Approved by:

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ANNUAL REPORT
(1 January – 31 December 2013)
The NALIS Foundation

After the successful establishment of the NALIS Foundation, the acquisition of the necessary software platform (in 2009), the very construction of the National Academic Library and Information System (in 2010) and the further development of the academic network by both attracting new associate members and integration of a huge number of retroconverted records into the NALIS Union Catalogue (in 2011 and 2012), in 2013 NALIS continued strengthening its positions nationwide not only by further developing the national academic library network but also by enriching the national digital cultural heritage. One of the most important annual achievements was the attraction of the *SS. Cyril and Methodius* National Library to the project and the initial steps in integrating its digital collections into the NALIS UC.

I.
Development of the National Academic Library and Information Network

After the association of 9 university libraries in 2011 and another 11 institutions in 2012, the ***NALIS Associate Membership Agreement was signed 6 times*** in 2013 (the dates of contracting are given in brackets):

- Technical University of Varna (11 March)
- *Lyuben Karavelov* Regional Library, Ruse (15 March)
- Centre for Advanced Study, Sofia (10 April)
- National Centre for Information and Documentation, Sofia (25 April)
- University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy, Sofia (18 November)

The total number of the institutions involved in the NALIS project thus reached 31: 3 of those are founding members, 26 – associate members, 1 is a foreign participant and the National Library has a special status of a collaborator in the field of bibliographic activity.

In addition to consulting, software maintenance and regular updating of the pool of bibliographic records in the NALIS UC, the **work with the NALIS associates** included also construction of an interlibrary loan (ILL) system. First, a survey was conducted to outline the peculiarities of the ILL practices in every library involved and, in particular, of the services offered there. Then, after analyzing the results of the survey, the ILL Regulations in the NALIS Network were compiled and the respective software – created (see in detail part II below).

The [Annual Meeting](#) of the NALIS members was held at the CL-BAS reading reoom on 29 Oct. It proved to be an important forum to discuss the NALIS Foundation's activities and relations with associates.

In 2013, the foundation made certain efforts to **internationalise the project**. Some academic and national libraries in the South East Europe were asked to share their opinion regarding their involvment in the NALIS project. 9 of the institutions showed particular interest in the initiative and a round table was held in Feb 2014 to discuss the opportunities for constructing a union online catalogue of the academic libraries in the region.

The participation of the NALIS foundation in several **national initiatives** has continued. It actively involved in the work of the National Council for Digitisation of Cultural Heritage (attached to the *13 Centuries of Bulgaria* Foundation), in the *Bulgarian Digital Library: Models and Approaches* National Round Table (17 Oct) which was dedicated to the National Strategy for Digitising the Bulgarian Cultural Heritage initiated by BLIA and sponsored by ABF. The NALIS Foundation became a BLIA member in June 2014.

The establishment of **contacts with the Ministry of Education and Science** with a view to ensuring some state support in the future. The first meeting with the ministry representatives was held in Oct. The discussion of the possible forms of collaboration is on the go.

