

Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

ANNUAL REPORT

to the Conference of European National Librarians

1999

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| ADDRESS: | The National Library of Lithuania Gedimino pr. 51 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania Tel. (370 2) 629023 Fax. (370 2) 627129 Email: biblio@lnb.lrs.lt | |
| DIRECTOR | Dr. Vladas Bulavas E-mail: vlbula@rc.lrs.lt | |
| COLLECTIONS in items (1998 12 31) | Books and bound periodicals | 5 760 993 |
| | Manuscripts | 58 086 |
| | Microforms | 103 347 |
| | Audiovisual materials | 62 011 |
| | Other material (including maps, printed music, broadsheets, etc.) | 2 947 892 |
| | Total holdings | |
| | - in items | 8 932 329 |
| | - in titles | 2 278 091 |

FUNDING

The Library budget resources were made up of Government annual allocation (91.3%), receipt of priced services (4.6%) and grants of foundations and individual persons (4.1%). The financial situation of the Library was extremely grave in 1999. To a large extent this was the result of general economic recession. The total amount of 1999 grant-in-aid from the State budget comprising 11 million Litass (1 USD - 4 Litass), was a four million cut-back in comparison with 1998. The acquisition programmes have experienced major losses, as only 60% of required amount was received. Such development of circumstances forced to look for solutions: the number of subscriptions both in titles and in copies was reduced to the minimum, purchase orders for additional copies of national documents were cut considerably, often restricting the collection of Lithuanian publications to accessions by legal deposit only. As a result of limited resources the acquisition of foreign documents decreased as well. The aggravated financial situation also made a certain impact on other spheres of activity. The library was unable to cover fully the public utilities cost, the construction of the annex was halted and the number of staff members was reduced by 10%. In order to save resources and

ensure normal library functioning the financing programmes were revised and corresponding figures were specified accordingly. It was decided that for the year 2000 the Library is to cease operating on Sundays.

STAFFING MATTERS

At the beginning of 1999 the Library staff contained 500 qualified librarians and library specialists. Owing to reduced financing by the end of the year the number of employees fell to 452. The structure of the Library was rearranged: the post of assistant director in charge for maintenance and proper running of the Library was abolished and a post of assistant director responsible for collection preservation was introduced. In connection with this the subdivision coordination system also changed: some specialized departments such as the Manuscripts, the Old and Rare Books and the Reprography were placed under the coordination of the abovementioned assistant director of collection preservation.

The Library staff were improving their knowledge and developing their skills by attending foreign language and computer courses, participating in workshops, accomplishing training in libraries abroad. A grant received from the Open Society Institute in 1999 will enable to realize a programme of establishing and running a training class in 2000.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

Creation of integrated system

The implementation of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS) was proceeding further. LIBIS cataloguing software equipment was adopted successfully and without negative impact on the current flow cataloguing figures. Applying a new programme the creation of authorities name and subject databases began. Substantial work of data transferring into the new system was concluded. In November the LIBIS software equipment was put into effect. The ORACLE database control programmes were installed in workstations. On 31 December 1999 the LIBIS union catalogue contained 205 495 records. Five new libraries, among them that of the Academy of Science, of the Medical and Technical Libraries, have joined into the development of the union catalogue. Currently there are 11 libraries - members of the catalogue. The LIBIS acquisition subsystem operation was launched. The financial support from OSI (Open Society Institute in Budapest) was received for the implementation of LIBIS software and creation of computer networks in 11 public libraries.

Retroconversion

The scanning of 3.5 mln. items of card catalogue was finished and optical character recognition of scanned images as well as editing of recognised text and structuring of requisite bibliographic record elements started. The target of 2000 is to absorb the integration of the Graphic Image and Library Computerized catalogues.

Acquisition of equipment

In all 24 computers, 3 printers and 1 scanner were acquired. The demand is a great deal higher as additional terminals for the staff and users are required. Some equipment was received from the Open Society - Lithuania Foundation - for operating the retroconversion programme - and from Lithuanian-Atlantic Treaty Community.

LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

Documents received on legal deposit made up 37% of the total 1999 accessions. As the means of accomplishing the search and control of legal deposit, the reports of publishers, ISBN, ISSN and ISMN databases, information in the press on new releases were applied. With increasing range and costs of production the publishers are reluctant for financial reasons to supply free of charge copies by legal deposit (the aggregate of 13-15 copies of each publication is delivered to libraries of Lithuania). Therefore the National Library received 1-2 copies instead of the requisite number of four. The Library stressed largely on missing titles from the publishers. The search and receipt of audio-video and electronic document by legal deposit remain complicated. On some occasions the publishers utterly decline delivering documents of this kind. In carrying out these objective a huge task of devising by-laws and determining storage and selection concepts concerning such documents lies ahead.

