



FOUNDATION
NATIONAL ACADEMIC LIBRARY
AND INFORMATION SYSTEM

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Approved by:

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NALISF Executive Director

ANNUAL REPORT
(1 January – 31 December 2014)
The NALIS Foundation

The NALIS Project, supported by the America for Bulgaria Foundation successfully continued in June 2014. Its main goal was to create a national academic library and information system and a union online catalogue – the [NALIS Union Catalogue](#). The successful establishment of the NALIS Foundation and the acquisition of the necessary software platform were carried out in the first half-year period of the project (in 2009). The very construction of the National Academic Library and Information System was undertaken in 2010, and the further development of the library network and the catalogue – further developed and broadened by both attracting new associate members and integrating their bibliographic records together with 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. These trends of development continued in 2014. The America for Bulgaria foundation extended by 3 years its support for the proked in June. A new main direction is internationalisation beyond the borders of Bulgaria and there are already 3 major libraries on the Balkan Peninsula involved.



I. Expansion of the NALIS Project

After the association of 9 university libraries in 2011, another 11 institutions in 2012 and 6 in 2013, **10 new contracts** envisaging integration of the bib records of the respective institutions into the NALIS Union catalogue were signed in 2014: 7 with Bulgarian institutions and 3 with foreign ones (the dates of contracting are given in brackets):

- *G. S. Rakovski* National Defence College, Sofia (8 Dec);
- University of Agribusiness and Rural Development, Plovdiv (28 Oct);
- International University College, Dobrich (15 Sept);
- Medical University, Plovdiv (21 Jul);
- Medical University, Varna (23 May);
- *Angel Kanchev* University, Ruse (1 Apr);
- *Saint Trivelius* Christian Institute, Sofia (18 Mar).

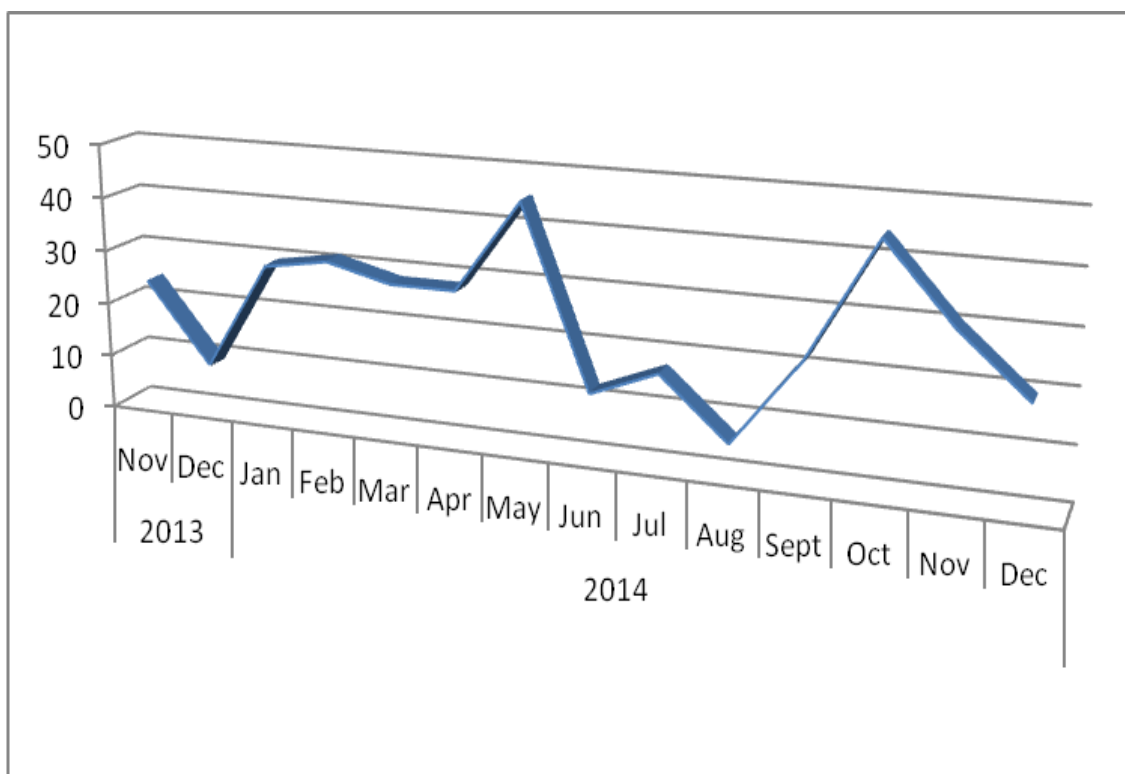
The bib records of these 7 institutions have been fully integrated into the NALIS UC.

