

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (BN)

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PORTUGAL 2000/2001

Annual Report of the

CENL – CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

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Collections (31 Dec.2000):

Books	2.453.915	volumes
Serials	360.865	volumes
Manuscripts	75.441	items
Microforms	c. 15.723	units
Cartographic materials	12.948	items
Graphics	69.355	items
Music	24.150	items
Electronic documents	257	items
Other (incl. audio-visual)	2.025	items
Number of readers	69.341	
Number of items consulted	515.864	
Interlending and document supply	1.784	users
Research in databases.	4.637	users
Staff	336	
Budget KPTE	1.867.375	

1. 1. MAJOR EVENTS / MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

1.1. Services to users

The improvement of services for the users, as was mentioned in previous reports, one of the strategic lines of action at the National Library. Three major developments have occurred during 2000-2001: the first was the complete remodelling of the users card, which from September on will enable the user to benefit from other services such as a special discount in the National Library's bookstore. The second is a new research tool – a Reference Service on-line – that will help the users to find convenient sites for their researches, to better use available electronic databases on CD-ROM, etc. The third is the opening in May 2001 of a new bookshop at the National Library. After converting the space of the former cafeteria, the bookshop was transferred to the new place and has now much more space and facilities. From October on there will be a cultural program for the bookshop.

1.2. Cultural and professional events

In its role of cultural agent, the National Library promoted last year a very large program to commemorate the centennial of Eça de Queirós – a nineteenth-century famous Portuguese writer whose works are translated in many different languages. This program included an exhibition that was presented at the national Library between June and October and then went subsequently first to S. Paulo and then to Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and is now on display in Madrid (Spain). The site was created for the event includes all the works published by the author, manuscripts, photographs and a comprehensive bibliography. This site has had many visits so far and a very good reception on the whole.

Two other important events took place: in October, the National Library organized the first Conference on ILL, for Portuguese libraries, with invited speakers also from OCLC, IFLA-UAP and the University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain). The objective was to promote awareness about ILL standardized practices and to develop those standards in Portugal.

Integrated in the 500 anniversary of the discovery of Brazil, the National Library promoted an exhibition on 18th century Cartography of Brazil, opened in November until February. The event included an international conference where different specialists discussed the various aspects of Brazilian Cartography, with the objective of bringing together – through the use of new technologies – dispersed collections in Portugal, Spain and Brazil.

2. 2. USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES

2.1. New Information System

The acceptance of the first module was completed and the second module has been progressing, with a slight delay, due to the change in the OPAC architecture that Horizon has been implementing. The new OPAC – iPAC – is now under consideration and will supersede the WebPAC module that already presented some performance problems.

2.2. Retrospective Conversion

The National Library is now under a contract with Jouve in order to speed up the retrospective conversion of its catalogues. The work is in progress and the first quality control was completed successfully.

During 2002 a special project for retrospective conversion of the Rare Books Department's old catalogues will also be envisaged.

2.3. Digital Library Program

The lines of action that we presented last year – Written heritage and Historic heritage – are still the criteria to determine and select contents to be digitised.

During 2000-2001, two other strategic goals were added to the Digital Library Program. The first one concerns the preservation of digital contents; as a result of the NEDLIB project and considering the large amount of images that were being created, the National Library developed and implemented the standards for safeguarding the images. The work is now under progress and will become a routine within the Digitisation Program.

The second strategic line concerns the access to the digitised contents. Some of them are created to be accessible via Internet; others, however, have special constraints and they have to be accessible only on-site. For that purpose, a new reading room has been under construction, specially equipped for audiovisual and digital contents accessibility. It will be operational by the end of this year.

The Digital Library Program also concerns born digital contents. Although the production of such contents is not very impressive in Portugal, at the moment, still the National Library feels it is its duty to begin creating the conditions for the deposit and access to digital born materials. During 2001-2001 three pilot studies and projects have been launched:

DITED – Electronic Dissertations and Thesis, with the objective of organizing the submission of dissertations and thesis in electronic format. The project started officially in May and during the first two weeks, seven thesis were submitted already with the detailed metadata scheme that is mandatory and ready to be registered and deposited at the National Library. UNESCO supports this project and has links with the Virginia Tech (USA) project.

DROP – Deposit of On-Line Newspapers and Journals, with the objective of ensuring the deposit and accessibility to on-line serial publications. During 2000-2001 an identification of existing relevant on-line serials was developed and a seminar with the producers took place in late March in order to identify common standards (if any), explain the purpose of this service and try to work together for a voluntary deposit.

LISA – Harvesting and Deposit of On-Line Grey Literature, with the objective of defining best practices in terms of harvesting this kind of on-line publications and ensuring a long-term deposit and availability for the users. The project was presented at the Conference of the Portuguese Library Association (BAD), last May.

All these projects will proceed during the next year and will give place to services within the National Library.

3. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING – WORK IN PROGRESS

The plan to amplify the building was presented to the National Library by the architects in charge. However, the Minister of Culture has not yet approved the financial planning. As, at least, one of the store departments – the one for Literature – is quickly coming to be full, the Direction of the National Library will endeavour all efforts to obtain authorization and financial means to start the work.

4. LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

The new legal deposit law is not yet approved. Two of the libraries that received legal deposit have ceased to do so; they are the Central Library of Macau (which is no longer in Portuguese jurisdiction) and the Popular Library of Lisbon, whose legal existence has ceased in 2001, the collections being now under transfer to the Public Library of Lisbon (current collections) and to the National Library (the archive of the institution and its former old collections).

CIP program is now under new developments and a more update manual for the publishers has been published in May. CIP request can also be done on-line as well as Legal Deposit register number.

5. ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

Legal Deposit publications registered an increase, from 518.270 during 1999 to 635.009 in 2000. The development of the collections through purchase includes current foreign bibliography with general cultural interest and/or from Portuguese authors or related to Portugal. In the first case, special concern is given to Reference publications either for the Main Reading Room or for the other special Reading Rooms. Retrospective Portuguese bibliography is acquired from auctions, antiquarian booksellers or private collectors. Foreign serial publications are purchased via SWETS services and electronic bibliography or texts are purchased directly from the producers or through a distributor in Portugal. This last item is the most expensive one, followed by retrospective bibliography, current bibliography and foreign serial publications.

The budget was smaller than in 1999 (although not a very significant difference) and therefore less acquisitions were made (1946 items in 1999 and 1629 in 2000).

Donations, however, increased from 1235 items in 1999 to 2080 in 2000.

6. CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

As was mentioned in previous reports, during 1997 and 1998 the Preservation and Conservation Department undertook a very large and important renewing of premises and equipment.

Last year we reported that as a result of these improved conditions, the work had increased. Particularly in the Sector of Collections Maintenance, the modernization of the Bindery Workshop allow the national Library to develop considerable activity in surveying, monitoring, acting, maintaining, renewing or mending works coming either from the storing areas or from the reading rooms.

Another aspect that we would like to strengthen is the readiness achieved by the staff to intervene whenever a disaster happens. A Disaster Plan was established and the storing areas have been equipped with appropriate kits as well as a backup kit that has been organized, and stands by. During 2001 a translation of ICA's document on Disaster planning was published and has been distributed free of charge among Portuguese libraries.

The project on Rare Works Storing proceeded as planned and during 2001 the Medieval Music Books began to be clean and put in enclosures.

Binding of Current Bibliography and Microfilming of Portuguese Newspapers are two relevant long-term projects. From 1997 till 2000, 20.000 books have been banded through public tender and the work will proceed. Concerning the Microfilming we hope to achieve, until the end of 2001, around 1.800.000 microfilmed pages. Private companies under

contract do the work, after public tender and according to the principles of “preservation microfilm”. The preparation of newspapers is done at the National Library as well as the quality control. Microfilm originals are kept at the Safe House.

In terms of access, it is relevant to acknowledge the number of readers of microfilmed newspapers was of 2.605 in 1999 and increased 3.536 in 2000. Another important indicator is that direct reproduction from newspapers represented 58.101 copies in 1999 and only 56.507 in 2000, whereas reproduction from microfilm was of 25.074 in 1999 and increased to 36.764 in 2000.

7. CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

7.1. Exhibitions

From May 2000 to April 2001, the National Library presented the following exhibitions:

- • *Eça de Queirós: a escrita do mundo* - (June – September)
- • *Reconhecimento de uma geração: Eça e a geração de 70* - (June – December)
- • *Poemas sobre papel* – (September – November)
- • *Fundos e Aquisições Musicais recentes da Biblioteca Nacional* - (October)
- • *A Construção Territorial do Brasil* – (November – December)
- • *A Cartografia Setecentista do Brasil nas colecções da Biblioteca Nacional* – (November – January)
- • *António Nobre* – (December – January)
- • *Livreiros franceses em Lisboa no século XVIII* – (December – January)
- • *Das Letras que moram nas Palavras* – (January – March)
- • *Tipografia em Movimento* – (January – March)
- • *O Humanista Croata Marko Marulic* – (March – April)
- • *Vontades: uma leitura do Memorial do Convento* – (April – August)
- • *Os Caminhos da Encadernação na Biblioteca Nacional* – (April – May)
- • *A Ciência do Desenho* – (April – June)

7.2. Conferences, workshops, etc.

- • *Eça de Queirós e Antero de Quental* – (June)
- • *Eça de Queirós e Teófilo Braga* – (July)
- • *Eça de Queirós e Guerra Junqueiro* – (September)
- • *Eça de Queirós e Oliveira Martins* – (October)
- • *Património Musical Português* – (October)
- • *1^{as} Jornadas de Empréstimo entre Bibliotecas* – (October)
- • *Eça de Queirós e Ramalho Ortigão* – (November)
- • *Eça de Queirós e Fradique Mendes* – (December)
- • *Colóquio “António Nobre”* – (December)
- • *Encontro “A Cartografia do Brasil”* – (February)

8. LIBRARY COOPERATION

At the national level, the most relevant issue was the launching and distribution of the new integrated system for libraries developed by the National Library to substitute the UNESCO CDS/ISIS former application.

It has been quite successful and special conditions have been established for public and school libraries in order to promote the use of standardized products and procedures in those libraries.

At the international level, the national Library is an active member of IFLA, LIBER and ABINIA, and also at European instances like CENL, CoBRA+ and ECPA. Within the EU Programme, the National Library is partner at DELOS – Noe (concerted action), and in projects LEAF – Linking and Exporting Authority Files and TEL – The European Library.

The National Library is partner in the consortium Bibliotheca Universalis.