

BULGARIAN COUNTRY REPORT

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Institutional changes and developments during the preceding twelve months that have impacted on library and information services include:

- An international project: *Centre for Sustainable Development and Management of the Black Sea Region (CESUM-BS)-2000-2003 (Contract ICAI-CT-2000-70031), 5FP*
This project was launched at the end of 2000 and aims at restructuring the research and expert activities targeted to long-range sustainable development of the Black Sea region through increasing regional and international co-operation and networking, providing user-friendly information media, improving quality of marine environment and quality of life for harmonization with the EC standards and environmental policy. Improvement of library and information services is also envisaged in order to meet the requirements of the team participating in the project and the Institute's staff as a whole. The first benefits for the library were: partial repairs of the library premises, an e-mail connection and partial funding for attending the IAMSLIC/EURASLIC Conference in Brest.
- Programme for Global Ocean Observing System (GOOS): *Complex Monitoring of the Bulgarian Part of the Black Sea*.
The Programme's goals and objectives are: to set up co-ordinated and scientifically based systems for the complex monitoring and prediction of the Black Sea variables in regional and national scale; to ensure long-term and regular observations on the physical, chemical and biological parameters and states of the marine environment and biota, to provide relevant information to governmental institutions for making decisions relating to protection and recovery activities for the sustainable development of the Black Sea as an unique water basin. According to the implementation for the programme, a new computer and Internet connection should be provided for the library.
- *Black Sea - NOAH Project. Joint Project with the USA Institute for Marine Research, 2001 -2003*. A project designed to look for evidence in support of the "Noah's Flood" theory of William Ryan and Walter Pitman. It will require provision of information and data in different fields of knowledge and it is expected to have some funds allocated to these needs.

Changes and developments in the library and information services during the preceding twelve months (e.g. staff; services; equipment; systems) include:

Partial repairs of the library premises.

E-mail connection.

Travel expenses for attending IAMSLIC/EURASLIC Conference in Brest

Subscription of some journals for 2002.

Library and Information Publications:

- Leaflets of newly acquired periodicals and other library acquisitions.
- A brochure of CESUM - BS (Centres of Excellence - 5th FP - EC) - presenting the goals and objectives of the Project, priority problems and expected results, illustrated with underwater photos from the Black Sea (in English).

Additional relevant information:

The Library of Institute of Oceanology as a part of the network of Central Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences

CENTRAL LIBRARY of the BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES and ITS NETWORK

The Academic library network consists of the Central Library and the special libraries of the permanent academic units. It comprises 48 libraries with the Central Library at the head which supply information to the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences - the national research centre of Bulgaria. The library network contributes to a great extent to the creation of the national library collection.

The reforms carried out at the BAS in the last few years have caused changes in the management, structure and modernisation of the library activities. The library system of the Academy is a democratic institution, open and accessible for all citizens who want to use literature from its collections with direct or remote access. The Central Library is connected to world information resources through the Internet.

The special libraries are organised and directed methodologically by the Central Library according to the governing and technological requirements for the library and bibliographical processes, but they are administrative parts of the respective permanent units of the Academy.

According to the structure of the Academy the libraries are classified in nine groups: mathematical, physical, chemical, biological sciences, earth sciences. technical sciences, humanities, social sciences and special units.

At present the Research Group of Library Science and Bibliography and the New Library Technologies Department are developing an automated system (PERLIB/BOOKLIB - for periodicals and books) for cataloguing and management of the book stocks in the Central Library and the academic library network. Unfortunately, there is still a considerable lack of contemporary computer facilities which will be needed to build up the communication network.

LIBRARY OF INSTITUTE OF FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (IFA) - Varna

A governmental research institute established in 1932. Presently belonging to the National Centre of Agrarian Sciences.

The main scientific achievements of the Institute are published in 43 volumes of *Proceedings of the Institute of Fishing Resources* (the ex-name of the Institute), eight monographs and more than 200 scientific papers abroad.