- Romanian Academy Library, Bucharest (24 Mar);
- National Library of Albania, Tirana (7 Jul);
- *Carol I* Central University Library, Bucharest (12 Nov).

The bib records of the two Romanian institutions were successfully tested and they are going to be integrated into the NALIS UC. The National Library of Albania has submitted no bibliographic information so far.

The total number of the institutions involved in the NALIS project has reached 41: 3 founders, 33 associate members, 4 foreign participants and the Bulgarian National Library *SS Cyril and Methodius* (BNL). The latter has a 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 the use of the interlibrary loan (**ILL**) system through the NALIS UC. The graph below reflects its use: 311 times in 2014 and 344 in total after its launch in Nov 2013:



In relation to the ***internationalisation of the project***, some academic and national libraries in the South East Europe were asked to share their opinion regarding their involvement in the NALIS project. A Round Table was held to discuss the [*Opportunities for Constructing an Online Catalogue of the National and Academic Libraries in the South East European Region*](#) (21 Feb). 27 participants from 17 institutions in the region took part. Besides the founders and representatives of the Bulgarian National Library (BNL) the meeting was attended by representatives of the following institutions:

- Library of the Romanian Academy of Sciences;
- Aristotle University Library (Greece);
- National and University Library in Zagreb (Croatia);
- National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Tuzla;
- *Sv. Kliment Ohridski* National and University Library of Macedonia;
- National and University Library of Montenegro;
- Hellenic Academic Libraries Link (HEAL);
- National Library of Serbia;
- *Svetozar Markovich* University Library of Serbia;
- *Carol I* Central University Library of Bucharest (Romania).



The NALIS Foundation continued participating in the *National Council of Experts in Digitisation of Cultural, Historical and Scientific Heritage*, established by the 13 Centuries of Bulgaria Foundation.

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

After configuring the software products (in 2010), their further adjustment to the needs of the associated libraries and their patrons (in 2011), and developing applications to supplement them (in 2012-2013), 2014 was dedicated mainly to enrichment of the NALIS Union Catalogue with bib information (both new and updated) and to development of the digital library of the institutions involved. In relation to digitisation, it has been decided to switch from DigiTool to Rosetta, also a product by Ex Libris, which offers not just storage but also archiving of digital content.

