

Plans for the library – university network of Veszprém University

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Plans for the Library - University Network of Veszprém University

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1. Introduction

In 1971 the Central Library of Veszprém University introduced the SDI Service based on the magnetic tapes of the *Chemical Abstracts*. The information service, based on the X.25 packet switching network, has been in operation since 1982 and in addition to this, an IBM PC- based CD-ROM database was also installed in 1989.

Changes in the Hungarian higher education policy and the restructuring of the teaching activity of our university affected deeply our library development program. Major changes can be anticipated in the following fields:

- the number of full-time students will be doubled by the year 2000,
- the fields of interest of these students will be more diversified (an increase of interest in the fields of business, management, environmental sciences and teacher training may be expected)
- the permanent growth of interest in the learning of Western European languages will increase demands for literature in these languages.

The scope and activity of the University Library have to be changed accordingly:

- the acquisition area has to be broadened (beside the sciences of chemical engineering, economics, environmental sciences and the humanities have to be covered)

- in order to meet the demands of the increased number of library users, the installation of a computer-based library service, and a further development of our CD-ROM database service, become inevitable.

2. Computer Networks in Hungarian Libraries

Within the framework of the so-called Information Infrastructure Development (IID) project, the building of computer networks was initiated in Hungary. Institutions of the national higher education system are interlinked by the HUNGARNET Society, whose members enjoyed special support during the implementation of the IID project.

The currently operated system is an open X.25 system, which uses TCP/IP protocol.

A backbone type of network, HBONE, typical in other European countries is now being developed. The time schedule of its construction is shown in Fig.1 (according to the planned schedule the backbone network will reach Veszprém this year).

The currently available basic services of the IID project are as follows:

- Access to other international services (e.g. EARN, INTERNET etc.)
- Interactive access to remote services
- Electronic mail
- Electronic message transfer agent
- Access to databases
- File transfer
- Bulletin board
- PAD access via telephone.

In Hungary, already 126 libraries have joined the network system for data processing and using or providing services through this facility.

On the base of their network contacts the national libraries can be divided into two types:

- Network serving libraries

These libraries use the service of other libraries, and their catalogues are also available on an online basis. They need a large host computer and an integrated library system.

- Network using libraries

They simply use the services of other libraries and require PCs and local networks.

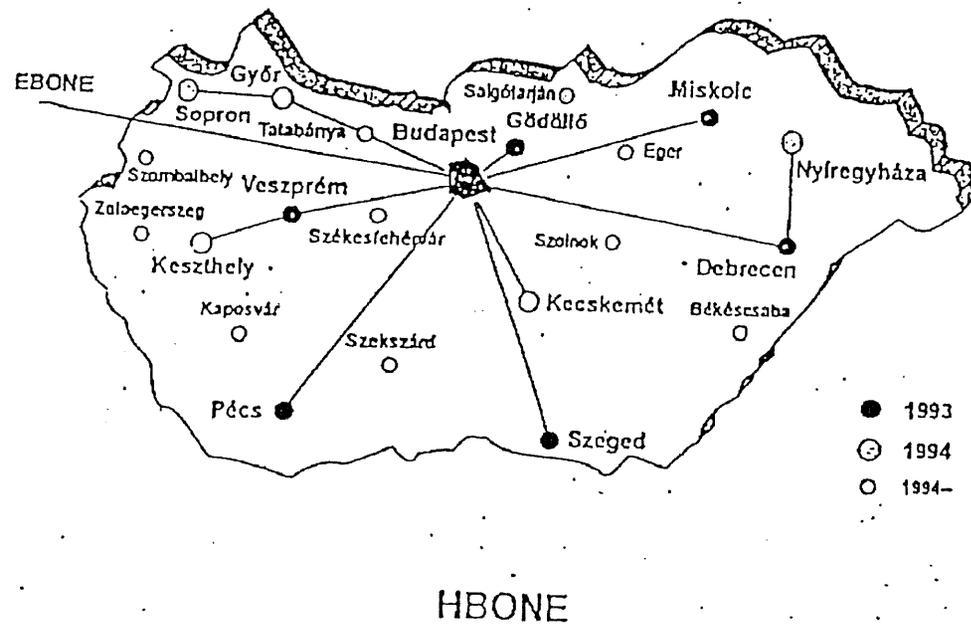


Fig. 1. Hungarian Network, HBONE

3.Middle Trans-Danubian Regional Center of the IID

As Fig.1 shows, centres were developed in the major Hungarian cities, which are linked to the regional centres serving the needs of a particular region.

At the University of Veszprém the Department of Information Technology and Automation is responsible for the operation of the Middle Trans-Danubian Centre of the IID. Its special job includes:

