

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO THE CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN NATIONAL LIBRARIES July 1995**

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### **Statistics:**

**Staff:** 178

**Stock:** 3.6 million library items

**Loans:** 155.000

**Loans - periodicals:** 68.000

**ILL:** 5.000

**Registered users:** 10.800

**Acquisitions:** 29.200 library items

**Open hours:** 52/week

**Guided tours:** 260

### **Legislation:**

SNL is an integral part of a more comprehensive cultural organisation. Matica slovenska was involved in preparation of the new law about Matica slovenska. Matica slovenska is a complex organisation consisting of various units and even clubs. The present law is not satisfactory because it does not determine sufficiently status, responsibilities, relations and financing of the units of Matica slovenská in the changed situation. Several versions of the proposed new law were elaborated but they are still being discussed by parties involved and none were submitted to Parliament. However, it seems to be likely that SNL will be granted the status of an independent legal body in some type of consortium consisting of the present bodies of Matica slovenska by this new law.

SNL is also involved in the preparation of the new law about libraries and their activities. This law is intended to cover all types of libraries and it is rather difficult to find compromises and solutions acceptable to all, regarding various different, even conflicting interests of those libraries involved.

Due to the restitution laws SNL has to give back to previous owners, mostly churches, monasteries and some private persons, some collections (often including historical, rare and precious books and documents) that were nationalised and moved to SNL in 1950's. This process is rather complicated and created an additional workload on librarians. Even worse is the fact, that not always the original owners have conditions or even will to store and maintain those documents that are part of the cultural heritage of Slovakia and there is a danger that they will be lost forever or will not be accessible any more or they will be sold and exported from the territory of Slovakia.

## **Budget:**

The budget of SNL for the year 1995 is approximately on the same level as for the previous year and it is not sufficient for the needs of the library, especially for the development of new desired programs and projects. An especially unsatisfactory situation developed in the year 1995. The new Parliament and government did not accept the proposal for the state budget, the government declared a so called provisional budget for the first three months of the year and this caused that SNL had to operate only with a rather restricted provisional budget. Only in April the budget was clarified but the situation still did not improve too much because transfer of real money from the state budget to our budget and account is rather irregular. This means that the library is not always able to pay invoices and we have also problems to plan and organise necessary purchases. In such a situation there is also another problem of assigning priorities to payments in the frame of the whole Matica slovenska. We hope that new software system for economical, financial and administration agendas just being introduced will help to make the internal financial flow more transparent for management of the library and Matica slovenska. The system should also enable to evaluate the costs and incomes of particular units of the library and Matica slovenska in more precise way.

## **Automation:**

SNL continued in realisation of CASLIN (Czech And Slovak Library Information Network) project. Unfortunately, the project is some months behind the time schedule due to delayed delivery of production computers DEC ALPHA and new version of ALEPH software v. 3.2.4. under UNIX based operating system OSF 1. The computer was installed in the beginning of September. The experimental database was loaded at the end of November. Host is connected to INTERNET and its name is "snkmartin.matica.sk". OPAC is available for the anonymous user with login "visitor".

The CASLIN group accepted the international standards in the project solutions and introduces them. UNIMARC data format, ISBD and AACR 2 will be implemented throughout the CASLIN project. SNL cares very much to provide librarians in Slovakia with necessary tools to enable this transition to the new standards. SNL translated and published UNIMARC Manual and seven manuals of ISBD documentation and works go on the translations of UNIMARC Authority files Manual. CASLIN intends to use AACR 2 rules, but they must be adapted to our national needs. CASLIN group has also encountered some conflicts between UNIMARC and ISBN on one side and AACR2 on the other side. SNL started to use ALEPH for retro-conversion of its card catalogue into UNIMARC records in January. We analysed the processing and flow of documents in the library and now we have partly reorganised it with regards to the implementation of the integrated software system ALEPH. In June we began to use ALEPH for processing the books of legal deposit. The conversion of existing machine readable database to UNIMARC and ALEPH is planned for the period August-October 1995. The other partial tasks, like introducing the circulation module, will follow later.

The CASLIN group is also preparing the implementation of union catalogues. Here we are facing not only technical problems, but also problems of the legal status of the CASLIN group, of the organisation and management of CASLIN and union catalogues etc.

## **Retro-conversion:**

SNL needs to retro-convert about one million cards of its catalogue to UNIMARC records but it has no financial and human resources for such an immense task. SNL also maintain the Slovak research libraries' card catalogue that might be a source of some other 3 million

records to be retro-converted and loaded to the union catalogue. There are about 30.000 records converted by re-typing up to now. Such a tempo is, of course, not sufficient and the only solution is in a co-operation of Slovak libraries through an online union catalogue, that should be introduced in the next year. SNL considers the retro-conversion of catalogue and bibliographic records as one of its major tasks for the future. SNL initiates the national program of retro-conversion and is preparing the proposal. SNL would like this project to be supported directly by the government of Slovak Republic.

