



## THE NEWSPAPERS COLLECTION AT BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL LISBOA

By Maria Luisa Cabral, Directora de Serviços, Biblioteca Nacional Lisboa

The Biblioteca Nacional, Lisbon, has close to 50,000 newspapers in its collection. These include the national newspapers printed at Lisbon and Oporto as well as regional ones, church or school bulletins, and also other titles issued by companies and institutions, and the so-called annual activity reports. Not included are journals and magazines.

The bulk of the collection is made up of Portuguese newspapers printed in the 19th and 20th centuries, but there are also some titles going back to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The first Portuguese title – *Gazeta da Restauração* – goes back to 1640, and the *Gazeta de Lisboa* started in 1715. Both the *Açoriano Oriental* (1835) and *Revista Militar* (1848) are still being published.

There is also a good set of newspapers published in the former Portuguese colonies in the Far East, India and Africa. The number of titles with this colonial common background gathered at Biblioteca Nacional is around 500 (published in the colonies, or run by people with close links to the colonies, but always addressed to a specific audience), and it covers the period between 1822 and 1975 when the last colony in Africa became independent.

The Biblioteca Nacional started microfilming its newspapers in 1977 although the approach was neither systematic nor was it done according to all of the technical prerequisites. In 1998 a programme was established to microfilm Portuguese newspapers which were either very brittle, in high demand and/or of particular historical value. This pro-



*Biblioteca Nacional Lisboa*

gramme, based on outsourcing, covers around 500,000 pages per year, and the main goal has been to produce quality microfilms as close as possible to preservation microfilming standards. In order to advance new technologies and better methods of surrogating, last year the Biblioteca purchased a scanner to digitize microfilms in order to replace photocopies from microfilms with digital images. As readers are resistant to this change however, the policy to switch completely to this method is being rethought and likely a revised policy will come into place in the near future.

The Microfilming Programme is a stand-alone programme and has not yet managed to find partners outside the library. Although the microfilming has been offered for public tender, the physical preparation of the newspapers (unbinding whenever necessary, ironing and flattening, small repairs) is done by staff from the conservation department whereas the bibliographical organiza-

tion (checking holdings and pages, preparation of technical information) is the responsibility of the collections department. Once the newspapers are microfilmed, they are wrapped in acid-free paper, duly boxed and stored. Microfilms are maintained in a controlled environment safe house (first-generation negatives), while reproduction copies (positives until 2003, second-generation negatives afterwards) are kept also in a safe house, and reading copies (positives) are kept in the reading room.

Microfilming has proved to be a very efficient solution to make information available but has not been the only solution applied to newspapers. As a matter of fact, in the past, many newspapers were bound and arrived this way in the reading room. At a certain point in the history of the library, binding was no longer feasible. It was necessary for the policy to change but this caused a negative impact on the reading services as unbound newspapers were not

allowed in the reading room. This situation, which lasted for decades, created an impossible situation for readers. The solution was found quickly and now newspapers in high demand are sewed together, receive an archival manila cover, and are placed in custom-made archival board boxes. This prevents any risk for the collection. The work is carried out by the conservation department and although it is somewhat time consuming, it is a cost-effective alternative and satisfies readers' needs.

In the future, the Biblioteca Nacional Lisboa will concentrate on:

1. proceeding with the systematic microfilming of Portuguese newspapers
2. ensuring an improvement of technical procedures in order to produce true preservation microfilm
3. promoting partnerships with other libraries and/or newspapers both to coordinate microfilming efforts and/or to build a discussion group on technical issues.

Maria Luisa Cabral is the Director of Services at the National Library of Portugal. More information on the microfilm reproductions at the National Library of Portugal may be found at:

<http://www.bn.pt/agenda/evento-wksop-restauro.html>

<http://www.bn.pt/servicos-ao-publico/precario/precario-servicos-01.html>

and on newspapers at:

<http://purl.pt/369/1/periodicos.html>

## CALIFORNIA NEWSPAPER PROJECT UPDATE

Report by Andrea Vanek, Assistant Director, California Newspaper Project

The California Newspaper Project/Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR), University of California, Riverside (UCR), received one of six grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities to participate in the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP)

the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress to create a national digital newspaper resource representing papers from all states published between 1836–1922. The program is projected to last twenty years. The first phase covers newspapers published

