SERVIÇO DE BIBLIOTECA DE ARTE

SERVIÇO DE REFERÊNCIA

Art Library Reference Room.

	Amounts in euros
Personnel costs	1 763 738
Operating costs	19 426
Departmental activities	448 905
Investment	*97 929*
Total	**2 232 069**
Receipts	28 103

Set up in 1969, the Art Library fundamentally acts as a specialist research library that caters specifically for those involved in artistic, critical, educational or academic activities and mainly focusing on architecture and the visual arts. The Library's resources and services are designed to support individual and institutional activities alike, with particular emphasis on contributing to cultural initiatives such as the publication of studies and the organisation of exhibitions. The Library also centralises the management of a wide-ranging documentary heritage that goes beyond the arts and includes the management and conservation of all the publications produced or sponsored by the Foundation.

In addition to the constantly updated general collection, existing in a range of different media, the Library also holds an important set of special collections. These include, among others, the private libraries and personal papers of Amadeo de Souza-Cardoso, Diogo Macedo, Luís Reis Santos, Raul Lino and Cristino da Silva, amongst others, the photographic collections of Mário and Horácio Novais and the Teatro de Cordel Collection. The Library also has subscriptions to 200 periodicals.

In 2009, as is customary and desirable in a library, the main objective of the activities undertaken was to ensure the quality and diversity of the Library's services to the public by systematically seeking to enhance the provision of information, its quality
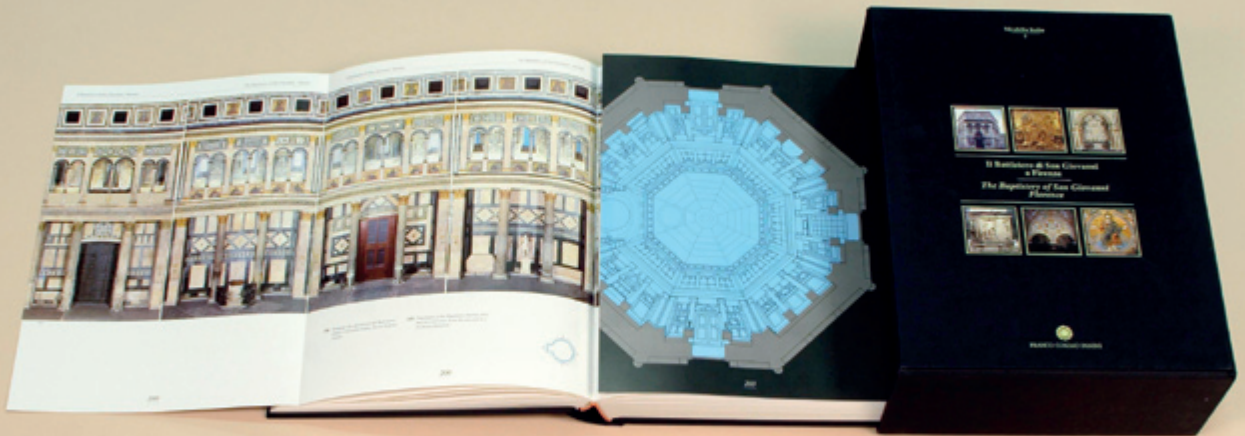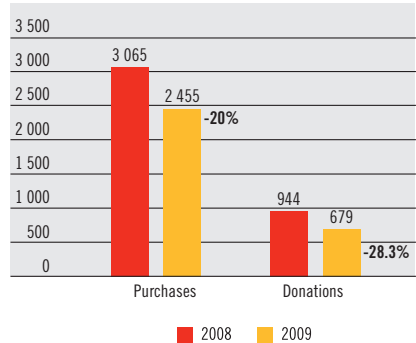
and relevance, thus addressing its core mission. Activities of particular significance in this context are the continuing development and updating of the collections of documents, essentially in the Library's specific areas, the ongoing conservation and preservation plan and, naturally, the renewal of procedures and services with the aim of widening the means of dissemination and use of the information resources available.

