



Introduction to the National Széchényi Library – Bibframe Conference

The National Széchényi Library has been serving as the national library of Hungary for 220 years. Its founder, Count Ferenc Széchényi, donated his collection of 13,000 printed books, more than 1,200 manuscripts, hundreds of maps, coats of arms, engravings and coins to the benefit of the society in 1802. Since its foundation, the library has been enriched by donations from individuals and communities, as well as by the legal deposit system. Over the decades, the library's tasks have expanded and it is now a community space that meets 21st century requirements, in addition to its classical library function. As the keeper institution of Hungary's written cultural heritage, it is in possession of a great intellectual asset. As a non-loaning library, this is perhaps its greatest challenge: how to make its items available to the widest possible audience, in fact to everyone.

The general collection of the institution collects books and periodicals published in Hungary with the intention of exhaustiveness. The special collections contain those library documents which are exceptional in some way because of their value, their uniqueness or because of being considered relics. Outside our borders, the best known are perhaps the volumes that once belonged King Matthias' library, the Bibliotheca Corviniana. In the wake of the highly successful Corvina exhibition four years ago, a trend was initiated to digitise the library's unique rarities in the appropriate manner and make them accessible to the general public. The NSZL now has the largest and most extensive digitisation workshop in Central Europe, where, in addition to mass digitisation, the library's most precious treasures are being constantly preserved for posterity.



Since 1985, the National Library has been located in one of the most impressive locations in Budapest, the Buda Castle. It regularly offers exhibitions, various events and open days not only for professionals, but for readers, visitors and those who wish to enjoy their leisure time immersed in culture. We place great emphasis on attracting families and the youngest generation.

We wish our guests productive and creative discussions and meaningful conversations!

