

Historic Reference Collection, Bulawayo Public Library, Zimbabwe

The Collection is part of the Bulawayo Public Library although it occupies separate premises. The reason for this is because the BPL main branch was the first Library in Zimbabwe, and for many years the only one, and it collected all manner of items which were donated by travellers, hunters, missionaries, prospectors and the like as they passed through and left.

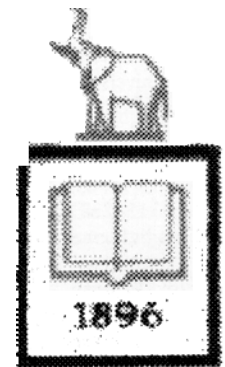
The Bulawayo Public Library is over one hundred years old and celebrated its centenary in 1996 only two years after Bulawayo itself celebrated a similar occasion.

Much of the material accumulated consisted of publications, the written word, photographs and newspapers. This was stored in the basement and the oldest most historically valuable items were at the bottom and at the back.

To cut a long story short, about 15 years ago the City Treasurer of Bulawayo moved out of the City Hall to a highrise building with greater space to cater for the increased financial affairs of an expanding city. This left a sizeable hall with ancillary offices right in the centre of town where citizens paid rates, water and electricity charges.

The Librarian saw the opportunity and made a successful bid to rent the premises. This has a two-fold benefit by now, making the quite large collection available for research, and also freeing extra space for the main Library.

A large part of the collection consists of newspapers both bound and separate issues, not only of the local papers but for most of the country. Some of the original newspapers are unique in that they are the only ones in existence, and researchers from all over the world come to study them, literally people from Chile to China,



although most from Europe and other parts of America. Of course many are from our own and surrounding countries in Africa.

Because of its early start and already large collection, the BPL is a named Legal Deposit and is the only one in the country apart from the National Archives of Zimbabwe which started years after. This means that the current papers for Zimbabwe are also available.

As a legal deposit, magazines, journals, maps, postage stamps, books and pamphlets are some of the items received. The number of newspaper titles held including discounted issues is over 350. A few are from a neighbouring country which at one time was part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and is now Zambia.

Like many institutions in a developing country, sufficient funding is difficult to obtain. However the fact that the Collection is still in existence, although seemingly lurching from pillar to post at times, is a tribute to researchers who use it. After all, if nobody did we would have gone out of business long ago.

*Peter Genge
Archivist*

IFLA SYMPOSIUM 2000: *MANAGING PRESERVATION OF PERIODICALS AND NEWSPAPERS*

Paris, Bibliothèque nationale de France, 21-24 August, 2000

The Symposium is co-organized by IFLA Section on Preservation and Conservation, IFLA PAC Core programme, IFLA Section on Serial Publications and IFLA Round Table on Newspapers.

On the one hand it will summarise achievements – and also failures – within periodicals preservation since the Washington Symposium in 1989. On the other hand it is meant to introduce new projects and plans as well as new technological advancements, especially in the area of digitisation and electronic publishing and archiving. The Symposium should be an excellent opportunity for preservation experts worldwide to discuss common problems and achievements and update specific information on periodicals and newspaper preservation.

The programme has five major sections :

1. Decision making for preservation : setting up of a preservation programme specific to periodicals and newspapers within the CIS, new equipments, preservation costs ;
2. Transfer to a secondary format : summarising of preservation programmes worldwide, preserving or discarding of the original after transfer, new technical developments, cost implications of various transfer processes ;
3. Taking financial stock of all preservation processes of periodicals and newspapers : panel of experts ;
4. Electronic items in original format : electronic scientific journals, electronic publishing, the Australian PADI project on electronic items ;
5. Shared preservation : bibliographic control, access, systematic and technical standards.

The last day of the symposium is dedicated to visits to the Bibliothèque nationale de France, its Reprographic Department, its Preservation Department and its new technical Centre of Marne-la-Vallée. The preliminary programme and the registration form are available on Internet and IFLAnet.



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Newspapers in German collections

A new edition of *International newspaper holdings in German libraries* is scheduled for publication in summer. The previous edition comprised 18,000 titles of newspapers and similar periodicals - the new edition boasts 5 1,000 titles. This is still only part of the extant collections. A geographical index, with a breakdown by country and places of publication or dissemination, will make it easier to use.

School of journalists

The Berlin Protestant School of journalism which receives an annual 700,000 DM in subsidies from the Lutheran Church, may have to shut down.

Awards

The Society of News Design, SND, awarded the Hamburg *Zeit* a prize for the «best designed newspaper of the world» in the group of the 175,000+ edition, in a contest for the graphic design of newspapers in which 321 papers from 29 countries participated. SND has 2,500 members in more than 50 countries - graphic artists, designers, and journalists. The contest evaluated graphic design, the illustration layout and journalistic effort (Tagesspiegel 4 March 2, 2000).

