

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

SPAIN

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1.- Major innovations during the year

The most outstanding achievements during 1997 were the modification of the Royal Board of Trustees, and the results of its activity.

Real Decreto 253/1997 of 21st February, modifies the statute of the Biblioteca Nacional as what concerns to the Royal Board of trustees. The Board is appointed by *the Ministerio de Educación y Cultura* (Ministry of Education and Culture).

The purpose of the modification of the statute was to have a Board which would imply an interconnection between society and the Biblioteca Nacional. Thus, the Trustees are representatives of the Spanish cultural and economic panorama.

It was also intended to have a very active and committed Board of Trustees that would also be capable of raising funds and providing help for extraordinary projects of the Biblioteca Nacional.

From the very beginning the Board of Trustees and its President has proved to be very active, and have succeeded in permitting the *Ministerio de Administraciones Públicas* (Ministry of Public Administrations) a small improvement for the staff. This improvement implied no additional budget, but at least permitted to cover several vacancies of high positions.

At the same time the budget of the Library for works during 1998 and 1999 has been increased by 46% (5,557,953,000 ptas.) and works will finish by 1999 instead of 2002 as planned under the Director Plan for the Works of the Biblioteca Nacional established in 1987.

2.- Finance and funding

The budget of the Biblioteca Nacional amounted to 3,804,430,000 ptas., that means almost the same budget as in 1996. The budget covers staff, building and its maintenance, acquisitions, equipment, and in general all costs and expenditure of the Library.

The revenue earnings amounted to 42,226,488 ptas. (VAT excluded), but according to Spanish law, this revenue reverts to the State, not to the institution that generates it. To avoid this situation in the case of sponsorship from other institutions like foundations or banks they are asked to pay directly to suppliers in the case of exhibitions or they perform the work directly in the case of projects like digitising.

At the end of the year *the Area de Desarrollo, Cooperación Cultural y Relaciones Institucionales* (Department of Institutional Relations) in collaboration with the Advisor to the Director General were made responsible for co-ordinating sponsorship. Fruitful contacts were established with the Asociación Española para el Desarrollo del Mecenazgo Empresarial (AEDME), which groups enterprises interested in sponsoring cultural events, the Fundación Histórica Tavera, which is developing a digital library of historical Spanish documents, or FUNDESCO, that will develop a system to search scanned images connected to the bibliographic database of the Biblioteca Nacional.

As regards to sponsorship in relation to exhibitions, it is mentioned below, under "Exhibitions".

3.- Legal status

The legal status of the Biblioteca Nacional did not vary during 1997, except for what was mentioned above in relation to the Board of Trustees.

4.- Legal deposit of materials

Legal deposit of material increased 3% in relation to 1996, from a total of 113,684 titles in 1996 to 117,158 in 1997. This figure for Spanish legal deposit includes books, new serials, CD-ROM, scores, recorded sound, disquetes and magnetic tapes, videos, microforms, collections of fascicles, minor publications, maps, separata and one on-line document.

It is outstanding the reduction in the production of minor publications and with little information and the 7% increase in the production of books (from 59,859 in 1996 to 64,095 in 1997). Reprints were 12,243, which is 19% of the total book production.

As for the change in the legal deposit law that has been mentioned in other annual reports, its final terms have not been agreed yet, and discussion continues. The aim is to have a new legal deposit law that will approach expressly the legal deposit of electronic publications, and the exclusion of many minor publications with almost no information.

In respect of control by the Biblioteca Nacional of serial publications with on-line distribution, legal deposit has started to be established and be controlled rather indirectly. Editors of these kind of publications are interested in being assigned an ISSN number that they in fact ask for. At the ISSN office they are advised about the advantages of also applying for a legal deposit number. This will continue until the time the on-line editors get used to asking for both. They are also made aware of the advantages of providing at the depository libraries a copy on diskette of the on-line version of a document that is ephemeral. They are made to see that it will be kept at the library as testimony of our culture for posterity.

As a general source of acquisition, the legal deposit works very well in Spain as it is estimated that covers 90% of the publishers production.