II.
Software platform necessary for the creation of a
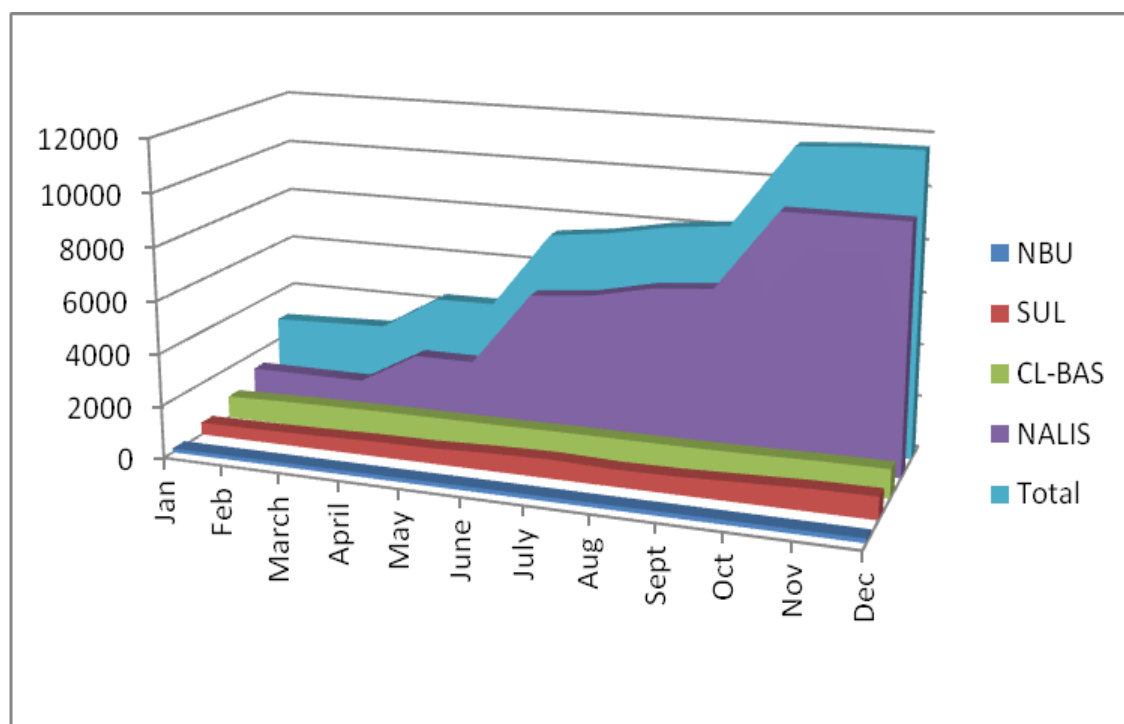**library and information network**

After configuring the software products (in 2010) and their further adjustment to the needs of the associated libraries and their patrons (in 2011), 2013 was dedicated both to the best use of the software platform and to the development of applications

FOUNDATION
NATIONAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY
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to supplement it. In relation to digitisation it was important to explore further software for managing digital collections (mainly Rosetta by Ex Libris, which offers not just storage but also archiving of digital content). The software products necessary for the specific needs of the libraries acquiring Package 1 have been further adjusted.

The integration of all available records (the retroconverted by the founder libraries and the National Library together with those of the associate members) to **Primo** broadened the content of the NALIS Union Catalogue. The ILL module integrated into Primo (opened for use on 1 Nov) has significantly increased the practical usefulness of the catalogue. The upgrade of Primo to version 4 started at the end of the year.

11,952 digital objects are accessible through *DigiTool* so far, that is to say with almost 9,000 more than in the previous year. The whole content – mainly valuable photographs, early printed books and letters – is freely accessible online and is distributed by institutions as follows: CL-BAS – 2 collections and 1,072 objects in total, SUL – 8 collections of 788 objects, NBU – 118 objects and NALIS – 9,469. Their integration on the monthly basis is reflected in the table below.

As far as participation of each institution is concerned, it is important to mention that only NALIS has submitted not its own content but photographs gathered from

