

ANNUAL REPORT 2003
National and University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski",
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Republic of Macedonia

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Management of the library

The National and University Library was founded in 1944. It has fulfilled double function ever since: as national and as university library. Its activity has its foundations in the rich tradition of literature and libraries on Macedonian soil. The patron saint, Clement of Ohrid (830-916), established the first monastic library, in Ohrid.

The Library has experienced a period of changes as a result of the general political, economic and social situation in the country.

In line with the Law for Culture, the Library is governed by Administrative Board, which consists of 5 members, appointed from the Ministry of Culture (2), Local Authorities (1), and 2 representatives from the Library staff.

The Administrative Board supervises annual Library program and financial plans and other matters regarding legislative regulations.

Funding

In 2003 the National and University Library received 6.000.000,00 MKD or 96.700 EUR for program activities from the State budget. This sum is 18% higher than that received in 2002 and it is a part of the budgetary funds, which the NUL receives for salaries and all other monthly expenses.

The NUL has its own annual income from various services: restoration and preservation services, membership fees, paid use of DIALOG database, fees for ISBN/ISSN, sale of library templates, international library loans services. In 2003 this revenue amounted to 1.800.000,00 MKD or 29.000 EUR. The income coming from rents was 1.360.000 MKD or 21.000 EUR, and also, 2000 EUR from NUL's

participation in some international projects (eIFL - Macedonian Electronic Libraries).

Legislation

During 2003 the Law for protection of cultural heritage was passed. Professionals in legal issues and experts in librarianship have worked on the new text of the Law for Libraries and the amendments to the Law for legal deposit and copyright. It is expected that the changes (articles and amendments), which will be incorporated in the new Law, will provide better background for functioning of the Library. New organization of the Library will be made in accordance with this Law.

Buildings

In 1972, the Library moved into custom-built premises in the central part of the city. In the course of the passed 32 years the storage space has become insufficient. Hereby, some of the library materials that are not used frequently are moved into other premises (storage space) outside of the building, which are given on use to the Library

Taking into consideration that the building itself should be refurbished (new electrical installation, air-conditioning, renovations of reading rooms and exhibition hall) plans and projects have been made for the purpose of providing financial support.

A joint project for establishing a Conference, Distance Learning and European Study Centre has been prepared in partnership with British Council Macedonia for whose realization the current Library Conference Hall will be renovated and adapted.

The British Council Macedonia as well as German Reading Room occupy space of the Library.

Staffing matters

At the end of 2003, the staff of the National and University Library consisted of 120 employees and 10 part-time workers and students.

Different Government programs demand restrictions in the number of employees in public administration. New employments are not allowed.

Information technology and networks

At the beginning of 2002 a new version of the existing software (COBISS - IZUM - Institute of Information Science, Slovenia) for automation of one part of library processes, which contains the module for cooperative cataloguing, was installed. This module enables cooperative processing of library materials among the institutions that already use COBISS (National and University Library – Skopje, 5 libraries of the Institutes within the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Informatics –

Skopje, Central and University Library - Bitola, Macedonian Academy of Sciences and Arts).

In the meantime (during 2003) another two public libraries and the City Library of Skopje were connected in the Library network. A program has been made for connecting other public libraries to the network. Also, there is a need for establishing COBISS Centre in the NUL. Initial negotiations have been made and attention is being given regarding foundation of this Centre that will require adequate equipment and staff.

In 2003 Agreement was signed on the establishment of the COBISS.Net network and free exchange of bibliographic records, created in autonomous library information systems of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and Serbia. The parties agreed that they would mutually coordinate basic cataloguing rules for use in the construction of catalogues which will ensure the required compatibility of bibliographic records, created in autonomous library information systems on the COBISS platform.

The establishment of the shared bibliographic-cataloguing database COBIB.MK represents the beginning of realization of the Virtual Library of Macedonia Project (VBMK). At the same time, it is the basis for building the complete library and information system that will hold information on library funds in Macedonia, and together with the information and electronic documents from other servers in the system, will be available to the users via Internet. VBMK Center was founded at NUL that will coordinate activities, provide professional help during development and operation of library information system, and will have the role of library information service.

Four personal computers were bought for the needs of the Sector for collecting and processing of library materials.

The work on retrospective conversion continued during 2003.

The Digital Library

With regards to digitization programs, digitization of old Slavonic manuscripts continued during 2003.

The NUL prepared several projects with which we have applied for foreign donations. These projects are: Modernization of computer equipment at the NUL for facilitating library processes and improving services to readers, Digitization of Macedonian Specialised collections in the National and University Library for the purposes of their preservation.

Legal deposit of materials

The NUL obtains legal deposit of Macedonian publishing production in accordance with the existing legislation and the expected rate. However, the acquisition of electronic editions as a legal deposit is not still regulated. Enhancement is expected with the amendments that will be made to the Act of Legal Deposit in the new text of the Law for Libraries.

