



MINISTÉRIO DA CULTURA
Fundação BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

BRAZIL

ACTIVITY REPORT

INTRODUCTION

Libraries can always be increased as classic oeuvres from time immemorial are added, but— from the very start—they are focused on the future. More than guardians of a past memory, they intend to pave the way so memories to come can be set. Memories now being created are, thus, contemporary. They are spaces for investigation, reflection, and harboring thoughts—in words as well as images. Words evoking images; images triggering thoughts and words.

Responsible for the public policies that safeguard our national culture and language, as the legal depository of the Brazilian bibliographic heritage, the National Library works to ensure future generations with access to intellectual production, fleshed out in the various forms of knowledge registration, which comprise Brazil's memory collection.

For the National Library, the year 2014 was marked by the publication of new NL By-laws, which strengthened its original mission: to preserve its wealth as well as the national memory. The decree brought book policy development tasks back to the Ministry of Culture. Then, complying with the goals set forth in the previous year, the National Library tried to achieve the objectives of preserving, safeguarding and disseminating the National Memory by implementing the actions laid out in this report.

The actions were implemented thanks to the efforts of our staff, who contribute with the day-to-day administration of this bicentennial house.

Renato Lessa

(President of the Brazilian National Library)

I) BASIC INFORMATION OF THE REPORTING LIBRARY

Under the Ministry of Culture, the National Library Foundation—FBN, in its Portuguese acronym—is the agency in charge of implementing the governmental policies related with capturing, safeguarding, preserving and disseminating the

country's intellectual production. Depository of Brazil's bibliographic and documental heritage, the National Library is considered by UNESCO as the world's eighth best national library and as Latin America's largest library.

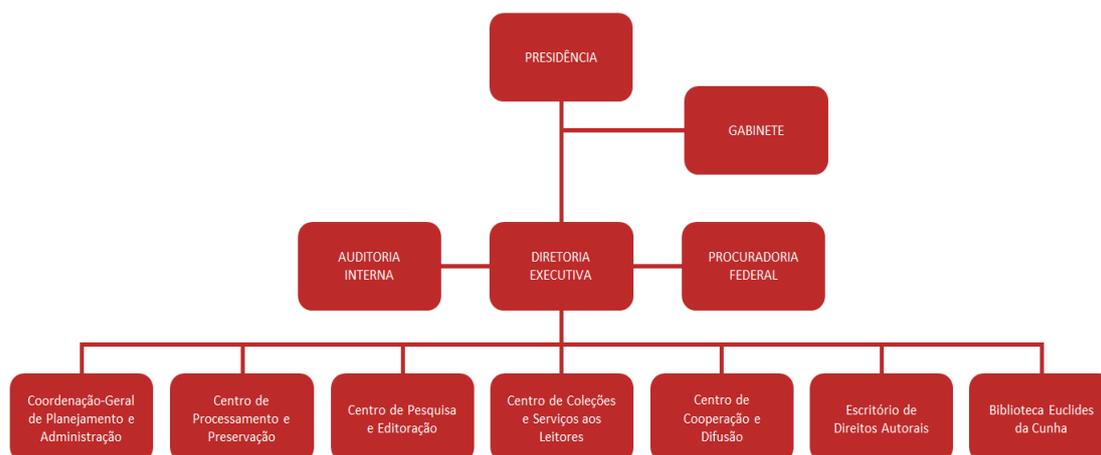
The history of our National Library dates back to the transference of Queen Mary I, Don John, the regent prince, and the Portuguese court to Rio de Janeiro in 1808. The objects they transported included boxes of books and documents from Lisbon's Ajuda Royal Library, a wealth comprising 60 thousand pieces, wherefrom Don John founded the Royal National Library. The National Library's current collection involves more than eight million items and is worldwide renown as a veritable treasure, growing constantly on account of donations, acquisitions and legal deposit. The FBN's institutional competencies can be summarized in two lines of action:

- i) **Safeguarding the Brazilian bibliographic cultural memory (Memory and Preservation);**
- ii) **Promoting knowledge production and outreach (Access and Outreach).**

Safeguarding the Brazilian bibliographic cultural memory regards the listed, classified, stored and technically preserved books offered for consultation, reading and appreciation to each and all interested citizens. In its turn, *promoting knowledge production and outreach* regards the living book, published directly or in partnership by this institution and contributing to the global process of Brazilian society's human, economic and cultural development. Promoting knowledge outreach is still a result of the National Library's cultural activities, literary awards, and support to researching, translating and publishing Brazilian authors abroad, and other efforts.

