



Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze

Annual report 2001-2002

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Collections

Printed books..... 5,451,559

Manuscripts..... 24,957
Letters and autographs.....more than 1,000,000
Incunabula..... 3,713
16th century editions..... 29,114
Graphic materials..... 35,650
Microfilms..... 7,798
Doctoral dissertations 35,925

Services to readers

Readers.....233,922

Items consulted.....678,374

Local lending.....19,311

Interlibrary lending.....1,526

Resources

Staff..... 272

Budget: 8,000,000 euro

In the last years all the internal organization of the Library has been reshaped adopting a Quality system, which involved the staff in setting-up new operating procedures. In November 2001 the BNCF obtained the ISO 9002 certification (see the logo uppermost) released by the International Organism of Certification DNV (Det Norske Veritas). The BNCF is the first Italian Public Library to achieve this important recognition, which establishes that the Library realized a series of planned and documented activities to supply its products and services according to international standards.

Buildings

In the first half of 2001 the construction of a new building (named the Third Tower) was completed. The Third Tower consists in the now covered courtyard between the previous existing book's warehouses towers. The Third Tower, setting with compact bookstacks, is now in advanced progress. The new building offers to the Library the opportunity to gain more spaces and to reassemble its collections.

Safety measures for buildings, working environment and conservations of the collections were implemented. The equipment replacement of fire-fighting and alarm systems were contracted out.

Statistics of the web server

At disposal from the home page of the Internet site of the BNCF: daily hits passed from 60,000 of 2000 to 75,000 of 2001, reaching an average of 95,000 in the first half of 2002 .

Projects

Europe: The BNCF is fully committed in the aim of reducing the gap between paper and electronic collections and in preserving digital memories in the long term. The Europe project tries to answer the demanding problem of collecting and managing digital published materials. In particular the project focalizes on the electronic Italian heritage collection and ensures its “universal and equitable” access to it. The electronic architecture of Europe is provided by the European project Nedlib, according to the OAIS model. The new structure of storage and access to digital documents is planned to contain: voluntary deposit of electronic publications of Italian University Presses, BNCF-digitisations (Ars-BNI) and on-line resources (Italian web sites).

ArsBNI: ArsBNI -a project already in progress in the last years- is the most important project among the digital projects of the BNCF. Until now it provided 1,800,000 digital images and 560,000 files in OCR format. 5,000 volumes, never deposited or damaged by the flood of 1966, have been digitizing in full text. Furthermore, the BNI (Italian National Bibliography) records of monographies published from 1994 on are linked to the images of frontpages, table of contents and index. These e.resources are accessible via OPAC from the local workstations of the Library.

Magliabechi’s manuscripts electronic catalogue: The project’s aim is to digitalize and to index the handwritten catalogue of the Magliabechi’s manuscripts compiled in 15 volumes by Giovanni Targioni Tozzetti and Antonio Cocchi in the XVIII century. The project involves

the control and revision of all the original handwritten descriptions. The resulting data base will be accessible on the web site of the BNCF.

Pelli Bencivenni: The “Effemeridi” of Giuseppe Pelli Bencivenni, a collection in 80 handwritten volumes, represents a basic resource for the historical studies on the period of the Enlightened Reforms in Tuscany at the end of the XVIII century. The “Effemeridi” contains the chronologically ordered chronicle of the relevant events occurred in Tuscany in the XVIII century. The cataloguing of the collection and its electronic publishing is now in progress.

Watermarks: The project’s aim is the digitalization and the electronic cataloguing of the watermarks used in the florentine incunabola. The resulting data base will enable to adjust and improve new methods of study in the knowledge of the Florentine printing of the XV century.

Bibliotheca universalis: The BNCF takes part to the international project Bibliotheca universalis. In particular it collects and offers pages dedicated to Florence by other countries’ authors, especially journey’s chronicles of the XVIII and XIX century.

Exhibitions

Successful exhibitions were organized by the BNCF. “Per sommi libri”, a beautiful collection of book’s covers, plates and illustrations, demonstrating the relationship between publishing and the avant-garde artists of the XX century. “I Rosselli”, an exhibition of documents, books and images on a family which fought strongly against fascism in Italy. “Trattati di architettura militare 1521-1807”, an exhibition collecting the first Italian editions owned by the BNCF of the most important military treatises published from 1521 to 1807. Furthermore we want to mention “European Cartography between Renaissance and Enlightenment”, organized by the BNCF in cooperation with the European University Institute of Florence, the Museum of History of Science of Florence and the Italian Military Geographic Institute.

As in the past years, the BNCF organized a series of “meetings with the authors” (meetings for public readings of poets and writers).