

SLOVENIA

NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

NUL's operation has been determined by the *2004-2008 Strategic Plan* with annual priorities defined in the 2006 Work Programme. The library has been monitoring effectiveness, efficiency and quality of products and services through performance measurement, based on annual library plans, and by using a set of performance indicators defined in the Strategic Plan.

In March 2006 the Library established a new division under the name Digital Library Development and Strategy which encompasses the following three departments: E-Library Creation, Management and Maintenance (dealing also with tasks of NUL's inclusion into the global virtual library); the Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Department (working on development and maintenance of the digital library portal, institutional web pages and digital repository, at the same time providing access to digital collections of other co-operating institutions; in addition, it takes care of the web harvesting application, along with databases by NUL to be included in international database systems); and the Centre for Coordination of Digitisation of Library Materials (whose task is to supervise digitisation activities carried out mainly by external companies, only a lesser portion of items being digitised by the library itself).

The Library reorganised its financial management functions, finally introducing a fully operational automated Management Information System which allows for efficient management of allocated finance, earmarks spending control and a tighter control of expenses during the year. An important activity in this context can be seen in applying for and managing finance received mainly through cooperation of the library in the so-called European projects. Project financial management thus called for introduction of EU accounting rules.

The "Adopt a Book" Programme, aimed at raising funds to preserve and restore the most precious items from the holdings, has been resumed.

All specific measures have been taken to ensure a smooth adoption of the new currency, the Euro.

With regard to the overall budget, labour cost share has diminished compared to 2005, as well as overall library costs per active library member, lent item or costs per newly created bibliographic record.

In 2006 NUL successfully completed the process of acquiring a quality, modern and easily recognisable image of visual communication to reflect all recent shifts in corporate identity and organisation's behaviour. At the end of 2006 the library had already started implementing changes in visual communication elements.

In mid-Autumn the library web pages were completely overhauled. The reconstruction was based on thorough user study, thus including relevance of contents, various functionalities and effective visual design (<http://www.nuk.uni-lj.si/>).

LEGISLATION

A new Legal Deposit Act was passed in the middle of 2006, thus introducing a number of significant changes, the most important being: the new act extends legal deposit to electronic publications of

all kinds, at the same time requiring their long-term preservation in the digital repository, maintained by NUL; publishers are responsible for the sending of deposit copies (formerly printers); the number of deposit copies is reduced from 16 to four, with the exception of publicly funded publications which will continue to be deposited in 16 copies; altered redistribution of publicly funded publications (16 copies distributed among 13 libraries); a decrease in number of copies, retained by NUL (from four to two, with adverse effect on library's lending collection as well as on the extent of the international exchange of publications); colophon is mandatory in all publications. Since the Act came into effect only in mid-October 2006 all the consequences for NUL have yet to become known. The new act has ensured the collection of electronic publications, but in the area of printed publications its regulations do not follow international recommendations on the purpose of legal deposit (long-term preservation of publications and bibliographic control), thus the majority of the national publishing output will be deposited in 16 copies and subsequently distributed to selected libraries as a means of providing access to information to all citizens.

BUILDINGS AND PLANT

In 2006 the already known problems related to library buildings continued to mar the library performance: operation on two separate locations and hardly functional premises make it difficult to offer open access to library materials and modern information services to users. A long-term solution to the lack of space in the Slovenian national library can be seen in a new library building, the construction of which has been delayed for more than ten years. The building project has been taken over by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, whereas NUL has been assigned the task to modernise and update the all too long existing plans in terms of the programme's aims and priorities. The main efforts in 2006 can be seen in further acquisition of the land and the signing of the contract on the transfer of lands acquired by the Municipality of Ljubljana on to the previously mentioned Ministry, thus enabling the beginning of the first phase. However, financial support from the national budget to cover the 2006-2008 time span would seem uncertain.

