1,278	

ad 9. In 1997 the National Széchényi Library and Radio Free Europe reached an agreement that the library would receive the material of the RFE Hungarian-language broadcasts, in part on loan for the purpose of making copies. Among others, this means microfilming more than 1 million A/4 pages. For this reason we suspended the newspaper microfilming programme in 1998–1999 to be able to microfilm the RFE material.

ad 10. As mentioned under point 2, we are in the process of installing the AMICUS integrated system.

We plan to elaborate our digitalization strategy by the second half of the year.

ad 11. We have modernized the lighting in the reading rooms. In conjunction with this we have installed Internet access points in the reading rooms. We have created a separate multimedia reading room. We have introduced the use of e-mail in interlibrary lending and will soon have the possibility of sending documents electronically.

ad 12. An exhibition commemorating the 150th anniversary of the 1848–1849 Hungarian Revolution and War of Independence.

ad 13–14. From 1998 the *Hungarian National Bibliography. Bibliography of Books* can be accessed on the Internet and downloaded by subscribers. The most recent 5 issues are available on the Internet.

ad 16. We reduced the number of employees by 3% (20 persons) in 1998.

Budapest, May 10, 1999

Géza Poprády