

## THE ACTIVITY OF THE CENTRE FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE AND METHODOLOGY IN THE YEARS 1986-1990

### *1. Tasks in the field of organization and development*

The period in question has been bearing the marks of change within the social system. As a consequence the main task of the Centre was – upon request of the Ministry of Culture and Education – to survey the social reality and to elaborate conceptions in relation to librarianship.

They compiled among others:

- a five-year development plan for certain types of libraries;
- a professional position and action plan on the cooperation of public collections (libraries, museums and archives);
- a study on the possibilities of rationalizing the basic services of public libraries;
- a survey on the acquisition of books and journals in academic libraries;
- a survey on the existence of foreign journals and newspapers in public libraries and a proposal on the coordination of their acquisition;
- a proposal for the development of services in special libraries with nationwide responsibilities;
- a definition of requirements for the rationalization and international adaptability of public library statistics;
- an analysis of the activities of cultural associations;
- a report and a proposal on the library education outside library schools;
- professional auxiliary materials on the requirements of library deregulation and regulation.

The Centre has organized production and distribution of a talking journal for the blind and visually impaired. A country-wide survey was carried out on the state of document and information supply in the field of natural sciences. The statutes of the Chamber of Libraries and Information Institutes was compiled and its secretariat established within the Centre.

### *2. Management of foundations*

The Centre has received and distributed the books coming in the country from Soros-Brothers foundation (30–40 thousand volumes annually), as well as from Sabre-Hungary foundation (60–70 thousand volumes p.a.).

### *3. Collection development and bibliographic counselling*

This work is associated with the publishing of the book selection tool "Új Könyvek" (New Books), the annual cumulations and quarterly alphabetical and thematic indexes of which have been compiled. As a new service a semi-annual subject index has been introduced.

Besides the series "Könyvtári kis tükör" a new one has been started entitled "Közhasznú kisbibliográfiák" (General Interest Reading Lists). The Centre has promoted the publication of another selection tool "Új videofelvételek" (New Videocassettes). A series entitled "A helyismereti munka kézikönyvei" (Handbooks of Local History Activities) has also been published.

The reference book "Ki kicsoda a mai magyar gyermekirodalomban?" (Who's who in contemporary Hungarian children's literature?) has been edited and published jointly with the Csokonai Publishing Company.

### *4. Publicity work*

A filmstrip bearing the title "Látogatás a könyvtárban" (Visiting the Library) has been released. The Centre has maintained close relations with the press and the electronic media in order to assess and follow with attention the image of libraries taking shape in them.

Library publicity materials have been collected and systematized and from the best ones an exhibition arranged. The Centre organized and supported the movement "For a reading people", as well as the activity of reading camps and reading circles.

### *5. Tasks involved with professional supervision and investigations*

Full investigations were carried out in five counties and in the capital. Partial surveys were made among others in the Metropolitan Ervin Szabó Library (on its weeding activity) and in three academic libraries. Legal information services to county seats were examined in administrative libraries and in county libraries. A survey was made on the activity of the National Library's depository library.

### *6. Research activity*

The manuscript of "Biblioterápiai olvasókönyv" (Textbook on Bibliotherapy) was written in 1986, as well as the final report of the research "Reading culture of the 15-18 year olds". The book entitled "A felnőtt népesség olvasási és könyvbeszerzési szokásai" (Reading and Book Buying Habits of the Adult Population) was prepared for publication.

In 1987 the final study of the research "Sociology of the library profession" was compiled. The research entitled "The library and its social environment" which has been carried on for several years was finished in 1990. Within the framework of the Finnish-Hungarian research the book "Ismerkedő ismerősök" on the reception of novels has been written.

### *7. Education, further education, methodological work*

The training of library assistants on a country-wide scale was looked after by the Centre. In support of education several textbooks have been published. For the training of library assistants a new curriculum including also learning foreign languages and informatics was introduced in 1990. In the period in question the Centre organized more than 30 professional courses concerning various fields of library work.

### *8. The activity of the Library Science Library*

In this period the Library has widened its range of services significantly: in 1986 an audiovisual studio was set up and this made two new services possible, namely the collection of sound recordings, videocassettes, tape-slide series on libraries and the development of the collection of foreign language audiovisual materials.

This year the Library started to apply computer technology: by the help of a PC XT and the MicroISIS software a bibliographic database (MANCI) has been compiled from the Hungarian and foreign articles on library science and information. An SDI service has been provided making use of this database and the quarterly updates have been sent off to subscribers on floppy disks.

As a result of the documentation work of the Library abstracting journals (Könyvtári és Dokumentációs Szakirodalom, Hungarian Library and Informations Science Abstracts and till 1989 its Russian version), a quarterly bibliography (A Magyar Könyvtári Szakirodalom Bibliográfiája), a union accession list (Könyvtári és Informatikai Központi Gyarapodási Jegyzék) and a professional journal (Könyvtári Figyelő) have been published.