SNL has created its WWW server on the INTERNET, but it is still under construction. It contains some general and actual information about SNL and Matica slovenska. Its URL is <http://www.matica.sk/>. It shall provide access to all available information processed and stored in computers of SNL, including catalogue and electronic version of periodicals published by SNL and Matica slovenska.

The next version 3.2.5 of ALEPH should be released in September and it is to include Z.39.50 client and server as well as the option of WWW server enabling access to OPAC via WWW client like Netscape or NCSA Mosaic. These features are to improve the access to the catalogues and databases of SNL.

SNL cares and pays attention to the training and education of its human resources. Most of the staff must now go through training focused on using the new standards (UNIMARC, ISBD, AACR 2) and new system (ALEPH). We organise also courses to learn to use PC, text editors and some other software products, as well as the INTERNET services. For these purposes a special training room was allocated and furnished with the necessary equipment. SNL decided to install a new structured cabling system for its LAN enabling flexible management and development of the network for the future. SNL has decided for the solution based on Digital's elements and equipment including optical backbone. The first phase of the project was finished at the end of 1994. Total costs of this innovation project are estimated at more than 100.000 ECU.

## **Bibliography:**

National Bibliographic Institute of SNL continued in building the national bibliographic system. It was processing and publishing both current and retrospective Slovak national bibliography. The real layout of the shared co-operative national bibliographic system is being created and elaborated. We began to use the ISBD output format in our printed bibliographic outputs and we move the production of them to our DTP system Cyfroset, that made a lot of cost savings. SNL intends to limit publishing of printed bibliographies (especially bibliography of journal articles) after conversion of records of the national bibliography to UNIMARC is made and is willing to start publishing the national bibliography on CD-ROM. This is planned for 1996.

## **Information services:**

SNL was providing the searches both from classical and computerised information sources. SNL is providing access to INTERNET and information from its sources as well as information services based on CD-ROM. Due to the lack of financial means we have only 13 titles of CD-ROMs. This should be increased in the future. We intend also to install the CD-ROM server in our LAN.

## **Preservation and conservation:**

The most important change and improvement in this field was installation of the new microfilming technology bought from the A. W. Mellon Foundation's grant. It is top quality

technology and probably one of the best installed in libraries of the East and Central European countries.

This unit fulfils the internal program of saving documents by microfilming. It is focused on microfilming selected current newspapers and journals (40%), retrospective newspapers and journals (45%) and old and rare prints (15%). Criteria of selection are importance, use and condition of documents.

SNL intends to develop this department to become a national centre for microfilming in Slovakia. It should serve as a methodical centre, a training centre for determining and evaluating the quality of microfilms and a co-ordinating centre for Slovak libraries co-operating in microfilming.

Also one international co-operative microfilming project was launched that seems to be also commercially successful for SNL.

### **Preservation & Conservation:**

This department of 17 people was incorporated directly into the structure of SNL this year, and thus SNL gained better control over it. They completely restored about 450 books, some 90 of them were very complex and involved restorations of books from the 15th and 16th centuries.

The department conserved about 13.500 books, mostly from the historical fond of SNL.

Conservation involves cleaning, disinfection, treatment of binding materials, measurement of acidity (pH) and total evaluation stored then in a computer.

The co-operation with the "Institut für Buch- und Handschriftenrestaurierung" in Bayerische Staatsbibliothek and 3-month stay of our specialist in this library supported by "Bayerisches Ministerium für Arbeit, Sozialordnung, Frauen und Familie" enabled us to improve the level of restoration of paper and to introduce new technology and procedures. Promised support for the purchase of the technology for casting of missing paper objects would enable us to create a unique workplace of this kind in Slovakia.

The department is now regularly monitoring the conditions in our stores, like temperature, humidity and some other parameters.

The department is to be involved in programs of education in the area of preservation, conservation and restoration of paper, leather and parchment. It should serve as the centre of practical learning, also unique in Slovakia.

Our specialist needs and would welcome any possibilities of professional stays at foreign top level institutions of restoration, preservation and conservation as well as participation in the conferences and especially improvement of the flow of professional information.

### **International co-operation:**

Traditionally, SNL has most developed co-operation with National Library in Prague. At present both libraries are involved together in CASLIN project and co-operate very closely. SNL co-operates also with the Westfälische Wilhelms - Universität in Münster in the preparation of a catalogue of German documents on the territory of Slovakia guaranteed by the Volkswagen Foundation.

SNL has about 600 exchange partners all over the world.