

FRANCE

BIBLIOTHÈQUE NATIONALE DE FRANCE

M. BRUNO RACINE – PRÉSIDENT

In 2007:

- the Bibliothèque nationale de France received through legal deposit from publishers: 63,761 books, 344,898 serial deposits and 70,659 special, printed and audio-visual documents;
- the *BN Opale Plus* catalogue contains 10.5 million bibliographic records and more than 5 million authority records. 260,000 new records were added;
- 953,632 readers used the reading rooms and 1,289,675 materials were delivered;
- over 14 million people visited www.bnf.fr; 2,130,204 visits to the digital library Gallica, 4.6% up on 2006;
- 345,445 visitors attended on-site cultural events, 176,445 of whom were for temporary exhibitions;
- 17,413 people attended more than 130 cultural events organised or hosted in the auditoriums;
- total library staff of 2,662 at the end of 2007;
- the budget amounted to 238.8 million euros, compared to 147.1 in 2006, mainly due to the transfer of funds from the Ministries of Education and Culture, for the management of employment as well as for additional resources for the digital library.

Project highlights in 2007

The digital library in the age of mass digitisation

The digital library *Gallica* (<http://gallica.bnf.fr/>) continued to be enhanced by newspaper digitisation and by three major mass digitisation projects for 30 000, 60 000 and 300 000 printed documents, which were launched in 2007.

The technical architecture of *Gallica* was also modified to allow interoperability with European libraries and the implementation of new functionalities. In order to extend the digital offer to copyrighted works, the BnF, in partnership with the Syndicat national des éditeurs (French Publishers Association), examined economically equitable conditions for publishing copyrighted works online, resulting in an experimental service starting in March 2008.

Additional resources, amounting to 10 million euros, were allocated in the BnF's 2007 budget to finance the digitisation projects, information infrastructures and work on tightening security and preparing the premises for the installation of the archiving system.

The BnF continued its contacts, discussions and collaborations with authors, publishers, relevant industrialists and counterparts in other European countries to build the European Digital Library. Guided by this aim, the Library developed the prototype for an innovative digital library, *Europeana*, which was closed in January 2008, when this name was chosen by the European partners for the future European Digital Library.

The legal deposit of Internet documents: an activity in its own right

The BnF has had a mission to collect, preserve and communicate French domain web sites in a legal deposit framework since August 1st 2006. In 2007, the Library actively prepared to make available to researchers collections harvested from the internet and this became operational in April 2008.

A year rich in outstanding additions to the collections

The cultural heritage collections were enhanced by several outstanding documents, thanks to numerous donations of authors' works or personal archives, donated by the authors or their families. Among these were two national treasures: *La Fille Elisa* by Edmond de Goncourt, illustrated with original drawings by Toulouse Lautrec and the illuminated manuscript *la Vie de St François d'Assise* (The Life of St Francis of Assisi) as well as an inestimable series of documents and professional and scientific objects from the Joliot-Curies, part of the manuscripts and archives of the anthropologist Claude Lévi-Strauss, all the papers of the academician Jean-François Revel and the work of the electroacoustic music composer Pierre Henry.

A broader range of services for a diverse public

The BN Opale Plus catalogue now covers all open and restricted access printed documents, sound recordings, videos, multimedia and electronic documents, special documents related to the performing arts and cinema, printed and manuscript scores, prints and photos, maps and plans as well as digital documents. Since May 2007, users have also been able to access a new catalogue, *BnF archives et manuscrits*, covering manuscripts and collections held at the Manuscripts Department and Performing Arts Department.

Other improvements aimed at making the Library more user-friendly were carried out in 2007: switching from magnetic reader cards to contact-less cards and revising the accreditation procedure for the Research Library to allow any reader who obtains an annual reader card for this library to be automatically entitled to use all BnF reading rooms on all sites.

Since November 2007, a professional card has enabled companies and private or public bodies to benefit from a customised service for the collections of two departments: Law, Economy and Politics and Science and Techniques. Market research reports, company information, tools and databases along with scientific and technical professional press are also available in dedicated areas.

The Library reinforced its commitment to improving disabled access to its buildings, collections and diverse activities. In the first quarter of 2007, specially equipped rooms were installed to enable visually-impaired users to access the collections. As part of its sponsorship action, the France Telecom Group's Orange Foundation provided surtitles for a series of philosophical conferences, sign language interpretation for certain conferences and, since autumn 2007, has enabled visually-impaired people to access the the Globes of Louis XIV.

A study of the Bibliothèque d'étude (Reference library) was launched with the aim of building a project to broaden usage and diversify the user base for its collections which are currently student-dominated and underused.

