

Liechtenstein.

Liechtensteinische Landesbibliothek. Liechtenstein National Library.

Annual report 1998 to the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL).

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

LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SHORT (AT THE END OF 1998)

Budget CHF 2'092'265
Collections Total 200'000 units
New Acquisitions in 1998 4'842
Staff 9,1 full time permanent positions
Loan (statistics) in 1998 74'130 units

1. Special topic 1998 - 1999

In connection with ongoing constructional changes all work processes in the library and the fields of activity of the staff were reviewed and adapted to the new situation.

2. Major innovations during the year

The structural alterations of the National Library which began in the autumn of 1997 certainly constitute the most important change in 1998. Library business and operations in the report year were dominated by the enlargement.

3. Finance and funding

For its continuous expenses, the Library had the same amount of public means at its disposal as in the past. To finance the extension of the Library, the development of the external deposit and the transition to a new library system, the Government provided additional means in the total amount of 3.6 million Swiss Francs. The Government agreed to the proposal to keep the revenue of the Library as its own resources and not to add them to the public contribution.

4. Legal status

The National Library was particularly affected by the current national legislation in the fields of copyright, information right and media promotion. The present proposal of a new copyright law exempts the National Library from its duty to charge for media distribution. The National Library plays a vital role in maintaining access to public information which is to be guaranteed by the information law. Furthermore, no public contribution for the Library in accordance with the media promotion law is planned. These means will mainly be allocated to the newspapers as well as radio and television.

5. Role of the national library in the national library network

In connection with the takeover of the Aleph library system agreed upon in 1998, a local Liechtenstein library network with a central server in the National Library will be created. Apart from the National Library itself, school, municipal and private institutions' libraries will be able to participate in the future Liechtenstein library network.

6. Legal deposit of materials

The extension of the mandatory fee on audiovisual media and electronic publications was not implemented in 1998. A revision of the law is being prepared.

7. Buildings and plants

Due to the constructional alterations of the main building initiated in 1997, a number of considerations had to be made with regard to building structure and statics, equipment, building technologies, internal development, room climate and security. Our inventory also had to be moved to different places several times. Keeping the normal library business going with a maximum offer despite these measures was an additional challenge for us. We also had to select and decide on the presentation of the media for the new free-hand area. This task was even more difficult since due to the installation of roller shelves in the external deposit, which was carried out at the same time, almost the whole inventory had to be moved to another place.

In addition to the constructional extension, the Library was also aiming at improving its IT components and their internal and external links. This involved the acquisition of new devices, their optimum placing for both personnel and customers as well as considerable workplace design.

The reconstruction will be completed by spring 1999, and as soon as the IT equipment is in place, the extended National Library will be reopened with a solemn ceremony and thus presented to the public.

10. IT and new technology

On 23 September 1998, the National Library concluded a licence and service agreement with the Ex libris company for the introduction of the Aleph library system. Aleph is to replace the SIBIL system which is currently used in combination with local software by several Swiss libraries in the St. Gall network and in other groups. After entering into the agreement, the

National Library bought the hardware necessary for operating the new system, put the new server into operation and prepared it for the installation of Aleph. First results of the new system to be realized by users of the National Library are expected for 1999.

During the reconstruction, the whole library building was equipped with a universal cable system. This allows for flexible use of the same cables for both telephone and IT matters. The stellate cable system is centred in the IT centre. The new multimedia room was equipped with modern hardware, and parts of the personnel PC workplaces were also renewed.

11. Services to readers

The reconstruction of the Library enabled us to create new facilities for the public: PC workplaces, workplaces for the use of microfilms, CD-ROM and the Internet, more and better study and reading places. On the whole, the extended Library disposes of approx. 100 workplaces for the public.

For the use of these new facilities and IT structures, temporary rules were adopted. Special user rules will be adapted later based on practical experiences.

13. Publishing

In 1998, the 23. volume 1996 of the Liechtenstein Bibliography was published. Work on the Bibliography for the following year was completed. It will be printed in 1999. Several media lists were updated and reprinted.

17. Staffing matters

In order to efficiently operate the new electronic user services, qualified personnel has to be employed who know both how to handle modern communication technologies and carry out the classical information tasks of a library. Thus, a new position for library IT was created. The job list of the Library was extended accordingly and one person employed.

29.03.99