Our California Digital Newspaper Collection at UCR will include all papers digitized for the national program and other historical California newspapers, the *Daily Alta California*, in particular. Last fall, we issued an RFP based on NDNP technical specifications and article-level solutions. We awarded a contract for digital services to OCLC Preservation Service Center, which has partnered with CCS GmbH for this project. LC will receive page-level metadata; we will provide article-level access at UCR. The UCR Computing Center is assisting us with our hardware and storage needs and we are currently reviewing open source content management software.

commercial California microfilming agencies and also has access to California State Library and UC Berkeley negatives. Most of this microfilm was produced in the 1950s–1980s and is not ideal for digitization. We've been working with the UC Berkeley microfilming lab and OCLC/CCS to produce the most suitable duplicate negatives for scanning, processing and OCR.



test bed, 2005–2007. We also received a Library Services and Technology Act grant from the California State Library to create a California Digital Newspaper Collection at UCR by July 2006.

between 1900–1910. The Center will be digitizing over 100,000 pages of California newspapers for this period. The *San Francisco Call* has been selected, and the *Los Angeles Herald* and several smaller regional papers are under consideration.

The CBSR acquired newspaper microfilm negatives from three

We'll have much more to report for the next newsletter.

See:

<http://cbsr.ucr.edu>

[www.neh.gov/projects/ndnp.html](http://www.neh.gov/projects/ndnp.html)

[www.loc.gov/ndnp](http://www.loc.gov/ndnp)

The NDNP is a joint venture of

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE REPORT OF THE 23rd BUSINESS MEETING

held at the Radisson SAS and Christiana hotels, Oslo, Norway on Saturday, 13 August 2005, and Friday, 19 August 2005

Prepared by Edmund King, Head, Newspaper Library, British Library

The meeting took place over two days to cover the large amount of business items. There were two main sessions of interest to attendees following newspaper developments: the IFLA Satellite Meeting at the Arctic Circle Conservation Colloquium 10–11 August 2005, in Mo i Rana, Norway, which had 27 participants and the Open Programme at General Conference on the theme: *Newspaper Digitisation Projects. Developments in the online availability of older newspapers* which had 143 attendees. Four excellent papers were held at the Open Session, available in English and French at

<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla71/Programme.htm>.

*“Les développements en matière de périodiques électroniques à la Bibliothèque Nationale de France: la numérisation de la presse quotidienne française du milieu du XIXème siècle à 1944”* by Pascal Sanz (Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris)

*“10 Billion Words: The British Library British Newspapers 1800-1900 Project: Some guidelines for large-scale newspaper digitisation”* by Jane Shaw (British Library, London, UK)

*“Connecting to the past – newspaper digitisation in the Nordic Countries”* by Majlis Bremer-Laamanen (University of Helsinki, Mikkeli, Finland)

*“Trend of Newspaper Digitization in China”* by Yang Bin (Datum Data Compant, Beijing, China)

In May 2006, the IFLA Newspaper Section and the National Digital Newspaper Program are co-hosting “Newspapers of the World Online: U.S. and International Perspectives” to be held following the IFLA Newspaper Section’s 24th Business Meeting on May 16th for two days, May 17–18, at the University of Utah Campus, Salt Lake City. Papers will be presented at the conference on: national newspaper digitization efforts, cooperative newspaper projects, technical issues and standardization and electronic newspapers. More

information as well as the papers may be found at: <http://www.lib.utah.edu/digital/ifla/>.

By the end of the year, we hope to publish as many of the papers as possible.

Initial work has started on the IFLA 72nd General Conference in Seoul, Korea, and the conference topic for the Newspaper Open Session will be Newspaper Projects in East Asia. We are also exploring a Spring Business meeting in Latin America and the possibility of a cooperative meeting with the Preservation and Conservation and Rare Book Sections prior to the General Conference in Durban, South Africa in 2007.



## ARCTIC CIRCLE CONSERVATION COLLOQUIUM: PRESERVATION STORAGE SOLUTION FOR ALL LIBRARY MATERIALS

SATELLITE MEETING 10–11 AUGUST 2005, MO I RANA, NATIONAL LIBRARY, NORWAY

Jointly Organized by the IFLA Newspapers Section and the IFLA Preservation and Conservation Section

Prepared by Ed King, Secretary, IFLA Newspapers Section

Twenty-seven delegates traveled to Mo i Rana for this IFLA Satellite meet-ing. Having been told to expect fairly cool temperatures of around 15 degrees Celsius, it was a surprise to be greeted by hot sun-shine and a temperature of 25 degrees. We were all welcomed by Jonny Edvardsen (for several years past, a member of the IFLA Newspapers Section, on behalf of the National Library of Norway), and by his colleagues.

