THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY
(SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA)

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIANS

2003-2004

August 2004

Address:

Nám. J.C. Hronského 1
036 01 Martin
SLOVAKIA

WWW: www.snk.sk
e-mail: snk@snk.sk
Tel: +421/43/4301802
Fax: +421/43/4301802

Director:

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.

Contact Person: Mrs. Jarmila Majerová
e-mail: majerova@snk.sk

-

-

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 2003,* were successfully realized.

The management of the library was realized via regular meetings of the top management, via regular meetings of experts and via guidelines and instructions.

The publishing of updated Working order of the SNL is the most important fact which has 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.

2. MAJOR INNOVATIONS DURING THE YEAR

The main task – moving from ALEPH 300 to ALEPH 500 – was fulfilled. Conversion of the Local catalogue from A300 to A500 contributed to higher quality of document processing and to providing services to readers.

The effort of the SNL in the field of new IT implementation in the Slovak libraries has a strategic importance. According to the Program of computerized libraries which was submitted by the Minister of Culture to the government board for informatics, the SNL has provided, in conformity with the Act on Public Procurement, uniform software for Slovak libraries – VIRTUA.

At the end of the year 2003 the SNL has finished the works on the VIKS Project (Virtual library of Slovakia). The goal of the project is to create technological and organizational conditions for digital library and virtual documentation of the cultural heritage (especially creating of digital library, archival, museum and galleries documents).

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 2003 (cca 2.5 mil. Euro) enabled to fulfill all basic tasks of the SNL. Besides the regular budget, the extra budget for capital investment (cca 150.000 Euro) was approved by the Ministry of Culture as well as extra finances from external resources (foundations, grants…).

The incomes earned by the SNL (2 % from regular budget) were returned back to the state budget.

4. LEGAL STATUS

The SNL has participated at the preparation of the new Decree no. 421/2003 on Registration, Withdrawal and Inventory of library collections.

In accordance with the Act no. 428/2002 on Preserving the personal data the SNL has prepared the Security project of the information system of the SNL.

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

The Department for Library System of the Slovak Republic significantly improved its activities in the field of library methodics and education of librarians. It has prepared the drafts for grant system of the Ministry of Culture, it has published the Manual for librarian in a small library for local and school libraries, it has prepared the methodic material How to account library material.

The SNL actively participated at the building of the Union Catalogue – part Monographies. The bilateral contracts were signed with ten partner libraries contributing to the Union Catlogue.

Within the KIS3G Project the SNL has organized the trainings for a new library and information system – Virtua. The trainings were oriented to libraries which will participate at the project.

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. Unfortunatelly, the proposal concerning inclusion of the electronic resourses was not accepted. The approved Legal Deposit Act thus contains only small modifications.

7. BUILDINGS AND PLANT

The intention of the SNL is to improve the deposit for large collections. The project for new space was submitted to the Ministry of Culture. There is the assumption that the Ministry of Defense will convey the buildings (former barracks) which will help to solve insufficient space in current deposit. The final decision will be known in September 2004.
The SNL has prepared the project for large reconstruction of the main building which should be fund from European structural funds.

8. ACQUISITIONS

The main source of acquisitions is the legal deposit, purchase (domestic and from abroad), reserve collections and international exchange of documents.
Within the PRE NAME Project the SNL was supported by the Ministry of Culture and has bought more than 200 titles concerning issues about NATO.
Besides traditional media the SNL has acquired electronic resources and full-text databases which are available via reference services.

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 Divison 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 divison offers its services to various customers.
High esteem was given to the work of the division.
Another ways of collection preservation are microfilming and digitization. The microfilming of the collections is represented in the project: National Program on Microfilming for Long-term Preservation. The project on microfilming forms a part of wider National Library Programme on New Information Technologies Application.
Other new projects – the Digital Library and Archives; Preservation, Archiving and Access to Sound Recordings in the collections of the SNL; Archiving the data on physical carriers - were prepared and approved by the Government of the Slovak Republic as a part of the Program for preservation and conservation of traditional carriers.
The new security system for open stock in the General study room was installed.

10. IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

The access to external resources for users and staff was improved by purchase of the technical equipment CISCO router and by building up of the high-speed connection to the network SANET (100 Mbps).
For the time being the SNL is well equipped with the PCs and facilities needed for staff and users.

11. SERVICES TO READERS

Library Services Institute in the SNL acts as a national centre for interlibrary loans, as a national coordinator of services provided from online databases (EBSCO Publishing). It organizes the activities of the National Commission for Library and Information Services of the Slovak Republic.
During the reported period the SNL has continued in designing the new Decree on ILL and IILL.
The department for information research acts as the information centre of the European Council and as information and consulting centre of the Patent bureau in the Slovak Republic.
The new special study room – NATO study room – was open in the beginning of the year 2004.

12. EXHIBITIONS

The most important was the exhibition „Czech and Slovak Exile" which was installed in Czech Republic and in Slovak Republic as well. The Slovak Literary Museum which forms a part of the SNL has prepared a lot of exhibitions concerning the most significant persons from Slovak history.
Among other cultural and professional events the most important were: The week of Slovak libraries, Martin´s Literary Spring, etc.
In May 2004, there was a meeting of the external advising body of the General Director.

13. PUBLISHING

The publishing of the Slovak national bibliography (print, CD-ROM) continued during 2003 as well as of the journal KNIŽNICA. Among the most important publications are: General catalogue of the prints of the 16th century preserved in Slovakia; Personal bibliography of Pavol Jozef Šafárik I., II.; Lexicon of Slovak women; Biographical lexicon of Slovakia (Vol. 2), Biographic studies (vol. 29),
The information on activities of the SNL are continuously published on the web side www.snk.sk.

14. CATALOGUING

Cataloguing in the SNL is based on internationally accepted AACR2 and ISBDs.
In January 2004 the Slovak translation of AACR2 was published and distributed within Slovakia. The translation of MARC 21 Bibliographic format was prepared. The SNL is responsible for preparing the translation of other MARC 21 formats (including lists of codes) as well as related ISO standards. Moving to MARC 21 formats is coordinated with implementation of the KIS3G Project (and with implementation of the software – VIRTUA).
The Authority Department has contributed to the Slovak authority files – names of persons, corporate bodies and subject headings – in both local and national levels.

The director of the Acquisitions and Cataloguing Institute participates at the international project on International Cataloguing Rules.

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 personnal management, to develop the system of education, of further education and of professional trainings of staff.
The intention to employ more young people (graduated at the universities) for new positions and programs is very often limited by the prescribed number of staff.

17. MAJOR CELEBRATIONS

In 2003 the SNL has organized mostly scientific and other cultural events.

18. OTHER NOTABLE INFORMATION

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. In academic year 2003/2004 the SNL has prepared the draft for higher degree of the study.

-