

## BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (BN)

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PORTUGAL 2002/2003

# Annual Report for

## CENL – CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES

**Director:** Prof. Doutor Diogo Pires Aurélio (from 28 October 2002)

**Deputy Director:** Dra. Fernanda Maria Campos

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### Collections (31 Dec.2002)

Books .....	2.489.602	volumes
Serials .....	369.744	volumes
Manuscripts .....	86.507	items
Microforms .....	c. 17.838	units
Cartographic materials .....	12.998	items
Graphics .....	70.427	items
Music .....	24.364	items
Electronic documents .....	450	items
Other (incl. audio-visual) .....	2.327	items

### Users

	62.277	
Number of readers .....		
Number of items consulted .....	346.500	
Interlending and document supply .....	1.793	users
Research in databases. ....	5.072	users
<b>Staff</b> .....	312	
<b>Budget Euros</b> .....	7.916.761	

## **1. MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY**

The new director of the National Library, Prof. Diogo Pires Aurélio, has set up the following strategic lines:

- a) a) Revision of the Legal Deposit Law, to guarantee an accurate coverage of the Portuguese bibliographic production either in print or in electronic format.
- b) b) Consolidation of technical and scientific skills, in areas of utmost importance like Cataloguing and Conservation
- c) c) Maintenance and, if possible, increase of microfilming and/or digitisation programs, with priority to those documents that are more consulted and whose fragile situation incurs in the risk of further degradation.
- d) d) Continuation of the National Digital Library project, expanding it not only to provide access to digitised documents but also to support the deposit and access to born digital publications. Cooperative efforts to share resources on those issues are to be encouraged.
- e) e) Preparation of new storage conditions in order to enhance the capacity and the conservation of the collections.

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

As we mentioned last year, the handling of electronic publications has been tied up to the cooperative projects in which the National Library has been involved. However, the settlement of the National Digital Library Project motivated the establishment of best practices concerning the deposit of electronic publications, although the new legal deposit law is not yet published. With the co-funding of EU structural funds (III Framework Programme) the infra-structure for management and preservation of digital publications has been defined.

It comprises an affordable and easily scalable Linux based GRID solution for the storage, METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard) as the structural metadata, UNIMARC as the main descriptive metadata and probably FEDORA as the key component of the management and exploitation framework.

Starting next September a detailed analysis and testing of METS, FEDORA and "GRID technology" for storage, will take place in order to comply with the co-funding agreement planning which also settles that a prototype of the infrastructure and services be available.

More detailed information about the National Digital Library at point 8. and of new legislation at point 9.

## **3. FUNDING**

Budget reduction or re-organization of funding structures is now a generalized situation.

Some of the ongoing projects that had to be cancelled temporarily last year like: retrospective cataloguing/conversion of special collections, newspapers microfilming, current binding and acquisitions re-started this year in a different scale. Publications and exhibitions, unless particular funding or sponsorship is available are also subject to a cost-benefit analysis.

#### **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 settled 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 storing capacity. The situation will have to be reconsidered, although there are evident signs of some urgency, in terms of space.

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

There was a slight diminishing in the number of staff, as from last year. 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 but some reduction had to be made in the temporary staff. 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.

As we mentioned last year, this 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.

Training programs for staff had some reduction as well, during 2002, but they will re-start after Summer Vacations.

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

##### **7.1. New Information System**

The Horizon system is now full operational. New releases especially relating to Internet access will be installed during the course of the year.

##### **7.2. 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 the end of the contract with Jouve a quality control period has followed. Corrections and links to authority records are ongoing.

A special project regarding Retrospective Cataloguing of the 16<sup>th</sup> century collection of scientific books, started this year and will be finished at the beginning of 2004. Derived cataloguing is being successfully experienced.

### **7.3. 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. Last year the University libraries represented the major contribution (81%) followed by public libraries (12%) and specialized libraries from public and private sector (7%).

PORBASE has a total of about one million and 350 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. 23% of the records are from the National Library and 77% from contributing libraries. PORBASE also includes 959.714 authority records generated by the National Library.

Two major developments occurred this year: the first one was the update of the Union Catalogue which had a great backlog due to the changing of the system. Automatic routines for duplicate detection and the merging of duplicate authority records were successfully implemented in the Horizon system.

The second is a quality control programme that was implemented for automatic detection of errors and, whenever possible, automatic corrections. Those errors occurred in the transfer from numerous versions of CDS/ISIS to GEAC and from that to Horizon and had to do with character sets and diacritics. This quality control will be finished by the end of 2003.

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.

### **7.4. PORBASE – Bibliographic Products**

#### **7.4.1. National Bibliography on-line**

The National Library has cancelled its CD-ROM edition and created an on-line national current bibliography with possibilities to download locally or centrally, on demand. The service started in February 2003, with a one year-test product, free of charge and updates every two months.

#### **7.4.2. PORBASE Statistics Service**

**This service began last May, not only for in-house management purposes but also for contributing libraries who can monitor their updates and the accuracy of the database in different subjects, authors, geographical coverage, etc.**

#### **7.4.3. On-line Directory of Portuguese Libraries**

An updated version has been prepared during the beginning of 2003 and will soon be mounted on the Web. This Directory provides information about Portuguese libraries, their holdings and services, and links to on-line databases.

