

NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY - ANNUAL REPORT 2000 - summary

As evident from the name of the library, it incorporates two functions. It is the Slovenian national library and at the same time it acts as the main library of the University of Ljubljana. Within the frame of the national function it also provides the national bibliographic service, national Information and Reference Centre, national centre for official publications and national advisory and monitoring library centre. There are also the Research and Development Department for Librarianship, Centre for Preservation of National Written Heritage and Information-Documentation centre of the Council of Europe founded in 1998. The Library is among the fundamental institutions of Slovenian infrastructure, closely connected to cultural, educational and scientific life.

The National and University Library is a public institution. Its founder is the Republic of Slovenia, the founding rights and obligations are performed by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia. As a public research library it was first founded in 1774, in 1921 it acquired the function of a university library, in 1945 it became the national library of the Slovenian nation, and after the independence in 1991 it acquired the title National Library.

The services of NUL have been broadly defined in the Law of Librarianship in 1982, especially in the articles 18, 30 and 35, and more precisely in the Act on the Creation of the National and University Library in 1998 and in its Statute. These acts also give NUL several other obligations on the national level, e.g. co-ordination of the operation and development of the Slovenian library system, having a leading role in the research and development activities in the field of Librarianship, permanent education of librarians and library users, awarding professional titles, etc.

In accordance with the principle of free access to publications and information NUL collects, stores, processes, and provides access to all the Slovenica (library materials documenting Slovenian spiritual and cultural creativity) regardless of the language or origin, as well as foreign reference literature, basic reading from all branches of science, especially from fields of Social Sciences, Humanities, and History, and also Library and Information Science, Informatics and Documentalist literature.

This annual report consists of those segments of NUL's work which have been realized. In the context of research activities there are especially referral and bibliographic-information service, development and co-operation within the national library system, acquisition of strategically important foreign literature, broad development activities and educational activities for the national system of co-operative cataloguing.

Organizational structure and staff

In 2000 NUL performed its services with the following staff structure:

12 workers with M.A. or doctoral title

50 workers with a bachelor's title

20 workers with college education

36 workers with secondary school education

13 workers with primary school education

Total: 131 workers + 2 in the IDC of the Council of Europe

In addition the library has in recent years had to employ 40 part time or student workers in order to be able to fulfil the annual working programme. However, due to increased financial difficulties in the year 2000, the number of student workers had to be drastically lowered.

The organizational structure, which is horizontal, consists of interconnected departments and units. These are:

1. Management and administration
2. Unit for technical services
3. Unit for processing of library materials

Department of cataloguing*

Department of subject analysis

Department of periodicals**

4. Unit for National Bibliography

Department for retrospective bibliography

5. Unit for work with users

Department of lending and book stores

Reference and Information Centre

6. National advisory and monitoring library centre
7. Research and Development Centre for Librarianship
8. Centre for Library Education
9. Special Collections

Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection

Music Collection

Maps and Picture Collection

Ephemera Collection

Audio-Visual collection

10. Unit for Preservation and Restoration of Library Materials

Book-Binding Department

11. Information-Documentation Centre of the Council of Europe

* with the National Agency for ISBD and ISMN

** with the National Agency for ISSN

Within the stated areas the working programme has been fulfilled in accordance with the the financial possibilities and staffing. It is however important to emphasize that NUL has in recent years been seriously understaffed, to the extent that the workflow has been disturbed. Many services and activities, to which we are obliged by the Law of Librarianship and which should have been started years ago, remain unrealized. For several years we have been calling to the attention of the Ministry of Culture, that it is necessary to start collecting, processing and storing electronic publications (because these have been the reality for several years), since the collecting of the legal deposit has been our basic task. Unfortunately, the MK has not even provided us with enough staff to perform the current work tasks. The position classification has shown that over 30 work posts remain unoccupied.

Report by specific activities

Acquisitions of library materials and work with library users

In 2000 NUL has acquired 401.800 different items , 362.837 of those have been legal deposits. We kept 94.912 items, the rest has been sent to other libraries, mainly as the legal deposit.

