

FRANCE

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

BRUNO RACINE – PRESIDENT

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

Key facts for 2006:

- the Bibliothèque nationale de France received through legal deposit from publishers: 65,527 books, 1,245,168 serial issues and 72,834 specialised, printed and audio-visual documents;
- outstanding acquisitions included the donation of the autograph manuscript notebook of *En Attendant Godot* (*Waiting For Godot*) by Samuel Beckett, original preparatory documents for three Babar albums, the autograph manuscript of *Discours pour l'abolition de la peine de mort* (speech for the abolition of the death penalty in France) made by the then French Justice Minister, Robert Badinter in 1981 as well as the acquisition of the first proof corrections by Stéphane Mallarmé, author of *Jamais un coup de dès n'abolira le hasard* (*A Throw of the Dice Will Never Abolish Chance*) and autograph statements and annotated printed material of *Alcools* (*Alcohols*) by Guillaume Apollinaire
- 1,018,640 readers used the reading rooms and 1,358,814 items were delivered, which was 1.8% up on 2005 ;
- around 16 million people visited the website www.bnf.fr, the trend is still upward and was 28% up on 2005 ; the number of visits to the digital library Gallica remained stable at around 2 million;
- 25,750 people attended 124 cultural events organised or hosted in the auditoriums;
- 5,400 original documents were shown to 178,000 visitors at 17 on-site exhibitions and 2,262 visitors at off-site exhibitions in France and abroad;
- library staff comprised a total of 2,651 agents at the end of 2006;
- the budget amounted to 147.1 million euros.

In December 2006, the Bibliothèque nationale de France celebrated the 10th anniversary of the opening of the François-Mitterrand site.

Project highlights in 2006:

A new legal deposit law...

A decree modified the Legal Deposit law in June 2006. It provides for a reduction of the number of copies deposited: from now on, publishers have to deposit 2 instead of 4 copies of books, brochures, periodicals, cartographic documents, music and choreographic scores, prints, photographs and graphic documents. Printers now have to deposit only one copy instead of two. In agreement with depositors, the BnF may request copies of printed material in digital format only. The new provisions mean reduced costs for both publishers and the BnF while allowing them to benefit from technological developments.

This reduction has led the BnF to redistribute the security collection which had been built up since 1996 from the second copy deposited by publishers and preserved at the Bussy Saint Georges site near Paris. The modification of the decree has allowed the BnF to rationalize the redistribution policy of the second copy with its national partners and revise exchange procedures with its foreign partnerships for whom the BnF will now acquire materials for the purpose of exchange.

...and the extension to Internet

On August 1, 2006, legal deposit of internet publications became law. The DADVSI directive on the harmonisation of certain aspects of copyright and related rights in the information society extended the scope of legal deposit as follows: "*signs, signals, writings, images, sounds or messages of any kind publicly available by electronic means are also subject to legal deposit law*". The BnF is authorised to receive all Internet sites, except those which concern the audiovisual domain (particularly radio broadcasts and television) which are under the responsibility of the Institut national de l'audiovisuel (National Audiovisual Institute). The application decree, which will allow researchers to access legal deposit collections, should be promulgated during the second half of 2007.

In October 2006, in partnership with 8 French libraries, , the BnF launched another project for the harvesting and long-term preservation of Internet sites to provide a comprehensive as possible coverage of the 2007 presidential and legislative elections. It also received several archives of Internet sites built by its American partner *Internet*

Archive at the end of 2005: snapshots of the .fr domain, targeted harvesting of more than 4,000 sites selected by BnF librarians for their documentary interest and also retrospective collections from 1996.

The enhancement of the Digital Library

2006 saw great progress for the implementation of the European Digital Library project and its first concrete achievements. The project is strongly supported by the European Commission and in a press release of March 2, 2006, the EC announced its intention to “step up efforts to put Europe’s memory on the web via a European Digital Library” built upon the cooperation between the national libraries of the European Union. The BnF continued its partnerships with authors, publishers, private companies as well as with its counterparts in Europe in order to build this key project aimed at contributing to cultural diversity and the democratisation of knowledge access. Guided by this aim, the Library developed the prototype for an innovative digital library, *Europeana* (www.europeana.eu) representing the French contribution to the European Digital Library.

The lessons learned from this prospective review have led to significant development in *Gallica*, the BnF’s digital library. Using the same approach, around 60,000 of the 90,000 printed materials digitised in image-mode in *Gallica* are currently being OCRised in order to improve indexation and navigation and provide a more ergonomic interface. *Gallica* is expanding thanks to the Newspaper Digitisation project and 2 important digitisation contracts: one for 30,000 documents was tendered in 2006 and one for 300,000 documents, over a 3-year period, will be tendered in 2007. The developments realised within the framework of the mock-up and the *Europeana* prototype will help in the realisation of the new release of *Gallica*: the new technical architecture will allow interoperability with European libraries as well as the integration of new functionalities. All digitised documents are currently in the public domain. The BnF also plans to give access to under-copyright works within a framework of fair retribution of the rights for right-holders. In order to achieve this goal, a joint working group was set up with BnF/Syndicat national des Editeurs (French Publishers Association) to study the elaboration of a business model taking into account the different players and their different constraints (economic, functional, technical and legal) for under-copyright works.

In parallel, the BnF extended its commitment to the European Library / TEL (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org) which, since March 2005, has provided a single access point to the catalogues and digital libraries of the partner national libraries.

