

FRANCE

BIBLIOTHEQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

M JEAN-NOËL JEANNENEY – PRÉSIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004

KEY FACTS FOR 2003

- the collections were enriched by over 1.5 million documents including 1.2 million serial issues;
- acquisition of outstanding documents including valuable items from the André Breton auction and a 16th century Italian portulan atlas;
- 7 235 volumes, representing around 2 million pages, were added to Gallica;
- 1 048 979 readers used the reading rooms;
- 70 million pages of the website (<http://www.bnf.fr>) were seen by 6.7 million visitors;
- on-site exhibitions were seen by over 300 000 visitors, 50% up on 2002.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS IN 2003

Moving from the strategic plan towards the objectives and means contract:

The three-year strategic plan, launched in 2001, came to an end. An overall assessment was carried out in December 2003 in association with the management board, based on the three-monthly progress reports. This allows the evaluation of indicators and a better preparation of the next objectives and means contract, currently under discussion with the Ministry of Culture. This contract sets out the priorities for the BnF and the means to achieve them for the coming three years.

3 orientations were selected:

- strengthen the core missions of the institution,
- work towards a stronger presence for the BnF within the national and international cultural and scientific community and also with regard to its public,
- improve management and achieve greater autonomy under the overall control of the Ministry of Culture.

IMPLEMENTATION OF A SECURITY PLAN

2003 saw the launch of a vast security plan for the collections, comprising many aspects: a three-year stocktaking plan, reinforcement of security policies and systems, awareness-raising and training of staff managing the collections.

TOWARDS A SINGLE CATALOGUE

The integration of some 800,000 records of audiovisual materials into the BN-OPALE PLUS catalogue represents an important step towards constituting a single bibliographic database.

In addition, a team was set up to improve the quality of the catalogue.

ENHANCEMENT OF THE DIGITAL COLLECTION

Two new thematic corpuses were digitised and added to Gallica :

Anthologie des collections : mille trésors de la Bibliothèque nationale de France
<http://gallica.bnf.fr/Anthologie/>. This virtual anthology illustrates the amazing wealth and variety of materials held by the library and tells the story of the BnF and its collections.

"Le rêve" by the French writer Zola. <http://gallica.bnf.fr/Zola/>

In addition to the digitisation of documents, the BnF has also been carrying out research and development programmes on collecting, harvesting, access and long-term preservation of electronic documents such as:

structuring literary manuscripts in XML to allow annotations and critical analysis by researchers, experiments of the Open Archive Initiative (OAI) protocol.

Finally, the BnF launched a rethink of its digital documentary policy.

WHAT'S NEW REGARDING EXHIBITIONS?

2003 saw the creation of an exhibition area at the Richelieu site dedicated to photographic collections with the support of sponsor partners. 2003 also saw a significant rise in visitor numbers to on-site exhibitions. The photographs of James Nachtwey and Cartier Bresson and exhibitions on the actor Gérard Philippe and on the 15th century painter and illuminator, Fouquet, attracted large crowds. Exhibitions at the BnF may sometimes be accompanied by online ones: <http://expositions.bnf.fr/>

A NEW STEP FOR THE SPECIALISED COLLECTIONS: THE RENOVATION OF THE RICHELIEU SITE

A detailed schedule, representing an essential stage in the renovation project of the Richelieu site, was completed, notably the definition of the project for a main reference room shared by all the specialised departments.

Some renovation and security work were carried out on the Arsenal site.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

At a national level the BnF, wishing to develop stronger relations with the research community, launched an appeal to students and PhD students in 2003. Within the framework of this programme, the BnF is able to welcome researchers interested in working on its collections or on the organisation of the library as a whole.

At an international level, the BnF strengthened its links with other national or research libraries throughout the world (consultation, sharing of experiences and know-how, technical cooperation) and enhanced the coordination of its training offers for foreign professionals. The BnF's major international actions in 2003 included the co-organisation of a colloquium on the National libraries of French-speaking Africa, held in Dakar in May, the signature of the International Internet Preservation Consortium and the preparation for receiving foreign professionals on a long-term basis.

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