

FRANCE

THE BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

MR JEAN-NOEL JEANNENEY – PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

On 22 March 2002, Jean-Noel Jeanneney was appointed as president of the Bibliotheque nationale de France (BnF), due to the retirement of Jean-Pierre Angremy.

The BnF activity during the year was mainly guided by the goals set forth in the Strategic plan for 2001-2003.

THE IMPROVEMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICES.

ON-SITE SERVICES

The improvement of public service at the François-Mitterrand site resulted in an increase of the number of readers (+ 13,5%) and a rising satisfaction among the public of the Research library (+11%).

With the achievement of RENET, readers were given a common access to all the electronic resources available on site.

REMOTE ACCESS (www.bnf.fr)

The BnF website received twice more visits (5.550.000) in 2002 with an average of 17.000 visitors per day.

As regards the catalogues of the printed collection of the François-Mitterrand site, the various databases have been merged in a single bibliographic database of 7.750.000 records, BN-OPALE PLUS. Furthermore, an online access has been opened to the authority files.

Since November 2002, the French Union Catalogue has been offering a document delivery service, from localizing to document ordering.

As for the digital library GALLICA, a new triennial programme (2002-2004) has been elaborated with three goals : to improve the encyclopedic library, to constitute thematic sets and to digitize new sets in partnership. Among the new files which enriched GALLICA, the most significant was Travels through Africa.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

In 2002, the BnF proposed to the public 17 exhibitions on its own sites and, for the first time, an exhibition in open air on Victor Hugo along the gates of the Senate palace. The topics chosen for the four great exhibitions, French literature (with Victor Hugo and Zola) and photography (ancient with Gustave Le Gray and contemporary with James Nachtwey) were particularly appealing to the public.

COLLECTIONS AND NETWORKS.

COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT

ACQUISITIONS

A new chart stating the documentary policy has been drawn up, taking in account the increase of electronic resources, the documentary environment and a better knowledge of the general public needs. From then on , the yearly acquisitions have been carried out according to these orientations.

In the field of retrospective acquisitions, some precious collections were purchased such as a group of letters from and to Nicephore Niepce including the first heliographic document printed in 1825, the Richard Macnutt collection about the composer Hector Berlioz.

LEGAL DEPOSIT

The BnF has pursued its experimentation regarding the extension of legal deposit to on-line resources : on a thematic approach, by the capture of sites concerning the French presidential and legislative elections and on an exhaustive approach, by the capture of all the French sites with the suffix .fr

Moreover, the BnF has been involved in the preparation of a new law integrating the extension of legal deposit to on-line resources and the exceptions provided for by the European Directive of 22/5/2001 on copyright and related rights.

SECURITY OF COLLECTIONS

Attention was particularly turned towards the security of collections, with installation of specific equipments and enrollment in the LIBER Security network.

NETWORKS

During 2002, the French Ministry of Culture gave strong instructions to develop cooperation, on a national and international level.

- On a national level, the BnF intensified its cooperative actions with the French Network of associated libraries and decentralized for the first time the annual meeting of the network in Lyon.
- On an international level, the President of the BnF met with many directors of national libraries around the world and attended several international meetings. Bilateral cooperation was particularly intensive with French speaking countries in Africa and countries of Central and Eastern Europe. In addition, the BnF has reinforced its training action with a collective session on preservation and conservation and eleven individual sessions.

ADDRESS:

Quai François-Mauriac
75706 Paris Cedex 13
FRANCE

Tel : + 33 1 53 79 59 59

Fax : + 33 1 53 79 48 49

Email: jean-noel.jeanneney@bnf.fr

URL: WWW : <http://www.bnf.fr/default.htm>