

## The "Black Diamond" in Copenhagen

It is the new extension of the Royal Library, the Danish National Library, which was inaugurated throughout the second week of September 1999. To add an extension to an old building is probably a more tricky task than to design a new one.

The Royal Library consists of three interconnecting buildings

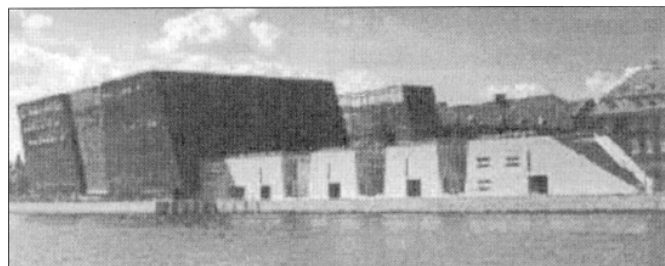
1. *Holm* the main building built in 1906 of red bricks with two stair turrets facing the library garden, by the architect Hans S. Holm;
2. *Hansen*, the renovated office building from 1968 ;
3. The *Black Diamond* glass, concrete, black polished granite and steel, designed by the architects Schmidt, Hammer and Larsen. When approaching from the east side of the waterfront, the new building makes a fascinating contrast to the red brick building behind. On the skew front side a huge V shaped glass wall lets in natural light to the atrium and from the inside one sees the animated water front, part of the Copenhagen harbour.

The main purpose of the Extension Project was to secure space for users, new large reading rooms and reference services, and to add new areas for cultural activities such as conference rooms, exhibition areas, a

chamber music concert hall (the Queen's Hall), a bookshop, and a restaurant and café. The Black Diamond has 6 levels and a basement level for exhibitions and the National Museum of Photography. No stacks are housed in the extension building, they being partly in the Holm building, and partly in remote stacks at Amager, another district of Copenhagen.

One enters the building born the new Sören Kierkegaard's square and immediately faces the bookshop. To get to the library one must use the escalator to reach the atrium on the second level. From here there is access to reference and loan services, partly set up in the old library building, partly on the bridge between c old and the new buildings, a difficult problem that the architects have solved successfully. All reading rooms lead to the atrium which is in fact the central point.

On the second and third levels are situated the main reading rooms : the East room with 130 seats is devoted to periodicals, newspapers and microfilms. The last three years of 800 Danish periodicals and 3200 foreign periodicals are on open shelves as well as Danish and foreign newspapers in original form or on microfilm (about 70000 reels are



available). All Danish newspapers have been microfilmed since 1976. There is also a reference collection of 10000 volumes and a collection of Danish theses from the last ten years. PC's, also for digitized material, are available as well as microfilm readers, but there is no reader-printer for newspaper film yet.

The West room has 160 seats and 12 carrels with a reference collection of 65000 volumes on two levels, especially covering human sciences and theology. PC's, printers, photocopying, microform readers and a reader-printer are available. Users are students from the University of Copenhagen, university teachers, researchers and people researching for high level knowledge.

The emphasis is put on large free access. Users can order items from the library collection in the reading rooms as well as for loan, although some items are not on loan.

Surfaces and furniture are plain with small designed steel lamps on maple wood tables. The walls facing the atrium are of glass and may be quite distracting to the user who needs absolute calm and silence. The open steel shelves at the other end of the rooms are also situated behind a glass wall. The impression is a bit dull and dark. It is a pity the light from the V-shaped glass wall on the front of the Diamond does not really enter these rooms.

The reading rooms of the specialized sections (Manuscripts, Orientalia and Judaica, Music and Theatre, Map and Photo Collection) are situated on the 4th and 5th levels, Administration and Receptions rooms on the 6th top level.

The old Holm building now houses a Centre for International Studies, with a special Information Centre for International Organisations in the old reading room. But the Royal Library has also 2 outbuildings : the former University Library (next to the University) for social sciences and law, and the Amager building for human sciences ; both are faculty libraries. In fact, the Royal Library not only acts as a national library but also as a university library.

