

**BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL (BN)**

**National Library of Portugal 1999/2000**

**Annual Report of the**

**CENL – Conference of European National Libraries**

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**Collections (31 Dec.1999):**

Books .....	2.434.298	volumes
Serials .....	336.865	volumes
Manuscripts .....	75.100	items
Microforms .....	c. 14.400	units
Cartographic materials .....	12.780	items
Graphics .....	69.079	items
Music .....	24.000	items

Other (incl. audio-visual) .....	1.955 items
Number of readers .....	66.645
Number of items consulted .....	783.412
Interlending and document supply .....	1.812 items
Staff .....	283
Budget KPTE .....	1.806.082

## 1. MAJOR EVENTS / MAJOR ACHIEVMENTS

### 1. Services to users

The improvement of services for the users, viewed as a strategical measure to proceed, took place in two lines of action: the preparation and publication of regulations, totally available to the users, to help set up the framework of relationship between the National Library and its users and the introduction of electronic facilities into traditional services like distance information ILL. A questionnaire that is currently being hand-out to the users, also provides an overview on the services – its pros and cons – and advised the Direction on the need to change or improve in some areas. This kind of procedure is to continue as a way to monitor the National Library's performance.

### 2. Cultural events

Two major events took place that contribute to consolidate the image of the National Library as a cultural agent:

- the *International Conference on National Libraries in the 21st century: from Information to Knowledge* organised under the Portuguese Presidency of the UE, that brought together about 100 participants mostly from European countries but also from USA, Brazil and Venezuela. The role of national libraries in the near future as well as the trends and opportunities created by the use of new and emerging technologies was largely debated. The Proceedings will be published during the year.
- the *Ano Queiroziano na Biblioteca Nacional*, a large program of commemoration of the centennial of Eça de Queirós' death, consisting of a special site available on Internet, monthly conferences on the author and his time, and a national exhibition on Eça de Queirós and his work, to be inaugurated in June.

## **2. USE OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES**

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

The implementation of the new information system has been taking place according to planning. During 1999 Acquisitions, Bibliographic Processing and OPAC were successfully installed and are full operational. The second phase is in progress and will consist of Circulation and Loan and ILL.

In the first phase there was already automation experience ever since 1988 with the former GEAC system. However, for this second phase there is no previous experience so it means not only installing, adjusting to the National Library's practices, translating into Portuguese and setting up the modules but also training staff, making people comfortable with the new facilities and promoting a swift from manual to automatic procedures that will not cause trouble to the users and to the staff.

The second phase will be operational by the beginning of 2001.

### **2. Retrospective Conversion**

In order to make all user transactions through automatic procedures, it is necessary to ensure that retrospective conversion of manual catalogues comes to an end. In 1999, the National Library launched a call for tender in order to convert the remaining 250.000 cards (not considering special collections and rare books).

The work is going to begin in the second half of 2000 and the firm Jouve is now developing a special program to convert the old cards, some of them still manuscript and the majority produced with different cataloguing rules.

The work is to be completed in 2002.

### **3. Digital Library Program**

Digitisation has proceed according to the directives set up by the National Library. There are two main lines of action:

#### **2.3.1. Written heritage**

The program consists of making available the complete works of the more prominent Portuguese writers.

Last year we reported the Almeida Garrett site, this year it was the time of Castilho and Eça de Queirós. Those sites make available not only the complete works but they provide bio-bibliographic information and relevant images. Statistics of visits and comments received via Web show that this is an initiative that many users need, not only in Portugal but also in other countries.

Besides these special sites, digitisation of written heritage has proceed with complete literary archives that the National Library owns. Digitised literary archives will be available for consultation only at the National Library.

At the end of 1999, the National Library made a protocol with a publisher in order to digitise the most relevant 19th century portuguese literary works and make them available also in a facsimile printed form.

During 2000, two other projects began to be prepared in collaboration with the University and they concern the Canone of Portuguese Language and the Canone of Portuguese Literature.

## **2. Historic heritage**

Last year we reported the project *25th April 1974 – from ephemera to history*, which is still in progress and will be fully completed by the 25th November 2000.

This year, and according to the participation in the Bibliotheca Universalis project, the National Library initiated a new project which is called *Viagens dos Portugueses (Travel of the Portuguese)*, the first theme of it is Brasil. The objective is to build a digital library on Brasil focused in travels and exploration of the territory. The first part that concerns the Discovery will be finished in late November.

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

The plan to amplify the building, in terms of stores and new functionalities for reading rooms is still at an early stage.

The remodelling of the coffee-shop and restaurant was completed and the previous installations will be restored and prepared to host the new Book Shop. The Auditorium was also submitted to remodelling in order to adjust it to new technologies.

## **3. LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS**

The new legal deposit law is now being discussed at the Council of Ministers. As we mentioned in previous reports, this law is inspired in recent acts approved in other countries and it addresses the issue of legal deposit of electronic publications, both off-line and on-line, these ones in a selective perspective.

The attribution of a legal deposit number increased during 1999, meaning that a better control of a legal deposit can be achieved. The CIP program has also raised more interest from the part of publishers and during 2000, the services are planning to make more awareness of the program.

