

# COLOMBIA

**BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE COLOMBIA / NATIONAL LIBRARY OF COLOMBIA**

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## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002**

**225 YEARS OF RECOVERING, CONSERVING AND DISTRIBUTING THE  
COLOMBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND PERIODICAL HERITAGE, ACTIVITIES  
REPORT: 1997-2002**

### **HISTORY**

For over two centuries the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia has been the cultural institution of the Colombian State responsible for the acquisition, preservation and provision of access to the national cultural heritage, collected in the form of printed books, audiovisuals and other types of bibliographic materials, singly or serially, collected via various means.

The Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia is the first of its type in the Americas. It was created by decree issued on 20 July 1773, by the Junta Superior de Aplicaciones of the government of the Viceroy Manuel de Guirior, under the initiative of the Public prosecutor Moreno y Escandon, and open to the public as the Real Biblioteca Pública del Nuevo Reino de Granada on 9 January 1777. On December 25 1823, under the initiative of the Vice President Santander, it was moved to the new location in the Las Aulas building and re-opened as the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Under the 22 September 1867 law, it was attached to the National University, of the Ministerio de Instrucción Pública (ministry of Public Instruction), which later changed to Ministerio de Educación Nacional. When in 1968 the Instituto Colombiano de Cultura was created, the library was linked to it. Later, through law 397 of 1997, it was transferred to the Ministerio de Cultura.

### **LEGISLATION**

In its 225 years of existence the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia has been exposed to the changes that have brought with it an increase of information. In 1834 General Francisco de Paula Santander decreed “all publishers of New Granada, the obligation to send to a library of the capital of the Republic a copy of everything written, published by your publishing house...”. The latest change to the Legal Deposit legislation was made in 1995, with the issuing of Decree 460, through which new forms of registering information as objects of Legal deposit.

Currently, the collection in the custody of the Biblioteca nacional de Colombia has 2,075,278 items.

The mission to acquire, preserve and provide access to the Colombian archival heritage, memory and reflect the identity and cultural diversity of our country is legitimized in articles 8, 70 and 72 of the Constitución Política de Colombia as well as in law 397 of 1997 (Law on Cultural), which arranged for the Ministerio de Cultura, through the Biblioteca nacional, to have responsibility for acquiring, organizing, augment, preserve, protect, register and provide access to the bibliographic, periodical and documented heritage of the Nation, held in the different formats holding information.

Equally Law 397/97, establishes that the governments, national, departmental, regional and municipal will consolidate and develop the Public Libraries National network, coordinated by the Ministerio de Cultura through the Biblioteca Nacional, with the purpose of establishing, developing and strengthening public libraries and mixed libraries and the complementary services available through these. For this, each year will be included in their budget, the necessary funds to create, strengthen and maintain the greatest number of public libraries in their respective jurisdictions.

As well Law 397 designated the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia as the organization charged with planning and formulating the public Library and literacy policy at a national level and to direct the Public libraries national network.

## **ACTIONS IN PROTECTING AND PROVIDING ACCESS TO THE COLOMBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND PERIODICAL HERITAGE**

### ***ACQUISITION***

The collection of the Biblioteca Nacional has grown rapidly in the last five years to total 212,652 items. These new sources of information are made accessible to researchers and users.

Comparison of acquired publications by mode of acquisition for the period 1997 to 2002.

<b>MODE OF ACQUISITION</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ITEMS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
Legal deposit	190,233	89.5%
Exchange	11,545	5.45
General convention –Authors rights	4,940	2.3%
Special donations	3,183	1.55
International organisations deposit	2,751	1.3%
Total	212,652	100%

## **ACQUISITION OF WORKS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROMOTION AND DEMOCRATISATION OF THE COLUMBIAN BOOK**

The state provides the Biblioteca Nacional with funds to purchase Columbian 1<sup>st</sup> editions, destined for national and international exchange and Columbian public libraries though law 98 of 1993 or “book law” to stimulate national publishing, Columbian writers and authors.