On the right side of the new building a low fish shaped building has been added to house various special collections : KVINFO (the Women Library), the Collection of Local Traditions, the Society for Literature and Linguistics and the Literary Information Centre.

On the whole the "Black Diamond" is a huge, rather severe and a too heavy looking building on the water front. Inside it is quite pleasant and functional but somewhat dull. The architects and the library staff seem to have cooperated well. The architecture is good but not original or of international inspiration. Design and material are typical of the last two decades of the 20th century.

**Else Delaunay**

### Bibliographische Übersichten

Zeitungen. in Bibliotheken

Aufsdzte, Monographien und Rezensionen des Jahres 1999.

Mit Nachudgen ffir die jahre 1980~ 1998

Zusammengestellt von Wilbert Ubbens

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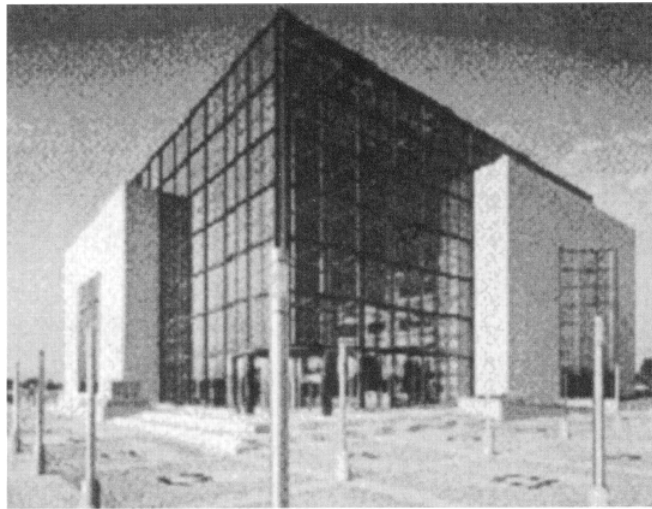
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**THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF CROATIA**

**Preservation of the Newspaper Collection during move into new building**

The preparations to move the newspaper collection began in 1990, i.e. five years before the actual move into the new building. These consisted of systematic control of total holdings, determination of the level of damage to each newspaper issue - the basic criterion for the planning of the move - and definition of all the necessary conservation and preservation activities in order to provide a safe transfer of the collection.

The most damaged issues were submitted to the conservation and preservation process: microfilming, conserving, restoring by lamination and rebinding. Those not so badly damaged were stored in tailor-made protective covers of high quality non-acid materials, following simple conservation procedures. The rest of the collection, which was in a relatively good condition, was thoroughly cleaned, issue by issue. This procedure pertains to the deposit copy. The archival copy was moved as it was, and the preservation begun only in 1999. These newspapers were unbound and wrapped in paper so that the revision of the archival collection was done at the same time. The preservation of archival copy consists of careful unwrapping of newspapers, control of all issues, cleaning and wrapping in new solid non-acid paper and storing in tailor-made protective folders that comply with high conservation standards. Both deposit and archival copies are stored horizontally in the stacks with optimal microclimate on movable metal shelves i.e. issues in folders lie one upon another, their number depending on volume and weight. Two years ago the database of the National and University Library consisted only of records based on the accessions register, and contained only the basic data about a tide. During the last two years all current titles from 1997 onwards have been updated. These now provide full bibliographic records, complying with the standards, and



with our national cataloguing rules. This applies to Croatian newspapers only. The determined principles stated in the materials of the Royal Library of Sweden. This simplifies the work of processing records (the topic of 'ephemera' that is catalogued on the basis of the appropriate rules).

For almost a year we have been systematically working on the renewal of the union catalogue of serials. Newspapers will be included in the second phase.

Systematic microfilming was begun in 1966 when a programme was devised for the preservation of old Croatian newspapers with financial support from the State. The programme included the collections of the scientific libraries of Pula, Rijeka, Zadar, Split, Dubrovnik, Muzej Slavonije (the museum of Slavonia) in Osijek, and primarily the collection of the National and University Library.