STAFFING MATTERS

Compared to the previous year, the number of employees financed by the Ministry of Culture in 2006 did not increase: at the end of the year the number of NUL staff amounted to 136 FTE. Another 9.2 FTE employees were financed from extra budgetary sources (Council of Europe, project funds). In order to cope with the increased amount of work and to ensure that the opening times stay within the present limits NUL had to resort to outsourcing (complementary recruitment) and other collaborators were also hired on contractual basis, together with student work.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS

In 2006 hardware and software needs required to do the job substantially increased when compared to 2005. On the one hand, this is due to a greater range of electronic services and an update of working processes. On the other, there has been an increase in the offer of library-created digital collections, while NUL has also set about the digital archive to store electronic publications (now received as legal deposit copies, following the 2006 Legal Deposit Act) on a long-term basis. Acquisition of new workstations quite apart, it was necessary to upgrade the storage array, improve safe data storage software and ensure the highest level of network security (anti-virus protection).

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

In the field of digital library development the library's planned objectives for 2006 were met. *The Digital Library of Slovenia Development Strategy - dLib.si 2007-2010* was completed and published. The digital library portal development- dLib.si (<http://www.dlib.si/>) was taking place at four levels: content management, legal issues, technological development, and digital library marketing and promotion. New digital content was added to collections of photographs and older articles, whereas two collections were started from scratch, the poster and scientific articles collections. A total of 364,170 titles were digitised (representing 358,786 articles), together with 223,462 scans. By the end of the year the portal was enabling access to six digital collections. In addition, special

attention was given to promotional activities, aimed at several groups, such as individual library users, libraries, publishers, editorial boards of scientific periodicals, government agencies etc.), along with creation of various partnerships. At the end of the year the library installed Heritrix web crawler, version 1.6, later upgraded to 1.10, together with Web Curator Tool (WCT), developed by the National Library of New Zealand and the British Library. The library became the first in the world to use it under Windows environment, thus contributing a WCT Installation Guide for Windows which can be accessed at <http://webcurator.sourceforge.net/>. As European Library member, NUL continued to actively participate both in the development of the portal and digital content offer. The library cooperated in the TEL-ME-MOR and EDL projects (The European Digital Library Project), while digitisation on demand service was introduced through cooperation in the EoD (E-books on Demand) project.

ACQUISITIONS

NUL's intake of library materials includes acquisition of information resources via legal deposit, purchase, exchange and gifts. In 2006 133,906 items were taken in, thus legal deposit copies represented 91,296 items (68%), purchase 12,336 (9%), exchange 4,166 (3%) and gifts 26,108 items (20%). Compared to 2005, a decrease can be noted in the number of purchased and exchanged items, with a notable increase in items received as a gift. The 2006 total intake amounted to 36,584 volumes, again a decrease when compared to the previous year (38,766 volumes). At the end of 2006 the library collections amounted to 2,495,140 volumes, an increase of 1.5% compared to 2005. Monographs represented 48.5% of the total library collection. In the past year NUL substantially increased the amount of electronic information resources, acquired through purchase via library consortia mainly via the COSEC national library consortium, a member of the international eIFL.net consortium.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

NUL is by law required to operate as the national conservation and preservation centre for library materials and is thus responsible for long-term preservation of the national written cultural heritage. One of the most important strategic objectives can therefore be seen in adequate storage, preservation and conservation of library materials on analogue carriers, together with ensuring suitable conditions to preserve digital material as well. Careful analysis of the paper samples, carried out in the framework of PaperTreat and SurveNIR projects, shows that 36% of monographs, published after 1850, have already become brittle and eventually unavailable to readers. Every fourth book is bound to become brittle over the next 25 year time span without providing proper storage solutions and sufficient finance to support mass deacidification treatment of books that have not yet become brittle. In 2006 a portion of library materials were therefore moved from the central building to a separate site with optimum storage conditions. Physical protection of volumes was improved on the main site as well, combined with the use of acid-free book jackets and envelopes, folders and purpose-made boxes. Compared to 2005, the amount of restored and rebound items increased, along with microfilming and digitisation of older newspapers and magazines.