### ***DISTRIBUTION THROUGH BIBLIOGRAPHIC EXCHANGE***

In the last 5 years 47,006 items were distributed between overseas institutions and Columbian institutions which form part of the Biblioteca Nacional’s exchange service composed of Columbian 1<sup>st</sup> editions, official publications and private organizations.

### ***PUBLICATIONS SENT THROUGH THE BIBLIOGRAPHIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM (1997-2002)***

<b>COVERAGE</b>	<b>NUMBER OF ITEMS DISTRIBUTED</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE</b>
National exchange	24,527	52.2%
International exchange	22,527	47.8%
Total	47,006	100%

The 24,527 items of exchange and national distribution were sent to 29 departments, benefiting 146 university, regional and technical institute libraries, special and cultural libraries, public libraries and cultural centers.

In the international area 22,527 publications were distributed to 139 libraries and other cultural entities in 54 counties.

### ***REFERENCE INFORMATION ON PUBLISHING HOUSES AND EXCHANGE INSTITUTIONS***

The Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia maintains a database on publishers and exchange organizations. As a subproduct, in September 2002, a Guide to Publishers will be made available to the book and library community on the Biblioteca Nacional web site.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHIC CONTROL**

#### ***CATALOGUING THE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC AND PERIODICAL MEMORY***

Between August 1997 and February 2002, 74,274 items, including books, serials and audiovisual material were sent, duly catalogued and prepared, to collections for consultation purposes. Of these 45,789 were from legal deposit, 13,283 through exchange and 15,202 items from the backlog. These figures do not include the close to 140,000 serial issues received for material already catalogued.

### **COLUMBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY**

As a result of the national bibliographic control, the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Colombian Bibliography was published in 2000. It includes books published between 1992 and 1996 received by the library as legal deposit.

### **CURRENT CAPTURE AND RETROSPECTIVE CATALOGUING FILES**

The Biblioteca Nacional's Unicorn database increased between August 1997 and February 2002 by 124,144 entries for monographs, serials and audiovisual materials. Of these 68,735 were from retrospective conversions and 55,409 from current online cataloguing. On average 24,829 new entries were added to the database annual.

### **COOPERATIVE CATALOGUING**

The Biblioteca Nacional through the Unicorn system encourages cooperative cataloguing by providing the general library community with access to their original cataloguing files, avoiding the duplication of effort and optimising the resources invested in these processes.

## **COOPERATION ON THE AUTOMATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Since 2000 the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia offers the national library community with a tool to contribute to increasing the bibliographic control of the publishing produced by the country as well as support those public libraries, that due to their technical and budgetary limitations do not have the opportunity to take advantage of the benefits of automation.

For this purpose the library offers access through subscription a cooperative agreement, to a database in Winisis designed by the National Library, which assists with cataloguing processes and information retrieval of bibliographic information available to users. In addition it provides access to a database of 170,000 entries which the subscribing library can use to verify the existence of their collections and download records to their own databases. The National library also administers the basic agreement on usage and the use of the manual given to the subscribing library.

## **PRESERVING THE HERITAGE**

The Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia's preservation program aims to plan and conduct prevention and conservation activities that allow the continuing survival of the bibliographic, periodical and other formats in its care. It also provided guidelines to assist public and cultural libraries to safeguard and preserve their collections.

The Preservation Program provides for evaluation, training, prevention, conservation techniques, reformatting and stabilising works in storage. It commenced in 1997 and the main outcomes are as follows:

### ***EVALUATION***

Applied methodologies which established the diagnostic and preservation priorities for the bibliographic and periodical collections of the Biblioteca nacional, collected til 1997, as well as design and test the reliability of the diagnostic methodology for modern books.

### ***TRAINING***

258 librarians in the country on topics of preventative conservation of bibliographic collections. As well as technical assessments of the environment and library visits.

In the last 5 years, we have strengthened the campaign to educate users by introducing guidelines that inform users in hygienic use and handling of collection materials.

One of the principal actions of technical assistance occurred in 2000 with the move to a new physical space in the building of 81, 757 works which have been added to the Antique collection of the Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia.

