

**SLOVENSKÁ NÁRODNÁ KNIŽNICA
V MATICI SLOVENSKEJ**

THE SLOVAK NATIONAL LIBRARY

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

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Statistics: (31.12.1996)

Staff: 184

Stock: 3.6 million library items

Acquisitions: 18.078

Books: 10.670

Periodicals: 3.291

Special documents: 4.117

legal deposit: 13.294

donations, domestic purchase: 1.775

International exchange, foreign purchase: 3.009

Number of foreign exchange partners: 738

Loans: 165.150

ILL to other libraries: 3.000

ILL from other libraries: 811; 745 from abroad

Registered borrowers: 13.839

new registered borrowers: 1.887

Open hours:	52/week
Guided tours:	314
Visitors:	36.519
Exhibitions:	72
Information services:	32.679 searches, consultations etc.

Legislation:

The Parliament of the Slovak Republic passed the new Act on Matica slovenska on February 13, 1997. In this law Matica slovenska is defined as legal body and so called public-legal organization. The state entrusts the Matica slovenska with various tasks, among them with "acquiring primarily slovacical documents, collecting, processing, preserving, storing, providing access to, national cultural heritage". Matica slovenska collaborates and cooperates on fulfilling tasks of the state in the area of culture and science. These tasks are fulfilled especially by several institutions of the Matica slovenska, the Slovak National Library being among them. The Slovak National Library is defined in the Act as the legal body in Matica slovenska. The Letter of Establishment of the Slovak National Library (statute) is to be issued by the President of Matica slovenska after an agreement with Minister of Culture. The president of Matica slovenska appoints the Director of the Slovak National Library. The Matica slovenska and Slovak National Library manage the property of the state. Matica slovenska and Slovak National Library are funded partly through state budget, but may perform their own activities generating income to be used for their main activities. Though the new law might not be quite optimal for the Slovak National Library and some issues may be questionable and dependent on contextual legal explanations, nevertheless it provides the space for more independent position of the Slovak National Library. Very much should and could be done through the proper statements of the Letter of Establishment of the Slovak National Library in order the legal definition of the Slovak National Library as the legal body could be implemented in reality. Minister of Culture insisted on full splitting the Slovak National Library from the Matica slovenska but the Parliament did not approved his proposal. This caused some conflict between the Matica slovenska, Slovak National Library and Ministry of Culture. According to the opinion of the Minister of Culture he feels the Ministry has not full and thus, sufficient control over the National Library. The ministry started activities leading to dismounting some functions from the Slovak National Library to the other library and transforming this library into another central state library. The situation is just being negotiated on the highest level.

The different opinions on the legal position of the Slovak National Library are reflected also in the preparation of the new law about libraries and their activities. This law is intended to cover all types of libraries and it was rather difficult to find compromises and solutions acceptable to all, regarding various different, even conflicting interests of libraries involved. However, the librarians community finally agreed on the acceptable text of the new law, but this law has to be harmonized with the above mentioned law on Matica slovenska and Slovak National Library. The system of libraries in Slovakia is affected also by a new law introducing the new territorial and administrative organization of the state and also by a decision of ministry of culture to create regional cultural centres where public libraries are now included, thus loosing their status of legal body. Also the control, management and financing of public libraries were transferred from the Ministry of Culture to local authorities. Unfortunately, the Ministry of Culture did not show the good will to listen to the opinions of the librarians community and tried to ignore to a great extent opinions and comments of the Slovak Librarians Association and Slovak Libraries Association.

SNK collaborated on the proposal for the innovation of the legal deposit law covering also electronic documents.

Budget:

The budget of SNK for the year 1997 remains on the level of the previous year and it is not sufficient for the needs of the library, especially for the development of new desired programs and projects.

Automation:

SNK continued in realization of CASLIN (Czech And Slovak Library Information Network) project.

There are now 235.000 records in the [catalogue](#) available also through Internet (see Online services in Gabriel)

In November 1996 we introduced the **circulation module** of the library automation system ALEPH in full operation. To perform the circulation transaction the system certainly requires that at least very short cataloging record of the issued document is present in the database. Here we are facing fully the problem of retroconversion because we have only approximately 1/5 of the catalogue in the database up to now. That is why we had to introduce also special working procedures where a short cataloging record (only some 7 fields) is entered in the database before the document is given out. This at least enables us to make all circulation transactions through automated system and identify the "live" part of the collection. Later these records are completed or changed in the processes of retroconversion and recataloging according available working capacity. Our registered users now can interact with the circulation module and for example check their account or reserve the documents from anywhere through Internet.