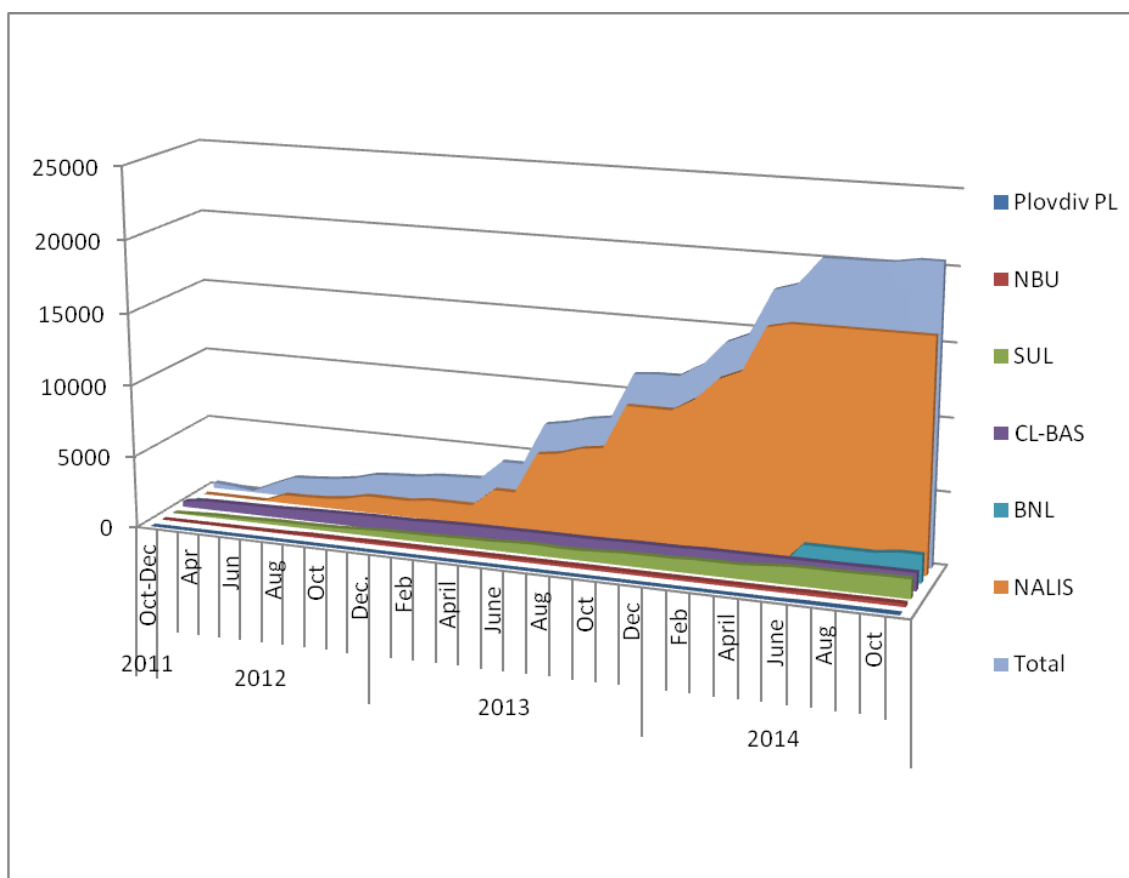
During the reported period, the main work on **Primo** was related to upgrades of the software, integration of records of the new associated members and update of the records of the founders and the older associate members¹. The upgrade to version 4, which was started at the end of 2013, continued also in early 2014. In March, the test server was upgraded to version 4.6. The mobile version of Primo was configured in April. The test of the records submitted by the *Carol I* Central University Library of Bucharest started in June, together with the test of the records from Rosetta. The records of the following institutions were integrated in June and July: *Saint Trivelius* Christian Institute (Sofia), Medical University (Varna), Medical University (Plovdiv) and *Angel Kanchev* University (Ruse). The last trimester was dedicated to updating associate members' records, testing the Romanian Academy Library's records and preparation to integrate data submitted by Bulgarian e-booksellers in Primo. The records of the National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) were successfully tested in Dec.

The total number of digital objects created by means of **DigiTool** reached 18,794 in 2014. This number is with 62% higher than the one in the previous year. The digital collection of the Bulgarian National Library (BNL) has been also integrated into the NALIS Union Catalogue. It grew with 90 objects in December to reach the total of 2,019 (created by means of a system different

¹ According to the agreements with the respective institutions, the update of records is on a daily basis for SUL and CL-BAS, monthly for AUBG and annual for the rest of the institutions.



from DigiTool). So the total number of digital objects in the NALIS UC now is 20,813. Their integration on the monthly basis is reflected in the graph below.



The number of the digital objects submitted by the libraries using DigiTool is the same for the last two months as, due to the switch to Rosetta, the addition of new objects was postponed.