In the day and a half of proceedings, delegates were offered 11 presentations, together with a tour of the storage facilities of the National Library of Norway, Mo i Rana. Attention is focused upon all aspects of preservation of artifacts: print on paper, photographs, sound and video recordings. All of the titles of the pre-

sentations are available, together with the slides of presentations, on the website of IFLA:

<http://www.ifla.org/VII/s39/39pconf.htm>

The storage areas in Mo i Rana divide into three locations: the cold storage in the interior of the mountain vault; the automated storage and retrieval of books facility; and the nitrate film storage vault. The mountain vault had to be created out of the rock, before installation could begin. A parallel storage vault is being planned, as the existing vault is reaching capacity in the near future. Each facility has its own planned storage conditions, which are maintained to optimize the environmental conditions for the object stored within them. It was gratifying for all the visitors

to see how well the dedication and investment of the Norwegian government had resulted in facilities which are geared to ensure the longevity of the items housed in them.

It is in the mountain storage that Norwegian newspapers are stored. Each copy of newly published Norwegian newspapers is received on legal deposit, and stored here. This copy is truly archival, as it is a duplicate (another copy is used in the National Library in Oslo), and is not intended for use at all. The store also houses runs of older Norwegian newspapers. The conditions of the mountain vault are a constant 8 degrees Celsius and 35 % relative humidity. The viewing of the storage vault showed us a model of how preventative conservation is being implement-

ed at the National Library.

Equally impressive was the dedicated digital repository housed in the storage area, which was planned and built by the National Library, and manages both current digital processing needs, and also the digital preservation aspects of their programme. The talk on "Digital Preservation of Newspapers and Periodicals" by Solveig Seines gave much learning to all attendees.

At the concluding round-up of this Satellite Meeting, all agreed that we had learned a great deal from the experience of the National Library of Norway in implementing and from its investment in preservation policy over many years.

## IFLA SURVEY ON HOLDINGS OF AFRICAN NEWSPAPERS KEPT IN ARCHIVES AND LIBRARIES IN AFRICA

From the *Minutes of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Business Meeting, Part I, held at the Radisson SAS Hotel, Saturday 13 August 2005; Part II held at the Christiania Hotel, Friday 19 August 2005.* Minutes prepared by Edmund King.

The work on the Survey reported in "News from the IFLA Section on Newspapers" No. 13 was en-

tered into the "Minutes of the 23rd Business Meeting." A meeting had been held in the British

Library to progress matters. More work had been done by G. Hamilton and Else Delaunay

since February. This determined which titles are on film and which will need new filming.

## INTERNATIONAL COALITION ON NEWSPAPERS REPORT

From the *Minutes of the ICON Advisory Board Meeting, April 12-13, 2005* prepared by Missy Roser and James Simon. Edited by James Simon, 2006

The International Coalition on Newspapers continues its program of preservation of and access to international newspapers. Under a grant from the US National Endowment for the Hu-

manities, ICON is preserving a selection of newspaper titles, increasing the availability of bibliographic data relating to newspapers, digitizing key newspaper reference resources, and provid-

ing the groundwork for sustainable activities of the program.

ICON's Project Coordinator, Missy Roser, has moved to another position as reference/

instruction librarian and English bibliographer at DePaul University. Linda Ronan joins the Center for Research Libraries' staff as the new coordinator. She may be reached at [lronan@crl.edu](mailto:lronan@crl.edu).

At the Business Meeting of the IFLA Section on Newspapers (19 August 2005), Bernard Reilly, President of CRL, presented an ICON update, laying out the Business Model and the future plan for ICON. He pointed out that the ICON Advisory Board agreed on the need to expand participation in ICON to institutions that would support the objectives through financial contributions and/or in kind activity.

Bernard Reilly also provided a briefing about the need for ICON to provide a framework for libraries with regard to collective dealing with commercial organizations (publishers, content providers). The three areas are:

1. For libraries to secure certain digital distribution rights when filming permissions are given;
2. Terms to be addressed in agreements for third-party distribution of a library's microform content;
3. Libraries to secure a greater return when making agreements for third-party digitization of library microform content.