#### **7.5. Electronic publications**

“Portuguese authors of the 19<sup>th</sup> century” has been an ongoing project which will appear in the Autumn as an enhance version, on CD-ROM, of authority records with images of the author and their works.

### **8. THE DIGITAL LIBRARY**

During the course of the year, BND consolidated its infrastructural organization and management, as stated in Point 2. With support from EU structural funds and established a partnership strategy with research centres especially for the digitisation of 19 and early 20 century literary and scientific journals.

Memory of Portugal increased in number of digitised items and will continue until the end of 2004.

BND was also enhanced with the digitisation of literary archives (19/20 century Portuguese authors), a project that will proceed.

A new site on Treasures of the National Library is now under construction to be launched next September.

### **9. LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS**

During the course of late 2002 and continuing this year, several reunions took place with the Secretary of State for Culture, aiming at a final version of the new Legal Deposit Law. It is anticipated that the government will issue the new decree next year at the very most.

### **10. ACQUISITIONS AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

The Program for Acquisitions and Collection Development was reactivated in 2003 enabling the National Library to proceed in its current and retrospective bibliography acquisitions.

Following the extinction of the National Commission for the Commemoration of Portuguese Discoveries, the National Library received its rare book and old maps collection, which will now integrate the national collections.

### **11. PRESERVATION / CONSERVATION**

During 2002/2003 as a result of the funding reduction, the current activities were reduced. However some important milestones were achieved:

- Deacidification with the product Bookkeeper, initiated in 2002.
- Conservation and restoration of the Parchment Collection started in the second half of 2002.

- Conservation and restoration of 827 original cartoons

During the last months of 2002 and beginning of 2003, consultation on preservation and conservation of rare items existing in other institutions, also took place with great success.

According to this action line – to provide guidance and act as an excellence centre for P&C – consultation and support, in disaster situations, in other institutions (libraries, archives, museums) was also undertaken during 2002/2003.

## **12. SERVICES TO READERS**

Services to the public have been subject to quality assessment and performance measurement. At the end of the year, results will be available and the planning for 2004 will incorporate findings and conclusions, in order to achieve better services to the users.

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

### **13.1 Cultural and professional events**

In November 2002 the National Library hosted the annual meeting of ECPA (European Commission on Preservation and Access) which was preceded by a Seminar on Digital Preservation, with an international and a national session.

In February 2003 the annual meeting of IFLA's Permanent UNIMARC Committee also took place at the National Library which from March on is the host institution of the UNIMARC Programme. The meeting was followed by a half-day workshop on recent UNIMARC developments.

In the new bookstore a number of conferences and public presentations of new publications have taken place (8 from May 2002 to April 2003) either from the National Library or from other institutions or publishers but always related to Portuguese culture.

### **13.2. Exhibitions <sup>1[1]</sup>**

From May 2002 to April 2003, the National Library presented the following exhibitions:

- Catálogos de leilões (Book auction catalogues) – July/October
- Damião de Goes (on the fifth centenary of the birth of the famous humanist) – July/October
- Victor Hugo (as seen in the Portuguese press of the 19th century) – October/March <sup>2[2]</sup>

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<sup>1[1]</sup> <http://www.bn.pt/agenda/agenda.html>

<sup>2[2]</sup> Prepared by Museu da Imprensa (Press Museum)

- Teixeira de Pascoaes (on the centenary of the birth of this Portuguese writer) – December/March <sup>3[3]</sup>
- Periódicos Jurídicos Portugueses Oitocentistas (Portuguese Law Journals of the 19th century) – February/April
- Sinais de Jorge de Sena (na evocation of the writer Jorge de Sena while in Brazil) – February <sup>4[4]</sup>

### 13.3. Publishing

The National Library's Journal "Leituras" is published twice a year. Number 9-10 dedicated to the Ancient Book in Portugal and Spain and number 11 dedicated to Gil Vicente (the 15<sup>th</sup> century theatrical Portuguese author) were published last year.

Of "Informação BN", the newsletter of the Library, two issues were published too. Furthermore, the National Library published the catalogues of its exhibitions, two facsimile editions, five technical manuals or handbooks (incl. the Portuguese Rules of Cataloguing and the UNIMARC Manual) and two travel reports: Lisbon in the years 1821-1823, by Marianne Baillie and Travel in Portugal, 1798-1802, by Carl Israel Ruders.

## 14. LIBRARY COOPERATION

During 2002 – 2003, the National Library of Portugal participated in the following international projects:

- Bibliotheca Universalis.
- TEL – The European Library
- LEAF – Linking and Exchanging Authority Files
- DELOS – Noe – Digital Libraries (Network of Excellence)
- MINERVA – Ministerial Network for Valorising Activities in Digitisation

Participation in associations, organizations and consortia are the following: IFLA, LIBER, ABINIA, CDNL, CENL, ECPA, CERL and CoBRA+.

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<sup>3[3]</sup> Prepared by the Biblioteca Pública do Porto (Public Library of Porto).

<sup>4[4]</sup> Prepared by the Centre of Portuguese Studies from the University of São Paulo (Brazil).