### ***PREVENTION***

With this form of attention tending to stop or avoid the threats and ambient risks on the collections, efforts were directed to the handling and control of biological, physical an chemical factors. To this end "*La guía técnica para la limpieza de áreas físicas e higienización de colecciones* -The technical guide to the clearing of physical areas and cleaning the collections- was produced, which was used to teach and develop actions to dust 300,000 work in the modern and special collections.

### ***CONSERVATION TREATMENTS***

During the last 5 years 5,211 items have been recovered through conservation. These included magazines, newspapers, books in the newspaper/periodical library, general collection and special collections of high usage and high degree of deterioration.

As well 368 works of art have been treated under conservation and restoration techniques and 11,015 photographic works have been technically maintained.

### ***REFORMATTING***

In 1996, the Biblioteca Nacional received a donation of microfilming equipment from the Japanese Government. Since then the reformatting program commenced as an alternative for the preservation of vulnerable works like 19th and 20<sup>th</sup> century newspapers or the unique and valuable manuscript and special collections. In the last 5 years, the Biblioteca Nacional has microfilmed and made available to users 1,972 titles of high use materials.

### ***STABILISING WORKS IN STORAGE***

Appropriate storage is a fundamental to the survival of materials in various formats. In 1997 the evaluation and prioritisation of the preservation activities for the Biblioteca Nacional stacks was conducted and the use of varied storage containers was implemented. In this way and preservation parameters the works of major structural instability such as the 33 Colombian newspapers, received daily, as technically housed from the moment they arrive at the library. 2,500 additional works from the bibliographic collections have also been protected in this way.

### ***INFORMATION SERVICES***

The Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia has collected in the 225 years since it's foundation 2,075,318 copies of books, periodical publications and audiovisual materials. Access to the collections is via the three reading rooms with a capacity for 200 readers: Over the last 5 years there are some of the significant tasks:

### ***REORGANISATION OF THE COLLECTIONS***

In 1999 the collections where physically relocated to optimise the use of space and speed up the delivery of materials to users. This task involved moving 1,768,741 items as well as the acquisition of rolling stacks and the relocation of the current stacks.

### ***COLLECTION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION***

To meeting the obligations of international organizations that send copies of their publications to national libraries, a separate collection was set up which includes close to 20,000 publications of the United nations general assembly and subordinate organizations (Unesco, OIT, OMS, OIEA, etc and the OEA.

### ***USE OF THE COLLECTION***

In the last 5 years 205,335 users visited the library to consult works, obtain general information, register and participate in the program of guided visits. The total number of works consulted has 278,275.

## **USERS**

In 1998 a survey was conducted of reading room users to understand their background and information needs. As a result of which and based on the experience of other national libraries in 2000 the user groups were defined as: users of the collections; suppliers of the collections ( editorial section) and internal users of the library. The composition of each group was:

- Internal users: officers and contactors of the national library and public servants from the Ministry of Culture.
- users of the collections: members, correspondents, etc from academies throughout the country, staff members from the public and private universities of Columbia, researchers from public and private Colombian institutions, heads of libraries and information units in Colombian private and public institutions, higher education students from pre and post graduate programs in private and public Colombian institutions and in general adults interest in consulting the collections.
- Editorial sector: Colombian publishers and Colombian private or public organizations who although they don't publish commercially, support or publish material.
- Grade 10 and 11 school students from Colombian educational private and public organizations

## **RULES FOR ACCESSING THE COLLECTIONS**

Due to the need to establish a policy on access to the reference services of the library in 1999 the final version was send for endorsement to the Ministry of Culture.

## **NEW SERVICES**

In the last quinquennium the Library has delivered access to its collection with the implementation of new services such as: though the mediums of audio-visual material, provision of the catalogue and other services via the Internet; access to the data base of plaintext of official documents of Nations United for users of the National Library; creation of the Information bureau where the visitors can obtain their membership card and receive general information about the Library and the services librarians public of the city; library visits to make potential users aware on the mission of the Library and the value of the national heritage. And making more information and services available on the Library's web site at: [www.bibliotecanacional.gov.co](http://www.bibliotecanacional.gov.co).