It is especially important to say that we acquired 20.170 books (1.129 of which have been purchased foreign literature), 59.593 units of periodicals, 1.405 records and cassettes, 2.400 posters and other graphic materials, 1.254 music prints and 1.739 AV publications.

In the area of bibliographic services we created around 18.000 new records.

The Library and its services has been visited by approximately 178.000 people. This number has been usual in recent years. Of the students of the University of Ljubljana approximately one third have been using our services on a regular basis, this year we accepted around 3.300 new users.

The number of interlibrary loans from abroad has increased by 28% and decreased by 17% from the NUL's collection to other libraries. The home lending and reading room use decreased by 7%. Our estimate is that the reason for this may be the poor working conditions for the users due to the repair works in the library.

The CD-ROMs server can and has been used by all academic libraries in the University of Ljubljana and their users.

Most important and largest new acquisitions

Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection

Purchase of Manuscripts:

- Rudolf Maister: Pismo neugotovljenemu naslovniku (Letter to an unidentified addresant)
- Letter of Alexander Auersperg

Most valuable are letters of Karmela Kosovel, Alexander Auersperg and the legacy of Mirko Avsenak.

Music Collection

Through major gifts the collection acquired:

- legacy of Marijan Lipovšek (around 14.000 items)
- part of the legacy of Primož Ramovš (53 manuscripts)
- part of legacy of Pavel Šivic (2.032 items of documentary material)

Maps and Picture Collection

Old Slovenica:

- purchase of 783 postcards
- purchase of the entire postcard collection of Maksim Gaspari
- purchase of 18 maps of the Slovenian territory before the year 1900

Legacies and purchases:

- purchase of 108 illustrations of Nikolaj Omersa

International Co-operation

NUL is an institutional member of most important library associations, e.g. IFLA, FID, Aslib, BLA, LIBER, IBBY, CERL. It is active in several standing committees and boards of these associations, it prepares papers for international seminars and conferences and publishes articles in international journals. It is present in annual meetings of directors of European national libraries and of directors of national agencies for ISSN and ISBN.

Exchange of Experts

The experts from NUL visited the USA, Auckland, Kosovo, Finland, and Austria.

Especially successful is the co-operation with the Czech national library.

We have been visited by the representatives of the Centre for Permanent Education in Moscow for which a professional visit to Slovenia had been arranged.

International projects

The project CERL HPB, the creation of the database of hand printed books published between 1450 and 1830, where NUL participated, has finished. The collection has an unmeasurable value, especially for the area of humanities because it provides the possibility to discover some yet unknown books. It has an additional importance for NUL, because it enables the evaluation of the Slovenian collection of old and older materials. NUL has contributed around 20.000 records. The task remains to establish the Collection of Old Prints and within its frame to prepare the Slovenian National Bibliography for 1550-1945.

In the frame of the Unit for Preservation and Restoration of Library Materials there runs the project EURECA LACLEPA financed by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport, the goal of which is the development of the system for laser cleaning of

paper and parchment. In the year 2000 we focused on the study of the effects of Nd:YAG pulse laser with the wavelength of 532 or 1064 nm.

In the first half of the year 2000 the Unit for Preservation and restoration of Library materials prepared two projects which have been proposed to the call of the 5th framework of the EU. These are project PAPYLUM: development of a non-destructive chemiluminescence instrument, which will enable estimation of the rate of degradation of library materials and evaluation of the adequacy of existing conservation treatments (where NUL is a partner) and the project INKCOR: development of the nonwater-based method of stabilizing of iron gall ink (where NUL is co-ordinator). Both projects, 40 months each, have been accepted. PAPYLUM is currently in the phase of contract signing, INKCOR has entered the waiting list. The library also co-operates in the Project LEAF (also an EU project) together with 10 other European libraries. The goal of the project is the preparation of the international bibliographic database of newer manuscripts – name authority file. In the year 2000 preparatory phases have been finished, the project is to begin in the second half of the year 2001.

The library also co-operates in the international Project TEL (also an EU project). The goal of the project is the establishing of the European distributed digital library, the basis of which will be the existing digital collections of European national libraries. The project will be dealing with the problems of interoperability, access to heterogeneous sources, organization and development of necessary infrastructure. In the year 2000 the necessary project documentation has been prepared. The project has been accepted and it will start on February 1st 2001.

