

Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze

Annual report 1998-1999

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

Periodicals Collection at Forte di Belvedere
Via San Leonardo 5
I – 50125 Firenze
Phone: 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.....	5,359,709
Periodicals (titles).....	115,000
Manuscripts.....	24,943
Letters and autographs.....	more than 1,000,000
Incunabola.....	3,710
16 th century editions.....	29,086
Graphic materials.....	33,814
Microfilms.....	6,486
Multimedial materials.....	1,115,237
Doctoral dissertations	25,848

Services to readers

Readers.....	291,598
Items consulted.....	663,689
Local lending.....	18,097
Interlibrary lending.....	1,162

Resources

Staff..... 260
Budget:15,478,000,000

In 1998 Ministero per i Beni Culturali e Ambientali changed its denomination and organization, becoming Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali. The new Ministry, which now includes competencies previously attributed to other Ministries (such as Sport, Theatres, etc.), promised a major attention to problems concerning library services and reading enhancement.

Major innovations during the year

The Library committed herself in the ambitious project of reshaping all the internal organization adopting a Quality system. To reach this goal workings groups have been set up, monitoring all the different phases, charges and duties. Results are expected for mid-2000. In the field of vocational training BNCF has a partnership in projects, some of which funded by the European Community, involving methodologies of distance learning and training.

Buildings and plants

The National Central Library of Florence (BNCF) completed building works of its central stores and subsequently the reconversion of old stacks system into the new compact sets. In this way about 14,000 new linear meters have been acquired with about ten more years of autonomy. Two special projects (TRAMA and TOWER) allowed to gather the antiquarian collections (previously arranged in more than one sector of the stores) and to reorganize the modern collections. This complex operation was carried out without inhibiting the availability of documents to the readers (with the exception of some temporary and partial restrictions), with major charges obviously deriving to BNCF in the organization of transfer, which moved about 60,000 linear meters of materials. Despite these difficulties, during 1998 the total number of readers and requested documents increased (respectively about 5,7% and 5,6 % as regards to 1997). By means of their representatives, the readers appreciated the choices of the institute.

A new organization of the catalogue room is planned for the next year. According to this planning a new arrangement will be given to all card catalogues, new working stations will be available and the electronic equipment for the readers will be increased up to 50 units. All the new computer stations will enable the access to Internet data bases for bibliographical research and to a set of local CD ROM of general reference. On this occasion a new service of help and reference for the readers will be set up.

IT and new technologies

Relevant efforts and important funding have been devolved to the development and the technological updating of servers, since the activities of the Library require advanced technical equipment. Resources have been employed also in the development of a new software. An experimental realise of the new OPAC on World Wide Web was presented at the August IFLA meeting in Amsterdam. The new OPAC will be fully working in the next year and it will offer major research facilities and a set of new services to local as well to remote users.

Exhibitions

The Library usually organizes several cultural events: exhibitions, concerts, meetings with authors and books, visits and trainings. Among the recent successful exhibitions, we mention "1946-1948. Repubblica, Costituente, Costituzione" created on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the election of the Italian Constituent Assembly and of the proclamation of the Italian Republic.

Furthermore we want to remember also: "Adam Mckiewiwicz in Tuscany – 1848" and the restored pages of "Taccuino di Giovannino de' Grassi", one of the more important and magnificent samples of illuminated manuscripts of our collections (XIV Century).

Library co-operation

In collaboration with other european national libraries, BNCF is involved in the EC funded project NEDLIB, with the aim of defining the standards of basic infrastructures for a common processing of electronic publications.

On the national side, electronic publications are also the object of a co-operation agreement between BNCF and Italian publishers (EDEN project). The project is intended to produce a special section of the Italian National Bibliography (BNI) named "BNI – Electronic documents".

On June 1998 the project CUBI started: by means of this important project the online data base of the Library will be enriched of more than 600,000 retrospective records for the period 1886-1956, retrieved from the "Bollettino delle pubblicazioni italiane ricevute per diritto di stampa dalla Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze" (the old series of BNI).

Another retrospective retrieval project currently working is PIC, a project devolved to the enrichment of the online data base with the bibliographical description and holding of the periodicals owned by the Library. Actually more than the half of headings has been retrieved: a new Ministry funding is expected to cover the remaining headings.

During 1998 the GALILEO project reached its conclusion: the Galileo collection of BNCF (one of the most important documentary funds for the history of science with 347 handwritten files) has been transferred into a bibliographical and image data base, which includes the transcriptions of the manuscripts and a thesaurus, now available on the Internet site of BNCF. The CD ROM produced as a result of this project won the Pirelli award.