

National Library of Luxembourg - Activity Report 1994

Buildings

The extension plans in the town center have lately been abandoned by the Government. It decided in May 1995 to offer the library new storage facilities outside the town center, but a definitive plan has not yet been indicated. However, the financial investment should not exceed the sum of 800 million LUF or 40 million DM in a first phase. Our present efforts aim at ensuring that the new place will also be able to shelter some offices, workshops and reading-rooms, because even if we move some collections from the attic floors of the main building, it will hardly be possible to get decent working conditions under the roofs.

Retrospective Cataloguing

A first operation was started in collaboration with the French firm Jouve.

It comprised about 50.000 card files and printed bibliographical records, describing some 150.000 physical units of our Luxemburgensia collection.

In November those data will hopefully be transferred to our SIBIL files and bring them up to 280.000 bibliographical records. In a parallel operation more than 150.000 volumes have been equipped with bar-codes. This operation has allowed a very detailed survey of the present state of our collections. At the same time many extra copies (exceeding the average number of four) could be removed from the shelves and were transferred to an annexe; so this weeding out operation liberated valuable shelving space for new volumes. Further shelving space was recuperated by transferring all the bound newspaper volumes to an out-building and by keeping only microfilms at our central location. In 1995 we started tackling our 700.000 remaining volumes of foreign literature so that we can dispose in 1997 of a database of one million electronic records. At the end of this year we hope to offer to Internet about 100.000 Luxembourgish records which do not figure in any other database.

Automation and Networking

Another achievement started in 1994 was our PC local area net, which interconnected about 15 existing PC's, and so finally a central access to periodical management and circulation (by Datatrek), generalized CD-ROM consultation and on-line consulting of external databases was made possible. But our Internet link will only be operational in the next weeks, as the State Computer Center really wants to take the greatest possible security measures to avoid all abuses.

About 12 Luxembourg libraries participate at present in our shared SIBIL cataloguing. Only 75% of our present 230.000 data still come from the National Library. The automated SIBIL lending procedures will be generalized over the next months. In the mediathèque they have been operational since 1993 already.

Public Relations

Every year about 20 exhibitions are organized in our Entrance Hall and at the Salle Mansfeld. They are usually accompanied by 2 or three scientific colloquia and about 40 art and history lectures.

The outstanding events of 1994 were the international Forum of Fine Book-Binding in April 94, a colloquium about Jewish Self-Perception between 1870 and 1930 (in collaboration with

the Leon Baeck Institute in London) and the Berlin Schocken Publishing House (both accompanied by scientific exhibitions and publications), a Hans Christian Andersen exhibition and the 4th centenary of the settlement of the Jesuits in Luxembourg in 1594 and the Europe of the Prince de Ligne. In 1995 fifteen main events are taking place at the library, mainly the Dreyfus exhibition which was already shown in Paris, an exhibition about Catalonian literature, about Charles Gimpel (a photographer among the Inuit), about illustrated 16th century books from the town library of TrŠves (with illustrations among others by Hans and Ambrosius Holbein), about Luxembourg music sheets and manuscripts, books of medicine and pharmacopoeia from the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries, about Luxembourg Freemasonry etc.

Publications

Beside the traditional publications of three Luxembourgish bibliographies, and four exhibition catalogues, we published in 1994 a "Short History of Literature in Luxembourgish", an updated version of our National Library brochure, a new reader's guide and a new leaflet about our Special Collections Department.

In 1995 we project the issue of a new "Guide des bibliothŠques luxembourgeoises", a new catalogue of Luxembourgish school-books and a new catalogue of Luxembourgish music sheets.

Official name: BibliothŠque nationale de Luxembourg founded in 1798

Address: 37, bd Roosevelt, L-2450 LUXEMBOURG

Size of Collections:

books: 950.000 volumes

periodicals and serials: 6000 titles

annual growth: 10.000 volumes

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