In addition to collecting, preserving and disseminating its wealth, the National Library is also in charge of coordinating activities for the National Copyright Office (EDA) and the ISBN Agency.

Flowchart of the National Library Foundation



In 2014, the FBN comprises 700 employees, including career staff, outsourced personnel, and trainees, in addition to surveillance officers, fire brigades, and cleaning teams.

BUDGET

The National Library Foundation budget for 2014 was R\$123,177,057.00 (approximately €35,000,000.00).

II) REPORTING LIBRARY'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE GOVERNMENT. LEGISLATION WHICH SETS OUT THE LIBRARY'S MANDATE AND ANY OTHER LEGISLATION WHICH DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY AFFECTS THE LIBRARY'S OPERATIONS

Currently defined by Law N. 8.209 from April 4, 1990, the National Library Foundation is ruled by Decree N. 8.297 from August 15, 2014, and its legal competencies include:

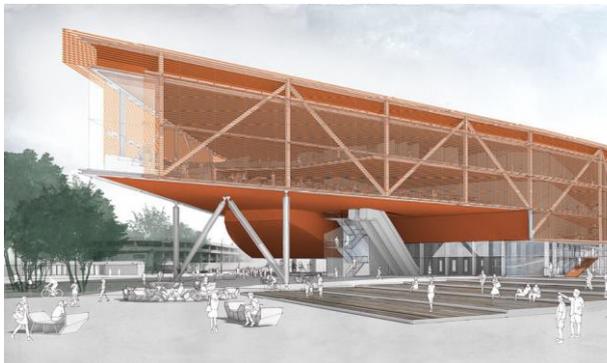
- I. *Capturing, preserving and disseminating records of the national bibliographic and documental memory;*
- II. *Implementing the necessary measures for the conservation and protection of the digital and bibliographic wealth under its custody;*
- III. *Acting as a center of reference for bibliographic information;*
- IV. *Being the agency in charge of national bibliographic control;*
- V. *Being the depository of and enforcing the legislation on Legal Deposit;*
- VI. *Registering intellectual work and annotating author equity right transfers;*
- VII. *Promoting national and international cooperation and outreach related with the mission of the National Library Foundation;*
- VIII. *Promoting the production of knowledge from bibliographic research, development, and circulation referring to the mission of the National Library Foundation;*

According to Decree N. 8.297, from August 2014, the Book, Reading and Literature Boards, and Libraries were transferred from the National Library to the Ministry of Culture, as well as the National System of Public Libraries. This measure was enforced to strengthen FBN activities and to push them back to its original institutional mission.

III) GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS OF THE REPORTING LIBRARY

From the very beginning of 2014, the National Library goes through an intense process of renovating facilities, modernizing infrastructure, and conserving the main building, which includes renovating electrical and air cooling systems, electronic security and façade, in addition to restoring the four rooftop sets of domes and stained glass.

In that same year, in a partnership with Brazil's Institute of Architects and the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro, the Library invited architectural design proposals for a new FBN unit in the port region, an area that is being revitalized as a new social and economic hub in the city. The winning bid then led to the executive design for the construction of a new spacious, modern National Library building integrated with the city's urban and economic development.



(source: www.vigliecca.com.br)



(source: www.vigliecca.com.br)

Another important challenge for the FBN in the coming years is administrative modernization, which implies redefining flows, methods and organizational competencies, in addition to enhancing and increasing the staff by promoting public examinations to hire new personnel.

