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# BELARUS

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF BELARUS

MS GALERINA OLEJNIK — DIRECTOR

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

### COLLECTIONS (IN ITEMS 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 2002)

Books	4,375,653
Periodicals	2,744,653
Newspapers	28,875
Printed music	79,839
Art editions	105,243
Maps	15,131
Microforms	122,370
Audiovisual materials	30,609
UN mimeographing materials	132,657
Electronic documents	1,591

On 1 January 2002 total holdings made up 7,636,193 items in more than 50 languages of the world.

### FUNDING

In 2001 the National Library of Belarus (NLB) worked in very difficult budget conditions. The Library budget resources were made up of Government annual allocation, receipt of priced services, grants of foundations and realization of subscriber editions. The total amount of 2001 grant-in-aid from the State budget comprised 1,930,865 Belarusian roubles (1 USD – 1800 Belarusian roubles) and was used in that way: for salary and bonus – 35.6% of allocation funds, for current expenses – 677,034, 4 Belarusian roubles, 97% of the amount was used for acquisition. The Library received 121,859, 3 (6.3 % of total amount of budget) for capital repairs.

The Library priced services were another financing source in 2001. The means for subscription editions accounted 50% of the receipts. During the year financing of salary was opportunely conducted, but acquisitions were on hold for 3 months and more. Considerably part of the Library needs were quite not financed.

## **STAFFING MATTERS**

At the beginning of 2002 the Library staff contained 530 library specialists, including 412 qualified librarians. Over 15% skilled librarians have worked in the Library more than 10 years. 38 specialists were engaged and 48 specialists were discharged in 2001. In connection with construction of a new building of National Library of Belarus the intensive work on reorganization of the Library structure were carried out.

The Library's human resources policy aims to retain highly skilled librarians. The staff of the National Library are improving their knowledge by participating in republic, regional and international workshops and conferences; studying the experience of other libraries; attending foreign language and computer courses.

## **SCIENCE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY**

The Library science, research and methodical activity covered the whole of library sphere aspects and aimed to providing of priority directions, studying and applying of advanced methods in practice work of libraries, working out of legislative branch and regulative documents. As a main country institution, the Library continued its scientific research in the sphere of librarianship, bibliography, bibliology and reading sociology. In 2001 applied research covered problems of the National Library, other Belarusian public libraries, interlibrary loan, library history, library and bibliography classification, etc.

Republic research "*Place and role of public libraries in social and cultural environment of region*" is nearly finished. 84 % treatment forms were put on to computer and it was only because of the difficult financial situation of the Library which prevented the completion of the task.

The subject of research "*Reader of the National Library: Search of the waives of service optimization*" comprised such components of the Library as the store fund, category of users and their inquires, supplies and critical remarks and the structure of the Library departments.

One of important aspects of science work was the study of librarianship development history in the Republic of Belarus. Science activity in the field of bibliography was directed to create of bibliography sources, national size of authoritative files and revision of BELMARC-format. The databases "Bibliology" and "History of Belarus. 1995–1999" were proposed for users.

Science research of national history collections of documentary monuments in Belarus was continued and introduced in science usage. With this purpose, the studying and science working of Belarusian old-printed books collection of Roman alphabet (XVI–XVIII centuries) were realized. At the same time, the databases "Book of Belarus", collection of manuscripts, incunabula and foreign editions of XVI century, Cyrillic, Russian civil press, old-printed maps and atlases were formed. The databases "Radziviliana" was created. Preparation of articles for the next collection "The Properties" in turn was carried on.

Developing policy documents took up considerable time in the infrastructure of the Library science work. In 2001 a new editing "Instruction on calculation and preservation of the Republic of Belarus library collections" was ratified. The specialists of the National Library took part in working at the law on librarianship in the Republic of Belarus. The Library was organizer of science seminars and conferences on republican, regional and international levels. The leading specialists of the National Library delivered lectures in the high-educational institutions, guided the practice of students from Belarusian University of Culture and fulfilled consulting support of the whole librarianship directions. 85 publications of the Library specialists were published in the press in 2001.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS**

The Library activity in the field of modern information technologies was directed to modernization and development of automated library and information system of National Library of Belarus. Using a UNESCO grant, the Electronic photo laboratory on the project "Belarusian book memories on CD-ROM" was created by the Library. Financial support from USA Embassy was used for the creation of a laboratory to transfer the sound recording collection to an electronic format.

The implementation of information processes afforded the Library an opportunity to improve its information products and services. The NLB offered the users both its own electronic information resources (1 million recorders) and purchased home and foreign databases (including those on CD-ROM) as well as the access to the Internet.

The Library's electronic catalogue presents all newly acquired documents since 1993 irrespective of the edition's year. The total amount of databases of the Library electronic catalogue contained by 500 thousand recorders in 2001 – 82 thousand more than in 2000. The creation of Union Electronic Catalogue of Belarusian libraries (included national and foreign documents) is ongoing.

Specialists' efforts were directed to the further creation of BELMARC-format and information and linguistic compatibility, provision of the electronic catalogues and databases of the Belarusian libraries.

The development of the Library's electronic catalogue, databases, website and legislative databases of the Republic of Belarus and Russian Federation continued in 2001. The National Library of Belarus carried out its search of the investors of card catalogues retroconversion and hardware modernization programs for further development of automated information library system.

In 2001 local computing network comprised by 180 personal computers, more than network commutator, 8 servers.

