



## Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze

### Annual report 2003-2004

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### Collections

Printed books.....	5,534,718
Manuscripts.....	24,971
Letters and autographs.....	more than 1,000,000
Incunabula.....	3,714
16 <sup>th</sup> century editions.....	29,119
Graphics materials.....	42,739

## Services to readers

Readers.....	231,513
Items consulted.....	712,856
Local lending.....	20,988
Interlibrary lending.....	1,140

## Resources

Staff.....	254
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# Buildings

The most interesting new of this year is certainly the definitive acquisition by the BNCF of the barracks “Curtatone e Montanara” , a very large building located near to our Library, that previously was under the property of the Italian Ministry of Defence. Now the BNCF and the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Assets are involved in the drafting stage of the building’s renovation project. The main aim of the BNCF is to create a new structure where all resources, activities and collections of periodicals can be concentrated. Inside the renovated structure, the BNCF intends to reach the following goals:

1. to open to the public a new periodical section with all the periodicals collections owned by the BNCF
2. to unify all the periodicals stores for magazines, reviews, journals newspapers and microfilms, now distributed between the main building and other external locations
3. to transfer all the catalographic and managerial activities that refer to all the periodical materials
4. to obtain a 20 years autonomy in books stacking
5. to organize an open shelf area of relevant dimensions
6. to enhance the new structure with new technologically evolved services.

By this last point of view, the feasibility study of the RES project (a project focused on the indexing of the Italian periodicals in the area of human and social sciences), quoted in the

annual report 2002-2003, is in its final step. The new side seat of the BNCF will offer new opportunities in the improvement of a new Italian Central Service, which is the proper target of the RES project, offering the possibility of document delivery through the Internet.

Furthermore, it is worth to remember that during this year the entrance to the Library has undergone to a complete renovation, including a new cloakroom and a new Reader Admissions office.

## **Quality System**

As in last years the Library has been deeply involved in the improvement of the Quality System. Due to the fact that all the previous ISO 9000 certifications were in their dead line, the BNCF, without external resources, conformed its Quality System to the UNI EN ISO 9001: 2000 standard and obtained the certification by the International Organism of Certification DNV (Det Norske Veritas). This Quality System upgrade involved the staff in the implementation of a new release of the Procedures Manual.

### **Information technology**

Due to the high level of automation reached by the Library, relevant efforts were devoted towards technological innovation. At the beginning of 2003 the renewal of the hardware system of the BNCF was achieved. Furthermore a Wi-Fi LAN, available for public connections, was installed in the specialized reading rooms, while other parts of the Library are currently undergoing trials.

### **Statistic of the web server**

Daily hits passed from 98.000 of 2002 to 142.000 of 2003, reaching an average of 164.000 in the first half of 2004. The planned new version of the web site is currently in progress.

### **Projects**

The projects on the creation of an electronic catalogue of the Magliabechi's manuscripts (about

6,000 manuscripts) and the project on the digitalization of the Palatino card catalogue (a project concerning about 210,000 catalogue's cards) are now concluded and are accessible through the Internet.

The OPAC has been enhanced by 120.000 previously lacking shelf-numbers, now attached to the bibliographical records recovered by means of the electronic retro-conversion of data from the ancient Italian National Bibliography (1886-1957) (CUBI project quoted in previous Annual Reports).

A currently running project has been committed to the cataloguing of the original antiquarian collection of the Library (Magliabechiana Collection), containing 120.000 volumes of extraordinary value. The project is scheduled to end in the 2005.

All over the year various projects related to the improvement of safety measures for the staff and users, as well as for the building and collections, were realized.

Digitalization projects produced 253.000 digital images. A relevant result for the BNCF is that the standard MAG, concerning the administrative and structural metadata, formulated within the ArsBNI project (a project linking the images of frontpages, table of contents and index to the BNI-Italian National Bibliography records) was adopted as benchmark standard for all digital projects of the Italian Digital Library of the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Assets.

On the side of the international projects the BNCF has continued its engagement in the TEL project, related to the digital resources of the European National Libraries, and on the Bibliotheca Universalis project. Particular relevance assumed for the BNCF, for the maintaining of cultural global heritage, the creation of the IICP Consortium (International Internet Preservation Consortium) between 11 National Libraries and Internet Archive: the target is the harvesting and preservation of the web sites of relevant cultural and social interest.

### **Exhibitions and meetings**

The BNCF attended the presentation of new books, organized concerts and “meetings with the authors”, as well as scientific meetings (we want to mention here the international symposium “Authority control”) The most important exhibition of the year is surely doubt “Figurare la parola”, an event where the Bertini Collection was exposed for the first time to the public; it deals of a collection of art editions and of artist’s books acquired by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Heritage and Assets and held by the BNCF. On this exhibition was possible to admire rare editions of books illustrated by Bonnard, Picasso, Derain, Kandinskij, Matisse, Chagall, Modigliani and other famous artists of the avant-garde painting movements of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. All the books belonging to this collection have been catalogued and the most important pages of each of them have been digitalized and linked to their bibliographical record.