New contents made available to the public

Acquisitions

During the year 2009, the Library enriched its collections through the acquisition of new documents, of which 2,455 were donations and 676 were purchases. In both cases, the numbers were much higher than originally envisaged, with an extra 955 donations and an extra 226 purchases being made. In comparison with the previous year, 268 fewer titles were acquired and 610 fewer donations were made.

Evolution of purchases and donations 2008-2009

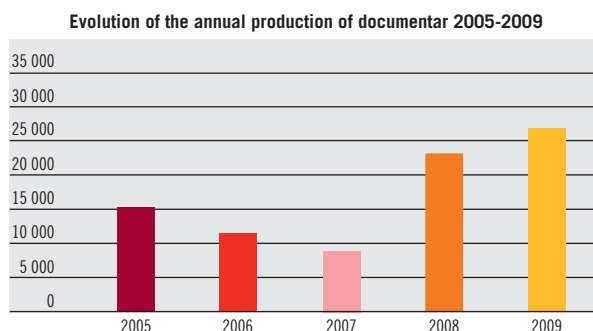|		
3 500		
3 000	3 065	
2 500	2 455	
2 000	-20%	
1 500		
1 000		944
500		679
0		-28.3%
	Purchases	Donations

■ 2008   ■ 2009

⬩ *Il Battistero di San Giovanni a Firenze* = The Baptistery of San Giovanni Florence Modena: Franco Cosimo Panini, cop. 1994.

Contents made available – an overview

During the year, the public were afforded access to a significant set of new documents, resulting not only from fresh acquisitions, but also from the treatment of collections, made available through the catalogue and requiring the production of a sizeable number of new bibliographical and stock records. For 2009, 8,579 new bibliographical records had been forecast, but in fact 9,626 were produced, representing a relative increase of 12.2%. Stock records also increased much more than expected, by 16,246 (10,500 had been expected but 26,746 were produced), which represents a growth rate of 155%.

By the end of the year, the Art Library's bibliographical database had 201,629 bibliographical records and 296,644 stock records.

The chart gives a broad overview of the growth in the annual production of the records made of the library's documents

Evolution of the annual production of documentar 2005-2009

over the past five years, showing the results of the great effort hat has been made to process the Library's highly valuable historical collections of documents that previously were not available to the public.

Special collections and digital contents

The treatment of two collections had been planned for 2009, but three were in fact processed, although not in their entirety. These collections were: Catalogues of Portuguese Exhibitions from 1930 to 1960, which are currently difficult to access; the Private Collection and Personal Papers of Diogo de Macedo; and the Mário Novais Studio. As far as the first two collections are concerned, the corresponding digital files have also been incorporated into the Library catalogue and are now available with a total of 18,214 images.

The total number of digital images increased from 111,060 in 2008 to 150,029 in 2009, representing an increase of 35%. These results exceeded the forecast made at the start of the year (140,000) by a total of 10,029 new images.

As far as the FLICKR service is concerned: 2,143 new photographs were uploaded, whereas the plan had been for only 2,000 photographs to be added.

Services to the public

As planned, a new service was created for the selective dissemination of information through the use of RSS feeds. Two subscription channels were opened: one for periodical publications and another for all other types of materials. Users can thus be automatically notified of any new additions to the bibliography available in their areas of interest.

As far as the website is concerned, although the aim was originally just to update and reformulate the contents, it became evident during this process that a new website needed to be created. This was duly done and the new website was made available to the public at the end of 2009.

Use of services and collections

Users

Two thousand three hundred and five new users were registered during 2009, amounting to 420 more readers than expected. Compared with the previous year, there was a significant growth in the number of new readers: from 1,140 to 2,305, representing an increase of over 100%.

With this growth, the total number of registered users increased to 35,345, which was 845 more than expected. Although the total number of registered users is a useful and important indicator, the indicator "active users" is closer to the actual reality for the purposes of analysing the frequency with which the Library is used each year. The number of active users rose to 4,157, as opposed to the forecast figure of 4,500. Compared with 2008, it does, however, amount to an increase of 6.6%.

Besides those users who physically come to the library, and because the Library has been making an ever larger number of digital contents available online, it is also important to take into account those who make use of the Library's resources without actually needing to come there. Assessing this type of use is far more complex, but there are some indicators that help to show its importance:

› The number of permanent followers of the Art Library's photo gallery on FLICKR has increased significantly, ending the year with 1,652 regular users.