## **ACQUISITIONS**

The National Library of Belarus acquired 115,917 copies of documents in 2001 compared to 98,744 in 2000.

Books	59,131
Periodicals	40,880
Newspapers	1,355
Printed music	423
Art editions	1,913
Maps	377
Microforms	66
Audiovisual materials	310
UN mimeographing materials	11,247
Electronic documents	115

In 2001 financing of acquisition program was considerably better than in the past years. Particular attention was paid to obtaining of electronic documents and the most valuable information databases. Owing to allotted currency (150,000 USD), the Library was enable to subscribe to foreign science periodicals (110 titles) and electronic fulltext database "Social science, 2000–2001" containing 200 titles. The National Library of Belarus obtained different foreign encyclopaedias, reference books, science monographs. Having necessary currency allocations, the Library has become a participator of library consortium. We received a possibility of electronic access to fulltext databases of EBSCO, as well as databases comprising 250 periodicals on social science of "Blackwell science" and "Blackwell Publishers" editions.

The major sources of acquisitions were Belarusian legal deposit, subscription of periodicals, purchases from booksellers and publishers, domestic and foreign exchange, gifts and other free of charge editions. The international book–exchange was great importance in acquiring foreign science literature for the Library holdings (55%). A grant received from President of the Republic of Belarus, 82 copies of manuscripts, rare and old–printed books were acquired by the Library, and from USA Embassy – CD–ROM laboratory for sound recorders digitizing.

### **SERVICES TO READERS**

As a one of national center in Belarus, the Library provided for information requirements of users in the field of economics, politics, and cultural activity. In 2001 647,383 reader visits were made to the Library and 3,165,655 documents were retrieved for readers.

The implementation of automated readers service subsystem modules has continued. The bar code identification has enabled automated control for delivery and return documents. The Library accomplished reference and bibliographical service both in automated regime and using traditional card catalogues and card files. The readers fulfilled search and order by the Library electronic catalogue. Since the information search in the Library local and on–line databases has expanded, many more computerization readers workstations were required. The number of remote users has grown and for their convenience the Library website was upgraded.

As the National center of interlibrary loan, the Library is a great importance for the information needs of specialists, researchers and citizens. The interlibrary loan activity was considerably improved by introduction of advanced progressive library information technologies and the first National standard of interlibrary loan. 18,000 reader's orders were received and 12,500 ones were implemented in 2001. The National Library of Belarus had international loan connections with 79 libraries from 14 countries.

### **CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING**

Among of the most significant historical events that occurred during the year was a visit of President of the Republic. In accordance with the visit, the decision on completion of the Library new building projecting and starting in 2003 was adopted.

In 2001 a series of cultural activities were held in the Library. Among of them were 274 exhibitions, 25 creative evenings and concerts, 24 presentations of the new editions, opening days of exhibitions and others. These cultural activities aim to promote the Library collections to a wide audience. New forms of advertisement in the best editions are always sought. 155 information pieces about the Library's cultural events were prepared for TV, radio, press and Internet. The Art gallery of the Library continued its activity.

The presentation of Jerzy Giedroyc book collection from Literature Institute in Paris arranged jointly with Polish Institute in Minsk. When the exhibition "*Collection of Jerzy Giedroyc*" closed, the Society Care of the Literature Institution Fund in Paris donated the 2,000 books in the collection, to the Library.

The presentation of Polish Musician Publishing House (PWM) took place within the Library, as well as the exhibition of 100 scores, which were passed to the Library collections.

Exhibition "*Open for you the German language*" was organized by means of the Goethe Institute in Minsk.

In accordance with bilateral collaboration agreement of the National Library of Belarus and Martynas Mazvydas National Library of Lithuania, an exhibition of "*The best books of Lithuania. 1996–2000*" was organized.

### **PUBLISHING**

The Library publishing aimed at issuing bibliographical indexes related to Belarus and also at preparation of information concerning both own collection of the Library and the collections of the major libraries of Belarus, at issuing bibliological materials and standard-regulating documents. Retrospective and current scientific and recommendatory directories reflected social and economic contemporaneity, the issues of national history, literature and art.

Since 1960 the Library has issued a monthly bibliographical bulletin "New Books". Its parts "News of Belarusian press" and "In the field of resident vision" comprised information on 42 thousand documents. 6 subject supplements and bibliographic materials devoted to 45 memory dates of Belarusian calendar were made public in the bibliographical bulletin "New Books".

The preparation of current directories "Social Science", "Union catalogue of new foreign books, received to Belarusian libraries", "Union index of foreign periodicals, subscribed by Belarusian libraries in 2000", and others were continued in 2001. Publishing activity of the Library was completely based on automated technologies.

### **LIBRARY CO-OPERATION AND INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIONS**

The National Library of Belarus aimed at expansion of international professional contacts. The staff members took part in international conference, meetings and workshops. The Library is a member of several international organizations. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Session of the Library Organization of Eurasia (LOE), the Director of the National Library of Belarus was elected as vice-president of LOE.

In 2001 the Library maintained broad contact with aim of international book-exchange between 333 libraries and different institutions from USA, Great Britain, Germany, France, Poland, Bulgaria, China, Japan and other 50 countries. The National Library of Belarus has also maintained close contact with Embassies of France, Poland, Germany, USA, Russian Federation, Ukrain, Kazakhstan, as well as the Library cooperated with American Information Center, Goethe Institute in Minsk and other diplomatic representatives and cultural centers of foreign countries.

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