The programme was continued until 1991 in the Department for Preservation of Library Material in the National and University Library. The preservation of newspapers is a complex process. In addition to microfilming and restoring the collection, missing issues were obtained, often by interlibrary loan. 35-min rolls of master negatives were produced but, were not made available to users. The restored material was further used in the original form, and often it was again only partly microfilmed. The criteria for preservation were the level of damage and frequency of usage.

The Department for Preservation of Library Material has better working conditions in the new building and is able to tackle ever more complex procedures to preserve and prevent damage of library material.

One of the Department's most important tasks was to re-establish microfilming of newspaper collection with the introduction of significant improvements. During the last year the Project for the preservation of Croatian newspapers was established. It is based on the relevant international standards, primarily ISO 7000 pertaining to filming, ISO 4087, ISO 10620. IFLA Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming were also used.

This project stresses the urgency of microfilming the newspaper collection in the National and University Library, to protect the cultural heritage and ensure faster and technologically more acceptable ways to use the microfilmed collection. For the time being it can be used on a microfilm reader or as a printout. In the near future the microfilms will be scanned and made available in machine readable-form. Seventeen electronic, online newspapers with parallel paper editions were detected. Ten of these were catalogued.

The digitalisation of our library collections is planned for the next year. This will also include the digitalisation of newspaper material.

**Eiza Erdelji**

**Membership**

Milton Wolf retired recently. We wish him well.

★★★

We also welcome Ms. Maria Luisa Cobral, National Library of Portugal and Ms. Meg Bellinger Preservation Resources.

★★★

Galina Kislovskaya proposes more RTN Members from Russia

★★★

An application was made by the National Library of South Africa to be a Member of the RTN. This was agreed to. However, as Carol Allardice has now left the National Library, it was agreed to contact them to see if a replacement name was available.

★★★

Professor Bunmi Algebeleye, Chair of the IFLA African Section applied for membership to the RTN. He discussed the possibility of holding a conference on newspapers in Africa in 2001. His membership was confirmed. It was suggested that it might be better to hold a conference in 2002/2003, in order that more time be available for organisation.

★★★

**MEMBERSHIP CHANGES**

Erling Midtgaard Hanssen, head of newspaper collection at the National Library of Denmark replaces Sven Oissen. We welcome him and thank Sven for his contribution.

★★★

**Newspapers in Africa.** A project proposal on increasing access to holdings of African Newspapers would be prepared for submission to IFLA for 2001 bids.

★★★

**Report of the 12th Business Meeting held at the Library of Foreign Literature, Moscow, 16 May 2000,**

The 2000 business meeting of the Round Table on Newspapers was held in Moscow in May. Dr. Hartmut Walravens, the Chairman, welcomed us all. A special welcome was given to Edmund King from The British Library to his first Business meeting as Secretary and Treasurer. He wished to record his gratitude for the work of Geoff Smith as Secretary of the RTN. He thanked Galina. Kislovskaya and the Library of Foreign Literature for their hospitality.





Members of staff and RTN delegates at the Russian State Library. From left Lars Olsson and Elza Erdelji (partly hidden), Ms. Olga Yadykina and two members of her staff on each side of Galina Kislovskaya

**IFLANET:** The RTN pages had not been updated for some time. The Chair suggested that all members look at the pages and send suggestions and their revision to the Secretary.

Some of the RTN papers presented at the Copenhagen and Amsterdam Conferences are to be published by IFLA HQ as part of the Reports series.

Translations of *The Guidelines for the preservation microfilming of newspapers* (published by IFLA in 1996). It was reported that the French translation would be ready soon and the Spanish translation was well in hand.

A *Supplement* to the *Guidelines on best practice for microfilming newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation*. It was agreed that a Project Proposal be prepared for submission to IFLA as part of RTN's 2001 expenditure.

Revision of *The IFLA Guidelines on Cataloguing Newspapers*.

