

PORTUGAL

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

DIOGO PIRES AURÉLIO — CHIEF EXECUTIVE

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

Collections (31 Dec 2002)		
Books	2,489,602	volumes
Serials	369,744	volumes
Manuscripts	86,507	items
Microfilms	c. 17,838	units
Cartographic materials	12,998	items
Graphics	70,427	items
Music	24,364	items
Electronic documents	450	items
Other (incl. Audio-visual)	2,327	items
Users		
Number of readers	62,277	
Number of items consulted	346,500	
Interlending and document supply	1,793	users
Research in databases	5,072	users
Staff		
	312	
Budget Euros		
	7,916,761	

1. STRATEGIC PLAN

The new director of the National Library, Professor Diogo Pires Aurélio, has set up the following strategic lines:

- a) Revision of the Legal Deposit Law, to guarantee an accurate coverage of the Portuguese bibliographic production either in print or in electronic format.
- b) Consolidation of technical and scientific skills, in areas of utmost importance like Cataloguing and Conservation.
- c) Maintenance and, if possible, increase of microfilming and/or digitisation programs, with priority to those documents that are more consulted and whose fragile situation incurs in the risk of further degradation.
- d) Continuation of the National Digital Library project, expanding it not only to provide access to digitised documents but also to support the deposit and access to born digital publications. Cooperative efforts to share resources on those issues are to be encouraged.
- e) Preparation of new storage conditions in order to enhance the capacity and the conservation of the collections

2. THE NATIONAL DIGITAL LIBRARY

As we mentioned last year, the handling of electronic publications has been tied up to the cooperative projects in which the National Library has been involved e.g. Bibliotheca Universalis and TEL – the European Library. However, the settlement of the National Digital Library Project motivated the establishment of best practices concerning the deposit of electronic publications, although the new legal deposit law is not yet published. With the co-funding of EU structural funds (III Framework Programme) the infrastructure for management and preservation of digital publications has been defined.

It comprises an affordable and easily scalable Linux based GRID solution for the storage, METS (Metadata Encoding and Transmission Standard) as the structural metadata, UNIMARC as the main descriptive metadata format and probably FEDORA as the key component of the management and exploitation framework.

In content terms, the NDL has increased the number of digitised items for the Memory of Portugal project. Another project regarding the digitisation of literary archives is on-going, already with three archives digitised and a new site called the Treasures of the National Library will be officially launched next September, available in Portuguese and in English with a monthly update.

3. PORBASE-ONLINE UNION CATALOGUE

PORBASE is the largest bibliographic database in Portugal and includes not only the National Library's holdings but also those from 150 Portuguese libraries. Last year the University libraries represented the major contribution (81%) followed by public libraries (12%) and specialized libraries from public and private sector (7%).

PORBASE has a total of about one million and 350 thousand bibliographic records of all kind of materials and from different thematic and chronological scope, although Portuguese printed materials from the 20th century and related to Social Sciences and Literature are the most common ones. 23% of the records are from the National Library and 77% from contributing libraries. PORBASE also includes 959.714 authority records generated by the National Library.

It is possible to access PORBASE by two different ways at World Wide Web. Through the system (<http://www.ipac.bn.pt>) or a database copy regularly updated (<http://www.sirus.bn.pt>). Access via Z39.50 is also possible. The services are available 24h/day, free of charge.

4. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

During 2002-2003, the National Library of Portugal participated in the following international projects:

- Bibliotheca Universalis
- TEL – The European Library
- LEAF – Linking and Exchanging Authority Files
- DELOS – Noe – Digital Libraries (Network of Excellence)
- MINERVA – Ministerial Network for Valorising Activities in Digitisation

Participation in associations, organizations and consortia are the following: IFLA, LIBER, ABINIA, CDNL, CENL, ECPA, CERL and CoBRA+.

On March 2003 the National Library of Portugal celebrated a contract with IFLA to become the host institution for the IFLA UNIMARC Programme.

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