

## **THE LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY**

### **Annual report 1999 to the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL)**

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## **THE LIECHTENSTEIN NATIONAL LIBRARY IN SHORT (AT THE END OF 1999)**

Budget CHF 1,673,161.-

Collections Total 210,000 units

New Acquisitions in 1999 8,955

Staff 9.1 full time permanent positions

Loan (statistics) in 1999 88,967 units

### **1. Management of the library (Special topic 2000)**

With a view to the introduction of the quality management model 'EFQM (European Foundation for Quality Management) for Business Excellence', the Government decided to start a pilot phase. The National Library will, after the pilot phase, be integrated into the quality management model to be adopted for the whole national administration.

### **2. Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation (Special topic 2000)**

The revision of the Liechtenstein copyright was completed in 1999. The new law is principally based on the reception of Swiss law and at the same time meets the requirements stipulated in the EEA Agreement. Consideration for leasing and lending of work copies will be introduced throughout the EEA, and a special collecting society will be established in Liechtenstein. The Government can exempt educational institutions or libraries from payment

of a consideration for the lending of work copies. The same is possible in the case of published databases.

### **3. Funding**

No special comments.

### **4. Legislation**

The field of activity of the National Library was among those affected by the law on information and media promotion adopted in 1999. A new regulatory basis for today's information society was established. A democratic state's foundations are well-informed citizens. The basic right freely to express one's opinion is based on guaranteed freedom of information. This freedom also includes the right to actively inform oneself by accessing to public sources of information. In this connection, the National Library plays a vital role in providing access to information for the general public. It is one of the most important information sources and also has a general cultural function. This is where the Library's national mission finds its legitimate *raison d'être*.

The Government is planning to submit a cultural report to parliament which provides an overview of cultural activity in Liechtenstein as well as future prospects in this area. For this report, the tasks and the field of activity of the National Library as well as the main focus of its future development were outlined.

### **5. Buildings**

At the beginning of 1999, the constructional alterations of the main building initiated in 1997 were completed. Full-scale library operations, which we had kept going to a reduced extent during the alterations, were restarted. Library staff moved into the newly designed study rooms and offices, the interior design of the rooms was completed. The media which had been moved to another place during the construction work, were arranged and presented in the renovated rooms. The media offer in the free-hand area was enlarged. New EDP structures consisting of terminals for catalogue search, PC workplaces, Internet and CD-ROM stations as well as a newly equipped patent library and devices to use microfilms were put at our customers' disposal.

Together with the conversion of the main building, roller shelves were installed in the external deposit. At the end of 1999, work on the interior design was terminated and the media were arranged according to the predetermined order. With a storing capacity of approx. 280,000 units, the requirements of the Library are met for a considerable period of time.

However, there still remains one important option for the National Library after the 1999 enlargements. Two floors of the main building are still occupied by an administrative department. They won't be available to the Library until the administrative department has moved to a building specially designed for the administration.

### **6. Staffing matters**

All National Library job descriptions and the assignment of jobs based on their requirements were substantially reviewed and updated. Changes of library work methods based on EDP as

well as less flexible working hours due to increased customer orientation were particularly taken into account. The job descriptions were approved by the Government.

## **7. Information technology and networks**

A new era of library automation began in the year under review. The transition from the existing SIBIL system to the new ALEPH 500 system from the Israeli company Ex Libris brought about a number of changes. In this connection, cataloguing rules were changed. The Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules (AACR 2), which were adapted to Swiss conditions by the Informationsverbund Deutschschweiz (IDS - Information Association Eastern Switzerland), were adopted. On 1 December 1999, operations with the new system were started. The old systems were put out of service. However, considerable preparatory work had to be carried out: The individual files had to be corrected before being transferred to the new system and personnel had to learn how to work with the individual user modules. They had to cope with data migration, change of cataloguing, lending and acquisition with regard to magazine administration. At the same time, the hardware had to be adapted. The start with the 'lending' module didn't cause any problems and could be carried out on time just before the beginning of the new millennium. The other components are to be put into operation in the course of the year 2000.

The new system also enables the National Library to offer a new online catalogue with a modern surface and extended search and lending functions which can be accessed via the Internet ([www.lbfl.li](http://www.lbfl.li)). The new system rewards both staff and customers for their efforts and their patience by offering considerable improvements and advantages.

The newly created information technology structure also provided a solution to the y2k issues of the National Library.

With the alteration of the Library and the introduction of a new system, the EDP equipment was also renewed and enlarged. Since modern library information systems are based on the use of the Internet, access to the Internet was provided at all staff PC stations.

The multimedia room was equipped with six new PC's and has been open to the public since the Library was reopened. They can be used for Internet search and to work with Office programmes. Many people made use of this offer.

Together with the alteration of the Library, the technical equipment of the patent library was also optimised. A co-operation programme was initiated together with the European Patent Office. It consists of two main projects - establishment of a small server to transmit Liechtenstein patent applications and publications as well as improvement of the CD-ROM equipment. The CD-ROM facility was actually renewed, whereas the delivery of the new server was postponed by the European Patent Office (until May 2000). A small CD-ROM network was created providing access for different users to 1400 CD-ROM's.

## **8. The digital library**

No special comments.

## **9. Legal deposit of materials**

Within the framework of the planned amendment of the library law, the necessary enlargement of the right to statutory copy of non-books and electronic publications was also taken into account.

## **10. Acquisitions**

No special comments.

## **11. Preservation and Conservation**

No special comments.

## **12. Services to readers**

No special comments.

## **13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing**

In 1999, two volumes of the Liechtenstein Bibliography were published (24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> volume 1997 and 1998).

## **14. Library co-operation**

The National Library completed a long questionnaire with regard to politics and legislation in this field in co-operation with different departments. The questionnaire was destined to the Cultural Committee of the Council of Europe for the promotion of the publication of books and electronic works.

## **15. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)**

The constructional alterations of the National Library were officially completed with an opening ceremony on 5 March 1999. The Youth String Quartet of the Liechtenstein music school provided the musical setting. The following day, the Library opened its doors to the general public. All library rooms could be accessed. The National Library and its staff presented its wide range of different media and services in the newly designed and enlarged rooms. Around 700 people came to see the new attractive offer of the National Library.

## **16. Other notable information**

No special comments.

## **17. Organisation chart**

# Liechtenstein National Library Organisation Chart