In the year 2000 we were successful in entering the international project of the Open Society Institute in Budapest, the goal of which was to establish centres for permanent education of librarians and users and/or to enhance the activities in the already existing centres in the Central and Eastern Europe.

Microfilming and restoration of library materials

Within the frame of activities to preserve Slovenian periodicals we continued the microfilming of the oldest newspapers and those with highest loan frequency. We microfilmed the newspapers Delo, Večer, Dnevnik and some old titles, through which we prepared 166.510 microfilm records.

The Unit for Preservation and restoration of Library materials restored 11 damaged bookbindings, 75 books, 3.098 loose leaves and prepared several non-acid boxes and 649 folders for storing of library materials.

Education of Slovenian library workers

Through its educational programmes NUL has educated 1.261 Slovenian librarians. We organized several forms of education:

- education for librarians
- education for the work in the system of co-operative cataloguing COBISS
- permanent education of librarians and users
- education for publishers
- workshops
- lectures

Education of users

NUL prepared 115 presentations, guided tours and introductions to the bibliographic tools, services and other departments of the library. There were 2.839 participants attending these activities.

Development projects

The Research and Development Centre for Librarianship has with some external collaborators continued research and development projects.

The retrospective Conversion of Library Catalogues (Parts 1 and 2).

There are approximately 600.000 records in the catalogue, the result of the conversion are approximately 375.000 bibliographic records. In the year 2000 the second phase of the project began: the structuring of the records and conversion into COMARC format which will enable the inclusion of the records into the local catalogue.

We continued the preparation of the Slovenian explanatory terminology dictionary and the international project Multilingual Dictionary of Librarianship.

The Unit for Preservation and restoration of Library materials continued the development of new methods of conservation of paper and parchment. Its workers attended the 14-days conference lead by professor Christopher Clarkson from the UK, the theme of which was conservation of parchment and preservation.

The virtual library for librarianship – INFOLIB – has been formed with the goal of assisting the librarians and students of librarianship in finding relevant information sources in the internet. In 2000 besides keeping the records and links up-to-date, we added information on other areas of Library and Information Science. By the end of September 2000 the first HTML version was prepared for public presentation.

We prepared the translation of 4 volumes of UDC notations (for 4 areas) used for subject analysis. The handbook will be prepared for publication in Spring 2001.

NUL has acquired funding from the Open Society Institute – Regional Library Programme in Budapest which enabled it to start preparing:

- the activities for digitization of Kopitar's medieval Slavic manuscripts (13.000 pages). The project has not been completed yet, but it already enables the printing of colour scans for our internal needs and also for the needs of the users.
- electronic re-recording and cleaning of vinyle records
- digitization of the Portrait Collection (12.000 portraits). The project has ended.

International Conferences

In April the NUL hosted the COBRA Forum – management board of the projects of European national libraries co-financed by the EU, Information Society Directorate.

The reason for this was that Mrs. Vilenka Jakac-Bizjak, Director of Library Programmes is member of the Board.

In September NUL also hosted an international symposium "Terminology Dictionaries of Librarianship – selection, arrangement and presentattion of lexicographic material". It dealt with theoretical and practical approaches to forming and standardization of expert terminology in librarianship, preparation of monolingual explanatory and multilingual translatory terminology dictionaries and their publication in printed and/or electronic form. The symposium was attended by 39 experts, 15 from abroad.

National advisory and monitoring library centre (National Centre for Library Development)

The National Advisory and Monitoring Library Centre has, among other activities, prepared expert opinions and counselling for Slovenian libraries concerning many areas, e.g. management, library services. It has also collected and processed statistical data on the work of Slovenian public, special, academic, and school libraries in the year 2000 from which relevant reports have been made.