M. Schifflig

NEW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY IN OSLO

On September 2nd, 1999, Oslo University inaugurated its new library premises on the Blindern campus in the outskirts of Oslo. The new building is situated right in the centre of the campus where it now links together the upper and the lower campus.

It is a rectangular building with a slightly curved front, which is protected by a kind of canopy of black polished stone pillars. The front side has huge copper surrounded windows while the other sides of the building are coated with black polished Labrador stone with a nice reflecting effect. The surface area is ca. 24000 m² on 6 levels.

The entrance hall is huge and bright. The large staircase gives access to all levels. Through a beautiful woodcarved door on the ground floor one enters the reference room where several computers and reference books are available. The reading rooms are found to the front side on various levels. Inside there are white surfaces and bright wooden walls which have a calm and friendly effect. The service areas are red as a warm contrast. All furniture is of clear birchwood. On the tables a modernised copy of the traditional green library lamp creates a cosy impression. One feels comfortable!

The large end wall of the reading rooms has been decorated by the Norwegian artist Kjell. Torriset, who has worked in collaboration with the architect Are Telje, so as to obtain a kind of integrated decoration. The wall is made of 836 black stone tablets. In the centre of each tablet the artist has painted an eye in warm colours, each eye being different. It creates an extraordinary effect, not at all disturbing but awaking one's curiosity, and is also

quite symbolic in a house devoted to culture and research.

All offices and meeting rooms are on the side of the building. They are small but well fitted out, and each member of the staff has his own office. The stacks are situated in the two basement levels. There is an auditorium on the first floor, an exhibition hall and a canteen on the second floor, and teaching rooms on the third floor. All technical maintenance services are on the top floor.

The new building houses human and social sciences and several small specialised collections. Three faculty libraries devoted to law, medical and health sciences, mathematics and natural sciences, are linked to the new library where the common administration is housed. So it is meant to be a platform for interdisciplinary studies. The new building has a staff of about 100 people.

The library has a collection of some 2 million volumes of which 500,000 are on free access filed according to the Dewey classification, and offers 90 PCs. On the first floor ca. 6000 periodicals and foreign newspapers are on open shelves: the last year of periodicals and yearbooks filed by subject. The library has a quite important foreign newspaper collection which more or less focuses on some special subjects or historical periods.

The university library is open to people over 18 years who can also borrow books (except periodicals, newspapers and reference books). The university identity card is used as a loaner's card. Main users are students and university teachers. There is self-service lending on the first floor through lending computers. Some carrels are available for researchers.

So on the whole one gets the impression that this library really was planned and carried out in close collaboration between the architect and his client. The result is a functional and comfortable library in a good looking building which matches and links to the immediate surroundings on the campus. Some newspapers contemptuously called the building a "knowledge bank". I still think Oslo students and researchers are very lucky! Meanwhile, what happened to the ancient University Library in Oslo? In 1988, it was decided to set up the Norwegian National Library in the ancient University Library building, so it was only in 1991 when the new building on the campus was ready, that the National Library took over the old building as a whole. It kept the University Library 'S Norwegian collections and part of its administration including legal deposit. The old building is to be renovated when funding is available.

A special preservation and storage section of the National Library was planned and set up in Mo i Rana, some 1500 km northwest of Oslo, where natural excellent preservation conditions are available due to stable low temperature (ca. 80C) and stable relative humidity. All Norwegian newspapers are stored here after microfilming (there is a microfilming unit on the spot).

Else Delaunay

New Site with Special Issues of Canadian, newspapers

The National Library of Canada collects, first, last and special issues of Canadian newspapers.' Over the years, we have acquired quite striking colour supplements commemorating events such as Christmas, and the Quebec, Winter Carnival. Many of these were produced at the turn of the century but were not kept with the bound volumes of newspapers supplied to us by the publishers, nor were they filmed with the regular daily issues when this took place some thirty years ago. We have scanned a number of the more manageable issues (those which were not overly large in size or volume) and have provided the colour covers for others. Although these papers often contained sentimental photographs or seasonal stories, some included poetry by, Canadians like Louis Freshet (El Bulletin-Noel 1909, page 16) and Bliss Carmen (Montreal Star 1889? page 13) and many included interesting advertisements of products of the time. In addition, as we obtain copyright clearance for these, we will be adding other Canadian ethnic newspapers' colour supplements on their 'holy' days. The web address for this site which includes English and French-language newspapers is: <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/newspapers/> newspapers.html <http://www.nlc-bnc.ca/newspapers/f-newspapers.html> (for French-language text notes)