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 digitised book or manuscript is counted as a single digital object even though it contains many separate images (pages) with metadata to each of them. The integration of the small, but valuable collection of digitised medieval Slavonic manuscripts kept at the Plovdiv Public Library started in July. The interface of the software was translated into Bulgarian and the template, used for the creation of METS files was translated in German, English, French, Romanian, Serbian, Russian and Greek – the



languages in which these books were published – and can easily be used through the NALIS Website (see the [Library Standards](#) page there).

An important step towards a significant improvement of the capacity of the NALIS UC was the preparation for the transition from DigiTool to **Rosetta** – a software system for long-term preservation of digital objects, also developed by Ex Libris. After the installation and configuration of the necessary server and of the test version of the software in 2013, in 2014 the main efforts were directed towards the migration to DigiTool. The migration was performed by an Ex Libris team. NALIS has formulated business requirements for the preservation of the existing functionality and monitored their implementation. In addition, NALIS developed both a viewer for Rosetta (Aug – Sept) and programs to show collections in Rosetta (Oct – Dec). The MARC fields were translated in Bulgarian in the Rosetta interface (Nov) and certain products, complementary to Rosetta, were investigated, installed and tested in Dec (PostgreSQL, IIPImage). The NALIS team participated at the annual meeting of Rosetta Advisory Group in Israel (17-18 June).

In relation to **ALEPH**, the main activities were configurations related to the needs of both the founders and associate members which use this software product. The first three months of the year were dedicated to the migration from version 16 to version 21 at CL-BAS as well as to translation and configuration of ALEPH in the NALIS installation and the creation of a logical library and the additional configuration of the authority data base.

SFX/ MetaLib modules functioned well and did not require further improvements. SFX was updated from version 3 to version 4 was in April. It was configured as a new system in May and, in the following month, a preparation was made to switch off SFX3. Some corrections in the SFX interface were done in September, and the subscription to Elsevier – set.

