

# KUWAIT

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF KUWAIT**

**WAFI'AH AL-SANE — CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2003 – 2004**

The National Library of Kuwait is deeply involved in all of the activities associated with preparation of the new building, due for inauguration in 2006. The Library is insistently requesting budget enhancements especially for that purpose.

### **COLLECTIONS**

The Library keeps collecting all kinds of material. At the end of 2003, total holdings were as follows: 312,687 books, 750 periodicals, 400 special reports, 818 dissertations, 20,000 microfilms, 3,459 Audios/Videos, 1,605 CD-ROMs, 418 printed music sheets, 458 original manuscripts.

The Library holds the special collection known as the Kuwaitiana, now consisting of about 7,000 items, plus seven private collections received from special donors, totalling over 21,000 items.

### **SERVICES**

In cooperation with 22 other libraries in Kuwait, the National Library is producing the Union List of books, periodicals, and manuscripts.

The Library is also producing the national bibliographic list on CD-ROM, which will include all known books and documents published in Kuwait, plus all known dissertations and theses by Kuwaiti students studying abroad. Over 220,000 records have already been collected, and over 179,000 have already been processed.

### **COPYRIGHT AND DEPOSITORY**

In its role of National Depository and National ISBN Agency, the Library has continued to register new deposit items, and to assign new ISBN numbers and CIP records in the year 2003.

The Library's active involvement in the development of Copyright and Intellectual Property legislation has importantly contributed to the adoption, last year, of a new ministerial order on the control of depository items (Ministerial Decision no. 30 dated July 13, 2003).

## **PRESERVATION THROUGH DIGITIZATION**

The Library is developing its capabilities for providing computerized access to its collections and for improving patron access to the national and cultural heritage of Kuwait. Among other things, this will be achieved through the Preservation of National Heritage project.

This project aims at preserving most important resources on the Kuwaiti heritage by scanning and digitizing a selection of rare books, manuscripts, rare local newspapers, government and other documents. 1,000 rare books from the special Kuwaitiana collection were selected and are being digitized in full text. 580 books were already processed, totalling 160,000 pages. Another 8,000 pages of books, 20,000 of periodicals and 5,600 of manuscripts were already digitized in image format.

## **LIBRARY COOPERATION**

The Library has been offering special consultation to other libraries in Kuwait, for example for selection of the proper library automation system, and for developing their own collections. The Library's Gift and Exchange Program maintains arrangements with institutions and libraries throughout the world, also based on the Cultural Exchange Programs of Kuwait with other countries.

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