several private collections and 19 organisations in Bulgaria. What should also be stressed here is the fact that a digital book is counted as a single digital object even though it contains many separate images (pages) with metadata to each of them. The interface of the software was translated into Bulgarian.
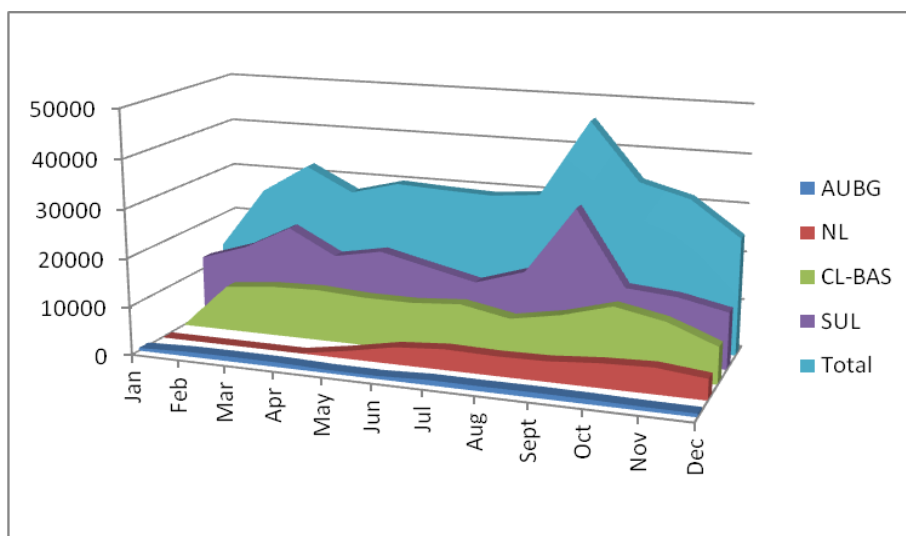
An important step towards a significant improvement of the capacity of the NALIS UC was the preparation for the transition from *DigiTool* to **Rosetta**. The latter is more effective software developed also by Ex Libris. 2 meetings were held with the representatives of the company (in Jul and Sept). The server and the test version of Rosetta were installed and configured and the necessary hardware was prepared for work in Oct. The NALIS team was trained in the software by specialists from Ex Libris and the planning of the work with it began in Nov.

In relation to **ALEPH**, a template for the bibliographic description of manuscripts was created, which was accorded with MARC 21 (in Nov). The idea was that it is to be used in the future collaboration with the Plovdiv Public Library when cataloguing their manuscript collection, digitising it and integrating in into Primo through ALEPH. In the second half of the year, the work on this product was directed mainly to configuring the web application and to translate the web interface into Bulgarian.

During the reported period, the **SFX / MetaLib** modules functioned well and did not require further improvements. The SFX software and databases were updated twice – in January and in June. A migration from SFX3 to SFX4 was carried out in Nov.
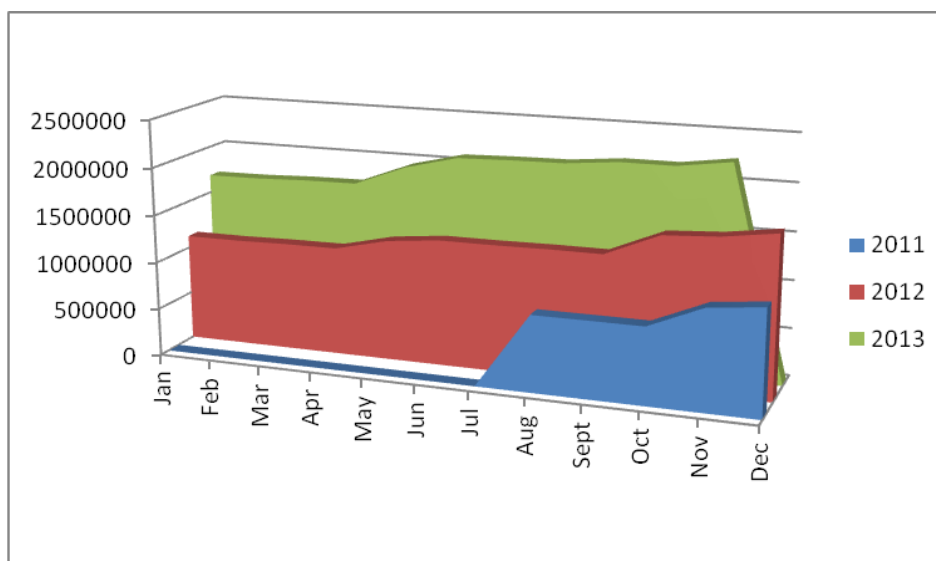

