

**THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)**

**ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL
LIBRARIANS**

2002-2003

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Director:

From July 1st, 2000, according to the new Library Act, Mr. Peter Cabadaj was appointed to the position of the Director by Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

From November 8th, 2000, in accordance with the Library Act as well as with the result of the competition announced by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic **Doc. PhDr. Dušan Katuščák, PhD.** was appointed to the position of the General Director by the Minister of Culture of the Slovak Republic.

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1. MANAGEMENT

The Slovak National Library (SNL) considers the previous year to be a successful one. In principle, all tasks which were defined in the *Plan of the SNL for year 2002*, were successfully realized.

In accordance with the Library Act and court order of the Constitutional Court the agreement between the Matica slovenska and the SNL was prepared as a basis for finishing the delimitation of state chose possession.

The publishing of Working order and update of existing Organizational chart of the SNL are the most important facts which have to be accomplished in the near future. Despite all our efforts and good results, there are lot of problems which affect effectivness and social import of our work.

The goals for near future: implementation of unified and integrated technological line (including all processes of acquisitions, cataloguing, preservation and library services) in all departments of the SNL. To improve staff management, to prepare the system of education, futher education and professional trainings.

2. MAJOR INNOVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

The effort of the SNL in the field of new IT implementation in the Slovak libraries has a strategic importance. We have prepared the Program of computerized libraries which was submitted by the Minister of Culture to the government board for informatics. Finally, the Program was approved by the Slovak government (Resolution no. 801 from July 17, 2002).

In the field of preservation of cultural heritage the steps of the SNL have great significance. It was the initiative of the SNL that the Program for preservation, stabilization and conservation of traditional carriers of information was approved ba the Slovak government (Resolution no. 766 from July 10, 2002)

3. FINANCE AND FUNDING

The Slovak National Library is the state budgetary institution and is funded through the budget chapter of the Ministry of Culture.

The budget for 2002 (cca 2.2 mil. Euro) enabled to fulfill all basic tasks of the SNL. Besides the regular budget, the extra budget for capital investment (cca 0.85 mil. Euro) was approved by the Ministry of culture as well as extra finances from external resources (foundations, grants...).

The incomes earned by the SNL (1.4 % from regular budget) were returned back to the state budget.

4. LEGAL STATUS

Since April 1, 2002 we did a lot of overpowering changes in accordance with the Law no. 313/2001 on Public Service. We have very intensively started to work on preparation on Safety project of information system in accordance with tha Law no. 428/2002 on preservation of private data.

The update (including electronic resources) of Legal deposit act is being preapred on the level of the government.

5. ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK

The National commission for library services which develops its activities on the national level has fulfilled important tasks.

The Department for library system of the Slovak Republic significantly improved its activities in the field of library methodics and education of librarians.

The goals for the near future: to coordinate the solution of the state research on preservation of documents in accordance with the government resolution no. 766. To provide information resources for Slovakia in cooperation with other libraries (eIFL).

6. LEGAL DEPOSIT MATERIALS

At the beginning of the year 2003 the SNL has prepared the proposals for new update of Legal Deposit Act. The proposals concerned the inclusion of electronic material into legal deposit, the resolutions on sanctions for those publishers who do not send the copies in time, etc.

7. BUILDINGS AND PLANT

In the main building of the SNL the reconstruction of former conference hall was done. The modern hall has now capacity 140 seats, some of them (30) have higher standard (connection to computer network). The datavideoprojector forms an inseparable part of the hall. The hall will serve various purposes: scientific, cultural and educational events for librarians and public.

The computer room and educational room were constructed in the space of former database centre. The capacity is 30 seats with 17 PCs and the room is equipped with all basic and necessary technical facilities: datavideoprojectors, printer, photocopy machine...). Both rooms laid the foundation for better conditions in the field of organization of educational events on the national level.

8. ACQUISITIONS

The main source of acquisitions is the legal deposit, purchase (domestic and from abroad), reserve collections and international exchange of documents.

During the reported period the SNL has had better conditions for acquisitions, especially of that material that was not available due to low budget. Now, it is possible to buy documents not only for archiving, but also to the study rooms and service libraries for workers as well as more audiovisual documents and CD-ROM databases.

9. CONSERVATION/PRESERVATION OF COLLECTIONS

Conservation and preservation of collections are main tasks which are fulfilled by the National Library.

