

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SPAIN

1998 ANNUAL REPORT

Director General:

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1. Special topic 1998-1999: Management of the library (developments and improvements)

The management and administration of the National Library of Spain have been working roughly ten years on the remodeling of their historic and emblematic building on the Paseo de Recoletos in the center of Madrid. What is especially remarkable is that this major construction has been carried out without interrupting the availability to users of the reading rooms. The librarians and directors have ensured throughout the process of the razing and reconstruction of the facade that provisional reading rooms were available.

Efforts were redoubled as the management and administration undertook the fourth and final phase of the project; the budget was doubled so as to reduce the duration of the remodeling and move the projected finish date up to December 1999 instead of the originally planned date of 2001.

The Construction and Maintenance Services, as well as the librarians in charge of the areas specifically affected by the remodeling, have been chiefly responsible for the progress made.

2. Major innovations during the year

Two aspects are especially outstanding among this year's improvements; the undertaking of the final and definitive phase of the remodeling work, and the progress made on the bibliographical registers.

The building on Paseo de Recoletos has undergone a thorough remodeling, begun in 1988, which will result in an increase in the number of reading posts from the present 490 to some 650 when completed. The capacity of the book stacks will also increase considerably, with 25 kilometers of shelf space being added to the current 65.5 kilometers.

New locations have been prepared for the Service of Manuscript, Incunabulum and Rare Documents, for the Musical Manuscript and Sound and Audiovisual Registers, for Bibliographical Information, and for the Department of Bibliographical Patrimony.

During 1998 considerable progress was made on the reconversion of the manual indices. All monographs dating from after 1831 from letters C to L were incorporated into the data base, bringing to 1,328,100 the number of available title descriptions.

3. Finance and funding.

The National Library's budget went from 3,765,444,000 pesetas in 1997 to 5,557,953,000 pesetas in 1998, an increase of 46.6% which was spread more or less evenly across all areas of expenses.

This budget covers virtually all of the spending since in Spain it is the state that is responsible for the financing of this institution. Only special projects or certain exhibits benefit from private funding. This means that all salaries, contracted services, construction and maintenance, bibliographical acquisitions, etc are covered by the budget.

The department that has benefited most with the budget increase is that of investments, with an increase of 1,760,000,000 pesetas. This has facilitated the increase in the speed of the remodeling work on the building on Recoletos and the subsequent anticipation of the finish date. The second book stack, in Alcalá de Henares, will also have completed its expansion by the end of 1999. Other applications of this budget increase will be to contract private cataloguing services to make up for the lack of personnel for cataloguing modern monographs, to invest in computer equipment, and to expand the acquisitions of special and old materials .

4. Legal status

The National library has not undergone any change in its legal status

5. Role of the National Library in the National Library Network

Since the legal status of the National Library has not changed, neither have its ties with the Spanish library network, of which it continues to be head.

What does deserve mention is the consolidation of the autonomous library networks. This especially affects the control of legal deposits and the cataloguing of collections, as well as necessitating close cooperation with those autonomous regions which publish in languages other than Spanish (Catalan, Basque, Gallego, etc.)

There are also newly created library networks such as the Network of Spanish University Libraries (REBIUN), the University Libraries of the Comunidad de Madrid, or the Network of Public State Libraries. All of these new associations involve the exchange of bibliographical registers and general cooperation.

6. Legal deposit of materials

The National Library receives as legal deposit the following:

- three copies of monographs with ISBN and two copies of monographs without ISBN.
- three copies of musical manuscripts.
- two copies of each periodical publication.
- two copies of each minor publication (pamphlets, cards, posters, prints)
- at least one copy of each electronic and audiovisual document.

The resulting total of documents received as legal deposit in 1998 was 176,779 titles, which amounted to 59,621 titles more than in 1997.

This fact, together with the increase in other types of acquisitions such as donations and exchanges, has led to a somewhat alarming situation, insofar as the storage space of the two buildings (Alcala and Recoletos) is reaching its limit, as is the number of persons dedicated to the technical processing of all of this material.

The National Library receives donations from individuals, institutions, and international organisms, for whose publications it is the legal depository in Spain. In 1998 there was a total of 65,384 donations .

Works received as exchanges totalled 1,933, some 359 more than in the previous year.

Adherence to the Spanish law regarding legal deposit, which requires a copy of all publications to be deposited in the library, is considered to be followed about 95% of the time.

7. Building and plant

Due to the construction taking place at the National Library, a storage center of 500 square meters was rented in 1998 in Arganda, outside of Madrid, to store some of the minor archives.

The principal building of the National Library is at number 20 Paseo de Recoletos, an emblematic example of neoclassic architecture which was inaugurated in 1892 to commemorate the IV centennial of the discovery of America. Other buildings have at different times been a temporary part of the library.

The increased pace of the remodeling work at the Recoletos center has principally affected the General Reading Room, the Library Documentation Service, and the binding and restoration laboratory.