III.
Retroconversion

The total number of the bibliographic records retroconverted in 2013 is **351,774**. Thus, since the beginning of the project in retroconverson of the holdings of the founding libraries (in 2010), 905,930 records have been retroconverted. The National Library joined this initiative in retroconversion in June 2013. The graph shows the participation of each of the founding libraries by months:
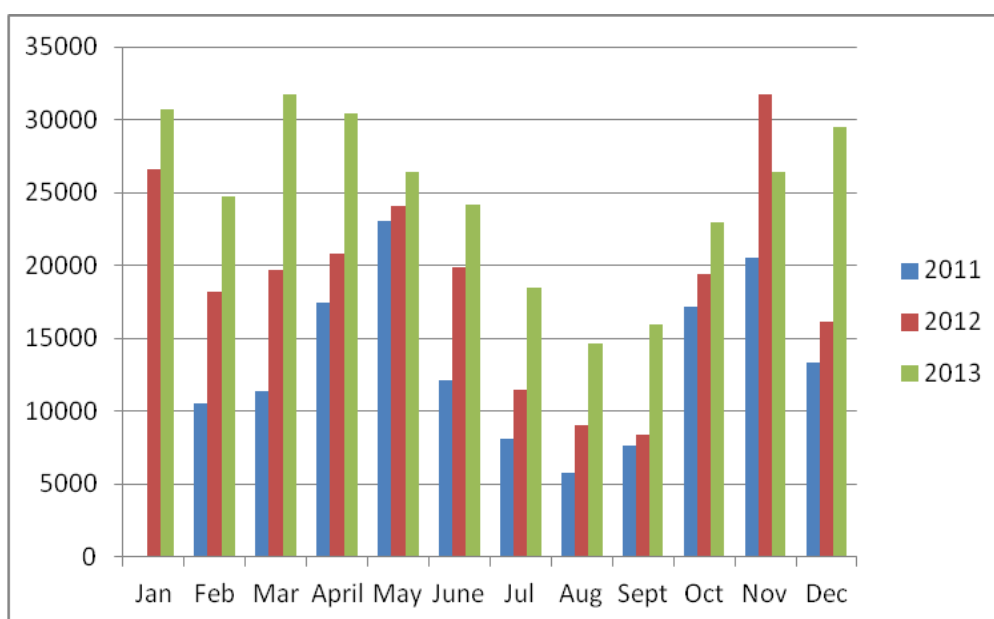
IV.
NALIS Union Catalogue

The total **number of the records in the NALIS Union Catalogue** reached **2,293,125** by the end of the year (after the integration of the retroconverted records and the records provided by associated members). This number is with 35% more than in the previous year.

The chart below shows the growth of **the NALIS Union Catalogue** through the years:

And the following chart presents the **searches that users perform** into the NALIS UC.

Note: The January data for 2011 were not included due to technical reasons.

The number of searches in the catalog is constantly increasing in the last three years. (The exception is only Nov 2013, probably because of the students' protests held all around Bulgaria then.)

V.
Training

In 2013, NALIS organised 3 training courses intended for associate members and there was 1 more course for the NALIS team (organised by Ex Libris):

- Registration of books in ALEPH 500 v.20.1 according to *MARC 21 Bibliographic* – a course at the Plovdiv Public Library (22 May) – 2 participants;
- Understanding *MARC 21 Bibliographic and ALEPH 500 v 20.1* – a course at NALISF (27-31 May) – 13 participants;
- *Digitisation of Books by using ABBYY FineReader and DigiTool* – a course at the American Research Centre in Sofia (3 June) – 4 participants;
- *Rosetta* – a two-day course at the NALIS Foundation

Along with that, the NALIS Foundation team took part in the traditional IGeLU Conference in Berlin (8-10 Sept).

VI.
Library Formats

Translation and editing of the documents related to **MARC 21** and on ensuring the free access of the Bulgarian library community to it have continued.

- The last of the publications scheduled for translation – *MARC 21 Format for Authority Data* – was finalised and published [online](#) on the NALIS web site;
- The [*Online Multilingual Dictionary of MARC 21 Terms*](#) was enriched with the terms from *MARC 21 Bibliographic*. The US Library of Congress was informed about this year publications on our website.

VII.
Publicity and promotion of NALIS activities

In 2013 the NALIS Foundation made a serious effort to more broadly popularise its activities. In this respect it was effectively assisted by the PR agency contracted (Media Spot), which contributed a lot.

The first quarter was a marked by the start of the NALIS presence in the social media. Its facebook account, created in Feb, was regularly updated with news, papers of the week, information about events in the member libraries, announcements interesting for the library society and the readership.