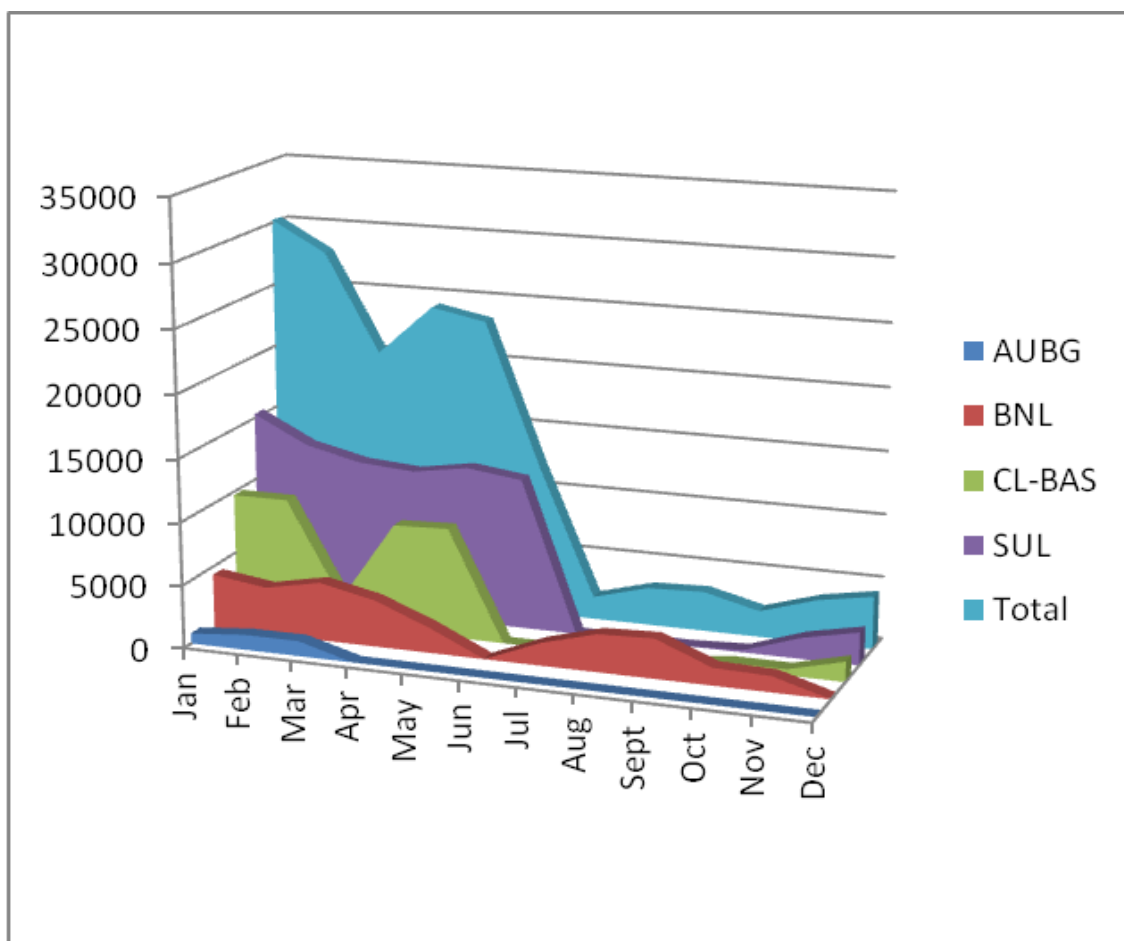
III. Retroconversion

The total number of the bibliographic records retroconverted in 2014 is **164,987²**. Thus, a total of 1,070,917 records have been retroconverted since

² The number is with 53% lower than the one in the previous 2013 and this is due to the following reasons: 1. AUBG accomplished its part of the project as soon as in March 2014; 2. The low number of records retroconverted by CL-BAS in March is due to the migration of Aleph version 16 to version 21 there; 3. CL-BAS did not work on the project in June in order to finalise



the beginning of the project in retroconversion of the holdings of the founding libraries (June 2010). The National Library joined this initiative in June 2013. The graph shows the participation of each of the founding libraries by months:



IV. NALIS Union Catalogue

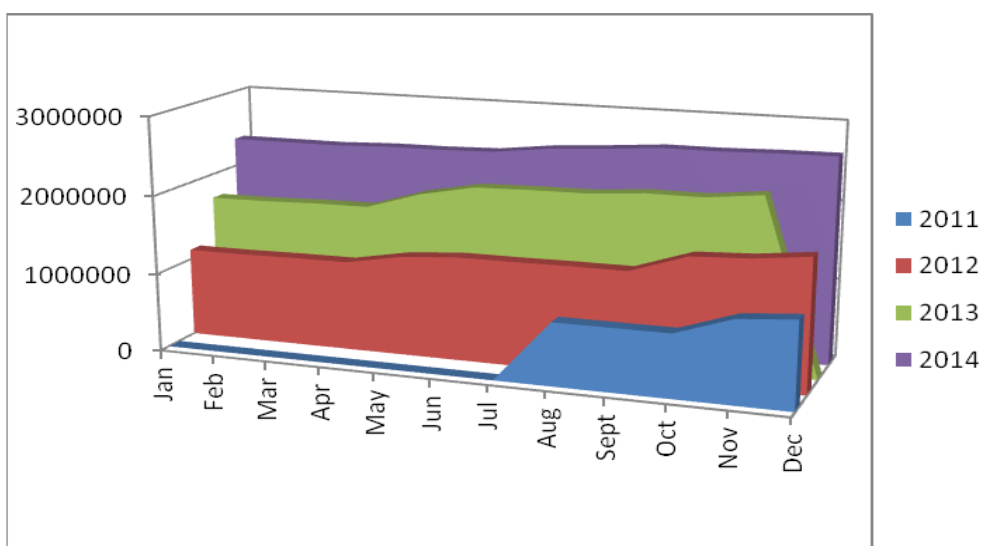
The total **number of the records in the NALIS Union Catalogue** reached 2,627,280 by the end of the year (after the integration of the retroconverted