8. Acquisitions

The Department of Bibliographical Patrimony, in charge of acquiring works that are missing from the library, whether from old collections or from the nineteenth and twentieth century (including special materials; maps, drawings, photos, written music, etc.) actually reduced the number of acquisitions with regard to 1997.

This department's budget for 1998 was 96,000,000 pesetas of ordinary budget plus 95,000,000 incorporation, as compared to a respective 95,000,000 plus 106,000,000 in 1997 which amounts to a decrease of 6%.

This decrease was reflected mostly in bibliographical acquisitions; in manuscripts as well as other printed matter there were 1,719 acquisitions, as compared to 2,660 in 1997. The

acquisitions of special materials on the other hand went from 2,002 pieces in 1997 to 2,456 in 1998.

Despite an increased budget there were actually 1,064 fewer purchases in 1998, due principally to the increased cost of publications and the depreciation of the peseta in relation to other currencies.

9. Conservation/preservation of collections.

The National Library has an array of services for the conservation and preservation of its collections – binding, restoration, microfilmig, digitalization- although for projects involving bulk quantities it relies on outside help from private companies. The more specialized and delicate work on unique documents is always done in the laboratories of the library.

In 1998, of a total of 5,818 books bound, 525 were done in the laboratories of the National Library. Because some of the laboratories were moved, the total number of restorations of books, magazines, musical manuscripts, maps, etc. was only

In continuing a project begun over a decade ago, 5,634,401 fotograms of microfilm were taken this year .

The digitalization plan has been discontinued until a more efficient system for the control and retrieval of digitalized images is developed.

10. IT and new technology

The Information Coordination Unit, in charge of information technology at the library, has been working to integrate the management of bibliographical registers with electronic cataloguing through the use of field 856 of the IBERMARC format.

Thanks in part to the collaboration with FUNDESCO (Foundation for the Development of the Social Functions of Communications), a system has been developed to facilitate the retrieval of digitalized images of the stacks directly from the ARIADNA catalogue and its web server. These developments are accompanied by certain modifications in the library management, in the cataloguing and retrieval functions, in the system of storage and retrieval of digitalized images and in the interface applications between these systems.

Two data bases related to the art collections are available for on-line consultation at the library's web page:the Guide to Public Collections of Drawings and Prints in Spain and the Virtual Goya Exhibit

11. Services to readers

The Spanish National Library's center on Paseo de Recoletos offers services to its readers Monday through Friday from 9 a.m.to.9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. These services include bibliographical information, consulting of the stacks, reproduction of documents and interlibrary loans. A web page has also been designed (<http://www.bne.es>) which provides information on its services and cultural activities as well as access to the catalogues.

1998 saw a slight decrease in the number of readers who visited the library, down from 260,776 in 1997 to 243,358 in 1998. The number of library cards for consultations of stacks decreased from 11,338 to 9,997, as did the cards for catalogue consultation which went from 33,452 in 1997 to 24,659 in 1998. This slight decrease in the use of reader services is due in part to the inconveniences caused by the remodeling work being done and in part to the extraordinary increase in the number of readers who consulted the indices through Internet and were almost as numerous as the actual visitors to the library.

The interlibrary loans saw a slight increase in demand in 1998 with 11,151 requests as compared to the previous year's 11,036. The number of requests actually fulfilled decreased somewhat (from 66% to 55%) due in most instances to their being for books not available for loan, for works not in the library or simply because the requests were incorrectly formulated.

12. Exhibits

In addition to the permanent Book Museum which was inaugurated in 1995, the National Library put on , with the patronage of Fundación El Monte, one main exhibit entitled Sueños de Ultramar.

The primary reason that more exhibits were not undertaken is that the main exhibit hall was used as a provisional storage area for works affected by the remodeling.

The following smaller exhibits were also seen: "Mejores encuadernaciones artísticas del año en 1997"; "Felipe II en la Biblioteca Nacional"; "Escritura y vida de tres poetas: Federico Garcia Lorca, Vicente Aleixandre, y Damaso Alonso"; "Caperucita ilustrada on Little Red Riding Hood;" " Elisabeth de Austria, Sisi: imagen y mito"; " Alberto Schommer, Imágenes de una buena obra" ; " Peman en su tiempo" and Josep Pla.

The library also lent books to 67 other exhibits, the most important of which were related to the anniversary of Felipe II's death: Principe del Renacimiento; El rey íntimo. Jardín y naturaleza en el siglo XVI; Las tierras y los hombres del rey; La monarquía hispánica; Los ingenios y las maquinas en la epoca; Esplendor en España, 1598-1648.

13. Publishing

The publications service of the National Library has felt the effect of a considerably reduced budget in the last few years, causing it to seek out support and rely on coeditions with private outside companies.

The library has a monthly publication called Bibliografía Espanola which includes a trimestral version in CD-ROM and supplemental publications on cartography, periodicals and written music as well as a biannual buletin of summaries named Al día . In 1998 five works were published individually by the library and eight in coedition, as compared to a respective five and seventeen in 1997, most of these works consisting of catalogues.

