

GREECE

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF GREECE

DR GEORGIOS ZACHOS — DIRECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

PERSONALIA

Dr Kefalineou, Deputy Director of the Greek National Library retired in March 2001. In February 2002 Dr Georgios Zachos was elected to the post of the Director of the National Library of Greece.

LEGAL MATTERS

During the whole year 2002 there was an intense work to prepare for the change in the NLG's legal status. The NLG had been a subsidiary department of the Ministry of Education and is to become an autonomous cultural institution subject to the law of the Greek Democracy.

The new Legislation passed at the Parliament and became Law at the 14th of May 2003.

A new Organizational Structure and Library Regulations are to be implemented in order the NLG to operate in these new conditions.

We hope that because of the recognition of its full legal autonomy there will be greater flexibility and mobility in the budget and in staff administration, and a decisive improvement in the utilisation of resources. It is hoped that there will be more scope for personal initiative and greater autonomy and a large degree of independence of governmental, especially budgetary decision-making. The task now is to use as wisely as possible the funds, and those which the NLG can itself earn in addition.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND SERVICES TO READERS

The most important innovation in the service areas was the introduction of new services and the preparatory works for the installation of the new Library Server and Library Software as the existing is not capable of meeting the needs of the Library.

In addition, a project for transformation of the catalogues has been set up in recent months. All of the conventionally operated card catalogues are to be transferred to electronic databases. A start on the conversion has already been made.

CONSTRUCTION WORKS AT THE MAIN BUILDING

During this time construction works are taking place at the main neo-classical Building of the Library which confronts serious problems not only because of the earthquakes that have caused extensive damage but also of its antiquity.

The construction works which are under the supervision of the Services of the Ministry of Culture started in May 2002. These works will last for about two years. We expect that when finished the building will be much safer. Moreover, these interventions to the building will be also turned to other directions in order to improve the housing conditions.

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