the important process of inventory of its holdings; 4. the founding libraries – AUBG, CL-BAS and SUL – submitted no bib records in July, Aug and Sept, since the contracted project period has ended. The initiative in retroconversion entered into a new stage in Oct, after CL-BAS and SUL created new project proposals, subsequently approved by the NALIS Board of Directors.

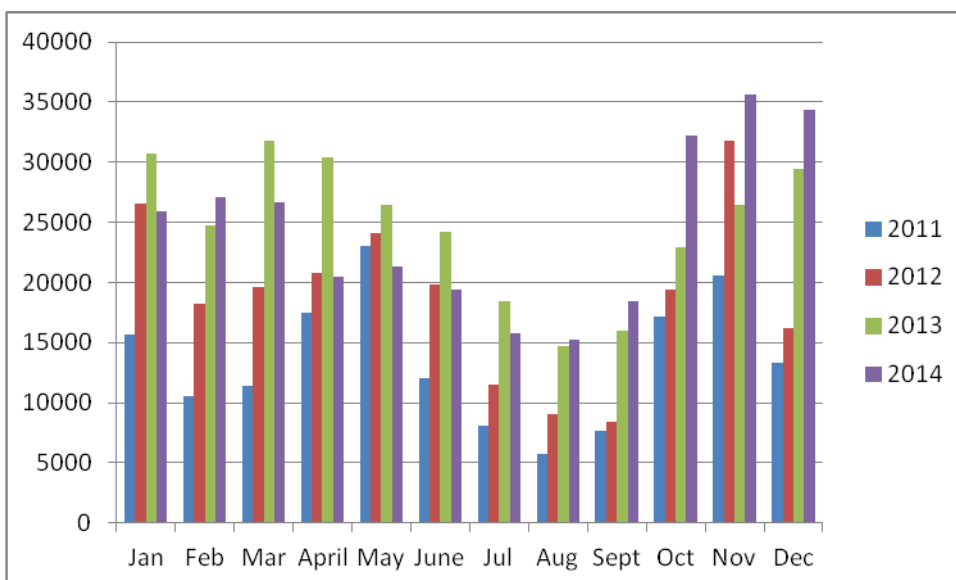


records and the records provided by the associated members). This is with 15% more than in the previous year.

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.





The number of searches in the catalogue is constantly increasing in the first three years. At the beginning of the fourth one, 2014, there was a slight instability, but in the second half of the year there was again a stable increase in the searches. This increase is definitely due to the actions taken to promote the NALIS Union Catalogue (see part VII).

V. Training

In 2014, NALIS organised 3 training courses intended for associate members:

- Rosetta Basics – a two-day course at the NALIS Foundation (04-05 June) – 15 participants;
- Understanding MARC Authority Records – a one-day course at the NALIS Foundation (03 Oct) – 9 participants;
- Rosetta Advanced Training – a two-day course at the NALIS Foundation (14-15 Oct) – 8 participants.

Along with that, the NALIS Foundation team took part in the annual IGeLU Conference in Oxford (15-19 Sept).

VI. Library Formats

The work on translation, editing and publishing online the most important documents related to **MARC 21** and on ensuring a free and easy access of the Bulgarian library community to them has finished.

- The editing of the last publication related to MARC 21 [MARC 21 Format for Authority Data](#) ended as soon as in Jan;
- The [Online Multilingual Dictionary of MARC 21 Terms](#) was also finalised;
- A MARC 21 Authority Working Group was established (6 Oct). Its participants are representatives of CL-BAS, SUL and NBU, an its purpose – to discuss issues related to the creation of authority records, management of an authority database and its interrelation with the respective bibliographic database. A mailing list was made for the purpose and used to both disseminate instructions and discuss ambiguous issues.



