

**BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (BN)**

**National Library of Portugal 2001/2002**

**Annual Report for**

**CENL – Conference of European National Libraries**

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**Collections (31 Dec.2001)**

Books	2.472.602 volumes
.....	
Serials	362.280 volumes
.....	
Manuscripts	78.823 items
.....	
Microforms	c. 16.923 units
.....	
Cartographic materials	12.961 items
.....	

Graphics	69.686 items
.....	
Music	24.170 items
.....	
Electronic documents	346 items
.....	
Other (incl. audio-visual)	2.223 items
.....	
<b>Users</b>	62.454
Number of readers	
.....	
Number of items consulted	346.545
.....	
Interlending and document supply	1.638 users
.....	
Research in databases.	4.998 users
.....	
<b>Staff</b>	336
.....	
<b>Budget KPTE</b>	1.739.127
.....	

## 1. MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

In compliance with the mission statement of the National Library, three strategic priorities were decided for 2002-2004: Modernization, Training and Professional Qualifications and Preservation and Conservation.

### 1. Modernization

It follows the strategic line already contemplated from 1999-2001 focusing on the global implementation of automated procedures, within the Library the ending of the retrospective conversion plan, the launching and sustaining of the National Digital Library project, the launching of the National Library project for distant users, the consolidation of PORBASE – the Online Union Catalogue and the

renovation and enhancement of the building facilities for storage, access by the users and new services.

These action lines are summarized, in terms of achievements reached so far, in the next pages.

## **2. Training and professional qualifications**

This strategic priority is suggested by the fact that the National Library has, among its mission statement, the role of "standard" library and of promoting and developing a continuing professional education program. This mission has been fulfilled quite successfully with a large number of training courses and attendees coming from all parts of the country and from Portuguese speaking African countries. The consolidation of such an important mission the importance of new technologies and quality management, makes this strategic option a very up-to-date one, aiming, until 2004 to create a new attitude at the National Library and in other Portuguese libraries.

This new program has not started and with the cuts on funding as of May 2002, it had to be postponed.

## **3. Preservation and Conservation**

It is, of course, an ongoing strategic priority. During the period of 2002-2004 it would be focusing on Preservation issues, with more investment, for example, in constant cleaning, pest control, disaster planning, environmental control conditions and current binding. Investment was also to be reinforced on Newspapers Microfilming. However, the cuts on funding above-mentioned have decreased these activities, for the moment.

## **2. HANDLING OF ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS AND FORMATS, INCLUDING NEW LEGISLATION**

The participation of the National Library in collaborative projects like, nowadays the TEL Project or the Concerted Action Delos-Noe has been providing the framework for the handling of electronic publications. More details for this year achievements in point 8.

## **3. FUNDING**

As mentioned before, the economic situation in Portugal has forced the government to undertake severe cuts. The situation at the National Library is difficult in certain areas where the reduction had more impact.

Some of the ongoing projects had to be cancelled temporarily like: retrospective cataloguing/conversion of special collections, newspapers microfilming, current binding and acquisitions. Others had to be reduced like publications and exhibitions, unless particular funding or sponsorship was available.

Revenue earning is now being used very cautiously in order to ensure that all the activities that generate income continue to be financed. However, revenue earning cannot be in itself a sufficient source of daily funding.

Other measures will have to be taken in the near future.

#### **4. LEGISLATION**

There are no changes in the organic law of the National Library. The law on Heritage issues that will affect the library and its role in coordinating the efforts to promote and preserve the intellectual heritage has not been issued yet.

See point 9. for Legal Deposit.

#### **5. THE NATIONAL LIBRARY BUILDING – WORK IN PROGRESS**

There are no developments concerning the authorisation to amplify the stores departments. The situation is now being analysed with the new Minister of Culture and will possibly have to be re-scaled and re-scheduled. Although there are evident signs of urgency, in terms of space availability its achievement is bound to remain as it is, due to financial constraints.

#### **6. STAFFING MATTERS**

There are no major changes in the number of staff, as from last year and in the existing carriers. The National Library has a small but significant number of temporary staff employed in areas where there are no competences in civil servants nowadays, like Web designers, for example. The legislation in Portugal does not allow for new recruitments into civil service unless with special authorizations. Those are issued regularly for Teachers, Health staff or Judicial staff but very seldom to Culture staff, especially for libraries.

These means that staff at the National Library has now an average of 50 years of age, which is, indeed, a very dangerous indicator of no renovation. Due to the financial cuts undergoing, the situation is bound to remain as it is.