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FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES

66th 2000 Jerusalem
67th 2001 Boston
68th 2002 Glasgow
69th 2003 Berlin
70th 2004 Buenos Aires
71st 2005 ?
72nd 2006 Seoul

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome five new members

CONGRATULATIONS

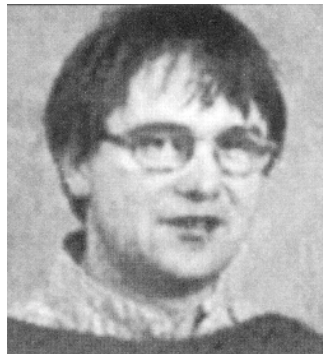


Edmund (Ed) King has been appointed to succeed John Byford as Head of the British Library Newspaper Library. The function of Secretary/Treasurer has long been associated with the British Library, and, for continuity purposes, the RT members agreed that it would be efficacious for the new head of the Newspaper Library, to assume the role. Ed. King began his career with the British Library in 1975, and prior to this appointment was its Head of the Preservation Service.



Dr. Wu Jianzhong is the Deputy Director of the Shanghai Library. He has held various posts in the Library since he joined in 1982 after a two year stint as an Assistant Lecturer at the East China Norman University. Between 1988 and 1992 he studied for his doctorate at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Ms. Silvi Mestar is the Head of the National Bibliographic Centre at the National Library of Estonia. Since 1988 the library has the status of a national library, a year later the NLE became the Parliamentary Library of Estonia and has been successful in coping with the dual function.



Jonny Edvarsen the Senior Information Officer at the National Library of Norway at RANA

Milton Why, from the Centre of Research Libraries, Chicago

Else Delaunay and **Geoffrey Hamilton** have become special advisers and corresponding members of the Round Table.

We warmly welcome those new members of the Executive Committee of the Round Table.

In the next issue

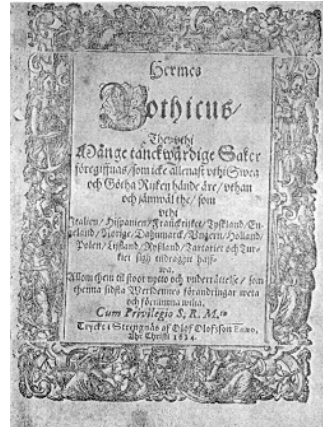
Renewed Research on the History of Jewish-German, Press.

The "Black Diamond in Copenhagen

Report of the Moscow Meeting

Medium Term Programme

A Swedish Press History



The Swedish press has its bibliography in **Bernhard Lundstedt**,

Sveriges periodiska litteratur, Stockholm 1895-1902 and the database *New Lundstedt*, but so far it has not been described in its entirety by press historians. A Swedish Press History, however, is on its way. The first volume covering the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries is due in October, and the whole work will be complete with its fourth and last volume in 2002. **Karl Erik Gustafsson** and **Per RydIn** are chief editors, together with **Gunilla Lundstrom** as managing editor. In addition to them there are nine more contributors: **LarsAke**

Engblom, Claes-Göran Holmberg, Eric Johannesson, Sverker Jonsson, Dag Nordmark, Ingemar Oscarsson, Birgit Petersson, Elisabeth Sandlund and **Jarl Torbacke**.

Hermes Gothicus is the earliest known newspaper in Sweden. It was printed in 1624 in the diocesan capital Strängnäs a few miles west of Stockholm. Only one copy of one single issue exists, and it is uncertain whether it was actually published.

Svend Larsen

Minutes of the 11th Business Meeting held at the National Library of Canada, Ottawa, May 3, 1999

The chairman presented a report on the two Round Table events which took place at the Amsterdam conference: a session on newspapers in Eastern Europe (see Issue no. 7); and a workshop convened with the Round Table on Government Publications.

The papers from the preceding IFLA conference in Copenhagen are now available on IFLANET (<http://www.ifia.org/IV/ifla63/63cp.htm>).

Medium Term Programme

It was decided that the MTP, 1998-200 1, would be updated with Action Plan 2000-2001. The latter discussion took part in Bangkok in August last year. (Report in next issue)

Goal 1: Action 1: To plan a revised world-wide survey of national newspaper collections in preparation for production of a directory listing of such collections.

Action 2: Develop methodology for identification and listing of newspaper collections in individual countries

Goal 2. Action 1: Prepare and arrange for publication of French and Spanish translations of the Round Table's Guidelines for the preservation microfilming of newspapers (published by IFLA in 1996).

Action 2: Prepare a supplement to the above guidelines on the best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation. (see M B-L article in last issue)

Goal 5: Plan revision of the IFLA Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers.

The above is a drastically condensed report