VII.

Publicity and promotion of NALIS activities

In 2014 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).

Information interesting for the readers of the NALIS **FaceBook** page was sought and published daily – these were materials often redirecting to the NALIS website or the NALIS UC website. The **websites** (of the foundation and of the catalogue) were regularly updated in their Bulgarian and English versions.

The **mass media appearances** of NALIS were over 200 for 2014. The most important of them have been reflected on the NALIS website (see the [Others about Us](#) Page), including 3 interviews for the Bulgarian National Radio, 3 TV interviews and a TV report (for TV7, Bulgaria on Air and BTV). 9 issues of the [NALIS newsletter](#) were disseminated.

In Feb, a campaign started to add links directing to the NALIS UC in the **Wikipedia** articles about Bulgarian writers. 247 Wiki articles were amended in this way by the end of the year.

A [national sociological research](#) of the users of the NALIS UC was carried out by Alpha Research in the first trimester and the results of this survey were published on the NALIS website. It reflected important aspects of the NALIS UC users' profile as well as characteristics and strategies for searching in the catalogue. The research has had a crucial role to master the NALIS activities.

In mid-November a **campaign to stimulate the academic reading** started. It is related to the fifth anniversary of the NALIS Foundation and a special [website](#) was created to announce and update the information related to it. Every month there is a different academic topic for reading and one of the participants is randomly chosen to receive either a book or an e-reader. The campaign is going to end at the NALIS Forum in 2015.

An original way of promoting NALIS has been the cooperation with the Student Computer Society (SCAS). They signed a contract with NALIS obliging them to develop an application related to the historical past of Sofia for Android or iOS



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based smart phones (the idea was of Dincho Krastev). The product entitled ***Invisible Serdika*** was officially presented in May (13th) and one of its functions is to redirect to information about NALIS and about editions that could be found in the NALIS UC.

The NALIS project was furthermore presented at several **conferences**. In April, Dincho Krastev presented it at the Round Table of the American Foundations Functioning in Countries of the Central and East Europe, which took place in Sofia. In October, at the Second National Colloquium “On the trail of the Bulgarian book: Inventories. Finds. Bibliology” in Plovdiv, Sabina Aneva together with Antoaneta Lessenska presented the digitised collection of medieval Slavic manuscripts originally kept at the Plovdiv Public Library and accessible through the NALIS Union Catalogue, and Ekaterina Dikova presented the multilingual template necessary to digitise Bulgarian 19th-century books. In November, at the National Annual Meeting of BIC, S. Aneva presented the ILL module developed by NALIS and Evgeni Dimitrov – the types of software systems to search in data bases for e-periodicals.

VIII.

Participation in EuropeanaPhotography

Throughout 2014, photographs and metadata to them were collected and integrated into the digital collections management system (DigiTool). The volume contracted was not only reached, but exceeded by almost thousand photographs. In a long correspondence, the NALIS Foundation has tried to provide all the photographs to Europeana as licensed as CC BY-NC-ND (Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs). Despite the support by the EuropeanaPhotography Project management, the negotiations in this respect brought no result. As a consequence, a certain watermark was placed on all the 16,000 photographs and they will be visible in this way in Europeana.

Much was done to popularise the project and the NALIS Foundation’s participation in it. An exhibition of photographs of Bulgarian writers, from the period between 1839 and 1939, was organised in May – [Writers through the Photographers’ Lens: Poster Exhibition in the Sofia Underground](#). A successful media campaign with seaside photographs of prominent Bulgarians of the past was carried out in August. A [presentation](#) was given about the NALIS participation in the project at the final conference in Leuven (Belgium).



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The project has been then accomplished and the participation of the NALIS Foundation in it may well be assessed as extremely successful.

IX. Management and Administration

The NALIS **Board of Directors** met six times.

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

2 February, 2015

Ekaterina Dikova:
NALIS Project Manager