

Biblioteca Nationala a României

STR. ION GHICA Nr. 4, SECTOR 3, COD 79708

TELEFON : 314.24.34; 314.24.33; 315.70.63.

FAX : (401) 312.33.81.

BUCURESTI – ROMÂNIA

E-Mail : bnr @ bib nat.ro

The National Library of Romania

1. Annual report 1999

Management of the library

The National Library of Romania organisation was subject to only minor changes in 1999. Last year our library concentrated among other things on preparation for moving some of the documents into the new library building.

In 1999 a total number of 55 300 readers attended the library. They demanded 120 268 titles and the library was able to fulfill 86.85% (104 458 titles) of the requests.

There were 122 requests for documents made by other libraries in Romania and only 59 of them (45.73%) were satisfied. 446 titles were requested by libraries around the world, the library was able to deliver 412 (92.37%) of them (256 in original, 156 copies).

Funding

The National Library is financed entirely from government funds. The funding received for 1999 was of 38 830 080 000 Lei (EUR 2 087 638.7) which is 16 279 652 000 Lei (EUR 875 250,1) more than the funding received in 1998 but below the needs of our library, especially for the construction of the new building.

Legislation

The final version of the Draft Library Law, completed and submitted in 1998 by the Ministry of Culture is still at the Chamber of Deputies of the Parliament in view of being approved.

Buildings

Construction work at the new building site is progressing very slowly. The main problem is the insufficient funding. The funding received for 1999 was 19 140 000 000 Lei (EUR 1 029 032.2) and for the building completion the funding should be approx. 1000 000 000 000 Lei (EUR 53 763 440.8). Because the rhythm of the construction is so slow, some finished parts of the new building are starting to deteriorate. Another big problem is the design of the future building: quite old, with old-fashioned finishing solutions and insufficient conference rooms included

Information technology and networks

The National Library continued the projects for the automation of the new library building, the expanding of library network, presentation of the National Library on a web site. 35 new computers and other IT equipment were purchased for 694 966 415 Lei (EUR 37 363.7).

Acquisitions

In 1999 a number of 15 263 b.u. (out of which 1214 were received as donations) and 321 audio-visual materials were added to the collections. As donations the library also received 4338 microfilms. 4% of the last year library funds were used for acquisitions.

Preservation and Conservation

In 1999 the library tested some new equipment used for air filtering and maintaining optimal humidity in the stacks in view of purchasing a larger number for the new building.

Problems:

- the funds and the number of staff for conservation activities are below the needs;
- the lack of a conservation studio for current repair monographs demanded in the reading rooms.

Services to readers

A newly introduced service for the readers in 1999 was the personal assistance in photocopying activities.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

In 1999 the library organized several exhibitions and cultural events using foreign rare books, graphic arts, manuscripts, photographs, printed music and records from the library collection. The three most important of them were:

- "La Comédie Française" in cooperation with the Cultural Department of the French Embassy in Bucharest;
- "120 years of diplomatic relations with Bulgaria" in cooperation with the Bulgarian Embassy in Bucharest;
- "The Gypsies in Art" organized with The "Simu" Museum.

Major new publications include:

- " The Migazzi Collection. Documentary sources" –
vol.3 – Catalogue of priest Ferdinand Daniel Focky's Library;
vol.4 – "The works of the church forefathers and ecclesiastical writers (Catalogus Patrum et Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum) " .

The publishing costs for all the library's publications were in 1999 of approx. 600 000 000 Lei (EUR 32 258).

Library cooperation

On national level the National Library cooperates with all libraries nationwide. In cooperation with several library and information science professionals the National Library started the project for a national shared catalogue.

On international level the National Library continues to supply its contributions to the Annual Bibliography of the History of The Printed Book and Libraries, Index Translationum, Bibliographie Internationale de l' Humanisme et de la Renaissance, the Annual Bibliography of English Language and Literature and to the GABRIEL project. It is member of IFLA and CENL and participates in the activities of such international organizations as ELAG, LIBER, FID or programs as LIBECON or ECPA.

Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

- The 2nd edition of the "The Days of the National Library of Romania" (October, 14th 1999), with two significant moments: the presentation of the "Nicolae Grigorescu" album and CD-ROM and the symposium "Specialized services within the National Library of Romania: ISSN, ISSB and CIP";
- The National Library of Romania participated in the event "799 - Art and Culture of the Carolingian Period - Charlemagne and Pope Leo in Paderborn"

and exhibited one of the most valuable patrimony document, the *Lorsch Gospel* (*Lorsch Codex Aureus*).