

INSTITUTO DA BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL E DO LIVRO (IBL)

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF PORTUGAL 1996/1997

Annual Report to the

CENL - Conference of European National Libraries

President: Prof. Doutor Francisco Bethencourt

Vice-President: Dra. Fernanda Maria Campos

Address: Campo Grande, 83

1751 Lisboa Codex

PORTUGAL

Tel.: +351-1-7982021

+351-1-7982022

Fax: +351-1-7982140

email: fbethenc@ibl.pt

fcampos@ibl.pt

Collections (31 Dec. 1996):

Books	2.282.409	volumes
	809.924	titles
Serials	325.588	volumes
	50.337	titles
	14.220	titles (in publication)
Manuscripts	71.454	volumes
	25.800	individual documents
Microforms	13.830	units
Cartographic materials	12.447	items
Graphics	66.568	items

Music	c. 21.000	items
Other (incl. audio-visual)	c. 1.358	items
Number of readers	66.209	
Number of items consulted	488.038	
Interlending and document supply	307	
Staff	270	
Budget KPTE	2.412.381	

1. THE LIBRARY IN POLITICS

1.1 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

At the moment (April 1997) the National Library awaits the publication of its new law which provides the legal framework for a modern national library. However, the work carried out so far is already in full accordance with the new structure as an independent institution.

1.2 THE NATIONAL LIBRARY POLITICAL ROLE

Following the guidelines identified in the new law, the political issues pursued by the Portuguese National Library during 1996/1997 were:

- to promote public awareness for the unique role of the National Library as the nation's widest resource in information.
- to provide a strategic planning for services and products development, identifying users and professional staff needs and defining a new concept of balance between the existing equipment facilities and the ones which are needed until the year 2000.
- to create a whole range of indispensable technological infrastructures, in co-operation with research institutions, national and international ones.

2. LEGISLATION

The new regulation is expected to be published in the next months. The need to review the Legal Deposit Law is considered an urgent priority by the Minister of Culture and by the National Librarian and a Working Group was settled, already this year, to draft it. The National Library is also part of the Working Group for the Cultural Memory Law.

3. NEW BUILDING

As was stated in last year's report, the discussion on the best options for new services, incorporating recent concepts of collection management and access took place and a remodelled planning for a new building and innovative functionalities to be incorporated in the existing one, is already prepared and will be submitted during May.

4. AUTOMATION, DATA PROCESSING, NEW PRODUCTS

During 1997 information technology strategic planning at the National Library proceeds as follows:

- the acquisition of new equipment, to provide the installation of recent software and to facilitate multimedia access, internal network and Internet services took place in 1996 and a new set of Access services are available from 21 April on in the Reference rooms. The services include networked access to databases in CD-ROM (national bibliographies and other reference works), selected access to Internet available databases and, of course, the National Union Catalogue - PORBASE;
- the setting of a local area network, in the whole building, in order to complete the access to PORBASE database and to provide the facilities indicated above, will be finished in May;
- the study and preparation of a tender to acquire a new automation system to host PORBASE is already done and the call for tender will follow presently.

In terms of data processing, decision was made to increment the retrospective conversion of the card catalogues through outsourcing and to promote an internal project for retrospective cataloguing of unique or special collections such as manuscripts, music and cartographic materials.

The envisaged change of our automation system - a GEAC 9000 - aims at providing the National Library with "state-of-the-art" technology to manage current and retrospective information existing at the National Library and in the Union Catalogue's contributing libraries, in a networked environment. It will also enhance the production and/or use of electronic information resources thus contributing to promote the role of the National Library as the widest information provider.

5. CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

In this area, the main objectives during 1996/1997 were:

- to initiate a full remodelling of the P&C Department, implementing an evaluation of existing structures and promoting new concepts either in the current tasks performed by the staff or in the preparation of new ones
- to launch a Digitisation Program, based on Preservation activities at the National Library
- to promote a Collection Management Plan, in order to fully operate P&C strategies, including outsourcing for some tasks like binding and microfilming
- to establish a Disaster Plan in order to cope with P&C needs in a large research environment such as the National Library.

6. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

During 1996, and as a result of the 200 anniversary of the National Library, there was a number of catalogues and inventories which were published, namely the Illuminated Manuscripts up to 1500, the Union Catalogue of Incunabula in Portuguese Libraries and the Inventory of the Historic Archive of the National Library.

The Guide of the National Library was published in two versions, one in Portuguese and the other in English.

The number of exhibitions decreased because of the need to restructure the rooms and equipment, and during 1996 there were small exhibitions like The Portuguese Jews and the expulsion, last December.

Cultural activities and Public relations are being subjected to a profound change and in order to achieve a new cultural and scientific role in the society the National Library promoted in 1996/1997:

- the full automation of the User's card procedures, also by constructing a database that enables combined searches to better identify targeted groups of users who can be approached in differentiated marketing operations;
- the opening of the National Library as a Special Research Centre for national and foreign grantee scholars whose activities lead them to use, study and disseminate information about the National Library's collections;
- the renewing of the Revista da Biblioteca Nacional, now a magazine for librarian professionals, science and humanity scholars, published two times a year following specific topics discussed in workshops. The first issue will be published in October, also with the results of a workshop on Innovation which took place the 8th April;
- a newsletter for promoting awareness about the activities of the National Library, published two times a year, with the first issue published in April;
- a new concept of dissemination of electronic information about the Library with the renewed site in Internet, giving updated information on our activities, creating a discussion list for users, and with a wide (and growing) range of possibilities, for example, to reserve documents for the reading rooms or to acquire books from the National Library's bookshop. The site is linked to Gabriel and to other national and international libraries and research centres.

7. INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION

The National Library is a member of international associations such as FID, IFLA, LIBER and ABINIA. It is also a member of other groups such as CERL, ECPA, UDC Consortium and EROMM.

Co-operation in European projects has been a special activity within the National Library planning. During 1996/1997, the National Library participated in the Concerted Action CoBRA + and is partner in project proposal NEDLIB, to be submitted to DG XIII's call for proposals.