Further steps of [CASLIN](#) and ALEPH implementation will be the introduction of serials control module, ILL module, conversion and loading bibliographic database of component parts (articles) from Slovak periodicals (more than 600.000 records from 1978) and providing acces to it through Internet. The main task for the year 1997 is to create and open the union catalogue of Slovak libraries. We shall also have to improve and polish all types of acces to OPAC: by telnet to classic [OPAC](#) , using Graphic User Interface [OPAC](#) client-server with Z.39.50 protocol as well as through WWW server.

SNK is running its [WWW server](#) on the INTERNET (see WWW servers on [Gabriel](#)).

The configuration of the main server was significantly enhanced. This enlargement of operational memory and disk capacity improved the performance and enabled disk mirroring that increased the security of the system.

Retroconversion:

SNK needs to retroconvert about one million cards of its catalogue to UNIMARC records but we were not able to make a significant progress (only 3.700 records typed in the database in 1996) mainly due to the lack of financial and human resources for such an immense task. .

SNK initiated the national program of retroconversion and submitted initial papers of the program to the Ministry of Culture but without any real response.

Bibliography:

National Bibliographic Institute of SNK continued in building the national bibliographic system. It was processing and publishing both current and retrospective Slovak national bibliography. Some of the most interesting published bibliographic works of SNK include Incunabulas in foreign libraries previously in collections of libraries in Slovakia - 1.000 records, Prints of 16th century in the library of Piarist Order in Trenčín - 400 records, Bibliography to the history of Slovakia - 18.274 records, 781pp. The work on the second volume of the General catalogue of 16th century prints preserved on the territory of Slovakia - Prints in libraries of Piarist Order was completed and it is in print now.

SNK in cooperation with the private company Albertina Icome prepared Slovak National Bibliography on CD-ROM and the first commercial CD-ROM product was introduced to the market in April 1997. It contains 63.000 bibliographic records of books from 1977. So on it

will be completed with records of other types of documents and till the end of year also with the database of articles' records.

SNK is also working also on the translation of the English UDC database to the Slovak language. It should be published on CD-ROM in 1998. There is a chance to create a multilingual UDC database on CD-ROM but copyright issues will have to be solved with the partners and UDC Consortium in Den Haag.

Information services:

SNK was providing the searches both from classical and computerized information sources. SNK is providing access to INTERNET and information from its sources as well as information services based on CD-ROMs. We provide services from **24 databases on CD-ROMs**. We intend also to install the CD-ROM server in our LAN.

Preservation and conservation:

In the process of the restitution the library had to return a lot of rare and historical books that were nationalized in 50's, to their original owners - churches, orders, cloisters. Because often the future of those documents is rather uncertain SNK had to focus on microfilming them before they were physically moved from the library to secure access at least to the microfilmed copy of such documents.

Preservation & Conservation Department:

A new computer-controlled machine for paper leaf casting was installed in this department. It is a gift of Bayerisches Staatsministerium für Arbeit, und Sozialordnung, Familie, Frauen und Gesundheit in München, Germany. This project was prepared in cooperation with the "Institut für Buch und Handschriftenrestaurierung" in München, Germany.

The department restored 360 book, 50 of them being prints from 15th and 16th century requiring high quality professional work. Department then conserved 5614 books and a lot of other documents for the Literary Archive of Matica slovenska.

Memory of the World, Digitization

SNK initiated the establishment of the National Committee for the Memory of the World Program and prepared national program and first projects. In cooperation with the private company Albertina Icome we produced the first digitized facsimile of so called Chonica Hungarorum by Johannes de Thurócz from 1488 on CD-ROM. This was made in the frame of practical part of the Seminar in Prague supported by UNESCO "Memory of the World." Program. We also prepared our first title of this program "Antiphonarium Bratislavense II - Codex of Haan. The title is processed, description is ready and it is prepared for digitizing and production, but we have not available funding for this project at the moment and are looking for some external resources.

Methodic activities & further educations of librarians.

SNK focused on using new technology (International Seminar on using Internet for librarians organized with Assistance, Austria), new standards being introduced to librarians' practice (UNIMARC, AACR2, ISBD). SNK organized seminars and workshops for all types of libraries in Slovakia. This was supported by publishing appropriate manuals in Slovak language.