As part of a general desire to reach out to a wider public, the BnF took part in one-off events such as the *Journées européennes du Patrimoine* (European Cultural Heritage Days), *Lire en fête* (Celebration of Reading), *Nuit blanche* (White Night event), *Fête des jardins* (Garden celebration) and initiated many actions aimed at school and university sectors as well as organising programmes of visits and events targeted at individuals and associations.

Launch of renovation work on the Richelieu site

After a long period of preparation and programming, the Richelieu project entered a concrete phase in 2007. This was a decisive year which saw the appointment in June of the architect Bruno Gaudin to lead the renovation project which will cover 59 000 m² and will last from 2009 to 2014, with a projected budget of 150 million euros. In tandem with the modernisation programme, work will be done to ensure the safety of technical installations, traffic (staff, users and collections) flow and networks as well as improving conditions for preserving the collections and welcoming the public.

Constant vigilance on conservation, security and safety of the collections

An in-depth study of the conservation policy continued throughout 2007 and resulted in the Library adopting a Conservation Charter in 2008. Since 2007, the preservation policy of the BnF collections has shifted towards preservation based on digital surrogates, with the progressive abandon of microforms.

As in previous years, the Library Collection Security Plan, in place since 2003, was the object of an evaluation and report listing the major measures and results for security reinforcement of library spaces and collections, awareness and safeguarding of holdings and monitoring of readers and staff. Actions undertaken were followed up and supervised by a monitoring group, "Collection Safety" comprising representatives from all Library services.

2007 saw the launch of the second three-year inventory plan for the collections (2007-2009). The first results of the 2007 inventory identified 489,667 validated items. Systematic inventory campaigns were conducted in tandem with major associated work activities: security marking of audio-visual items, corrections or inventory and cataloguing operations, noting the preservation condition of documents, packing them and transferring them between stacks.

Dynamic cultural activity and enhancement

The BnF has developed significant activities in the production and coordination of exhibitions. In 2007, 5300 items were shown to the public, thanks to 15 exhibitions organised within the library as well as loans to 170 exhibitions in the French regions and to major cities worldwide. The exhibition of Athget's photographs, which attracted 40 000 visitors in Paris, before travelling to Berlin and Winterthur, and «*L'Enfer de la Bibliothèque, Eros au secret*», which opened at the end of 2007, were all hits with the public. Access was extended through the virtual versions of the exhibitions on the BnF website (<http://expositions.bnf.fr/>).

The cultural season was completed by a rich programme of conferences and colloquia, supported by partnership with the media, radio and press. Conference highlights included a series dedicated to Philosophy, co-produced with the France Culture radio station, an encounter between "a text and a mathematician", the historical series "Secret Plots and rumours" and a new series of conferences on the history of the book.

Strengthening national and international partnerships

At the national level, the BnF reinforced co-operation projects and exchanges, such as digitisation and document sharing with its network of associated centres.

At the international level, there was a greater synergy between the challenges posed by digitisation and developing international action, a trend demonstrated in 2007 by:

- strong involvement at strategic and operational levels, in European partnerships, leading to greater access to collections via multilingual access points such as TEL/ The European Library ;
- investment in European and international research projects, all linked to digital technologies (TELplus, EDLnet, IMPACT, IIPC) ;
- intensifying exchanges with a view to building the French-language Digital Library, in a framework of a French-language network of national digital libraries.

At the bilateral level, the BnF consolidated numerous partnerships (Morocco, Tunisia, and Spain), strengthened links with the United States and continued to extend the network of partners and new geographical areas: Asia and Latin America.

Greater staff management responsibility

Since January 1st 2007, the Library has been in charge of the employment and remuneration of its public sector personnel with the corresponding funds being incorporated into its budget. In 2007, a new staff satisfaction survey was carried out to gather their views on working conditions and environment. Over 50% of the staff took part in this consultation which forms part of a process aimed at enriching different forms of social dialogue, evaluating actions undertaken and defining improvement strategies.

Sustainable development: a future project for the BnF

A member since July 2007 of the club of public institutions and corporations committed to sustainable development, the BnF has engaged in a structured and concerted strategy with many partners in order to incorporate sustainable development into all its activities and throughout its sites. The actions undertaken are guided by several aims:

- contribute to the reduction in CO2 emissions by actions such as improving its building energy performance;
- help preserve water resources and biodiversity;
- adopt a purchasing and consumption policy that incorporates sustainable development principles when issuing calls for tenders and choosing suppliers;
- favour the distribution of information and knowledge in the fields of sustainable development.

This study was enhanced by consulting several partner libraries abroad and when the BnF launched a call for ideas to all staff members, it received 500 proposals. These proposals were examined by themed groups, with the support of outside experts in certain cases, and helped draw up a Charter for Good Environmental behaviour at the BnF.

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