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**Report of the National Széchényi Library, Hungary
2007**

Name of Country: Hungary

Name of Library: National Széchényi Library

Name of Chief Executive: Dr. István Monok General Director

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

Annual Report of the National Széchényi Library, Hungary 2007

As before, in 2007 the National Széchényi Library (NSZL) met its core tasks as a public library as well as its national obligations.

The number of library visits was maintained, while remote access to the library gained considerably in popularity. This category extends to the number of visits to the NSZL webpage and the online catalogue and to the use of the Hungarian Electronic Library and LibInfo. In total, the remote access to the library rose by over 50% within one year, which is also a reliable indication of the trends to be expected. It is worth comparing the figures for traditional visits with those of virtual ones. It is seen that despite the growing electronic use, the circle of traditional readership had also remained loyal to the library.

As regards services, the figures and use of electronic services is outstanding. NSZL has joined the European Union's *EOD (E-books on demand)* project, and in the framework of the cooperation agreement with the MATARKA consortium, while observing the stipulations for copyright and with publishers' authorization, we have launched our article copy and delivery service. The numbers of LibInfo requests stayed in the same range as in earlier years. For extending higher level content service, new *thematic webpages* have been created, including Ervin Lázár's virtual exhibition, the homepage of the Nyugat cultural journal and the historical page of the National Széchényi Library, to name just a few. Following the elaboration of contracts with other libraries, the Database of Articles in the Humanities (HUMANUS) started its routine operation, providing for the long-lasting demand on the side of professionals and the general readership that the bibliographical data for articles and papers should be available online.

Thanks to the new services, the library's revenues have increased dramatically, which assisted to a large extent our survival in the year 2007. The "birthday package", containing copies of newspaper articles from the day in the given year, thus showing what happened on that very day, has become especially popular. The library's reprographic activity tends to shift towards producing digital copies rather than traditional photocopies.

Due to the shortage of financial resources, the stock growth of the library relied primarily on *receiving legal deposit copies*. In 2007, however, printers and publishers sent in fewer new documents. One of the reasons for this may be a drop in the number of publications on traditional carriers, while it may also have contributed to it that suppliers found it harder to access NSZL (because of the construction of a deep garage and the events at Buda Castle). Behind the fact that the quantitative growth in books and music was nearly equal to that of 2006 there is the more conscious and more intensive requesting on our side: In 2007 publishers sent in a large number of earlier issued documents on receiving our reminders. The upturn in the area of video documents is explained by the fact that the television broadcasts so far kept as deposits by ORTT (National Radio and Television Commission) have passed into NSZL ownership.

Another achievement in the year 2007 is the expansion of the current national bibliography's web-based services (five series, archiving going back to 2002) and the establishment of the *uniform webpage for the Hungarian National Bibliography*, which enables electronic searchability of the retrospective and current volume collections of the national bibliography. The webpage and its content are continuously updated.

In exploring stocks, it is a noteworthy accomplishment that in 2007 we completed the retrospective conversion of periodicals, started in 2003. Thus, the full journal catalogue of the national library is made accessible on the Web. The resulting database serves also as the basis of the planned retrospective national press bibliography.

In accordance with the national library's revived system of obligations, a network-type program called eDoku has been launched, involving practically all of the library's sections. The sudden explosive growth of electronic documents, including digitally created works as well as digital copies of original ones, together with organizing their management poses a great challenge for national libraries the world over. The eDoku project undertakes no smaller a task than *to coordinate (collect, digitize, process, store and provide) all activities related to the management and provision of electronic documents.*

In February 2007, commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Culture and the National Development Agency, our staff was involved in producing a study for the national realization of libraries' duties in connection with digitization. It was following this that the NSZL was offered the opportunity *to design the preliminary program for national public collection digitization* within the framework of the New Hungary Development Plan. The first feasibility study of the high-priority project was then completed. For the sake of the earliest possible launching of the program, wide-ranging negotiations were conducted with representatives of museums and archives.

The activity of special collections in 2007 was marked by *planned and systematic processing* work, or at least making preparations for it. The staff of all the collections had completed the AMICUS course, and in the meantime the plans were completed for designating stocks to be processed. In addition to the Map Collection, which had been working in AMICUS for years, processing was successfully launched also in the Collection of Old Prints, the Collection of Small Prints and the Collection of Music. The preparation of collections not yet working with AMICUS was also vigorously continued (Collection of Manuscripts, Theatre History Collection). The elaboration of missing regulations also went on (Visual documents and old prints).

The Collection of Photos and Photographic Art, set up in May 2007, started its activity with the main mission that archival photos kept in different sections of the library and threatened from the point of view of stock protection should be stored and preserved in a uniform manner. Although at a rather slow pace, the withdrawal of endangered photos from various collections has been started.

Digitisation of collections and their records has been going on according to available funding. Of the work already completed, the *digitization of manuscript maps* in the Map Collection, as well as the launch of the *retro-conversion of manuscript sheet music* in the Music Collection are of special significance.

In the *Museum Night*, the library participated with several exhibitions and another event. The outstandingly successful series of events earned the library a five million forint revenue.

The outstanding exhibitions of 2007 were the following: Blue blood, black ink – aristocrats' book collections 1500–1700; 125 years of the Gyoma Kner Printing House – an exhibition about printing history; Dangerous readings – erotic illustrations in 18th century French literature.

Activity in information technology covered the operation of AMICUS, the development of LibriVision and the development of the NSZL Digital Library (OSZKDK) and the ISBN-database. Unfortunately, in 2007 no major IT infrastructure improvement was possible.

Independently and jointly with other publishers, in 2007 NSZL issued some *40 books, periodicals and electronic publications*. Besides the numerous valuable source editions, bibliographies and methodology volumes, the catalogues for the exhibitions on the Kner Printing House and Dangerous readings were also of very high quality. The Matthias Gradual volume, published as a joint edition by Kossuth Publishing Company and NSZL has also been a great success.

Similarly to previous years, the activity of the Library Institute in 2007 had a triple direction, namely meeting the expectations of the professional supervisory body, those of the library system (including individual libraries and librarians) and those of maintainers, partners and society in general.

High-priority tasks of the Library Institute: summarizing results of key areas in the 2003–2007 library strategy period; participation in the preparation of the library strategic plan for a 2008–2013; cooperation in elaboration of the projects for the Portal program; active involvement in dissemination of information concerning the operative programs of the New Hungary Development Plan and in preparation for tendering.

The Institute's new homepage was completed in 2007, becoming more and more popular due to its user-friendly structure and the fast transmission of professional news.

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