ACQUISITIONS

Owing to reduced financing of acquisition programme, the Library was unable to obtain the amount of planned publications. 77 837 copies of documents were received in 1999 - 10 thousand less than in 1998. For comparison the 1998 and 1999 figures of acquired documents are given below:

| | 1998 | 1999 |
|--------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Books, serials and bound periodicals | 75 137 | 66 070 |
| Manuscripts | 328 | 524 |
| Microforms | 83 | 30 |
| Audio-video documents | 1621 | 942 |
| Other | 14 355 | 10 271 |

Out of this total the following percentage and quantity of publications were acquired according to separate sources:

- 6,5% (5 051) - domestic and foreign exchange
- 37% (28 722) - legal deposit
- 22,5% (17 521) - gifts and other free of charge editions
- 7,5% (5 822) - purchases from booksellers and publishers
- 11,9% (9 310) - subscription of periodicals
- 14,6% (11 411) - other sources

The prevailing share of documents received at the Library is made up by documents delivered on legal deposit, and those coming as donations or in other forms of accessions at no cost. A public tender was announced for additional acquisitions of documents. Publications, not distributed by a book trading firm which won the tender, were being purchased from other suppliers. Because of insufficient cash resources the figures of acquired current documents have dropped by 1866 volumes to compare with 1998. The allocation for retrospective acquisition was cut by 50% and for that reason only the most necessary publications - predominantly significant examples of our cultural heritage - were obtained.

The largest by far part of acquired foreign publications comprised periodicals on subscription (8 590 issues), documents received by exchange (4 051) and gifts (8 970). Due to financial restrictions the Library managed by purchase less titles of books published in the West as in

1998. Applying the Pushkin Project initiated by Open Society - Lithuania Foundation 979
Russian books were acquired at low-prices.

PRESERVATION

Conservation and restoring

During the year 180 items of old and rare documents and 53 thousand relative were restored. The special emphasis was on the Archive of National Documents, Lituanica and Manuscript Collection preservation programmes. Unique documents and the account of the repair work on them was displayed to the public of Lithuania at the arranged exhibition. 1999 saw the beginning of restoring unique Papal Bulls. The first already restored documents were exhibited at the exposition staged to mark the two thousand anniversary of Christianity.

Microfilming

The microfilming of pre-war and current Lithuanian periodicals has continued. A total of 30 Lithuanian and 101 Judaica periodicals (275 210 frames total) were fully microfilmed.

Thanks to the cooperation with the Library of Congress and Norman Ross Inc. company the Library is able to execute this expensive project.

Along with the experts of Osnabrück University, the selection of celebration prints stored at the Old and Rare Book Collection was accomplished and the list of these items was compiled. The microfilming of the materials is to start in 2000.

Digitizing

With the increased of computer workstation in the Library and with users remotely connected trough the Internet, electronic access to library materials is becoming a necessity. There is presently very little experience in Lithuania of digitizing various types of library holdings and of the role which this innovation will play in future preservation programmes. This is one of the reasons why the National Library of Lithuania needs to investigate the feasibility of the process in connection with both printed material and microfilm. Digitization undertakings demand substantial investments, therefore it was decided to divide the programme into projects on digitizing collections and types of documents, submitting them subsequently to foundations providing support. Considering that the copyright and licenzing aspects are not solved yet, the creation of digitization collection will set out with conversion of old collections, such as the parchments held in the Manuscript Department (Privileges by Grand Dukes of Lithuania and Papal Bulls) and the unique Judaica Collection of periodicals and books from the Archive of National Documents. These projects were presented to the Open Society - Lithuania Foundation and the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme.

SERVICES TO READERS

The Library had 55 961 readers including 14 757 newly registered during 1999. 49% of all readers were students while researchers and specialists made 21%. 456 299 reader visits were made to the Library and 1.5 million documents were retrieved for readers. The reading rooms housed 570 reader desks.

The implementation of automated readers service subsystem modules has continued. The bar code identification and security of documents system was put into effect. The Library services were improved by installing 27 client terminals. Since information search in Library local and on-line databases has expanded, much more computerized workstations for readers were

required. The number of remote users has grown and for their convenience the Library website was upgraded. By the end of the year a bibliographic database covering the 1994-1999 articles in Lithuanian serials was presented in the Internet and to users. From 2000 a subscription to the database started. A programme of introducing readers to electronic documents has extended and the training and seminars were organized.