SERVICES TO READERS

Despite the introduction of sophisticated electronic services and digital collections, along with provision of remote access, the number of the so-called "physical" library members and visits made to the library in 2006 did not decrease. Compared to 2005, the number of active members (13,865) increased 2%, the bulk of which were students (10,381, 75%), the great majority (92%) coming from the University of Ljubljana. The library was visited by 226,098 visitors, an increase of 3% over the previous year, with daily average of 1,032 visitors. In circulation (568,634 volumes) there was an increase of 7%. 2,863 visitors visited the library in 118 guided tours (a 20% rise, compared to 2005) and another 1,652 took part in various presentations of special collections and other departments (a 40% increase, compared to the previous year). The number of virtual library users, using remote access to electronic resources, amounted to 5,087. In 2006 there was a notable increase in usage (43,174 logins, compared to 12,894 in 2005). NUL's web pages were accessed 1,493,548 times, an increase of 20% when compared to 2005. In November 2006 the library launched a new *Ask NUL* service, well-received by the users, to complement the *Ask a Librarian* service. 382 users (increase of 12% over 2005) took part in 37 education and training programmes on information search and retrieval. The interlibrary loan service provided 13,035 documents, with efficiency indicator at 98.7%. The amount of document delivery in electronic form increased again.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING

The library organised 21 exhibitions open for a total of 445 days. The main goal of library exhibitions in 2006 was again promotion of the national written cultural heritage, together with presentations of milestones in the national cultural history. Among exhibitions organised in cooperation with libraries from abroad two stood out: »The Growing Book: Slovenian Book Treasures« at the Bavarian State Library, Munich (Germany), and »Creators of Two Cultures«, taking place both at NUL and the National and University Library, Zagreb (Croatia). The library continues to publish the national bibliography, translations of the professional literature and international standards, manuals, monographs, periodical publications, catalogues etc. In 2006 39 publication titles were published altogether, seven of which in electronic form only. Among monographs the following three titles should be mentioned: basic manual in the field of subject cataloguing ("UDC: A Manual"), another manual to serve as a guide to users of ISBN international code, and a comprehensive monograph ("The Slovenian National Library") to mark the 60th anniversary of the library having been legally recognised as performing the national function. A selective 2006 bibliography of professional and scientific contributions of the library staff counts 116 bibliographic units.

LIBRARY COOPERATION

Internationally, NUL cooperates with a great many libraries from abroad, international associations and organisations, e.g. CENL (Conference of European National Librarians), CDNL (Conference of Directors of National Libraries) and IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations and Organisations) where NUL participates actively in the work of a number of standing committees (bibliography, national libraries, academic and research libraries, information technology). NUL is a founding member of *The European Library (TEL)* and in 2006 actively participated in the work of its Governing Board. Other notable memberships include: ELAG, LIBER, Aslib, IASA, NAPLE etc). NUL also cooperates in the work of international agencies for bibliographic control (ISSN, ISBN, ISMN). Bilateral contracts on cooperation and exchange of professionals have been signed with the Czech, Hungarian, Macedonian, Serbian and Slovak national libraries.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

In 2006 NUL cooperated, either as leader or partner, in 10 research projects, mainly financed from the EU funds (eBooks on Demand - EoD, EDL - European Digital Library, reUSE, TEL-ME-MOR, WEB Cultural Heritage, PaperTreat, SurveNIR). By tradition, NUL takes on responsibilities for the development of the national library and information system. Thus the library offers a wide range of continuing education and training programmes intended for both library professionals and users. In 2006, 1,425 librarians and users participated in the courses. The Library monitors and promotes the development of the Slovenian libraries (collection of data on the national library statistics, analysis on the degree of development of libraries and library networks, preparation of the national library registry, embracing institutions which perform public service in the field of librarianship, coordination of activities in the field of central regional libraries, along with advisory activities).

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