

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze

Annual report 2000-2001

Director:

Dr. Antonia Ida Fontana
Piazza Cavalleggeri 1
I - 50122 Firenze
Tel: 39 055249191 – Fax: 39 0552342482

Periodicals Collection at Forte di Belvedere
Via San Leonardo 5
I – 50125 Firenze
Tel: 39 0552345877

Preservation & Conservation Dpt.
Piazza Sant’Ambrogio 2
I – 50121 Firenze

Internet site: www.bncf.firenze.sbn.it
e-mail: info@bncf.firenze.sbn.it

Collections

Printed books..... 5,419,291

Manuscripts..... 24,949
Letters and autographs..... more than 1,000,000
Incunabula.....3,712
16th century editions.....29,101
Graphic materials.....35,565
Microfilms.....7,093
Doctoral dissertations31,990

Services to readers

Readers.....231,829

Items consulted..... 672,563

Local lending..... ..20,791

Interlibrary lending.....1,803

Resources

Staff..... 275

Budget:8,000,000 euro

Exploiting new technologies, the procedures for the treatment of the new accessions to the Library were submitted to reorganization. A conspicuous saving of human resources and an improvement of productivity was obtained.

The bibliographical data of the electronic retroconversion ([CUBI](#) project) of the ancient National Bibliography 1886-1957 were loaded in the [OPAC](#) of the National Index SBN: during 2001 further loading of data in the OPAC BNCF and the production of a dedicated CD-ROM are scheduled.

Buildings

The construction of a new building covering the courtyard placed between the two towers already used as books' warehouses, was necessary due to the chronic lack of space for books' storage. The building-up of a third tower, now in advanced progress, appeared as the simpler and quicker solution to have free space within the shortest possible time. But it is clear that further future developments will necessarily involve solutions outside the actual BNCF area.

Acquisitions

Two really important new acquisitions were carried out during the year 2000:

- 1) the [Bertini](#) collection consisting of 4,300 illustrated books within original engravings. The collection documents the more important artistic movements in the XXth century (Dada, Surrealism, German Expressionism, Russian Futurism and others) with editions containing illustrations by Barlach, Dix, Grosz, Kandiskij, Kirchner, Klee, Carrà;

- 2) 2) the Mila collection consisting of more than 20,000 documents (essays, scores, periodicals) and more than 2000 recordings (cuttings?). It contains a lot of annotated volumes and precious autograph loose sheets. The collection has a so high historical, musical and literary interest, that the Music Department of the Library can now be considered to have an increased international scientific relevance.

Management of the Library

The Quality System adopted by the Library involved the staff in the implementation of the Procedures Manual and in the formulation of the Charter of Services. The BNCF is the first Italian public Library committing itself to write a Code of Service fixing rights for users and methods-time services supply. The Quality System of the Library aims to achieve the ISO 9002 certification.

A new organization chart of the Library staff is at the drafting stage.

Legal deposit

Due to the rising size and importance of digital documents, the BNCF presented a proposal to the Ministero per i Beni e le Attività culturali for an amendment of the Italian law on legal deposit for the electronic born documents. Furthermore, within the framework of the national project [EUROPE](#), the BNCF signed some agreements with various Italian institutions (University of Florence, School of advanced studies of Trieste, Free University) for voluntary deposit of digital documents. According to the agreement with the University of Florence, the first of this kind in Italy, signed on October 2000, the digital and multi-medial scientific publications edited by the University (usually monographs and serials) will be:

- - described within the National Bibliographic System (SBN)
- - captured and catalogued as digital publication
- - inserted in the workflow of current digital resources
- - associated to an individual URL.

The copyright will be protected by a properly created digital signature (128 bit MD5 algorithm – RFC 1321) to assure the authenticity of the publication.

The access to the digital documents will be possible by means of the OPAC BNCF for the users of the Library only from local workstations.

Information technology

Relevant efforts were devoted to the implementation of the LAN, creating two new optical lines and realising the transition of many workstations from Token Ring to Ethernet.

Following the OAIS model, a new structure of storage and access to digital documents was defined. The new architecture actually provides the storage of digital publications received for voluntary deposit of digital documents.

Statistics of the web server are now at disposal from the home page of the Internet site of the BNCF: daily hits passed from 20,000 of 1999 to 60,000 of 2000.

Projects

[Ars BNI](#): the project aims to improve and enrich the access to the document, linking the bibliographical record to the images of frontpages, table of contents, index and to other relevant parts of the book, according to ISO 5963.

Subject Heading List: the Subject Heading List of the Italian Libraries was edited by the BNCF in 1956. During the year 2000, the BNCF promoted a feasibility study aiming at the renewal of the Italian Subject Heading List. The study produced an overview on the theoretical and methodological discussions in this research area and on the solutions adopted by the most important National Bibliographies and Libraries.

Buglione: after the serious damages caused by the flood of 1966, 62,000 volumes belonging to the antiquarian collections of the Library were restored under the care of the Restoration Department of the BNCF. In spite of these relevant efforts, a lot of volumes are still waiting for restoration. Due to the progressive lack of staff inside the BNCF, the resort to external resources became a necessity. Elaborated by the Restoration Department, the Buglione project produced further 700 restored volumes and realized the turning point of defining executive restoration planning for all the remaining 19,000 damaged volumes of the antiquarian collections of the Library. By means of this planning, a fast and controlled entrusting to external restoration firms will be possible as soon as new financial resources will be available.

@uol.it: on July 2001, a new release for the information management of a library was presented. @uol.it, realized by the BNCF with external partnership, is a software-package conceived with particular attention to library-systems. Management is enabled for: access to the library, OPAC researches, document's handling, reading requests, local and interlibrary loan requests. Furthermore, @uol.it enables cataloguing of the collections owned by the library exploiting the cataloguing activities of the other libraries included in the libraries network.

Exhibitions

Among the successful exhibitions of the year 2000, we mention “[Per un regale evento](#)” organized on the celebrations of the quatercentenary of the birth of the opera and “[La Divina Commedia](#)”, dedicated to contemporary artists' illustrations of the poem of Dante Alighieri. Furthermore, as in the past years, the BNCF organized a series of “meetings with the authors” (meetings for public readings of poets and writers).