Training programs were undertaken in depth for a large number of employees, during the last months of 2001 and January 2002 concerning the handling of new technologies and public relations.

#### **7. INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS**

##### **1. New Information System**

The system is now almost in full working, the exception being Circulation and Lending and the ILL Module. During 2001-2002, migration for the new release was accomplished with good results and without inconvenience for users and staff. Circulation will be operational by October following the present phase of testing.

##### **2. Retrospective Conversion**

The contract with the firm JOUVE in order to finish the retrospective conversion of the card catalogue pertaining to the Main Reading Room Collections has finished.

After a quality control period, records will be merged into the database and authority control will then proceed. The retrospective conversion will then be completed.

### **3. PORBASE – On-line Union Catalogue**

PORBASE is the largest bibliographic database in Portugal and includes not only the National Library's holdings but also those from 150 Portuguese libraries. University libraries represent the major contribution (63%) followed by specialized libraries from public sector (19%), public libraries (10%) and specialized libraries from private sector (8%).

PORBASE has a total of about one million and 300 thousand bibliographic records of all kind of materials and from different thematic and chronological scope, although Portuguese printed materials from the 20<sup>th</sup> century and related to Social Sciences and Literature are the most common ones.

It is possible to access PORBASE by two different ways at World Wide Web. Through the system (<http://www.ipac.bn.pt>) or a database copy regularly updated (<http://www.sirius.bn.pt>). Access via Z39.50 is also possible. The services are available 24h/day, free of charge.

### **4. PORBASE – Bibliographic Products**

#### **7.4.1. National Bibliography on CD-ROM**

The National Library has been issuing the National Bibliography on CD-ROM since 1995. It contains not only the current bibliography and its updates but also the retrospective national bibliography from 1935, which was the starting point for the printed version.

The National Library is now envisaging to cancel the CD-ROM product and to create an on-line national current bibliography with possibilities to download locally or centrally, on demand.

### **2. PORBASE 5 – an integrated library system based on UNESCO CDS/ISIS for**

#### **Windows**

The development of a professional integrated system for small libraries, in Portugal, has been a constant strategic line for the National Library of Portugal since its automation in 1987, and using UNESCO's software CDS/ISIS.

The product thus developed has been distributed to 1.200 libraries and its current version, using Microsoft Windows, includes a variety of professional modules for Acquisitions, Cataloguing, Authorities, Serials Control, Circulation and Lending and OPAC for in-house search and for Internet. Z39.50 facilities are also available with this product.

The National Library coordinates the distribution although the product is being developed in conjunction with a Portuguese firm. Special facilities for school and public libraries networks are also available. The product is distributed free of charge for libraries in Portuguese speaking countries in Africa and Timor.

(<http://www.porbase.pt>)

### **4. Electronic publications**

In February 2002, the National Library published in print and in CD-ROM the *Inventory of Illuminated Manuscripts (up to 1500)* existing in Portuguese official institutions.

## **8. THE DIGITAL LIBRARY**

### **1. National Library's Portal (<http://www.bn.pt>)**

In January 2002 the new National Library's Portal was presented to the public and made accessible from 1 February. The portal project started as an enhancement of the previous site but soon, with facilities like the On-line Reference Service (@REF) which organizes and lists thousands of interesting URLs; it became obvious that a more powerful tool was needed at the National Library.

Some of its interactivities are not yet operational such as buying or reserving products and services on-line but, for example, Legal Deposit number, CIP, ISSN and ISMN can be delivered on-line. The same goes to fully contacting services like ILL, Bibliographic Information and Cultural Activities through direct e-mails. This has given much visibility to the National Library and its services and commercial Portals have been busy trying to present ways of cooperating with the National Library, a situation that will be duly analysed in the near future.

### **2. National Digital Library (<http://www.bnd.bn.pt>)**

In previous reports we informed about the digitisation projects that were going on at the National Library. However, during 2001 it was felt that a comprehensive and sustainable digitisation project should be developed and all the digitisation efforts should be integrated in a strategical plan that was called the National Digital Library.

The National Digital Library is a project that aims at creating a service of access via Internet to digital and digitised works with relevance to the Portuguese Culture, History and Science. NDL is a complement to the contents provided on site by the National Library and a long distance service for those that want to access documents without coming to the National Library.

It is a work in progress and, at the limit, it will enable access and fair use of the most relevant, valuable and important contents for the Memory of Portugal, fulfilling a double mission of promoting, national and internationally, Portugal's History and Culture and guarantying a global access to the national collections.