An electronic legal deposit of theses has been under consideration as a pilot-project with a reduced number of universities and by the end of 2000, a feasibility report will be available.

#### **4. ACQUISITION AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

Financing for Acquisitions and Collection Development was not as large as it was expected, however the National Library acquired current foreign bibliography especially for reference purposes, rare books and special materials in auctions or directly to antiquarians, kept on the updating of foreign serials collections and invested a lot in electronic bibliographies and databases.

During 1999, the National Library received by donation some important libraries and incorporated in its collections 11 libraries that had been donated years before.

Also by donation, the National Library received 8 literary archives, including the one of 1998 Nobel Prize of Literature, José Saramago.

#### **5. CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS**

During 1999 the project of Conservation of the Parchment Collection was initiated and it will end during 2000. Conservation and restoration of works that are requested for exhibitions, in and outside the National Library, have a great demand and, due to deadlines, impose a great stress on the Conservation Department. However, due to improved conditions of work (the Laboratory was totally renewed) and to more adequate technical support, the Department was able to increase almost 8 times the number of interventions in manual and mechanical conservation of documents and bindings.

Another line of action is, of course, the current preservation of collections: correct cleaning of the stores and shelves, pest control, boxing, current binding and microfilming are undergoing. The problem of contracting adequate staff is very difficult to overcome due to the existing conditions to enter civil service in Portugal. Priority has been given to the more precious, fragile and unique collections such as illuminated books, ancient posters and maps, in terms of preservation measures and for microfilming, the priority was given to newspapers, in a project that will proceed in the next years.

In 1999/2000 special visits to the Department of Conservation have begun not only for external people but meant especially for National Library staff. It has been quite successful and contributing to a better understanding of preservation measures.

## 6. CULTURAL EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

The year of 1999 and the beginning of 2000 represent a major effort to increase the number of exhibitions, to develop protocols for the exchange of exhibitions with other institutions, to diversify cultural events thus including the public presentation of new editions (when the theme is related to the National Library's collections), the organisation of more conferences and workshops, the organisation of small concerts and the development of a marketing strategy with the press and with possible sponsors.

### 1. Exhibitions

The National Library organises annually no more than two large exhibitions (namely national exhibitions) and a number of smaller ones.

From May 1999 to April 2000, the National Library presented the following exhibitions:

- Máscaras transparentes (May) \*
- António Botto (May)
- César Oliveira (June)
- Espaços urbanos de Cabo Verde (June) \*
- Virgínia Vitorino (July)
- Liceus de Portugal (September) \*
- Almeida Garrett (October) \*\*
- Galaxia (October) \*
- Imprensa clandestina em Portugal (October)
- Um olhar europeu sobre Macau no século XIX (December)
- Borges en la Biblioteca Nacional (December) \*
- Sem livros não há instrução: no centenário da Casa Literária do Arco do Cego (December) \*\*
- Castilho 1800-2000 (January)
- 15 Encadernações contemporâneas (February) \*
- As Américas/Cartografia da Independência: séculos XVIII e XIX (February) \*
- José de Guimarães: obra gráfica (1962-1998) (March)
- Estudos portugueses sobre História do Livro e da Leitura, 1995-1999 (March)
- Bertrand: uma livraria antes do terramoto (1755) (April)

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\* Organised by another institution.

\*\* Large exhibition, in cooperation with other institutions.

### 1. Conferences, workshops, etc.

- Os deficientes visuais e a leitura (Visually handicapped and reading) (December)
- 8<sup>as</sup> Jornadas PORBASE (March)
- International Conference *National Libraries in the 21st century: from Information to Knowledge* (April)

## 7. LIBRARY CO-OPERATION

At the national level, the National Library has been, for the last 13 years the co-ordinator and leader of the National Union Catalogue On-line – PORBASE. At the end of 1999, 144 portuguese libraries contributed to the Union Catalogue and around 400 other libraries, although not contributing, were users of the National Library standards for bibliographic description and for automation procedures.

Special protocols with the Public Libraries Network (RILP), the University Libraries Network (RUBI) and the School Libraries Network have been established in previous years and allow standardised procedures, use of common tools and access to a Annual Training program runned by the National Library.

This year, the National Library also endeavoured to develop a new automation program for libraries to substitute the old one using UNESCO's CDS/ISIS. The new product is based on the ISIS development for Windows and is now being tested by chosen libraries and will begin its distribution by the end of 2000.

At the international level, the National Library is a member of IFLA, LIBER, ABINIA, FID, CENL, CoBRA + and ECPA thus involving its services in co-operative activities and projects. Under the 4th Framework Programme of DG XIII-E the National Library was partner in the projects NEDLIB and MALVINE that end in 2000.

Under the IST Programme the National Library is partner in the accompanying measure DELOS – A Network of Excellence in Digital Libraries and has recently participated in a call for projects of the same Programme as a partner in projects LEAF – Linking and Exporting Authority Files and TEL – The European Library, whose evaluation is not yet available.

The National Library is partner in the consortium established for the former G7 project, Bibliotheca Universalis.