

Annual Report to CDNL 2005

Name of Country : France
Name of Library : National Library of France
Name of Chief Executive : Jean-Noël Jeanneney

Key facts for 2004:

- 60 972 books, 1 390 872 serial issues and 97 770 specialised, printed and audio-visual documents were received by publishers' legal deposit;
- the autograph manuscript of Paul Verlaine "Sagesse" and a set of documents concerning the invention of photography from Janine Niepce's collection are some of the outstanding acquisitions which enriched the holdings;
- 1 066 049 readers used the reading rooms;
- 8,4 million people visited our web site <http://www.bnf.fr> ;
- around 5,000 original documents were seen by the public in 18 exhibitions within the library and 2,320 documents were loaned to 176 off-site exhibitions in France and abroad;
- 125 colloquia and conferences were organised by the BnF representing 800 hours of programming;
- the budget amounts to 144,9 million euros;
- library staff comprises a total of 2749 agents.

Project highlights in 2004:

The 2004-2007 action plan

The strategic action of the Bibliothèque nationale de France was explicitly implemented in the three-year strategic plan (2001-2003) which was regularly evaluated by three-monthly progress reports. This strategy is followed up and reinforced within the framework of a 4-year action plan.

This plan, drawn up in collaboration with all the departments, sets out 3 orientations which leads the library up to 2007: 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 regarding its users; improve management. For each defined action, the implementation agenda is defined and the carefully quantified indicators are linked to it. A three-month progress report will continue to punctuate the follow-up and evaluation procedures.

2004 saw the design and experiment of a strategic piloting tool (infocentre) in order to produce useful data to control and pilot activities, calculate indicators and analyse trends.

The reinforcement of the collection security policies

The security plan for the collections, launched in 2003, aims to protect the collections against malicious actions such as theft, damage or even destruction by the staff in charge of the documents. In 2004, a BnF staff member was charged with theft after the disappearance of some ancient manuscripts. A report, written by the BnF in September 2004, gives the measures taken or planned in order to keep the best security conditions for the collection preservation.

The new digital documentary policy

In 2004, the BnF clearly defined the development directions and the document selection rules for its digital library. Defined in the Gallica documentary policy [http://www.bnf.fr/pages/infopro/cooperation/po_chartegallica.htm], these principles focus on the encyclopaedic vision of the digital library which is constituted from the existing printed and sound recording collections. This new policy is based on digitising of representative corpuses, covering all areas, focusing on rare documents or those which are not easily consultable.

The 19th Century Newspaper Digitisation Project was determined as one of the priorities. It aims to digitize, over 5-years, more than 3 million pages of 1 Regional and 26 National newspapers.

Research and development programmes for archiving electronic resources

The BnF is in the process of defining an archiving system called SPAR, which stands for *Système pour préserver, archiver et répartir l'accès aux données* (System for Preserving, Archiving and Distributing Access to Data). It aims to better archive and preserve the exponentially increasing digital resources. 2004 saw the completion of the technical feasibility studies and specification requirements.

A better access for disabled users

The BnF demonstrated its commitment for a better access to its buildings, collections and other activities towards disabled users by training and communication actions, by building improvements made to the François-Mitterrand site as well as by specific hardware and software's purchases.

A new web site version with more services

The web site version, launched at the end of 2004, presents a new homepage to express an editorial policy focused on a greater visibility of news and cultural events. This development was accompanied by completely reorganising the site and by enhancing the following areas: creation of a section dedicated to the press professionals, development of services for library and information science professionals as well as a new interface for the Signets de la BnF (a bookmarks application).

From Spring 2004, "The Picture Collection" has proposed online consultation and purchase of 60,000 images in the public domain.

More off-site exhibitions

In 2004, the library was very active in producing and co-ordinating exhibitions both on-site and off-site. The François-Mitterrand building hosted 3 of the most important exhibitions : *La mer* ; *Souvenirs, souvenirs : 100 ans de chanson française* ; *Chine, l'Empire du trait*. The exhibition *Capa, connu et inconnu*, presented on the Richelieu building within the framework of the "Mois de la photo" event, was a great public success with around 53,800 visitors. *Dessins de la Renaissance / Renaissance drawings* in Barcelona, the engravings of *Abraham Bosse* in the museum of Tours (France) and the *Bestiaire du Moyen Age* in the public library of Troyes (France) can be cited among the off-site exhibitions.

The strengthening of national and international activities

The national co-operation of the BnF comes within the framework of the Action Plan for Printed Cultural Heritage (Plan d'Action pour le Patrimoine Écrit), co-ordinated by the Division of Books and Reading in the Ministry of Culture and Communication. For this reason, the library has installed a new structure called the "department of co-operation" which is in charge of co-ordinating the network of associated centres, accelerating the developments of the French union catalogue as well as sharing digitisation and preservation efforts.

At an international level, among the key actions conducted in 2004, we can particularly focus on the entrance of the library into the newly constituted European Library Group, the launch of the "Profession culture" / "Visiting fellow" programme within the framework of which the BnF welcomed 9 people from all over the world as well as a new trend which now gives a greater place to the building of strong partnerships with some of its counterparts about various activities.

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