Within its long-term history the Institute of Fisheries and Aquaculture has successfully participated in many national and international research projects and scientific expeditions carried out in different regions of the Black, Azov, Aegean Seas and the Atlantic Ocean.

IFA consists of three laboratories: Laboratory of Ichthyology, Laboratory of Marine Biology and Ecology, Laboratory of Hydrology and Hydrochemistry. Its basic activities include:

Multi-disciplinary studies of coastal and open-sea ecosystems based on routine monitoring of the Bulgarian Black Sea waters.

Development of knowledge and research methods in marine science.

Education and training of students and post-graduates in marine biology, chemistry, genetics and ecology.

Sustaining of public aquarium - lectures.

Development of public awareness, information service, support of NGOs activities.

Additional activities:

Consultation on the living resources of the World Ocean and the Black Sea, recommendations on optimal and sustainable use of the Black Sea living resources with respect to the marketing.

Environmental impact assessment.

Development of mariculture.

Support to the Bulgarian fishery and aquaculture sector.

The Institute houses an aquarium built between 1906 and 1912 according to the plans of the Bulgarian architect Dabkov with the help of the Italian professor A. Dohrn who supplied the plans and photos of the Naples Zoological Station. The official opening of the Aquarium was in 1932 and from that day on it has been a centre of promotion of the Black Sea flora and fauna. It consists of two parts living exposition (fish, turtles, mollusca, crustaceans, coelenterata, algae) and two halls with exhibits of stuffed animals, herbariums, shells, fossils, pictures.

PARTNERS

Membership in International Society for Study of Harmful Algal Blooms (ISSHA), American Fisheries Society, Association Francaise d'Halieumetrie, Foundation for European Ecological Education (FEEE), European Organisation for Study of Marine Mammals, CIESM - France, World Association of Copepologist (WAC), Bulgarian Union of Scientists, Bulgarian Botanical Society, etc.

LIBRARY:

It has more than 30 000 volumes of scientific books, reference books, periodicals in the field of marine biology, hydrochemistry, oceanography, ichthyology, fishery and fish industry, mariculture, aquarium matters. The library keeps unique old books and maps published in the 19th century. Presently it maintains interlibrary exchange with similar organisations from Europe, America and Asia, which is the basic source for provision of new publications. It has a computer where the new acquisitions are registered, but lacks electronic communications.

Due to administrative reasons the library is only open for four hours daily.

LIBRARY OF THE NAVAL SCHOOL 'NIKOLA YONKOV VAPTSAROV' - Varna

It was created when the School was opened in 1881. In 1948 a basic inventory of the library stocks was done and all old publications were given to the Naval Museum in Varna.

Library collections comprise about 112 000 volumes, one third of which are students textbooks. The rest include books, reference books, journals and special collections of governmental issues concerning rules and regulations of the Bulgarian Navy. There is also a special collection of 400 audiocassettes. The library has two computers and Internet access. It has developed its own automated system for library and information services. It has well organised loan service, comfortable reading room and offers services to about 2000 readers annually.

As the Navy School is the only one of the kind in the country its library collections are, to a great extent, unique for the country, too. Subjects covered include: warfare, military strategy and equipment, naval history, navigation, ship structure, ship guiding, exploitation of water transport, military psychology, foreign languages training, cybernetics and programming, communication systems, meteorology, oceanology, ecology, etc.

The Naval School has its own publishing centre which is the biggest publisher of specialised marine scientific and technical literature in Bulgaria. The centre publishes the best textbooks for our military education system and the library is the only one in the country which fully supplies the Naval School students with the necessary text books during their five-year course of training. The ambitious publishing programme includes fundamental books, reference books, dictionaries, series and issues of all professional spheres of the marine education. Special publications are *Collection of Scientific Publications of the Naval School* and *Marine Scientific Forum* (in four thematically compiled volumes), published biennially.

The library is open during the whole year six days a week for the Navy staff, military officers and the students of the School. It is run by a staff of four People.

Finally I would like to say that the idea for establishing a country association of the aquatic libraries and information centres was accepted by the librarians mentioned in this presentation and I hope to unite our efforts to make it reality.