A new collection of publications has been undertaken named Tesoros de la Biblioteca Nacional which is presented on CD-ROM format and has as its objective to divulge the emblematic and unique works of the library. It features scientific studies, interactive parts and faithful reproduction of images and transcribed text with HTML. This year saw its first issue, dedicated to the Cantar de Mio Cid.

14. Cataloguing and other technical processes

During 1998 a total of 84,949 works were catalogued (including monographs, periodicals and computer files), 77,586 works were classified, 54,817 registers of authority were made as well as 330,893 "holdings".

In 1991 the library began the process of reconverting the manual indices. The stacks affected were those that had come into the library before 1982, and the recording is being done over what was the library's central index using alphabetical order. The only indices left to record are those few in letters U – Z , and the material integrated fully into the system is all of that up to letter L

The registers of works previous to 1830 are recorded but not yet integrated into the system. 201,775 bibliographic registers and 261,794 holdings were integrated in 1997, whereas in 1998 there were 246,120 bibliographic registers and 482,811 holdings integrated, signifying a considerable increase. When the remaining 474,738 bibliographic registers and 905,560 holdings are integrated, which is foreseen for the year 2000, the library's entire catalogue of monographs will be available for consulting by computer.

All of the titles of periodical publications have been integrated.

15. Library cooperation

The Spanish National Library's principal area of collaboration is with Europe and Central and South America owing to cultural reasons. It has supported the following projects which were financed by the European Commission:

BIBLINK: the bases have been established in preparation for a second phase, and DELICAT, designed for the detection of errors through the use of an expert system of bibliographic data base, and which has been completed.

As headquarters for the Spanish Focal Point of the European Commission Libraries, the área for Promotion, Cultural Development, and Institutional Relations has participated in the following activities:

The congress in Barcelona 4 to 7 February 1998: "European Telematics: Advancing the Information Society"; Amsterdam, 13-14 August 1998: "Convergence in the Digital Age: Challenges for Libraries, Museums and Archives"; Jerez de la Frontera, 28-30 May 1998: "Presentación del Programa de Bibliotecas de la Comisión Europea"; Valencia, 29 October 1998, "El Programa Sociedad de la Información durante el V Programa Marco"; British Library, 11 December 1998: Congress of the work groups for COBRA (Computerized Bibliographic Record Actions); Madrid, 15 December 1998: Presentation of the projects CAMILE and DECIDE.

Representatives of the National Library have participated in the following forums of the international library associations and networks: CENL Annual Meeting; REDIAL (Network for Documentation and Information About Latin America) Annual Meeting; IFLA'98 (Amsterdam, 14-21 August); DOCUMAT'98 (Valencia, 29-31 October 1998) and ACTFL'98 (Chicago, 19-21 November)

The National Library played host to a meeting of the CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries) on 12 and 13 November as well as to a meeting of the RLG (Research Libraries Group) on 16 and 17 November which had as its topic improvement in the use of resources.

There are proposals for collaboration with cultural institutions in the following countries: Germany, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Colombia, Croatia, Cuba, Chile, China, France, Georgia, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Honduras, India, Italy, Jordan, Morocco, Mexico, Peru, Czech Republic, Russia., Sweden, Turkey and Venezuela.

The library has also received the visit of expert librarians from Chile, Hungary, Italy, Poland, and the Czech Republic. Student interns have come from France, Cuba and Venezuela as well as from various Spanish centers: the universities of Carlos III, Extremadura and San Pablo-Ceu, and from the Institute of Latin American and African Studies (IEPALA).

16. Staffing matters

There has been a gradual decrease in the library's staff in the last few years, having gone from 600 workers to fewer than 500. From 492 people in 1997 the number has dropped to 475 in 1998, the greatest loss being that of the technical librarians. It seems that they encounter better salaries and promotional prospects in the libraries of universities, other ministries, or the autonomous regions.

This exodus of personnel is being felt in the services rendered to readers and in the technical processing of incoming material which is almost impossible to keep up to date. The library

has had to rely on personnel furnished by private firms and on student interns working under the supervision of experts.

On the positive side, it has been resolved that by public concourse new specialists be selected and brought in to several departments , thus reversing the tendency of the last five years which has seen a constant decrease of personnel.

17. Major celebrations(anniversaries and events)

1998 had a special significance for Spain, as several dates of historical importance coincided. There were the remarkable literary figures that made up the “Generación del ‘98”, the loss of Cuba, Spain’s last American colony, and the 300 anniversary of Felipe II’ death which was at the high point of Spain’s imperial dominion.

Accordingly, two commemorative exhibits were organized: “El Sueño de Ultramar” was focused on Spain’s relation with Latin America, while “Felipe II en la Biblioteca Nacional” was centered around bibliographic aspects of that epoch.

A series of 18 conferences titled “ The Peace of Westphalia, 350 Years Later” took place to commemorate this crucial historical moment when the 80 Years’ War ended and the Netherlands were born. The ambassadors of several of the countries involved in the signing of that treaty participated in the conferences along with the foundation Charles of Antwerp. Reflections and considerations were made on the role of these events and countries in the present day prospects for European construction.