A project aiming to improve audio and video document servicing facilities was prepared and submitted to the cultural support programme of Japanese government. The project was assessed favourably. In 2000 a modern audio-video equipment will be installed in the Music and Arts reading rooms, thus enabling to provide better service conditions and to offer additional servicing benefits.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING

Among most significant events that occurred during the year was the 80th anniversary of the Library. The anniversary celebration programme included an international scientific conference, a traditional session of lectures and discussion on Martynas Mažvydas, an anniversary exhibition to mark the occasion. The Library staff and its readers were congratulated by President of the Republic, representatives of Government, Seimas, the Ministry of Culture as well as by colleagues from other libraries of Lithuania.

Other important events:

"From the Holy Land to All the Peoples", a documentary archaeological exhibition to mark the anniversary of 2000. The exhibits comprised historical documents, archaeological remains, Christianity's originality, its emergence on the historical scene and its expansion in time and space.

Posters of Lithuanian Exile, an exhibition displaying cultural and social life of Lithuanian exile community.

Exhibition devoted to contemporary Izraeli architecture *"Encounters: Paradoxes of Izraeli architecture peculiarity,"* arranged jointly with Izraeli Embassy.

Exhibition *"Lithuania and Latvia Between Two Wars"*. A display of publications, photographs and documents reflecting diplomatic and cultural relations between two states and based on materials from the collections of national libraries of Latvia and Lithuania. The exhibition was opened by the Latvian and Lithuanian Presidents.

"Life and Works of Grimm Brothers", an exhibition presenting documents from collections of the Grimm Brothers Museum in Kassel, Germany and books by these authors published in Lithuanian.

Series of exhibition *"Jesus Christ is the Same Yesterday and Today, the Same For Ever"*.

Exhibits on display comprise documents from the Library collection and illustrations of the Bible by outstanding Danish artist Esben Henefelt Kristensen. The latter part of the exhibition was arranged with the assistance of diplomatic and cultural institutions of Denmark.

Publishing

In the course of the year the National Library has issued 189 publications under 37 titles. The most prolific group - 18 titles - were bibliographic publications of various kinds. 90% of total production were printed at Library's own facilities. The total amount allotted to publishing were 246 thousand Lit. Works published in a jubilee volume of proceedings *"Library Science"* present a review of Library development over the recent decade. An impact on wider distribution of Library publications was generated by participation in various book fairs and exhibitions. At the 3rd international Baltic Book Fair which took place in Vilnius, along with

latest releases, for the first time prepared and published in Lithuania "*Lithuanian Books in Print 1998*" and "*Catalogue of Publishers*" were presented.

LIBRARY COOPERATION

The Library directs the implementation of LIBIS and coordinates the creation and application of the system moduls. The management of the Union Catalogue of Lithuanian Libraries is a responsibility of the National Library which also supervises the quality of databases. The training course on handling the LIBIS software was organized for cataloguing specialists from Lithuanian public libraries. For bibliographers and information specialists of research libraries a seminar "Electronic information and its application in the library" was arranged.

In 1999 the preparation of modernizing Lithuanian libraries during the 2000-2009 period programme has started. The Lithuanian Library Council, functioning under the Ministry of Culture, has established a group of library expansion prospect, which devised a project of abovementioned programme. In the creation of the project, experts of the Library Science Centre of the National Library were involved. The programme covers the upgrading of library equipment, the widening of library functions and the computerization of information process. The National Library maintained broad international contacts. The staff members took part in the international conference, meetings, workshops and study visits. The Library is a member of several international organizations, among them IFLA, CENL, LIBER, FID, IAML. The national libraries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania have long-standing traditions of cooperation. They have common history and operate in an analogues environment. The cooperation always was and still is based both on formal Cooperation Agreement which includes various forms of collaborative projects, programmes and activities and on international communication and exchange of ideas and experiences between neighbours and colleagues.

In 1999 a traditional seminars of Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian national libraries "LiLaEst'99" was held. The theme of the seminar was entitled "National Library: the Years of Transition". At the seminar papers by representatives of three national libraries were presented on such topics as the implementation of information technologies and library information systems, the application of legislative and normative documents and the accomplishment of international and national research programmes. The Open Society Institute in Budapest has contributed to this project, initiated by the National Library, and provided a possibility for specialists from three national libraries of Baltic states to attend a workshop for national libraries of Europe "Building National and Large-scale Internet Information Gateways".

Dr. Vladas Bulavas
Director