## **CULTURAL SERVICES FOR THE PROMOTION OF THE COLLECTION**

In addition to the reading rooms, the National Library of Colombia promotes the knowledge and dissemination of the bibliographical and cultural heritage through bibliographical and photographic exhibitions, through theatre, recital, forums, conferences, seminars, presentations, readings, video presentations, - book launching and magazines. These academic and cultural events are made by the National Library, the Ministry of Culture, or jointly with other national or foreign institutions, including the embassies.

The cultural activity is developed in the Cultural Center, that is conformed by the Audience Germa'n Arciniegas to capacity for 186 people, the Gallery Gregorio Vásquez de Arce and Ceballos, conformed by two ample exhibition halls, and the Bookstore the Mosaic in where it projects, in the short term, the publication sale of the Ministry of Culture and the National Library. They complement this cultural space, the central lobby of the Library, qualified like area of exhibitions, and the Audience Aurelio Arturo, with capacity for 80 people.

The permanent cultural activity, with an attendance average of 170 people by event, has turned east space of the Library an alive center of encounter and social gathering to where they converge Colombian of the diverse conditions, different layers, tie from the different areas from the knowledge, together with by its attraction the cultural manifestations that take place here. Next you are related some of the events made in the last 5 years:

#### ***EXHIBITIONS***

- América e Italia en la obra de Germán Arciniegas
- Andar por casa , exposición de seis fotografías españoles
- Así Pasen Cien Años, homenaje a Federico García Lorca
- Bertold Brecht
- Bohumil Hrabal , exposición de fotografías, grabados y libros
- Borges, Hacedor
- Danzateatro, muestra fotográfica
- Exposición didáctica rodante, homenaje a Ernesto Aronna
- Expresión gráfica , exposición didáctica, dibujos y grabados de Francisco Rocca Lynn
- Hitos bibliográficos de la literatura colombiana
- Imágenes del teatro contemporáneo
- Kalevala, exposición en torno al poema nacional de Finlandia
- Kolumbien: presencias alemanas en Colombia
- La aventura del libro
- Libros Raros y Curiosos
- Los años y los sueños, vida y obra de García Márquez
- Nikos Kazantzakis, homenaje al escritor y su obra
- Pataphysica de las impresiones, exposición en torno a la literature francesa
- Nuestras gramáticas: artes de hablar, leer y escribir en español y en lenguas indígenas

#### ***PRESENTATIONS, BOOK LAUNCHES, JOURNALS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS***

The average number of books and journals presentations made in the Germán Arciniegas y Aurelio Arturo auditorium, of the Biblioteca Nacional was three titles per month.

Lectura Sin Fin (reading without end): Institutional day in which the Biblioteca nacional de Colombia each year, on 23 April, commemorates the Day of Language. It takes place in Bogotá and in more than a hundred public libraries and cultural establishments; the group of Bibliotecas Públicas coordinates the day for the entire country.

#### ***FORUMS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS:***

- 50 años de los derechos humanos
- Encuentro Nacional de Bibliotecas Públicas
- Eventos especiales del VI Festival Iberoamericano de Teatro

- Historia del teatro en Colombia
- Primera jornada educativa y cultural de México en Colombia
- Segundo congreso de poesía en lengua española desde la perspectiva del siglo XXI

### ***CONFERENCES***

For the most part conferences are held as part of the cultural activities which accompany the exhibitions, forums and other events organized by the Biblioteca Nacional, general with the support of other institutions national and international, including embassies. Conferences are also held on their own, programmed by the library in association with other organisations or by hiring these spaced to the Friends of the National Library (Fundación Amigos de la Biblioteca Nacional)

### ***PROMOTIONAL PUBLICATIONS***

The National Library publications occupy a special place in the program for promote the national bibliographic and periodical heritage. These rescue the documents written in a prolific history in the field of journalism and literature, guardians of our history.

