

## Representing NSZL abroad. Main visits and projects in 2016-2017

**Between 15 and 19 February 2016**, Director-General Dr. László Tüske paid a visit to the National Central Library of Taiwan, where he was received by Director-General Shu-hsien Tseng. In addition to the bilateral talks and the new possibilities for cooperation (included in the Framework Agreement previously signed by the parties in Budapest in the spring of 2015), Dr. László Tüske held a presentation with the title *The tasks of a national library in a Central-Eastern European country at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> centuries*, and participated in the Taipei International Book Fair of 2016, as a member of the Hungarian delegation coordinated by the Balassi Institute. This book fair is the second largest in Asia after the one of Beijing, a gateway to the Far East book market. In 2016, Hungary participated as guest of honor.

**Between 7 and 9 April 2016**, the conference *Audio-visual Data: From Acquisition to Metadata* was held in Prague, with the participation of heads of department Bea Lukács and Dr. Balázs Mikusi on behalf of NSZL. The papers of the conference offered a comprehensive overview of gathering, preserving and delivering audiovisual documents in public collections, with special emphasis on the preservation and digitizing of celluloid films. Apart from the experts from the V4 countries, lecturers from Germany, Norway and Finland took part.

**Between 2 June and 31 May 2016**, on the conference *Libraries V4 in the Decoy of Digital Age* in Brno, Szabolcs Dancs from NSZL and Brigitta Jávör from the Library Institute presented their papers. It is a tradition for the V4 countries to discuss each year the new developments of the library profession in the region. The facts discussed on this conference were of practical use for the current projects at NSZL as they were not only taken into account at drawing up the professional priorities and aspects of our planned library service improvements but were also considered when NSZL worded its suggestions for the UNESCO on the preservation of document heritage.

**On 13 and 14 June 2016**, in Luxemburg, the biannual meeting of the EU Member States Expert Group

(MSEG) on Digitization and digital preservation took place. NSZL has been representing NSZL in the experts committee managed by the European Commission since 2013. On these biannual meetings, the digitizing policies and projects of the member states are discussed, in view of the directives of the European Commission. Also Europeanna gives regular account of its operation and current developments.

**At the end of November 2016 and in December 2017**, we participated again in the conference series *Semantic Web in Libraries (SWIB)*, with Miklós Lendvay as our representative. These annual conferences were launched upon an initiative in Germany, and today count with significant international participation. They focus especially on linked open data (LOD) generated in libraries and related institutions. The main topic of the conference of 2016 in Bonn was the practical application of linked data and applied dictionaries (schema.org, foaf stb.), while on the Hamburg event of 2017, the main emphasis was on sharing and linking data, with international good practices, existing software and user devices. Within the call for tender of the National Library Platform, NSZL surveyed the requirements of Hungarian libraries, which contributed greatly to specifying the directions of the open source FOLIO platform.

**On 15 and 16 May 2017**, the annual meeting of the Consortium of European National Libraries (CENL) was held in London, hosted by the British Library. NSZL was represented by Director-General Dr. László Tüske, among forty-seven directors from other libraries of thirty-three countries. The meeting included professional and financial reports, thought-provoking presentations and discussions of topics like namespaces, author and publication copyrights and digital publishing. The featured topic of 2017 was the transformation of library spaces, presented within the panel *Transformative Library Spaces* by the directors of libraries recently built or renovated.

**Between 15 and 17 May 2017**, and related to the Warsaw National Book Festival, the conference of the V4 countries on the sociology and popularizing of reading was held with the title *Implementing the educational, social and scientific projects in the realm of pro-reading policies*. On behalf of NSZL, Director of Research Dr.

László Boka held an English language presentation on the prestigious conference organized by the Polish National Library and the Cultural Ministry of Poland, with the participation of experts (university lecturers, book publishers, book distributors and library directors) from the V4 countries and other parts of the world including the USA and the Baltic countries.

**On 29 and 30 June 2017**, Director-General Dr. László Tüske, as a member of the Prime Minister's delegation, signed an Agreement of Cooperation with the Turkish National Library in Ankara. The document opened a new chapter in the existing relation of the two institutions with the cooperation between collections and researchers.

**Between 22 and 24 August 2017**, the largest conference of the librarian profession (IFLA) was held in Wrocław, Poland. On the event of more than 3400 participants, there were five representatives from Hungary, including Dr. László Boka on behalf of NSZL, who in addition to the specialized events, also attended the annual CDNL conference of the congress. In this latter, the Directors-General or their deputies from the national libraries regularly discuss the main issues of the profession, as well as their annual programs and projects. As usual, the events of the congress concluded with the General Meeting of IFLA, where also NSZL has the right to vote.

**On 25 October 2017**, the annual conference and seminar of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) took place in Amsterdam. In 2017 the hosts were the Rijksmuseum of Amsterdam and its library, and the Amsterdam University. The day after the seminar, the annual general meeting was held in which NSZL was represented by Director of Research Dr. László Boka. The membership of NSZL, in the so-called cluster system, represents also 15 Hungarian church libraries with valuable stock of old books. From 2017, the president of CERL is Mr Kristian Jensen from the British Library.

**Between 8 and 11 November 2017**, Director-General Dr. László Tüske visited the National Library of the Moroccan Kingdom. The legal basis of the visit was the regular meeting of the Hungarian-Moroccan Joint Committee of Economy. The new building of the Moroccan National Library with new library technology installations was open in 2008. In the spirit of mutual relations, our Director-General invited Director-General Abdalilah al-Tahani to Budapest.

**Between 4 and 6 December 2017**, the events of the Hungarian Days in Tbilisi took place under the patronage of Anikó Lévai. National Széchényi Library was represented by Director-General Dr. László Tüske. In the framework of these events, and upon the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, MANK Nonprofit Ltd. organized an exhibition entitled *Hungary in Georgia* in Tbilisi to present the history of the relations of the two peoples. The exhibition, with original and reprint objects, was based upon the previous *Hungarians in the Caucasus* exhibition of NSZL.

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