National & University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski", Republic of Macedonia
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Funding

Putting into practice the Activities Programme of the National & University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2002 was impeded by lower budget allocated by the resource Ministries of Culture and of Science & Education. Compared to 2001, the Ministry of Culture decreased the funding for approximately 28%. The Ministry of Science & Education participated in the total Library funding with very low percentage (only 2.9%).

The Library has its own annual income from membership fees, paid use of the DIALOG database, fees for ISBN, sale of library templates, international library loans, and other minor sources. In this regard 2002 did not differ from 2001.

Legislation

In 2002, like in the previous 2001, the Library faced the need to employ professionals in accordance to the current modernization undertakings in the library, but the legal restrictions of cutting down the public and government administration in accord to the EU guidelines, did not allow this. Therefore, some planned activities could not be carried out. In spite of the severe cut in budget, the Library managed to perform its multiple functions to a satisfactory degree.

Building and Renovation Programme

The Investment Library Programme includes many items necessary for maintenance of the building (additional building for storage space and offices, obligatory air-conditioning standards for preservation of archival and digital materials, replacement of dysfunctional equipment in the Book-Binding and Print Department, renovation of electric installation, etc.), but the responsible Ministry has not yet found funds to support it.

Staffing

The drafted annual programme was performed by 124 full-time employees and 7 contractual employees, out of whom 3 were accepted full-time in the course of the year.

Acquisitions

In 2002, 150 titles of foreign monographs were purchased, and these will be included in the national bibliographies "Makedonika" Bulletin and "Makedonika" Bibliography. (In the beginning of 2002, changes in the law regulating payments in foreign currency abroad impeded purchase of this kind).

1997 was the last year when a budget was allocated for acquisition of foreign periodicals (80 titles) by the Ministry of Science & Education. In the course of the last years, the Library has not received special funding for this category of acquisition, which afflicts the quantity and the quality of titles in the Foreign Periodicals Fund. Thus, in 2002 only 34 titles of periodicals were purchased. Foreign publications come into the Library by international exchange of titles and by donations. Unfortunately, there is only one administrator in International Exchange, who covers the Russian linguistic domain. Because of employees fluctuation (either leaving the institution or retiring), the French, the English, and the German linguistic domains are left barely attended. The activities are carried out only by engaging librarians from different sectors. 1310 foreign titles were received and 4617 Macedonian titles were sent in 2002 through international exchange and donations.

Legal deposit of materials

A positive change can be noted regarding the legal deposit material: publishers proved to have a more benevolent attitude for their legal obligation toward the Library. Also, retrospective purchases have been made (with financial support from the Ministry of Culture) to fill in missing titles from the previous years. Still, there is a need for a revision of the legal act and the regulations of the Law of Deposit Material in order to insert additional legal mechanisms for regulating effective acquisition of the obligatory items from the national publishing production.

Digital Programmes & Electronic Library Services

The Referral Centre performed 425 searches for 160 users (scholars, researchers and scientists) within international e-databases. 35% of the resources were on-line (using Dialog and OCLC) and 65% were locally available (the Internet, EBSCO, CD-ROMs, MAREBA, OPAC). The increase in e-library service users points to a need for upgrade and broaden this Centre's services.

Interlibrary Loans

For the use of Macedonian clients the reference Centre provided 510 documents (books, articles, patents, etc.), mostly from the libraries in the UK, Slovenia, Croatia, Russia, Bulgaria and Italy (in the given order of percentual usage). At requests from Macedonian (95%) and international (5%) libraries 138 documents were sent for temporary use. The number of sent documents is 27% of submitted requests.

Preservation & Conservation

Here were activities in preservation and conservation of material owned by the Library. Also,a number of rare books and manuscripts owned by the Ohrid Museum - Macedonia and the National Library of Shtip - Macedonia, were conserved

Library Materials Processing

3.179 titles, with 12.871 category and UDC indexes (including processing by categories of the national current bibliography, and processing of the materials in the Library Catalogs), were formally processed and put into the on-line bibliographical database. The current number of bibliographical units in the database is above 221.884 of category/bibliography indexes.