- Revista Senderos: números 31-32. Año: 1997. Volumen doble dedicado a los Libros raros y curiosos.
- Revista Senderos: número 33. Año: 1998. El Quijote en Colombia, ayer y siempre.
- Teatro colombiano del siglo XX. Autor: Carlos José Reyes Posada, Año: 1999
- Bibliografía Colombiana, 1992-1996. Autor: Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Año: 1999

### ***EXHIBITION CATALOGUES***

- El conjuro de los libros, La Biblioteca de Cervantes en la Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Autor: Hernando Cabarcas Antequera. Año: 1997
- "Kolumbien: presencias alemanas en Colombia". Autor: Giorgio Anteì. Año 1998
- Rafael Maya. Autor: Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Año: 1998
- La aventura del libro. Año: 1999
- Hitos bibliográficos de la literatura colombiana. Año: 1999
- Nuestras gramáticas: artes de hablar, leer y escribir en español y en lenguas indígenas. Año: 2002

### ***CATALOGUES OF SPECIAL COLLECTIONS OF THE BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL***

- Índice del Eco de Oriente 1913-1950. Año: 1997
- Catálogo del fondo bibliográfico Gabriela y Germán Arciniegas. Autor: Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Año: 2000.
- Catálogo del fondo bibliográfico Marco Fidel Suárez. Autor: Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Año: 1999.
- Directorio de editoriales colombianas. Autor: Biblioteca Nacional de Colombia. Año: 1998



## **NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL ADVANCES**

### ***DATA BASES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF COLOMBIA***

In 1998 the automated system *Unicornio* for the integrated handling of the activities of the Library was acquired. It will provide on line catalogue access, acquisition services, preservation services, cataloguing services and advisory services.

Current and retrospective cataloguing onto the the Unicornio system to date is of 260,000 books, audio-visuals and serials.

### ***COMPUTER SCIENCE SYSTEM***

Between 1997 and 2002, 2 servers, 54 PC's, as well as printers, a CD-ROM burner and 2 scanners were acquired. In May of 1999 building was wired with 187 points for computers, 114 points for voice and the purchase of two UPS. This enables an efficient connection with other institutions, including the interchange of files with other libraries and data bases, and the building of cooperative programs and the general improvement of system communications. In the first semester of the year the 2000 company Compaq Colombia donated a high capacity server and 20 terminals for the of the National Library's Reading Rooms.

**WEB SITE** [www.bibliotecanacional.gov.co](http://www.bibliotecanacional.gov.co)

Since 2000, the National Library of Colombia has a dedicated line for internet access. The website contains general information, information on bibliographical and cultural services, collections, the on line catalogue, the National Network of Public Libraries, Legislation, the Foundation Friends of the National Library.

### ***LATIN AMERICAN DIGITAL LIBRARY AND THE CARIBBEAN PROJECT***

Since 2001, the National Library of Colombia has participated in the Project of Latin American digital library and the Caribbean supported by UNESCO and the Association of Latin American States for the Development of National Libraries of Ibero-America – ABINIA. The intention is the development of a digital library comprising works most representative of each country. This will enrich the sources of Spanish texts available on the Internet and to help disseminate cultural material of Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries.

## **PROJECTS TO SAVE NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHICAL MEMORY AND HEMEROGRÁFICA**

The National Library of Colombia's collections and services can no longer be accommodated properly in the existing buildings so planning is underway to build two new buildings. One will house the expanding collections and provide additional reading rooms and other will house a preservation unit.

Preservation of the representative Colombian cultural heritage is vital and a plan is being developed to conserve, correctly store and microfilming significant materials.

### ***RETROSPECTIVE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL OF THE CULTURAL MEMORY***

Collections have been acquired through exchange, purchase and donation. There are 30,000 titles with about 30% that are not properly catalogued or that they do not have any form of access through manual files or the bibliographical data base.

Public access to the national audio-visual collection totalling 141,608 cannot be provided due to lack of equipment and facilities to view the material.

The computer system needs to be upgraded to enable the continued expansion of Unicornio system. At the moment it does not have the capacity to store new files.

A plan is being developed to attract a greater number of users and supporters for the National Library and make them aware of the value and use of the bibliographical heritage. Such sensitised users will help promote the value of the Library and attract more users.

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