A strong focus on preservation, security and safety of collections

The Library has a particular focus on awareness-raising campaigns and wide ranging preservation actions including preventive actions, mass preservation projects, restoration, disaster planning or measures against theft and mutilation of library materials. The collection security measures include reinforcing the security systems in the stacks, implementing new access regulations for the stacks as well as for conservation and reproduction workshops, improving transport conditions of collections among the different library sites and overhauling the video surveillance system.

2006 saw the continued legal proceedings for the theft of ancient Hebrew manuscripts which in 2007 led to the imprisonment of the curator in charge of the Hebrew collections as well as a criminal fine for the theft of the Hebrew Manuscript 52. This manuscript was returned to the BnF collections in January 2007 following a litigation settlement and restitution agreement signed in December 2006 and ratified by a New York State Supreme judge. Two months later, the BnF recovered a second stolen Hebrew manuscript, “Hébreu 23”.

Diversification of users and services

The BnF enhanced and developed the range of services offered to the public on-site as well as off-site. In 2006, in order to better know and understand their expectations, 4 studies were carried out on the reputation and image of the Library, perception and use of communication supports and use of the Discovery Area, opened in 2005 as a first approach for new visitors to the Library. Special activities were carried out as part of a new policy of reaching out to a wider audience and wooing new users. Highlights included the opening of a new, permanent open-access exhibition space for the 2 Globes created by the monk Vincenzo Coronelli at the end of the 17th century and presented to Louis XIV as well as the BnF’s involvement in national events such as the «*Journées du Patrimoine*» (Cultural Heritage Days), «*Lire en fête*» (nationwide book festival to promote reading) and «*Nuit blanche*» (free, all-night cultural event). Several actions to attract new users have also been launched to take place during the summer period: besides free access to the reading rooms of the Research library, visits and workshops are proposed to young or underprivileged users. In 2006, the implementation of new charges for reader cards and exhibitions is also in line with the policy of social inclusion, notably the creation of new kinds of cards, the extension of exemptions and reduced rates for the underprivileged and disadvantaged. Joint diversification schemes with teachers were also organised, notably around the exhibitions, frequently enhanced by pedagogical packs and supported by the BnF’s online offer.

Users benefited from the enhancements to the online catalogue *BN Opale Plus* with the incorporation of records from both the Department of Music and the Department of Prints and Photographs, thus bringing the total number of records to 10 million bibliographic records and 4.7 million authority records at the end of 2006. In parallel, the electronic resources offer was enhanced with the subscription to the database *Eighteenth Century Collections Online*. Under the terms of agreement, made in December 2006 with the publisher Elsevier, since spring 2007, the BnF has provided online access in its reading rooms to the archives of 2,000 periodical titles, published or distributed by Elsevier and acquired at special rates. Finally, the collection of Charles Cros, the sound recording pioneer, which contains more than 1,000 devices related to the history of sound recording and broadcasting, is now accessible to researchers.

Since November 2006, a partnership with the Centre national de la cinématographie (National Cinematography Centre) has allowed researchers in the BnF reading rooms to consult the French Film Archives electronically.

For safety reasons, the collections which were stored until 1998 in an annexe in Versailles in stacks containing asbestos have not been accessible to the public since January 2006: the removal of asbestos-containing materials was begun in September 2006 and will last for over a year.

The Richelieu site renovation project gets underway

A major milestone was reached in the renovation of the Richelieu site with the signing, in November 2006, of an agency agreement, awarding the project management of the site to EMOC, a French public establishment responsible for managing renovation projects of cultural sites. Thus, after several years of efforts, the decision to rehabilitate this site in order to better safeguard the special collections of the BnF comes into force. The signing of the agreement also invited bids for general contractor and the selection of the architect in 2007. A budget of 150 million euros was raised for this operation.

The reinforcement of national and international partnerships

At the national level, the Library reinforced co-operation projects and exchanges with its network of associated centres, notably in the areas of digitisation and document sharing. Reforms to legal deposit legislation entailed the creation of a new kind of associated centre: the publishers' legal deposit associated centre. These centres (39 in autumn 2006) have signed an agreement with the BnF in order to set up a network to redistribute and share preservation of the national cultural heritage according to a documentary map, using the second copy received by legal deposit.

The BnF actively expanded its cultural offer in 2006 by producing and coordinating exhibitions both on-site and off-site in the French regions, major European cities and internationally. Several new partnerships were also formed, particularly with the media, universities or research centres for organising conferences, colloquia, professional events and tributes.

International activity in 2006 was marked, as described above, by the ongoing European Digital Library project. It was also consolidated by strengthening partnerships and signing bilateral cooperation agreements with several cultural heritage institutions such as the national libraries of Morocco, Tunisia, Romania and Quebec as well as launching the Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques (French-speaking network of digital national libraries). Finally, meetings attended by the Bibliothèque nationale de France with its counterparts within the framework of international events, bilateral discussions or during study stays - in Latin America and China - offered many important opportunities for dialogue and launching joint projects.

Address:

Quai François-Mauriac
75706 Paris Cedex 13
FRANCE

Tel : + 33 1 53 79 59 59
Fax : + 33 1 53 79 48 49
URL: <http://www.bnf.fr/>

Email: bruno.racine@bnf.fr; agnes.saal@bnf.fr; lucien.scotti@bnf.fr