

# Spain/Catalonia

**BIBLIOTECA DE CATALUNYA**  
**DOLORS LAMARCA – DIRECTOR**

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003-2004

### 1. History and background

The Library of Catalonia –Biblioteca de Catalunya: <http://www.gencat.net/bc/> has a history of nearly 100 years, being the successor to the research library founded by the Catalan local administration in 1907. In 1914 was defined and oriented as the national library of Catalonia. Library laws of the Catalan Parliament (Act 1993) have focussed attention on the role of the Library into de Library System. According to this, it carries out the following functions all over the country: collecting, preserving and giving access to recorded Catalan materials, in all documentary forms, for the benefit of all those who are engaged in research and learning, or with other information needs.

The Library of Catalonia- the BC in its Catalan abbreviation- became an autonomous institution in 1995 and is financed by the Catalan Ministry of Culture.

Today the BC, the major bibliographic centre of Catalan culture, aims to provide access to knowledge and culture from past and present to everyone in Catalonia and beyond, focused overall in Catalan history, culture and language. It implies an attitude and service focussed on consumer orientation and reliability.

The BC, like all national libraries through the world, at present faces quite major challenges in fulfilling its key functions of acquisition, retention, preservation and access, as traditional forms of publications are paralleled by publication in electronic form (F. Guy, 2003).

### 2. Directions for 2004-2006

A Strategic Plan for the next three years has been approved by the Consell Rector (Library Board).

Over 2003-2004 the library has been reviewing its aims and functions. A new Vision and Mission was agreed for the BC. The key focus for the next three years is the development of programs and services to make it as easy as possible for everybody to find and to access the information on Catalan history, culture and language, also through remote access.

Following the steps of the British Library, the BC recognises the centrality of the Web to our future and seeks gradually to reposition the Library as a key player in the e-world (Brindley, 2001).

One of the ways in which the BC will achieve this is through redesigning the web page and filling it with a large range of electronic contents.

The BC is working hard to get the documents in the backlogs catalogued, and to convert the old different files in order to be introduced in the online union catalogue, the CCUC, the largest bibliographic database in Catalonia.

During the period 2004-2005 a total of 626.700 items will be converted.

The inventories of literary archives are also yet available in the web page of the Library.

### 3. A New framework in the Catalan Government

The Government of Catalonia has announced a new strategic framework for the public library services.

It states that everybody needs to have a global access to the information so that anybody can become knowledge source. Public administrations should organize this global access by structuring the library system so that all libraries of the country are in touch.

It aims to improve and modernise the Catalan Library System. A steering Committee has been created with representatives of the Ministries of Culture, Education, Universities and Research. Its aim is to make a proposal to organize networks that will shelter different libraries, so that there can be cooperative working

amongst. It also wants to strengthen collective library tools and create new ones, as well as prepare a Single Catalogue of Catalonia.

#### **4. Changing ILS: Selection of New Integrated Library Management System**

Other objectives set by this new steering Committee is the selection of a new computer system (ILS), shared contract of e-sources, to promote cooperation and to create nationwide library services, in areas such as Inter Libraries Loans, as well as collective storing.

A new automated library system will be selected for the whole country. Is estimated that will be operating at the end of next year (December 05) and all the libraries in Catalonia will be connected to the same bibliographic database.

#### **5. Cooperating**

The BC is an active member of the Consortium of the Catalan University Libraries (CBUC in its Catalan abbreviation).

As a Membership of CBUC makes thousands of e-journals and databases available to the patrons of the Library

The Library is increasing its participation in standardisation work.

#### **6. Extension of the Legal Deposit**

The legal Deposit of Catalonia is collected since 1981 by the BC where a copy is kept. Other copies are transferred to the three main local public libraries and also to the National Library of Spain.

The Library staff works in close collaboration with the National Library of Spain and thus is completing a proposal for the new Act on Legal Deposit which must cover a wide variety of electronic resources. The law will be processed by the Spanish parliament

## STATISTICS AND DATA 2003

CURRENT BUDGET 7,100.000 €

### HOLDINGS

3.5 M. documents

Periodicals: 34.490 titles

Manuscripts 5.000 collections

Acquisitions 106.000 documents

Legal Deposit 92.449 documents

### STAFF

170 fixed staf

grants for educational cooperation

grants for the bibliographical catalogue of Catalan heritage

### BUILDING

Central building (gothic style, 14th century) 15.000m<sup>2</sup>

Generl storage 4.000 m<sup>2</sup>

Services building 4.000 m<sup>2</sup>

### USERS AND SERVICES

General reading room 204 seats // 3.000m<sup>2</sup>

Reserve reading room 22 seats // 300 m<sup>2</sup>

Opening hours 60 hours / week

Presencial users 32.382

Remote users 587.972

### ADDRESS

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