

**"St. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI" NATIONAL AND
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
Skopje, Republic of Macedonia
1998 Annual Report**

1. Special topic 1998-1999

Management of the library (developments and improvements)

During the 1998, the National and University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" (NUL) had development activities in accordance with the NUL Plan and the Programs based on the following core issues:

- Research, acquisition, processing, keeping and preservation of the Macedonian publishing production as well as foreign publications of interest for the Republic of Macedonia;
- Research, presentation and promotion of the national heritage in the Library collections
- Supply of two-fold transfer of scientific and technology information for the needs of different user categories in the country and abroad;
- Creating conditions for modern librarianship development by application of information and telecommunication technology;
- Development of the librarianship country wide, according to the activities, suggestions and standards of the international library associations and by direct participation in their work.
- Automation of various librarianship segments (automation of non-book material, joint cataloguing, inclusion of referral information in the local base)
- Development of Programs for introduction of librarian education and specialized exams for librarians
- Providing technical means for individual users' access to OPAC and Internet by dial-up
- Updating of the home page of the Library, from where one can access to NUL OPAC

2. Major innovations

- Automation of various librarianship segments (automation of non-book material, joint cataloguing, inclusion of referral information in the local base)
- Development of Programs for introduction of librarian education and specialized exams for librarians

- Providing technical means for individual users' access to OPAC and Internet by dial-up
- Translation into Macedonian of standards: Guideline for authority file

3. Finance and funding

The NUL is mainly financed by the Ministry of Culture which is obliged to cover the salaries, the maintenance costs, the public utilities and the majority of the NUL Programs. The Ministry of Science covers the costs of the Program of the Referral Center and the purchase of foreign periodicals. However, the NUL has its own income by which, last year, for example, it had covered 25% of the NUL Programs expenses.

The Library is funded by various foundations.

4. Legal status

The year of 1998 was marked by the adoption of the Law on Culture, prepared by the Ministry of Culture. In the meantime, a new Minister of Culture has been appointed, and he carried on with the process. According to this Material, with reference to librarianship, changes have been proposed considering the financing of the libraries in the Republic, i.e. only the institutions that would be of national interest would be financed by the Ministry of Culture. This would probably have an impact on the public libraries, mainly.

In addition, after this Law is passed, preparation of a new Law for Librarianship will follow.

5. Role of the National Library

The Library is getting prepared for the launch of the project for establishing the library network.

6. Legal deposit materials

Since the legal deposit acquisition is a priority task of the NUL, during the last year more than 80% of the national publishing production was gathered.

7. Building and plant

A new Reference Reading Room has been opened within an existing space in the Library. 700 titles of all fields of the human experience have been exposed on self-access and there are 20 seats for readers.

A new Training Centre for Users and Librarians has started functioning.

There have been various minor changes for improvement of the interior and the exterior of the building.

8. Acquisitions

The Manuscript Collection has been enriched with 6 new items dating from 18th to 19th century, while the Old Printed and Rare Books Collection has got some 2 new items both originals and copies.

The Collection of Contemporary Manuscripts has got some 150 new items.

In order to figure out the situation of the acquisition in NUL here are some figures revealing the percentage of the library material supplied last year, according to the different acquisition types:

Legal deposit 56%

Purchase 9%

Exchange 16%

Donations 19%

The total amount of the new library materials was 35.121 items.

9. Conservation/preservation of collections

Last year 5.834 sheets of old and rare books have been conserved in the Conservation and Preservation Laboratory.

Recently the NUL is involved in a joint project with the Faculty of Fine Arts concerning processing paper handiwork. In our Laboratory tests have been done of the newly produced paper and its application in restoration and conservation processes.