It was agreed to distribute the draft terms to members and to ask for comments by the end of October 2005 to the Secretary. The terms are posted on the ICON website as follows:

<http://icon.crl.edu/rights-draft.pdf>

#### Sustainability and Long-Term Plans

At the ICON Advisory Board meeting in April 2005, James Simon, Director of International Resources, CRL, discussed the original objectives of ICON and activities that have since progressed. ICON has largely been successful in pursuing the original objectives of the project. The database, cataloging, preservation activities, and clearinghouse services are all fully in process. In terms of future activities, ICON should remain focused on its objectives, expanding whenever need or opportunity makes sense.

Existing and potential long-term activities for ICON were presented as follows:

#### Preservation Projects

1. (Existing) Establish an ongoing framework for the identification and selection of titles for preservation.
  - a. Work with selection committee of bibliographers and scholars to identify and recommend priorities.
  - b. Provide preservation or seed funding for titles not falling within other scopes (national library preservation, area studies preservation).
2. (Existing) Serve as liaison,

coordinate information, and provide advice to existing or prospective projects.

- a. LC/Field Office filming.
  - b. Area Studies Microform projects.
  - c. Preservation grant activities.
  - d. commercial microfilming.
3. (Emerging) Provide services (such as the proposed film queue database) to better inform and coordinate efforts among institutions.
  4. (Existing) Act as an operational arm for IFLA Newspaper Section activities regarding cooperative preservation
  5. (Potential) Engage national libraries in discussions and standardized agreements for print repositories for the "copy of last resort."

#### Database of International Newspapers

1. (Existing) Provide ongoing support for coordinated collection of information on titles held in print, microform, electronic
  - a. develop simplified workflow for institutions to participate with minimal intervention.
  - b. recruit international participation through IFLA.
2. (Potential) Explore further aggregation of information through new technologies

#### Cataloging

1. (Existing) Continue to play an advocacy role in the creation of bibliographic records and the provision of comprehensive holdings statements for retrospective and current newspaper collections.
2. (Existing) Continue to explore efficiencies in cataloging operations, including distributed cataloging arrangements, cooperative provision of holdings statements.

#### Digital Archiving and Delivery

1. (Potential) Work with other institutions to develop economically viable strategies for the preservation of electronic newspapers and news sources.

#### Expanding Stakeholders in ICON

The original intent of the project was to form a truly global consortium. Given the magnitude of the challenge of preserving a diverse corpus of the world's news the number of ICON participants will need to expand, and the effort will have to recruit internationally.

Advisors pointed to a number of institutions and countries with an interest in newspapers preservation and the means to cooperate: Spain, Latin America, Scandinavia, South Africa, and Australia, among others.

## NOTABLE IFLA NEWSPAPER-RELATED PUBLICATIONS

*"Newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe/Zeitungen in Mittel- und Osteuropa"*. Hartmut Walravens, ed., in cooperation with Marieluise Schilling-Gayette. München: Saur, 2005, 251 pp. ISBN 3-598-21841-9. Price: EUR 78,- / IFLA Members EUR 58,-.

*"Newspapers in International Librarianship"*. Papers presented by the News-papers Section at IFLA General Conferences. Hartmut Walravens and Edmund King, eds. München: Saur, 2003, 260 pp. ISBN 3-598-21837-0. Price: EUR 78,- / IFLA Members EUR 58,-.

*"Managing the Preservation of Periodicals and Newspapers / Gérer la conservation des périodiques et de la presse"*. Jennifer Budd, ed. Proceedings of the IFLA Symposium IFLA. 2002, 175 pp. ISBN 3-598-21833-8. Price: EUR 58,- / IFLA Members EUR 43.50,-.

For orders please see <http://www.ifla.org/V/saur.htm>.



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## NEWS FROM THE IFLA SECTION ON NEWSPAPERS

The editor of the News from the IFLA Section on Newspapers would like to invite you to submit any articles, announcements,

upcoming conferences, and news in general on the topic of providing and preserving access to newspapers and the news in your

country or region. Please contact Sandra Burrows at *sandra.burrows@lac-bac.gc.ca* or write to: Sandra Burrows, Newspaper

Specialist, Library and Archives Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Room 227C, Ottawa, Canada K1A 0N4.