Two important documents were completed: the Regulations for Subject Processing, and the Regulations for Small Print Processing.

Revision of Library Funds

In 2002 two major revisions were completed: revision of the general fund - monographs, 2nd format (with about 400.000 units), and of the fund for legal archival deposit, cartographic, visual arts, music and rare library material.

Bibliography Programme

Altogether 9 volumes of bibliographies were prepared for print in the Bibliographic Centre (5 volumes of bibliographies of journal articles, 2 of monographs, one "Makedonika" Bulletin, and a Bibliography of Macedonian serial publications), which kept us up-to-date with the national current bibliography.

Information Technology & Network Programme

A stable configuration / performance / work regime was provided for the whole central and peripheral IT equipment and communications infrastructure, despite the problems caused by the employees fluctuation. Yet the limited budget did not allow any new purchases for enlarging the local network or for the outdated PC equipment, as drafted in the Library Activities Programme.

Digital Programmes

The 3rd part of the CD-ROM series Old Slavic Manuscripts in Macedonia was published, containing a collection of 33 manuscripts. Until now 57 units of the Slavic Manuscripts Collection have been digitized. Part IV was accepted at the annual Publishing Competition of the Ministry of Culture, but the finances were not granted in the end. Part IV thus remains uncompleted.

Publishing Programme

The staffing and technical problem reappeared in the publishing activities too (absenceof employees from work, problematic and outdated press machine). Still, 13 publications were printed: 9 publications of the national current bibliography, 1 retrospective bibliography ("Southern Review" - articles 1927-1939), "A Survey of the Research Institutions in R. Macedonia 1997", "A Survey of Macedonian Doctoral and Master's Dissertations Abroad (1999-2002)", and the "Catalogue of the 33rd Graphic Arts Exhibition of AVAM (Academy of Visual Arts of Macedonia).

Cultural Events

The National & University Library "Kliment Ohridski"-Skopje traditionally hosts, and in 2002 has done so, the following annual exhibitions: "Authors and Works of the Macedonian Literary Production," "Graphic Art" and "Drawings", exhibitions of visual arts, in cooperation with the Association of Visual Arts of Macedonia. Also, there were several lectures on various subjects and literary presentations organized. The World Book and Copyright Days was celebrated with appropriate programme for the public.

International Cooperation

Although in 2002 there were no Macedonian delegates at the IFLA Conference in Glasgow and the European Conference of National Libraries in Budapest, members of the Library participated in the following workshops and conferences: "LIDA - Libraries in the Digital Age", traditionally held in Dubrovnik each year; the PULMAN Project (European project for transforming national libraries into information centres); "National Libraries in the New Europe and the Influence of Globalization of the Countries in Transition", international conference of the libraries from the countries in transition, held in Zagreb); "Copyright Protection In Library Activities", Belgrade; and, "Selection and Strategies in Preservation of the Collective Heritage", Dobiano, Italy.

The International Cooperation Department organized several meetings, such as: a meeting with representatives of the German Embassy in Skopje, the British Council - Macedonia, the Embassy of the Republic of Iran and the National Library of Iran, the National Library "St. Kiril and Metodija" - Bulgaria, a meeting with the head of the Pullman project, with Pro Helvetia and Open Society Institute, etc. Following these meetings, two agreements on cooperation in librarianship and information technologies were signed with the National Library of Sofia, Bulgaria, and with the National Library of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Training and Presentations

6 seminars for educating librarians in standard library work and use of computers were held in 2002. Thus was realised the 2nd part of the OSI-Macedonia grant project "Training Centre for Librarians and End-Users". Manuals on the same topic were prepared for dissemination of knowledge. Both the PULMAN project and "Pulman Digital Guidelines" in Macedonian translation were presented at the National workshop organized in the National and University Library for representatives from public libraries, archives and museums from Macedonia.