In Mar, a YouTube channel was open for NALIS. It has granted quick and easy access to all the visual materials related to the foundation, including the two video instructions about how to perform a search in the NALIS UC. In addition, an active communication with the mass media began – the number of the main appearances related to NALIS is [80](#).

The websites (of the NALIS foundation and of the NALIS catalogue), as well as the respective profiles in the social media were updated regularly. In June Media Spot prepared 5 new video materials and added them to the [NALIS YouTube channel](#).

Another achievement, important for the better public visibility of the NALIS UC and of the project itself, was the establishment of contacts with some of the best online bookstores in Bulgaria: *Siela*, *Balgarski knizhitsi*, *Indeks 2000*, *Egmont Bulgaria*.

An original way of promoting NALIS is the cooperation with the Student Computer Society (SCAS). They signed a contract with NALIS obliging them to develop an IPhone application related to the historical past of Sofia. (The working title of the project is the City below Us.) This product is going to link to NALIS and to editions mentioned in the NALIS UC.

This year's international NALIS forum – *Digital Library – Technological and Social Issues* – was held on 15 May. Leading figures in the library and archival fields in the US, Israel, Russia, Finland and Bulgaria shared their experience in constructing digital libraries, impact on education system, free access to funds and public awareness in various initiatives related to library and archival activities. The event was much better represented in the media than the previous forums – not only with articles (more than 20) but also with television reports and interviews (6 in total).

It was decided that a NALIS newsletter is issued and disseminated through a special mailing list – 96% of the addresses there are of Bulgarian university professors. 3 issues were distributed so far to 800 professionals.

The NALIS UC was presented several times in the second quarter of 2013 together with the activities and achievements of the NALIS foundation: at the Plovdiv Public Library, the Ruse Regional Library and the Library of the University of Ruse, at the Third Congress in Bulgarian Studies and the 23rd BLIA Conference. NALIS representatives took part in the following conferences in the last quarter of 2013: the National Round Table *Bulgarian Digital Library: Models and Approaches* and the conference in digitisation of medieval sources held in Veliko Tarnovo.

VIII.
Participation in EuropeanaPhotography

This EU project began in early 2012. The NALIS Foundation is a participant among 18 institutions in 15 countries. The goal of the project is to present through the Europeana portal more than half a million photographs from the period between 1839 and 1939. NALIS engaged in providing 15,000 images with metadata. Almost 2/3 of this number (9,469) is already available through the NALIS server. In contrast to the most of this project's participants, NALIS has collaborated with other Bulgarian organisations (18 so far).

The first trimester was dedicated namely to attracting new participants to the project and to coordinate various activities. In addition, an article was prepared on the history of Bulgarian photography together with a review of the photo exhibition presenting the archives of the Bulgarian News Agency and both were submitted for publishing in the project's journal (Uncommon Culture, No. 4). What was also developed were two programs – for searching of images and for avoiding deduplication of photographs – but, due to their complexity, the work in this respect was stopped and the efforts were dedicated to more urgent tasks. The rest of the time was spent mainly on selection and scanning of photographs and correction of the metadata to the selected ones. Besides, the juridical aspects were studied of photograph publishing in the internet.

A huge technical work has been done: test of the updated software of the project (MINtTool), test upload of photographs in this software, development of three applications for correction of key words and another application of excerpting metadata from DigiTool to Europeana (with translation of the key words), upload of the selected photographs from the software for the management of digital collections used by NALIS (DigiTool) to the software for integration of cultural content into Europeana (MINTtool) used by EuropeanaPhotography.

In Oct, a workshop was organised in the framework of EuropeanaPhotography – *Undisclosed Treasures from the Photo Archives* – and held in Sofia.

IX.
Management and Administration

In 2013 the NALIS Foundation was managed in strict accordance with the rules and procedures adopted by the Board of Founders and the Board of Directors. The **Board of Directors** met seven times, the **Board of Founders** – two times and the **Council of Experts** gathered together once.

All monthly and quarterly **reports** were timely prepared and provided to the Board of Directors and ABF.

7 January, 2014   Ekaterina Dikova:
                                                 NALIS Project Manager