Though there is a positive change regarding legal deposit material, publishers proved to have a more benevolent attitude for their legal obligation toward the

Library, it can be noted that we cannot collect all the copies of Macedonian publishing production.

Acquisitions

In 2003, NUL received 39.030 items of various library materials, among them 23.835 legal deposit (3 copies of each title) that are kept in the NUL's stacks and 15.195 for the deposit libraries in the country. Under legislation right we receive 5 copies of each title published in the Republic of Macedonia out of which 3 copies are for the NUL and 2 copies for the Public and National Library in Bitola and Public Library in Shtip. The distribution is made by the NUL.

NUL collections were increased by 3.292 titles of books, 19.290 units of serial publications, 200 units of AV materials, and by 450 items of cartographic and art materials, photographs and drawings. Out of 1.760 published monographs, 354 books were translated.

In addition, foreign monographs were purchased for the needs of the national bibliographies "Makedonika" Bulletin and "Makedonika" Bibliography.

Books and periodicals from Macedonian publishing production were continually purchased for the purposes of international exchange. The number of purchased foreign titles of monographs and periodicals was decreased due to very small budget allocated for it and also, due to the current legal regulations for acquisitions from abroad. The Library is in procedure of acquiring permission for carrying out this activity by itself.

1320 foreign titles were received and 2800 Macedonian titles were sent abroad on international exchange and donation basis.

Researches have been made in the funds of National Library of Bulgaria "Ss Cyril and Methodius" in Sophia, R. Bulgaria, where our experts have found important manuscripts with Macedonian redaction. Out of them 34 manuscripts (fragments) were microfilmed, also photocopies were made of 15 rare periodical publications, which were included in our collection.

Preservation and conservation

Conservation and preservation of old manuscripts and rare books was continually performed both for the needs of NUL and for other state institutions or individuals in the country. Attention was paid and care was taken for the overall library material where the need appeared.

During 2003 there was a flood in one of NUL storages. Actually, due to the wrong heating installation several bookshelves were covered with water. For the purposes of preserving the books that underwent the flood, actions were taken in accordance with our Disaster plan.

Services to readers

The Library was visited and services were given to 120.130 users (including the visitors in organised groups and the visitors to the cultural events organized by the Library). During 2003, the NUL registered 3020 new users.

The NUL offered more appropriate access to OPAC (4 PC's were installed instead of the existing terminals).

Increased number of lectures regarding types and possibilities for access to various kinds of information were organized for the Library users.

New software and digitisation equipment was purchased for transfer of articles as per requests made by users in International library loans services.

The Referral Centre performed 510 searches for 270 users (scholars, researchers and scientists) within international e-databases. Dialog and OCLC were online resources used for these purposes while resources available locally were the Internet, EBSCO, CD-ROMs, MAREBA, OPAC. The increase in e-library service users points to a need for improvement and expansion of this Centre's services.

Cultural events, exhibition and publishing

During 2003 NUL prepared lots of cultural events for which special catalogues were prepared.

The National & University Library "Kliment Ohridski"-Skopje traditionally prepares and hosts the following annual exhibitions: "Authors and Works of Macedonian Literary Production," "Graphic Art" and "Drawings", exhibitions of visual arts, in cooperation with the Association of Visual Arts of Macedonia.

On occasion of 60 years of deportation of Jews from Macedonia, an exhibition was prepared, which was visited by Macedonian Jews from Diaspora and also, representatives from foreign Associations.

Jubilees of famous Macedonian revolutionaries and fighters for freedom and writers were celebrated through exhibitions of documents and materials from NUL's funds.

One of the most important cultural events during 2003 was the celebration of 100 years of Macedonian State.

Representatives from foreign countries (politicians, managers of libraries) visited the NUL. Exhibitions of old Slavonic manuscripts and rare books were organised for these occasions and they triggered great interest among visitors.

Big multimedia program was organized on the occasion of World Book and Copyright Day, which caused great interest among the users. Guests from all over the Republic come to the Library on this day.

Exhibition entitled "Russian book" was organized after the NUL received 1000 items of monographs from well-known Russian writers. It was a donation organized by Russian State Library.

The NUL continued to publish Macedonian National Bibliography in printed form.

PULMAN Guidelines (1st and 2nd revised edition) were published.

Also, catalogues of the exhibitions were published.

Library cooperation

The NUL gave an accent on intensification of the cooperation on national and international level.

Besides Macedonian Agencies and Centres for ISBN, ISSN, INIS, which worked in collaboration with publishers and in the frames with international organizations and databases, NUL also participated in other international projects as PULMAN and Index Translationum.

NUL is taking part in annual IFLA, CDNL and CENL meetings and conferences, as well as LIBER, ISSN and ISBN conferences in accordance with financial support and internal organisation of activities.

Major celebrations

100 years Macedonian state

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