NDL is built also in the assumption of a virtual library, i.e., comprising contents that are dispersed over the different National Library collections and also in holdings of other heritage institutions.

Officially launched in the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, NDL comprises for the moment (May 2002) the following assets:

Memory of Portugal	N. of digitised works	N. of images
Language		7.500
Literature	46	2.371
Education	33	8.943
Book	19	1.093
Music	8	3.327
	21	

NDL is available at <http://www.bnd.pt>

## 9. LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

There are no changes in the proposal for a new legal deposit law. The situation has been presented to the new Minister of Culture.

## 10. ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

The Program for Acquisitions and Collection Development maintained its major lines of action but current foreign bibliography acquisition decreased because of the need to ensure the acquisition of rare items, manuscripts and literary archives.

The adequacy of funding was cut out in May, thus rendering impossible any major acquisition.

## 11. PRESERVATION / CONSERVATION

During 2001/2002 the action lines that have been mentioned in previous reports were consolidated. A great effort is always made in Conservative Preservation, especially in what concerns the cleaning of collections and pest control because that is, indeed, the first step to Preservation.

Enclosures and boxing, repairs and maintenance as well as full support to exhibitions are important tasks carried by the Department. Deacidification and cast leafing have now more effectiveness and the Department has great care with conservation binding, achieving a very good quality level.

In December there was a special public session dedicated to the conservation and restoration of the National Library's copy of *Birds of America*, a major event in full teamwork, raising awareness to the item itself and to Conservation and Preservation issues as well.

The reduction of funding, as of last May, has forced the Library to stop the Microfilming and Binding programs.

## **12. SERVICES TO READERS**

Services to the public were audit between November and January 2002, thus resulting a report with suggestions for making the services better and, in general, a very positive appreciation of our work.

The Multimedia Reading Room opened to the public in February to provide access to multimedia contents.

## **13. CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING**

### **1. Cultural events**

In October 2001 the National Library hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> ABINIA Annual Assembly. ABINIA is a foundation of national libraries from Ibero-American countries, a specific cluster countries that share a common cultural heritage. The "Lisbon Declaration" issued as a resolution of the assembly contains an important statement about the condemnation of all forms of terrorism and the use of violence to solve international problems. The problem of damages to the world's cultural heritage is also tackled with a strong appeal to librarians, archivists and all information scientists to work closely together for the promotion of a culture of peace and knowledge as symbolized in the Alexandria Library.

Just before the meeting, the National Library organized an international Conference on the topic of Ancient book in Portugal and Spain (16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century) where a panel of specialists from Portugal, Spain and Brazil as well as representatives from international cooperative databases like CERL – Consortium of European Research Libraries and the Centre for Bibliographical Studies and Research (University of California, Riverside), presented their perspectives on the history of book on the bibliographical tools and finding aids that are used (or under development) for the purpose of helping to know Ibero-American printed heritage.

An exhibition on 16<sup>th</sup> century Spanish books existing at the National Library's collection was inaugurated during the ABINIA meeting.

### **13.2. Exhibitions**

From May 2001 to April 2002, the National Library presented the following exhibitions:

- Aquisições da Biblioteca Nacional (May-June)
- Depois de Nietzsche (July – September)
- Verdi em Portugal (July – October)
- Caminhos do Português (September – November)
- O livro quinhentista espanhol nas colecções da Biblioteca Nacional (October – January)
- Vitorino Nemésio (1901-1978): a rotação da memória (December – March)
- Fogo de artifício: festa e celebração (January – March)



- Zoologia & Botânica do Brasil (February – May)
- Imprensa da Universidade de Coimbra (April – May)
- Os sucessores de Zacuto: o almanaque na Biblioteca Nacional, do século XV ao XXI (April – July)
- Pedro Nunes (1502-1578) (April – July)

### **13. LIBRARY COOPERATION**

During 2001 – 2002 the National Library of Portugal participated in the following international projects:

- Bibliotheca Universalis. The prototype of Viagens dos Portugueses – o Brasil (Travels of the Portuguese – Brazil) was presented to the ABINIA Assembly in October 2001 and is now available to the public at <http://www.bnd.bn.pt/ed/viagens/>
- TEL – The European Library
- LEAF – Linking and Exchanging Authority Files
- DELOS – Noe (Network of Excellence)

NLP also participates in international associations and/or organizations such as IFLA, LIBER, ABINIA, ECPA, CERL and CoBRA+.

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[Organisation Chart](#)