5.- Buildings and plant

As for the building, the Biblioteca Nacional is being remodelled according to a large plan already mentioned. During 1997 a Commission was established to supervise the way impact on the service and work of the Library would be reduced, as all the rooms that look out to the Paseo de Recoletos in every floor had to be emptied by November to let machinery start working.

This means approximately 5.500 m² that were the *Servicio de Documentación Bibliotecaria* (Librarianship and Documentation Centre), the *Sala Jorge Juan de Publicaciones Periódicas* (Newspapers reading room), the *Sala Cervantes* (where manuscripts, rare books and incunabula are consulted), the Microfilm Stacks, the Interlibrary Loan Service, the Kardex and Newspapers room, the Identification and Card Service, the Medical Centre, the *Departamento de Patrimonio Bibliográfico*, the *Catálogo Colectivo del Patrimonio Bibliográfico* (Spanish Union Catalogue of the Bibliographic Heritage), the Recorded Sound Stacks, the Charts and Maps Stacks, the Old Card Catalogue Room, the Restoration Service, the Binding Service, the Printing House and the Bookshop. All books, furniture and other materials had to be relocated, so a warehouse was hired till the works are finished.

It was also necessary to find room in the Recoletos building for the staff to continue working in the best conditions possible.

6.- Acquisitions

Acquisitions in the Biblioteca Nacional are made by two different Departments, depending on whether the items are part of the heritage, and are rare items, or are modern. Last year the total budget for acquisitions was 254,000,000 ptas, of which 88,595,000 ptas. were destined to modern items.

Last year the rise of the US Dollar and the Sterling Pound in relation to the Peseta did not favour purchases abroad, reducing the number of items bought. A total of 6,659 modern items were purchased.

As for donations, 880 modern books entered the Library and 1,215 books and periodicals were exchanged with other libraries. In relation to what is received by legal deposit, this figures mean no more than 2% of what comes to the Biblioteca Nacional published in the last few years.

It must be highlighted the progressive replacement of acquisitions of serials on paper for electronic publications.

The Departamento de Patrimonio Bibliográfico bought among many other items, the following manuscripts: Federico García Lorca: *El público*; Gerardo Diego: *Sonetos a Violante*; Antonio Machado: *Los complementarios*; Ramón Gómez de la Serna: *Archive and letters*; León Felipe: *Speech and poems*; First will of Quevedo; Album containing 57 satirical drawings by Becquer.

7.- Conservation and preservation of collections

1997 was a very important year from the point of view of the preservation and conservation policy as digitising was included in the general annual plan of conservation and preservation as microfilming, restoration or binding.

The Biblioteca Nacional established a general and systematic plan of microfilming newspapers, incunabula, rare books, manuscripts, maps, engravings and records, and every year part of the collection is microfilmed. A total of 2,000,000 photogrammes were made, and were digitised, including image and text. The aim was to experiment with those digitised reproductions their connection with the bibliographic database, the availability in Internet, the quality of the image, and in general, the creation of the electronic library.

Apart from microfilming and digitising done by private enterprises, the Biblioteca Nacional in its own laboratories made 1,180,748 original photogrammes and 570,811 duplications and 17,060 photographs.

Last year it was also possible to consult the document produced with the results of a long research on the state of the books in the 7th, 8th and 12th floors of the general stacks (conservation, binding, micro-organisms and insects, foxing, deterioration, stains, humidity, oxidation, oxidation in the ink, etc.), and their diagnosis.

The laboratories of restoration and binding had its finals result coming down in relation to their usual volume of work as they had to be relocated due to the works, and a total of 559 items were binded and 1,032 were restored.

8.- IT and new technology

As for new technology, apart from what has already been mentioned above about the digitising project, the Z39.50 server has been developed but will not be in use till 1998.

At the same time, the Biblioteca Nacional participates in several projects funded by the Telematics for Libraries Programme of the European Commission which are AUTHOR, EDILIBE, BIBLINK and DELICAT, and that are also being developed.

In relation to new equipment in the Library, it must be highlighted the purchase of 104 personal computers which means that by then every service, staff and the users are equipped.

Two scanners for the digitising project were also bought.