It was agreed that further information be sought on the current rules used for cataloguing newspapers. Edmund King to check with Robert Harriman re. rules used in Library of Congress; Olga Yadykina, to supply details of Russian State Library procedures via Galina Kislovskaya; Hartmut - Walravens to supply German serials cataloguing procedures, and to take an overview of the situation in August.

**International Directory Of Newspaper Collections**

It is desired to promote knowledge of newspaper collections. Recently it was mounted on the IFLANET which needs updating, and additions

to it are welcome. If any institution has already an entry in the *Directory*, and it needs updating, or if the institution is not in the *Directory* please send details to the Secretary (Address on page 2)

A paper by Mr Johnson on the Standard of IFLA Conference papers was discussed. The timeliness of Conference Papers and the need to improve their quality was discussed. It was agreed that Professional Boards would look at the quality of papers submitted for reading at IFLA Conferences. The position paper on this matter will be circulated to RTN members.

**Other New Projects**

All members agreed to propose new projects. Themes discussed:

- i. Access to library contents;
- ii. Newspaper indexes
- iii. Limitations of keyword searching on websites
- iv. Censorship



**Report on IFLA Conference, Bangkok, 1999.**

Hartmut Walravens expressed concern regarding the lack of attendance. RTN Business Meetings assumed more importance if members were not able to attend the full IFLA

Conference. He thanked Henry Snyder for taking over the Chair of the RTN Open Session



Theme: *Digitization of Newspapers"*

Hartmut Walravens reported that the RTN and Open Session had been combined. The speaker from the UK cancelled his paper, as well as the speaker from the *Palestine Post*. The papers given would need to be mounted on the IFLANET.

It was also reported from the Jerusalem meeting that a new IFLA Group has been established: the **Publishers' Relations Advisory Committee (PRAC)**. This is intended to be a Policy Group of publishers and of librarians meeting on a practical basis.



Theme: *Newspapers of the Americas.*

Speakers will be sought for papers on:

- 1) Newspapers in Canada
- 2) Brazilian newspapers
- 3) Newspapers in western America
- 4) other USA newspapers.

Henry Snyder proposed a tour of the American Antiquarian Society, instead of holding a Workshop. The Tour would be a whole day, and take in the newspaper collection of the AAS. This was agreed.

**Glasgow 2002**

The theme of the Open Session would be " *Newspapers of the British Isles*". Edmund King to begin to organise speakers and to see if a Tour could be organised, instead of a Workshop.

**ICON (The International Coalition on Newspapers)**

The Project Overview was circulated to members for information. Marjorie Bloss explained in May 2000 that ICON received an award from the National Endowment for the Humanities. In July 2000, John Dorr was appointed Project Director. A meeting is to be held soon to discuss a Union Listing of Newspapers, possibly via remote access; and to discuss preservation microfilming. Bob Harriman mentioned the possibility of pulling out newspaper records from OCLC files, widening access to these. This might be accomplished via an Internet Website, which provided links to these records, and also to records in locally held library files

**The Next Business Meeting**

Bob Harriman invited RTN Members to the meeting of the US Newspaper Program, scheduled for the 26 and 27 April 2001. From the 30 April to the 4 May, Members were invited by Henry Snyder to daily meetings at a variety of institutions to learn more of newspaper collections and operations within libraries in California.

26 & 27 April Attendance at meeting of US Newspaper Programme, Washington DC  
 30 April. 14th RTN Business Meeting , Berkeley San Francisco  
 1 May Visit Sacramento State Library / State Capitol  
 2 May visit Bancroft Collection California Newspaper Project, Berkeley Campus, University of California.  
 3 May. Tours of Press Enterprise and Collection at Riverside. University of California  
 4 May. Visit Huntingdon Library and to Southern California Newspaper Society.

**FUTURE IFLA CONFERENCES**

- 67th 2001 Boston
- 68th 2002 Glasgow
- 69th 2003 Berlin
- 70th 2004 Buenos Aires
- 71st 2005 slo
- 72nd 2006 Seoul