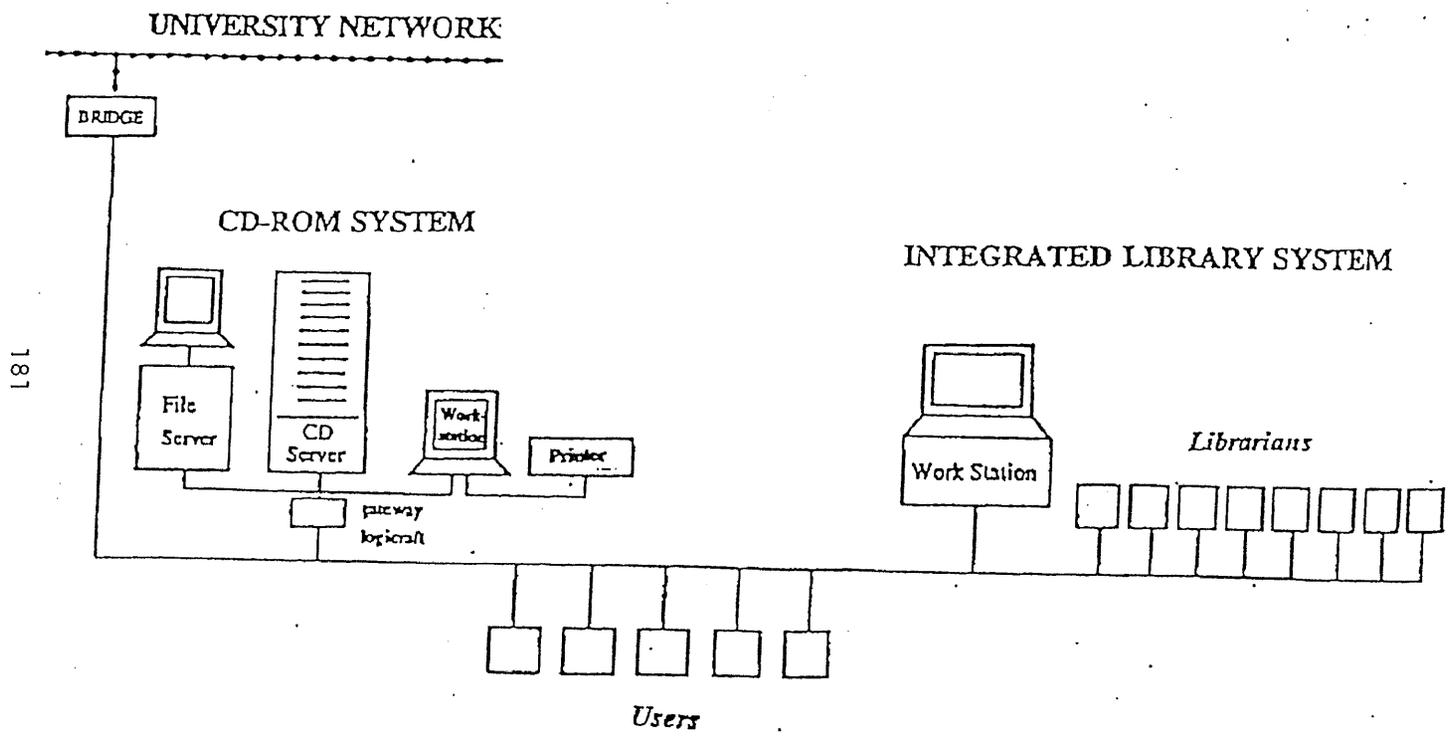
- to maintain a fast 9600 bps link to the X.25 network through the server computer DEC System 5000
- to construct the fibre optic network backbone this year
- to install a high performance SUN server computer and a SUN workstation this year
- to organise user- training courses and consulting activity in the region.

4.Computer Network Program of the Central Library of the University of Veszprém

Considering the criteria given below, the university library can be regarded as a regional network service library:

- online information and CD-ROM database services have been available for several years
- eight databases have been constructed from our own stock and our inventory is continuously processed (using a PC-based MICROISIS program, about 25.000 records have already been introduced)
- the University, and consequently its library, play a regional role in the IID project
- it is the country's largest, and the Trans-Danubian region's only, library specialising in chemistry
- it is also accepted as the regional library on the basis of the tasks it has undertaken in World Bank projects.

At present the library is undergoing a large-scale facility development.



181

Fig.2. Library Network with Integrated Library System and CD-ROM system

As Fig.2 shows, the library is going to install an integrated library service and CD-ROM systems. To the library network, Ethernet system PCs and terminals are connected. The library system will be linked to the university's fibre optic network backbone through a bridge, so the information interchange will be ensured in both directions.

During the selection of the CD-ROM and the database systems, both local and regional interests have been taken into consideration. The ITS-Optical Tower with its seven HITACHI CD-ROM drives provides simultaneous access to seven discs.

The library decided to procure and implement the ALEPH Integrated Library System developed in Israel.

The choice from the offered four integrated library systems (ALEPH, TINLIB, VOYAGER and VTLS) has been made by the consideration of the following aspects:

- operation in a UNIX environment,
- availability of the Hungarian version,
- free data conversion from the MICROISIS,
- graphic processing operation,
- feasibility of connection to the CD-ROM system,
- compatibility with the Hungarian shared cataloguing system OSZKÁR,
- reasonable price,
- Hungarian references.

On the selection of the ALEPH Integrated Library System the type of the university's network server and workstations have also been taken into consideration. The SUN SPARC station type 10 has been selected.

5. Summary

As has clearly been demonstrated a serious development was started in Hungary in the improvement of the country's information infrastructure. This development became especially important for our library because our scope of activity has been extended far beyond the walls of the university and now tends to cover regional needs too.

Our current developments have been financed from successful grant applications, which is certainly a novelty in the life and operation of Hungarian libraries.

From among the large number of offered integrated library systems about four or five have been implemented which indicates the flexibility of Hungarian libraries.

The World Bank's five-year development project takes into consideration what has been achieved already, and then provides support for both further acquisitions and development of computer network systems.