

**NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY "KLIMENT OHRIDSKI" - SKOPJE,
REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

Director: Paskal Gilevski

Assistant director Stana Jankoska

Address:

Blvd. "Goce Delcev" 6

P.O.Box 566

1000 Skopje

Macedonia

tel/fax: 389 91 226 846

e-mail: kliment@nubsk.edu.mk

Homepage: www.nubsk.edu.mk

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1. Funding

The main financiers of the National and University Library "St Kliment Ohridski" - Skopje, Republic of Macedonia are the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Science and Education. As a result of the overall economic situation in the country, the financial support decreases gradually each year. 2000 was almost the same as 1999 and the NUL had to live with a very reduced budget. Thus, due to the cut of 50% in funding by the Ministry of Science, the NUL did not make any subscriptions to foreign periodicals in spite of our constant appeals for their significance in accessing the up-to-date information by the users. The financial support by the Ministry of Culture was decreased for almost 7%.

In spite of all these circumstances the NUL managed to realise the programme tasks by additional efforts, that is, by using its own earnings from memberships and the rents from hired business premises.

2. Buildings

Looking several years backward, the NUL encountered the problem of shortage of storage space. The managing board made repeated requests to the Ministry of Culture where the need for indispensable renovations of the actual building by constructing a new wing was explained. The Government gave positive indications considering this question, which might be solved in the near future by passing the National Cultural Programme in the Republic of Macedonia. According to the calculations the expenses for already existing project for the new wing of the building, which includes storage and reading space, amounts to 3.000.000,00 DM.

3. Staffing matters

In circumstances in which certain Government reforms had to be conducted, one of them being reduction of the number of employees in administration sectors, the NUL, being a government and national institution, had to reduce the number of its employees. Some of those who had to end their careers had specific qualifications, so their retirement made difficulties in realisation of regular programme tasks.

4. Information technology and networks

In the second half of 2000, the new server was successfully installed in the NUL. The funds for it were provided in 1999. The installment of the new server means broadened hardware capacities of the NUL, which support the automated processes within the Library. By the end of 2000, a new version of the rented application software was installed. It was in line with the agreement made with the owner of the software, that is, the Institute for Information Sciences - Maribor, the Republic of Slovenia. The new version will enable co-operative processing of library materials.

An agreement was made between the Library of Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts for cooperative processing of Library materials, which is enabled by COBISS software. The local database of MASA Library will be installed on the NUL's server, and the MASA Library materials will be processed dislocated.

Retrospective conversion of conventional catalogues is in the process of realisation. It advances slowly because the conversion is made by inputting bibliographic data from the cataloguing cards.

The second part of the seminars organised within the joint Tempus project "Development of Academic Library Network" took place in the spring of 2000. Several very interesting lectures and beneficial workshops entitled "Information technologies in Libraries", "Library and Information Studies" and "Digital Libraries" took place in the premises of NUL.

We would like to emphasize that the lecturers were professors and experts in the field of librarianship and information studies from Denmark and Great Britain.

Also, a professional stay in several libraries in Denmark for another group of librarians was organised within the same Tempus project during which they acquired valuable knowledge and experiences.

5. The digital library

Digitisation of one part of Collection of Old Slavonic manuscripts was in progress during 2000, the result of which will be the second volume of Old Slavonic Manuscripts on CD-ROM.

6. Legal deposit of materials

The NUL usually encounters difficulties in collecting legal deposits, which is due to discrepant respecting and conducting of the Legal Deposit Act both by printing and publishing houses. It could be said that there was a slight improvement in the course of 2000. Yet, in spite of the persistent engagement of the staff concerned with this part of the work and their endeavors to collect the monograph and serial publications for the NUL's holdings, there are evident gaps in it. We hope that the revision of the Act for Legal Deposit will help the NUL in postulating the mechanisms for regular supply of newly printed publications on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia paying special consideration on electronic publications.

7. Acquisitions

In the course of 2000 the new materials in NUL's holdings came solely on the basis of exchange and gift programme. The last two consecutive years the NUL has not managed to maintain the continuity in subscriptions of periodicals. As mentioned before, not any subscriptions were made due to the cut in funding made by the Ministry of Science. The 50 monographs that were bought for the Library are not even worth mentioning.

8. Preservation and Conservation

About 4800 pages were preserved and conserved either manually or mechanically in our laboratory during 2000 and 6242 books were binded (1443 hard bound and 4799 paperback).

9. Services to readers

The number of members and evidenced users moved within the framework of the plan, and were almost same as in 1999. The interest for and the use of the foreign information service "DIALOG", which offers scientific and professional databases and other types of information, has increased.

There is one technical problem, which has complicated the quick supply of books from the stores. Actually, the whole apparatus for circulation of library materials from the stacks to the issuing counter has been in defect for a longer period of time. The automated belt, the internal lift and pneumatic mail, which used to make swift and efficient circulation of books are out of use. As the circulation is done by hand, the users are not served effectively. Again, the insufficient budget has not allowed the reconstruction of it.

10. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Traditional exhibitions were organised, and also several other interesting exhibitions on special themes were prepared. Among them the most attractive were the exhibitions entitled "Bridges in Paris" and "Christianity in the NUL's holdings". The latter was organised in line with the celebration of 2000 years of Christianity in the second half of 2000. They were attended by many visitors and regular users of NUL services. For the purpose of popularisation of the book several launchings of new publications were organised.

The NUL has achieved good results in the part of bibliographic and publishing activity. 19 publications were published during 2000. There are 10000 bibliographic records made in the electronic bibliographic database in 2000. A Commission, consisted of 2 scholarly workers from the University "St Cyril and Methodius" - Skopje and 4 professionals in librarianship from NUL, was formed in the second half of 2000 in order to establish standard and regulations for developing of the national bibliographies "Makedonika", "Retrospective Bibliography of Macedonia" that are of great national significance.

The Ministry of Culture financed the publishing of 3 publications: "A Bibliography of the Macedonian Fine Arts", "Slavonic Manuscripts in Macedonia" volumes 7,8 and "Fine Arts in Macedonia" in two volumes.

11. Library cooperation

In the framework of international cooperation among the libraries from Former Yugoslav Republics, a very successful professional visit was realised in the National Libraries in Zagreb and Ljubljana and some important experiences were exchanged. The NUL managed to send its representatives to participate in the IFLA Conference and GENL Annual Conference.