

CUBA

NATIONAL LIBRARY JOSÉ MARTÍ

ELIADES ACOSTA MATOS — DIRECTOR

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In 2002 the National Library José Martí (BNJM) continued working toward providing better service to researchers, students and the general public.

The Main Reading Room, and the Reference Service Room was modernised to enable library users to access the Internet.

The Library has also automated the Braille Service Room with equipment for the blind and those with developmental disabilities.

Equally important, staff were trained in digital work and management of the Library's funding.

A national competition was held "to Read Martí." Over 600,000 children and adolescents participated in this competition which concluded with a beautiful ceremony in which participants received their diploma honouring their creativity and interpretation of our Apostle's teachings, as well as the publication of his works.

The Children Gallery Ismaelillo shows the principles of Martí's thoughts to the new generations.

The BNJM hosted 26 exhibitions of artists, outstanding personalities of the Cuban culture and of the national life, as well as of distinguished Institutions. It is an outstanding space for foreign exhibitors and diplomatic missions.

The BNJM continues to support 292 public libraries by with staff training, IT support and consolidation of their forums.

Publications include the *BNJM Review*, *La Polilla* and the Book about the Competition to read Martí.

On the international front, the library participates in the international organisations of IFLA, FAIFE, CDNL, WING, ABINIA, ACURIL, and SALALM.

These relationships allow us to receive the flow of experience and the development techniques that have contributed to the work of the libraries and librarians in the whole country. At the same time these exchanges have enabled Cuban achievements to be highlighted internationally.

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