

Liechtenstein.

Liechtensteinische Landesbibliothek. Liechtenstein National Library.

Annual report 1996/97 to the Conference of European National Libraries.

Dr. Alois Ospelt, Director
Gerberweg 5
Postfach 385
FL-9490 Vaduz
Liechtenstein
Tel: +41 75 236 63 62
Fax: +41 75 233 14 19
Email: labibl@lie-net.li

A. LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SHORT (AT THE END OF 1996)

Budget: SFR 1,281,200
Collections Total: 192,000 units
New Acquisitions in 1996: 5,198
Staff: 8,1 full time permanent positions
Loan (statistics) in 1996: 77,577 units

B. THE LIBRARY IN POLITICS - LEGISLATION

The Act of 20 June 1996 on the Announcement of the Swiss Legal Provisions Applicable in Liechtenstein (Gesetz über die Kundmachung der in Liechtenstein anwendbaren schweizerischen Rechtsvorschriften) stipulates, inter alia, that these legal provisions shall be available for inspection at the Liechtenstein National Library. The same regulation had also been introduced in respect of the collection of EEA laws.

Government has consulted the National Library within the framework of the hearings procedure with reference to a new Copyright Act. Pursuant to the bill, lending of media by the National Library is exempt from royalties.

C. BUILDINGS

The main part of the National Library's stock is housed in rented rooms in an administration building, other stocks are located in two dispatch depositories, which have also been rented. After government had passed a resolution to rent the whole building for the purposes of the National Library, a detailed utilisation corresponding draft was submitted to parliament. Unfortunately, the project has then taken a disadvantageous development. Two floors in the building which had become vacated have had to be left to the Economics Office for a transitional period of five to eight years. The National Library's justified requests, which had been expressly acknowledged by government, have had to be put down to a considerable degree. The Library has only been able to expand into the top floor and part of the archives in the basement. Government has granted the Library a continuing option right to the whole building.

D. AUTOMATION

The association of users employing the SIBIL library system has taken all measures to make sure that SIBIL will be maintained and serviced until it will be replaced by another system. The National Library will decide on how it can participate in the future Swiss Library Network only after its partner libraries in the current combine will have chosen their system.

E. CONSERVATION AND PRESERVATION

The National Library has the task to protect and preserve intellectual heritage. At least one copy of every Liechtenstein publication should be permanently preserved and handed down to posterity as a valuable cultural asset. Unfortunately, the National Library has not yet been equipped with a suitable shelter to store in archived copies of Liechtenstein literature. For safety reasons they are now all planned to be filmed within the framework of along-term project. Thus a second copy can be kept which would allow originals that have been lost in a disaster to be replaced. All Liechtenstein newspapers have already been filmed and copied in this way, and new issues are filmed continually. As a member of SIGEGS, the Swiss Syndicate for the Preservation of Graphics, Documents, and Writings, the Liechtenstein National Library has also been participating in this Syndicate's activities and events.

F. PUBLIC RELATIONS

The National Library regularly reports on its activities in the Liechtenstein newspapers. It has taken up the Council of Europe campaign referring to the Year of Lifelong Learning and drawn the public's attention to this topic by presenting appropriate literature. Slides shown at cinemas and advertising posters in mail buses encourage the public to visit the Library.

In the year under review the 21st year's issue (1994) of the Liechtenstein Bibliography was edited. The subsequent years' issue has been elaborated and is ready for printing, it is due to be published in the summer of 1997.

G. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

For the first time the National Library has taken an active part in CENL, the Conference of European National Librarians founded in 1987, and took place in its 10th Annual Conference in Lisbon on 26th and 27th September 1996. Participation in other international associations of libraries has been limited to answering to various surveys. The National Library has also participated in various meetings of BBS, the Association of Libraries and Librarians in Switzerland, of which it is a member. It is very grateful for this opportunity to collaborate in this professional association of its neighbouring country.