Its development projects include:

- Development of library services for visually impaired users of public libraries
- The handbook for weeding of library materials (the project has been completed, and the publication is expected in 2001)
- The adoption of a system of financial retributions for the use of copyright works in the public libraries
- The forming of elements of positive discrimination in public libraries which operate in the nationally heterogeneous areas
- The survey of German collections in Slovenian libraries (the project has finished, and the publication is expected in 2001)
- The handbook for building and furnishing of libraries (the project has finished, and the two publications are expected in 2001)
- The survey of public libraries

Publishing activities

Slovenian national bibliography and other lists of library materials:

1. Slovenian bibliography. Books 1999, no. 4
2. Slovenian bibliography. Books 1999, index.
3. Slovenian bibliography. Books 2000, no. 1
4. Slovenian bibliography. Books 2000, no. 2
5. Slovenian bibliography. Books 2000, no. 3
6. Slovenian bibliography. Serials 1996
7. Slovenian bibliography. CD ROM, no. 6 (1989-1999)

Slovenian bibliography. Books 2000, no. 4 has been prepared for publication.

Proceedings and catalogues of exhibitions:

1. Jernej Kopitar, (1780-1844) in evropska znanost v zrcalu njegove zasebne knjižnice : vodnik po razstavi (150 str.)
2. Prve slovenske knjige : slovenski reformacijski tiski v izvornikih in v ponatisih : ob 450. obletnici prve slovenske knjige : razstavni katalog, 23. november 2000 - 2. januar 2001.
3. ATOS, na meji zemlje in neba : knjiga in zloženka, 25. maj – 12. junij 2000

Independent publications

1. Dejavnost visokošolskih knjižnic v Sloveniji v letu 1997 in 1998.
2. Smernice za predmetne normativne in napotilne vpise.

3. ISBD(ER) : mednarodni standardni bibliografski opis elektronskih virov.
4. Splošnoizobraževalne knjižnice : poročilo za leto 1998.
5. Vloga specialnih knjižnic pri pospeševanju družbenega in gospodarskega razvoja, Izgradnja knjižničnih zbirk: pridobivanje in izločanje gradiva : zbornik referatov.
6. Koliko poznam Evropsko unijo : izbrani viri.
7. Picture gallery & book of abstracts : International Conference Selection, arrangement and presentation of lexicographic material, Ljubljana, September 28-29 2000. CD-ROM.
8. Koliko poznam Evropsko unijo - CD-ROM :izbrani viri : prilagojeno za slepe.
9. PREKAT : priročnik za enostavno uporabo katalogizacijskih pravil.(190 str.)

Other periodicals

1. Books in Print (1 number, in 2000 this was not published due to financial difficulties),
2. New acquisitions of NUL (due to the moving of some parts of the library and financial difficulties these were not published)
3. Current Awareness Bulletin (6 numbers)
4. News from Librarianship (12 numbers)
5. NUK novice/Newsletter (1 number)
6. Programme of education in NUL

Exhibition activities

We commemorated the year of Slovenian greatest poet France Prešeren with two exhibitions, and the 450th anniversary of the first Slovenian printed books with another, highly noticed exhibition for which the only existing copies of these have been for the first time brought to Slovenia from the national Library of Austria.

Exhibitions:

1. Jernej Kopitar in evropska znanost v zrcalu njegove zasebne knjižnice. (Jernej Kopitar and the European Science as reflected in his private book collection)
2. ATOS, na meji zemlje in neba. (ATOS, on the border of Earth and sky)
3. Prešernove Poezije – knjiga, ki je oblikovala Slovence. (The Prešeren's Poezije – the book which formed the Slovenian nation)
4. Prve slovenske knjige (tiski iz 16. stol.) (The first Slovenian Books (Prints from the 16th century))
5. Mira Mihelič, življenje in delo. (Mira Mihelič, the life work)
6. Pismo, pisma - razstava Prešernovih pisem.(Letter, letters – the exhibition of Prešeren's letters)
7. Razstava ob treh pomembnih jubilejih (Brižinski spomeniki, prve tiskane knjige in Prešeren) na Frankfurtskem knjižnem sejmu. (Exhibition commemorating three important jubilees (The Brižinski spomeniki, first text in Slovenian, first printed books and Prešeren) on the Frankfurt Book Fair)

Vilenka Jakac-Bizjak,
Director General of Library Programmes