IV) KEY FACTS AND FIGURES

1. ASSET PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT ACTIONS:

1.1. Preservation:

In that 2014 period, the FBN preserved **2,610,352** heritage items and promoted the following preservation actions:

- Offering an Informational Program on Preserving Bibliographic and Documental Collections, in its 17th Edition;
- Rendering the Risk, Safeguard & Emergency Management Plan available to the public in Portuguese, English, and Spanish;
- Introducing the vacuum enveloping technique for microfilmed journals, with the acquisition of equipment tailored to the specific size. The adoption of this conservation policy is also geared for the optimization of journal storage in controlled settings (humidity, temperature and light). For the purposes of accomplishing this technical procedure, the National Library was assisted by the National Library from Portugal;
- Environmental control of temperature and humidity parameters in collection storage areas, in conservation and restoration laboratories, and in the NL Microfilm Coordination vault. The program generates monthly reports on those parameters.

1.2. Capturing and Managing Bibliographic and Documental Assets

Collections are captured in accordance with Legal Deposit Law 10.994, from 2004, and with the 12.192 Law, from 2010, including provisions on the legal deposit of musical oeuvres by means of procuring bibliographic and exchange materials (donations and swaps).

In 2014, **95,827** pieces were acquired under this modality, thus ensuring control and outreach of the Brazilian current intellectual production.

In addition to this Legal Deposit, the National Library acquired important pieces by means of donations and procurement, including manuscripts and photographs by ex-president João Goulart (1919-1976), books by photographer Bernardo Sanmartin, and a 21-piece collection of watercolors by Brazil resident Austrian born artist Ludwig Heissheimer.

1.3. Service to the public:

Service to local users is provided in consultation rooms for General Oeuvres, Journals, Reference Materials, Cartography, Iconography, Manuscripts, Rare Work, and Music and Sound Archives, by professionals in charge of adequately hosting the

public and properly handling the collections. Service to outside visitors is provided by the Documental Information Division (DINF), which receives applications by post, email or telephone. Based on those demands, the technicians assess the collections and make them available to applicants.

In 2014, the number of in person and remote services reached **20,975** persons.

2. ACCESS AND OUTREACH ACTIONS

2.1. Digital National Library:

In addition to the digitalized collections, the BNDigital's virtual environment—that reached 39,286 titles in 2014 and correspond to 936,919 documents and 11,099,570 pages—also includes virtual exhibitions, theme websites, and national and international partnership programs.

In that same year, the BNDigital reached the mark of 3,992,867 hits. In 2014, the total volume went up to 154 terabytes. According to the digital preservation policy adopted by the BNDigital, file redundancy is made on a RAID (Redundant Array of Independent Drives) system, in addition to magnetic LTO (Linear Tape-Open) safety copies.

Also in 2014, the BNDigital incorporated the Brazilian Digital Hemerotheque website in order to unify and optimize access to the FBN's digital wealth.

The master digital files produced by the BNDigital abide by internationally adopted quality standards and are stored in the FBN Data Center HP X9000 storage.

In 2014, **1,881,865** asset items were preserved/digitalized.

2.2. Outreach, cultural activities and guided visits:

During 2014, the National Library held **24** shows and exhibitions with items from its own collections and in partnership with other institutions (number of visitors: 17,000).

Furthermore, **28** speeches, debates and round tables took place in the National Library auditorium, and were attended by 4,900 people. I, myself, attended the 11th National Encounter of Rare Collections (ENAR), the debate on the centennial of World War I, among others.

The National Library includes guided visits, a service that provides visitors with the possibility of getting to know the institution, of having access to special rooms as well as to the architectural complex. Total number of visitors in 2014 was **65,186**.

2.3 Knowledge production and outreach:

The National Library has a National Research Support Program geared to encourage Brazilian and foreign researchers to produce original work, developed on the basis of research done within the institution's own collections. In 2014, approximately **40 scholarships** were offered to foreign as well as resident researchers.

2.4. Editorial Program:

During that year, **28** papers were published, both in the edition and in the co-edition regimes, with highlights to the book *À Biblioteca Nacional: Espaços, Pessoas e Objetos* (To the National Library: Spaces, People and Objects).

2.5. Incentives to literary outreach and exchange:

The Support Program for the Translation and Publication of Brazilian Authors is intent on disseminating Brazilian intellectual production abroad, along the following lines of work:

- I. Support translation and publication of Brazilian authors;
- II. Support to Brazilian authors' exchanges abroad;
- III. Support to foreign translators residing in Brazil.

