Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale Firenze

Annual report 1999-2000

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Collections

Printed books………………………… 5,363,456

Periodicals (titles)………………………..115,852
Manuscripts……………………………… 24,949
Letters and autographs…… more than 1,000,000
Incunabula…………………………………3,711
16th century editions………………………29,087
Graphic materials…………………………34,627
Microfilms…………………………………7,037
Multi-media materials…………………1,115,649
Doctoral dissertations ……………….…28,810

Services to readers

Readers............... 275,400

Items consulted…………………………. 664,813
Local lending………………………… ..19,770
Interlibrary lending…………………………1,501

Resources

Staff... 261

Budget: …………………………....   8,575,000 euro

Management of the Library

The Library reached the medium step of its Quality System Project (ISO 9002), in which it was deeply involved all over the year. As a result, a Quality System Manual was produced, which is intended to represent the BNCF staff reference guide for all the activities related to Quality items. Special Quality topics for 2000 are:

- -   enhancement of the modern and antiquarian collections of the Library by means of projects devolved to computerized catalographic retrieval;
- -   increasing the current running of Complaints Department for the improvement of legal deposit as a source of acquisition;
- -   improvement of the procedures in the treatment of the new accessions to the Library;
- -   set-up of staff training sessions.

Legislation

The most remarkable disposition adopted in 1999 by the Italian Parliament is the "Testo unico delle disposizioni legislative in materie di beni culturali e ambientali", which does not properly represents a new legislation but it is actually the whole

regulations referring to all the activities of the Ministero per i Beni e le Attività Culturali.

Buildings

In the mid December 1999 the BNCF inaugurated its new Reference Room, realised thanks to a policy of increasing spending by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Affairs (the refurbishment of the old Reference Room consisted in a 361,519 euro investment).

48 computers with liquid crystal display are now placed on ergonomic desks: each computer working station has its start-up page with the homepage of the web site of BNCF, linked with the new OPAC of the Library, other local and national OPACS and approximately 70 data banks and bibliographical CD-ROMS.

Inside the main architectural structure of the BNCF, a new important building work was undertaken in the end of 1999. It is actually under construction a new store which is estimated to create about 13,000 new linear meters of space, corresponding to ten more years of autonomy in books stacking. The works are predicted to close within one year.

Information technology and networks

The major innovations during the year are the development and the implementation of the new OPAC on World Wide Web of the BNCF, and the updating of the web site of the Library, which now includes the OPAC itself, at disposal for both local and remote users through the Internet.
The system exploits the latest technology to support up to 1,500,000 hits per month. At the moment the OPAC contains approximately 1 million bibliographic records and it is presently growing up to 1,6 million records by means of the electronic retro-conversion of data of the Ancient Italian National Bibliography (1886-1957), as a result of the CUBI project (quoted in the previous Annual Report).
Furthermore, by means of the PIC project, the data base was enhanced with 70,000 new records of periodical headings (i.e. more than the half of the whole periodicals

collection of the Library). These new records also provide a description of the owned issues and of existing lacks.

Disaster planning

Within a national project of the Italian Ministry for Environmental Services, the BNCF was chosen as one of the site of relevant cultural interest. In order to organise actions to prevent damages in the case of an occurrence of a new flood (after the disaster of 1966), during 1999 the BNCF performed a disaster drill (named ARNO). Furthermore in 1999, by means of the achievement of the MERCURIO project, the BNCF retrieved the whole periodicals collection at Forte Belvedere: approximately 5 millions of single issues were checked and reordered. For all the headings are now described lacks and damages by the flood of 1966.

Services to readers

The new computer system of the Library has been developed in order to increase the number of services offered to the widest possible audience, both on-site and off-site: when fully implemented the OPAC will allow remote users to enrol at the Library, to reserve and to borrow books directly via computer. Bibliographic searching possibilities have been increased and are destined to increase in the near future.

Exhibitions and cultural events

Among the successful exhibitions of the year we mention: "Economici e tascabili: 50 anni di libri per tutti", created on the 50th anniversary of the first Italian series of pocketbooks; "India-Europa-Italia 1600-1800", a collection, owned by the BNCF, of engravings and illustrated editions of beautiful Indian landscapes, nature, everyday life and temples; "De Chirico alla BNCF", original drawings, illustrations and lithographs by Giorgio De Chirico.

Within a national program promoted by the Italian Ministry for Cultural Affairs, involving 20 state libraries, the BNCF organised an interesting series of "meetings with the authors" (meetings for public readings of poets and writers), an initiative continuing during 2000.

Library co-operation

With reference to access to electronic publications, the Library is fully committed both at international (NEDLIB) and national levels (EDEN) in two important programs aiming to organise and regulate the fair use of electronic products, their voluntary deposit and their cataloguing and preservation problems.

Furthermore, the BNCF is involved in the international project CASA, whose main aim is the creation of an European serials meta-catalogue as a resource available through the Internet.