10. IT and new technology

In this respect the following activities have been done:

- A CISCO ROUTER 2511 has been installed and by dial-up the users can gain access to the local bibliography base.
- MULTI SWITCH HUB has been installed
- a new type of LAN (Fast Ethernet) was installed, by which more workstations were connected on Internet (WWW);
- 2 new terminals, 3 PC's, and 1 printer were purchased.
- NUL created its home-page with a possibility the local OPAC to be searched on Internet via WWW. For this purpose a team was formed by NUL employees consisting of librarians and a system engineer and the home -page was created both in Macedonian and English language;
- Our Library is represented in GABRIEL. The NUL GABRIEL home-page is available in French and German, too. The slavonic manuscript from the XIV century has been digitized for the *Treasures of European National Libraries*.
- The NUL, together with the Institute for Information at the Faculty for Natural Sciences and Mathematics has prepared the Main Project for construction of the System of Scientific and Technology Information of the Republic of Macedonia, part of which is the establishment of the Library Information System. The preparation of the Project was financed and supported by the Ministry of Science. The choice of the system (software) that will be used by the libraries country wide will be done by tender.

11. Services to readers

The structure of the NUL users is as follows:

- students 77%
- scientists and scholars 4%

- high school students 7%
- other 12%

During the last year 114.400 items have been lent.

The inter-library loan service had supplied the users with 1020 copies of articles, standards and other documents mainly cooperating with the Boston Spa via ARTTEL. This service had borrowed 674 documents to other libraries in the country and abroad.

The CIP had been prepared for 800 titles which is about 200% of the planned amount.

800 researches have been done for users in the local referral database MAREBA, the local OPAC, the DIALOG and Internet.

Information in the form of Current Contents, comprising 25 fields of science have been prepared three times last year and disseminated to 300 addressees.

On request of teams that work on scientific projects 30 special searches had been done on respective topics, the results of which were delivered in written form.

Regular training of groups of student users was done during the whole year.

12. Exhibitions

11 exhibitions were organized of books, drawings, graphics, contemporary manuscripts as well as of Slavic manuscripts and old printed books.

13. Publishing

Union catalogue of old and rare books in the Republic of Macedonia and a new Guide for the Macedonian libraries.

The Macedonian Current Bibliography that is published in three different parts: books, articles and titles of periodicals respectively, had appeared in 7 respective issues.

Bibliography of the Painting Art in Macedonia, vol. II : 20th as well as two titles of local library and information periodicals were prepared and published in and by NUL.

14. Cataloguing and other technical processes

Preparation of a written material on the Rules for Subject Headings has started. The experiences are used of some of the most prominent libraries like the National Library of France and the Library of Congress in Washington, USA.

The processing of non-book material (music and video materials) has been automated.

Two standards for library material processing were translated : *ISBD* and *Guideline for Authority* .

15. Library cooperation

NUL is active membre in: IFLA, CDNL, CENL, UNAL-UNESCO, GABRIEL, ISBN, ISSN, IAEA, IAML.

One of the main forms of international cooperation of our Library is the exchange of publications. The NUL permanently exchanges lists of publications with 180 libraries world-wide.

The NUL has made a contract with the Institute for Information Sciences from Maribor, Slovenia for the use of their software (COBISS) and services.

Representatives from the NUL attended conferences, seminars, workshops and other professional visits to Libraries:

- in Denmark, Albania, Mongolia, USA, Hungary, Vatican, Bulgaria, Belgium, Canada, Great Britain, Holland, R.F. Yugoslavia, France, Slovenia, Croatia, and Czech Republic.

16. Staffing matters

In respect of local staff training and information on library issues, a new opportunity has been opened for the employees in the NUL. The local staff training is very successful and increasing number of people are interested in it. It is a form of a continuous librarianship education. Namely, presentations are organized of the experiences, the new technologies or new ideas that the librarians would like to share with their colleagues. It is an opportunity for each colleague both to give presentations and to hear, learn or simply discuss library issues with the rest of the staff. At the beginning of each presentation short information is given on new editions in the field of librarianship. These presentations take place on Fridays and are called *Meeting Point: NUL*.

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