In 2014, **205** scholarships were granted.

2.6. Registering intellectual work

The National Library acts as an agency in charge of Copyright Registrations and Annotations, according to provisions in Acts N. 5.988, from December 14, 1973, and N. 9.610, from February 19, 1998, by means of the National Copyright Office (EDA). In the course of 2014, the EDA registered **40,330** pieces of intellectual work.

2.7. National Library Literary Award

The National Library Foundation grants an outstanding award to the best pieces of Brazilian literature every year, under nine different categories: Poetry, Novel, Short Story, Literary Essay, Social Essay, Translation, Graphic Design, Youth Literature, and Children's Literature. In 2014, 700 applications were made, more than 500 of which were eligible and **09** were selected.

V) NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND MANAGING COLLECTIONS

Luso-Brazilian Digital Library:

In 2014, the National Libraries from Brazil and from Portugal joined to create and develop a Luso-Brazilian Digital Repository, whose objective is to gather collections of Brazilian documents on the colonial history of Brazil, from Portugal's National Library and from Brazil's National Library, on a single platform. The primary objective is to create a single portal to access the digital collections of both institutions. The Luso-Brazilian Digital Library (BDLB in the Portuguese acronym) portal consists in a first step to afford new dimension, relevance and visibility to the network of cultural content in the Portuguese language. They started indexing the three thousand digitalized handwritten documents, which are part of the *Resgate Barão do Rio Branco* project. These 17th and 18th Century documents address the public as well as the private life of residents in the 18 Captaincies, which currently correspond to 22 Brazilian states. This collection will be available in a digital search and retrieval system at the portal of the Luso-Brazilian Digital Library (BDLB).

UNESCO's Memory of the World Program

In 2014, another National Library collection was recognized as world heritage. Brazil's National Committee of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program deliberated on including the *Cartas Andradas* collection in the National Register of UNESCO's Memory of the World Program. The collection includes 69 letters that were handwritten by the Andrada brothers—José Bonifácio, Martim Francisco, and Antonio Carlos—to diplomat and journalist Antonio de Menezes Vasconcelos de Drummond, between 1824 and 1833.

This is the third time that a Collection from the National Library's Manuscript Division is contemplated with the Memory of the World Award. The 1808 Letter opening the Brazilian ports to friendly nations, a diplomatic document, and the collection named after Alexandre Rodrigues Ferreira, a major Luso-Brazilian naturalist, have already earned UNESCO's recognition. The "Memory of the World" program identifies work that may have heritage value for mankind.

VI) NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

In addition to the continuous work developed by the Digital National Library, the dealings towards two important access promotion projects started in 2014:

- I. Luso-Brazilian Digital Library: developing a unified digital repository, with a single point of access to the digital collections of Portugal's and Brazil's National Libraries;

- II. **Brasiliana Digital Photography:** creating a portal to promote outreach and studies around Brazilian photography and the issues related with digital preservation, in partnership with the Moreira Sales Institute.

VII) EXAMPLES OF COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE REPORTING LIBRARY AND OTHER NATIONAL COLLECTING INSTITUTIONS (LIBRARIES, ARCHIVES, MUSEUMS).

National Journal Microfilming Plan – PLANO

A plan for the preservation of original documents, making some 50,000 reels of microfilm available for research, including more than 9,800 titles of major journals for the Brazilian press memory. PLANO is implemented by means of an agreement among several institutions, including: Brazilian Academy of Letters, National Archive, the Brazilian House of Representatives, Estado de São Paulo newspaper, the Casa de Rui Barbosa Foundation, IPEA, the Library of Congress, UNESP, UNICAMP, among others. Under the PLANO, 632,660 National Library collection items were preserved in 2014.

Camões Award

Established in 1988 by means of a cultural agreement between the Portuguese and the Brazilian governments, the Camões Award is intended as a yearly acclaim to a Portuguese language author who has, given the value of his work, contributed to enhancing cultural and literary heritage in that common language. In 2014, the awarded author was diplomat and writer Alberto da Costa e Silva.

Furthermore, in 2014, the National Library established cooperation actions with Germany's National Library (DNB), Slovenia's National and University Library, the Bologna University, among other partnerships.