9.- Services to readers

Reference services have changed during 1997 in view of the facts that the previous year the Hemeroteca Nacional and all its collections of serials were assimilated in the Recoletos building of the Biblioteca Nacional, and that works are still going on. This means that the users that attended the Hemeroteca Nacional now consult the hemerographic collections in a new reading room in the Recoletos building with an increase of users. At the same time, the reading room and service destined to the *Servicio de Documentación Bibliotecaria* collections was integrated in the General Reference Service.

Due to the works undertaken in the Recoletos building, the newspapers reading room was closed, and newspapers are now served at the Serials reading room.

Changes in the information policy have taken place due to the increase of electronic information resources, which in the last years was extraordinary. The traditional courses oriented to library users have been multiplied by four. The programme includes the catalogues and collections of the Biblioteca Nacional, reference collections, and databases on CD-ROM.

The electronic services to readers have incorporated new databases on CD-ROM, access to information via Internet and the possibility of demanding bibliographic information via e-mail.

As for the charging for services, it is applied to reprography in any media, and distribution of records, but searches including the automated and personalised are free. The prices are common to all the institutions that depend of *the Ministerio de Educación y Cultura*, and are published in the *Boletín Oficial del Estado* (State Official Bulletin).

Although the works have affected some of the reading rooms, a total of 224,500 readers attended the Library and requested 358,800 pieces. 47,542 new reader charters were delivered. A total of 4,343 readers consulted the CD-ROM collection and the OPAC in the OPAC room.

The Interlibrary Loan Service was also affected by the works but managed to provide 7,364 books. This year for the first time interlibrary loan could be ordered via Internet, which has simplified enormously all the process and has proved to be a great success.

10.- Exhibitions

In the Recoletos building there are two main exhibition rooms: the big room lodged the larger exhibitions organised by the Biblioteca Nacional: *Durero y la edad de oro del grabado alemán*, sponsored by Software AG and Digital and *Ex Roma Lux*.

In the Book Museum there is a room referred to as the "Room of the XXth Century" in which the following exhibitions were opened: *Tebeos: los primeros 100 años*; *Ramón Gaya y los libros*, sponsored by the Ayuntamiento y la Caja de Murcia; *Gregorio Prieto y sus amigos poetas*, sponsored by the Caja Castilla La Mancha and *Los libros que leyó Cervantes*, sponsored by the Centro de Estudios Cervantinos.

As general policy it has been agreed that the exhibitions must be as attractive as possible, as numerous as in the last few years and must imply no cost. The catalogues must be scientific and must become a reference book. As a consequence the Biblioteca Nacional has to look for sponsorship for the cultural events.

The revenues of the exhibitions have no direct benefit on the budget of the Biblioteca Nacional because they are deposited in the State account in the Banco de España.

The exhibitions of the Biblioteca Nacional were visited by a total of 91,100 people. The Book Museum was visited by 73,788 people, and 600 students, professor and special visitors toured the Library.

11.- Publishing

The Biblioteca Nacional has continued to produce the Spanish bibliography as in previous years: *Bibliografía española. Monografías*, printed both in CD-ROM and paper; *Bibliografía*

española. Música impresa; Bibliografía española. Publicaciones periódicas and Bibliografía española. Cartografía, all three printed in paper.

As a result of the work developed in the Reference Department, three new reference books have been published: *La música en el Boletín de la propiedad intelectual (1847-1915)*; *Nuevos ingresos de manuscritos en la Biblioteca Nacional (Mss. 22609-22727 y Res. 271-273)* and written by Elena Santiago: *Guía de las colecciones públicas de dibujos y grabados en España*.

Published by Electa and the Biblioteca Nacional, the catalogue on the exhibition on *Durero y la edad de oro del grabado alemán*, has been of great success.

At the very beginning of 1997 it was already being distributed the "Autoridades de la Biblioteca Nacional" CD-ROM, which contains the revised authority file of the Library, updated twice a year.

The revenues of the publications have no direct benefit on the budget of the Biblioteca Nacional as is the case of the exhibitions. To benefit of the revenues, the publisher is asked to destine the profits to producing a new title or paying for the costs of an exhibition.

