

Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg

National Library of Luxembourg

Annual report 2001-2002

Management of the Library

Director: Dr. Monique Kieffer

Funding

The budget has increased in 2001 and in 2002. The BnL has received funding from the government project e-Luxembourg to develop and acquire new electronic content and access tools.

Legislation

The status of the Luxembourg cultural institutions will be redefined. A new law is being elaborated which foresees the extension of the legal deposit obligations for the BnL in respect to digital publications.

Buildings

The BnL is suffering from an acute lack of space. In February 2002, the government council decided to relocate the National Library and its annexes in a single building at the European quarter in Kirchberg. The Robert Schuman building has been chosen and its redesign is currently being planned. The future BnL will thus be integrated in a cultural ensemble consisting of the National Library, two museums and a philharmonic hall.

Personnel

In the years 2001 and 2002, the BnL has been able to increase its personnel. A special focus has been given to the continuing education regarding information technology.

Information technology and networks

The Aleph 500 system and the AACR2 rules were deployed in the year 2000, as was free internet access for the readers. In 2001 and the first half of 2002, the BnL has focussed on extending access to information technology for its staff, its readers and the members of the Luxembourg library network. In parallel there were local developments and migrations, mainly

- the integration into Aleph of two classification systems: namely Dewey and the "répertoire des vedettes-matière" (RVM) from the Laval university, Quebec;

- migration of the periodicals catalogue from the GLAS system to Aleph;

- development of a commented link collection (600 entries, for the time being available via intranet only);
- on-line access to the *Bibliographie d'histoire luxembourgeoise* (the national bibliography edited by the BnL will be online before the end of 2002)

- development of the BnL website.

The "mediathèque" is being equipped with DVD players.

The BnL coordinates the network of Luxembourg libraries which has grown from 10 to 20 members in 2001 (shared catalogue). Except one, all the university libraries from Luxembourg are now part of the network. The BnL runs and organises the cataloguing courses for the new members.

Digital library

A digitisation project has been made possible thanks to a grant from e-Luxembourg, one subject being the paper catalogue of non-luxembourg works from before 1985. The BnL has received special grants to purchase data bases and electronic journals. The necessary technical requirements being fulfilled, this project is being implemented in the second half of 2002. In parallel, and following its role as a national library, the BnL is developing its competence regarding the management of digital documents in the heritage domain.

Services to readers

A special effort has been made to develop the services to the public. Among others, the information service has been improved. In August 2002, there were 26 PCs at the readers disposal, 14 of which offer free internet access. The possibility to reserve items online was particularly well-received by the library's readers.

The combination of these measures led to a rise in the number of readers and in the number of loans.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Like in the previous years, the BnL is organising exhibitions and conferences in its own building and is participating in diverse book and reading-related events.

Main exhibitions :

- « Candide. Illustrierte Ausgaben eines Klassikers » (Candide, Illustrated Prints) from 3rd to 24th February 2001, in cooperation with the University of Trier,
- « Les reliures des XVIe et XVIIe siècles conservées à la Bibliothèque nationale » (Bindings from the XVI and XVII century from the National Library) from 16th to 31st March 2001,
- « Livres baltes à la BnL » (Baltic books from the BnL) from 5th September to 4th October 2001,
- « Moravie juive. Brno juif. Culture et traditions juives en Moravie » (Jewish Moravia. Jewish Brno. Jewish culture and traditions in Moravia) from 12th December 2001 to 2nd February 2002, in cooperation with the Czech association K 2001 under the patronage of the Embassy and Consulate of the Czech Republic,
- « Hommage à Léopold Sédar Senghor », from 19th March to 4th May 2002, organized for the international day of the "Francophonie".
- « Les Maisons de Victor Hugo », (The houses of Victor Hugo) from 10th to 21st June 2002, in cooperation with the French Cultural Center, Luxembourg and the French School, Luxembourg,
- « Luxemburgensia in Stadtbibliothek u. Stadtarchiv Trier », (Luxemburgensia in the Library and Archives of the City of Trier) from 3rd July to 31st August 2002, in cooperation with the Library of the City of Trier.

Publication:

- *Tempus edax rerum : le bicentenaire de la Bibliothèque nationale de Luxembourg (1798-1998)*, 2001, 221 p.

Library cooperation

Regarding the other libraries in Luxembourg, the BnL is actively developing its cooperations, mainly through extending the network of libraries using Aleph (see above – *networks*).

Internationally, the BnL has close ties with the Swiss network IDS (Informationsverbund Deutschschweiz). The 29th International ISBN Agency Advisory Panel Meeting was hosted at the BnL from 14th to 16th October 2001.

The BnL joined the City Library of Trier and the "Mediathèque" of Metz in the project Culture 2000 (1st September 2001 - 1st September 2002) « Zukunft für Vergangenheit » (A future for the past). The project aims to restore incunables from the three libraries which are particularly at risk and educate the general public to the problems of document conservation (see: www.libri-europae.org).