The Book Restoration and Conservation Division is responsible for activities which concern monitoring of physical conditions of books and periodicals kept in the main deposit. Continually the restoration of damaged material from library collections is done and restored old and rare books are kept in special deposit with temperature and humidity measuring.

Taking into account very modest space and technical equipment the division offers its services to various customers.

High esteem was given to the work of the division.

Another way of collections preservation are microfilming and digitization. The microfilming of the collections is represented in the project: National Programme on Microfilming for Long-term Preservation. The National Library plays a key role in these activities within the Slovak Republic. The project on microfilming forms a part of wider National Library Programme on New Information Technologies Application. The project of digitized library is being prepared and a great contribution to this fact is that the SNL has bought the hybrid camera (for microfilmong and digitizing). There is the intention to become a member of EROMM and to contribute to and use the EROMM database.

10. IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The SNL did a great effort toward making better the internet connection. For the time being the information systém of the library is connected to internet via 10 Mbit line (SANET). The conditions for access to internet are essentially better not only for the staff but, first of all, for our users. The services of Internet study room are of high

quality. More efficient connection will enable the SNL to cooperate on the project of unified library software (KIS3G) in 2003-2004 as well as on prepared project on Virtual library of Slovakia.

Up to 2002 there were lot of workplaces in the SNL without any PCs. In 2002 most of them were equipped with PCs, connected ti internet in order to be able to participate on professional information programs (Slovak National Literary Museum, Literary Archives, National Biographic Division).

11. SERVICES TO READERS

The SNL successfully fulfilled obligations in the field of acquiring of electronic resources for Slovakia. The conception on access to electronic resources, arising from the idea that the SNL is obliged to ensure representative information sources for smaller Slovak libraries, was realized. The SNL has paid the licence for access to the base EBSCO within the eIFL Direct project for all librraies in the Slovak Republic. This kind of service will remain one of the priorities of the SNL in the future.

12. EXHIBITIONS

The museums which form the part of the SNL have prepared a lot of exhibitions and cultural events in Slovakia and abroad (Poland, Czech Republic. Most of them were devoted to significant persons (writers, politicians, artists) of Slovak modern history as well as to various historical events.

13. PUBLISHING

The publishing of Slovak national bibliography (print, CD-ROM) continued during 2002 as well as of journal KNIŽNICA. Among the most important publications are: Biographical lexicon of Slovakia (Vol. 1), Biographic studies, Literary archives, Statistics of public and research libraries in Slovakia in 2001, ISBD(ER) – International standard bibliographic description of electronic resources (Slovak translation) and miscellanea.

14. CATALOGUING

Cataloguing in the SNL is based on internationally accepted AACR2 and ISBDs, UNIMARC format is implemented in the library software (both Bibliographic an Authorities). The cataloguing section of the Literary Archives has implemented MARC 21 for cataloguing purposes.

The goal for near future: to move completely to MARC 21 (all five formats), to publish Slovak translation of AACR2 and rule interpretations.

15. LIBRARY COOPERATION

On the national level the Slovak National Library co-operates with other libraries participating in the CASLIN Project (University Library in Bratislava, libraries joining in the KOLIN Project - East-Slovakia libraries).

On the international level the SNL as a member of top library institutions and associations tries to fulfill as many partial tasks as possible.

16. STAFFING MATTERS

It seems that lack of finances and technical equipment are not the problem in many cases. The problems very often cause low level of management at all levels, insufficient professional knowledge of staff, lack of initiative, low work efficiency and working discipline, insufficient knowledge of economical limits and processes. Some departments founded in accordance with the new Organization chart did not use the chance for self-establishment and for improvement of their professional position in the field of providing better services. The solution is to improve the personal management, to develop the system of education, of further education and of professional trainings of staff.

17. MAJOR CELEBRATIONS

In 2002 the SNL has organized mostly scientific and other cultural events.

18. OTHER NOTABLE INFORMATION.

In 2002 three workplaces of the SNL were accredited by the status scientific and research workplaces (National Bibliography Institute, National Biographical Institute, Restauration and Conservation Division). This fact will enable to obtain extra funding for their activities.

Thanks to great effort of the SNL management, for the school year 2002/2003 the new study field Library and Information Science at the Žilinská univerzita was open with first 25 students.

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