12.- Cataloguing and other technical processes

Despite the loss of personnel in the Bibliographic Control Department, and the Reference Department, which are the two areas that are responsible for processing, the cataloguers were able to process 53,803 items, including all types of media. To compensate the loss of personnel, the Biblioteca Nacional signed an agreement of collaboration with the INEM (Unemployment Office) and a group of unemployed people experts in cataloguing catalogued on-line a backlog of 16,676 books.

As for the other records loaded in ARIADNA, the database of the Biblioteca Nacional, its origin is the card catalogue reconverted in previous years. It was not possible to access the electronic records yet and it was decided that during 1997 the Bibliographic Control Department and the *Unidad de Coordinación Informática* (Automation Unit) would load as many revised records as possible. The result is that during the year 201,325 bibliographic records and 261,794 holdings were integrated in ARIADNA. This means approximately 20% of the printed materials catalogue of the Biblioteca Nacional, which does not include special materials.

It must be highlighted that the whole of the serials and newspapers collection of the Biblioteca Nacional which is of 85,783 titles was loaded in the ARIADNA database and can be consulted via Internet.

In relation to standards and rules, a Commission was established for the review of the IBERMARC format for bibliographic records. The Commission is made up of expert librarians of the Biblioteca Nacional.

It should also be mentioned in relation to the OPAC that it is updated periodically and the connection to GABRIEL was established by the end of the year after the last CENL meeting took place in Warsaw.

13.- Library co-operation

The Biblioteca Nacional participates in projects mainly in two regional and cultural scenarios, Europe and America.

As regards to Europe, the Library is the National Focal Point for the Libraries Programme of the European Commission, and has organised several seminars to provide information to librarians about the European projects.

It also participates as partner in several projects financed by the European Commission that have already been mentioned and its experts have visited other European libraries on the occasion of seminars, conferences, or exchange programmes.

As for the American scenario, the relations with Iberoamérica are channelled via the Asociación de Bibliotecas Nacionales de Iberoamérica (ABINIA). In this respect, the Biblioteca Nacional, in collaboration with the other members is developing the *Novum Regestrum* union catalogue of rare books.

Also an agreement was signed with the National Library of Argentina. The purpose of the agreement is to exchange bibliographic records, allows internship of staff in both libraries and to update the *Novum Regestrum* database.

As what refers to Spain it is worth mentioning the memorandum of understanding signed with the Universidad Complutense de Madrid, that will permit the development of new projects, library and professional co-operation, etc.

14.- Staffing matters

Staffing matters were the less positive of the general performance of the Biblioteca Nacional, as it was not possible to increase the number of personnel, or ameliorate the salary, but on the contrary, 30 people retired or were appointed for positions elsewhere, which means a reduction of 9,4% of the staff.

This is because of the general restriction established by the Government to reduce the expenditure of the Public Administration, it was not possible to recruit new personnel.

This loss implies severe consequences at a time when the number of items that enter the Library is increasing as well as the number of readers. New services due to the fact of the implementation of new technologies also means the need of experts in new fields, that were not possible to incorporate as personnel.

Fortunately the Board of Trustees succeeded in putting an end to this tendency and starting a new disposition from the *Ministerio de Administraciones Públicas* in regards to the needs of the Biblioteca Nacional and of researchers.

This loss implied difficulties in the organisation of work, specially in the bibliographical and technical aspects of the Library.

A total of 36 courses were organised on specific subjects of the different bibliographic, preservation and conservation specialties, and managerial matters.

The main trade unions in the Biblioteca Nacional are the Confederación Sindical Independiente de Funcionarios (CSIF), which groups public servants, Comisiones Obreras

(CCOO), which is of Communist tendency, and Unión General de Trabajadores (UGT), of Socialist background. These trade unions have a very active life and maintain a continuous and intensive dialogue with the board of directors.

15.- Major celebrations, anniversaries and events

During 1997 two important celebrations took place in the Library; the homage to the Catalan-Spanish writer and essayist Josep Plá on the century of his birth which consisted of a cycle of conferences, and the homage to Cervantes on the 450 anniversary of the birth of the writer of Don Quijote de La Mancha, which also consisted of the exhibition already mentioned.