› The increase in the number of visitors and the number of searches made in the catalogue.

A more detailed analysis of the Library's new readers shows that they are mainly students from higher education in the Art field, thus helping to make the general category of "students" the most relevant one amongst the Library's users.
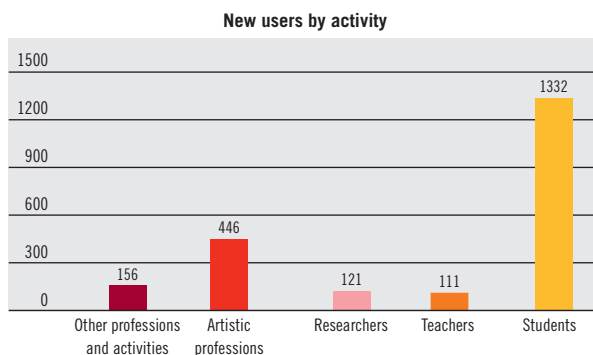

Encyclopédie des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes au XXᵉᵐᵉ siécle, en douze volumes. [1927?]. Work purchased by the Gulbenkian Museum for the "Art Deco. 1925" exhibition and incorporated into the Art Library's collection of documents.

TABLE I - Number of new readers by activity

Activity	No.
Secondary school students	62
Secondary school art students	41
Higher education students (art)	1 026
Higher education students (Social and Human Sciences)	70
Higher education students (other courses)	133
Secondary school teachers	37
Higher education teachers (art)	38
Higher education teachers (Social and Human Sciences)	20
Higher education students (other courses)	16
Researchers	121
Artistic professions	446
Other professions and activities	156

These new readers mainly use the Library to find information corresponding to the following interests: architecture, urbanism and design. Besides these, other interests such as art history and visual arts also play an important role amongst the Library's users.
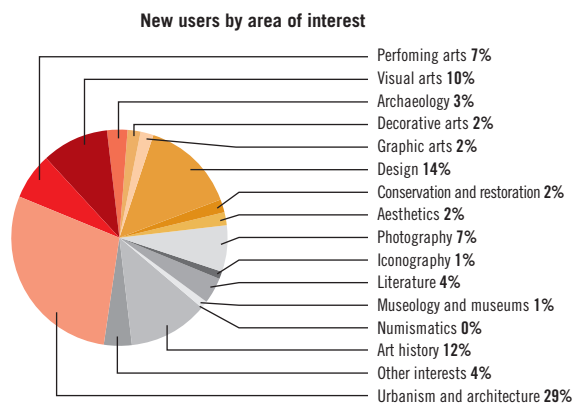
New users by activity
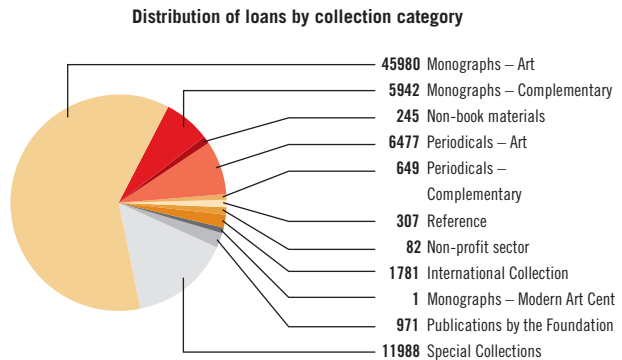

Uses made of the Library's services and collections

There are various indicators used to analyse the many different ways in which the available contents and services are used: ranging from loans of the Library's works to training activities, and including searches made in the catalogue.

Loans

The number of loans forecast to be made by the end of 2009 was 68,000, but in reality these amounted to 74,423, representing an increase of 9.4%.

New users by area of interest

Perfoming arts **7%**
Visual arts **10%**
Archaeology **3%**
Decorative arts **2%**
Graphic arts **2%**
Design **14%**
Conservation and restoration **2%**
Aesthetics **2%**
Photography **7%**
Iconography **1%**
Literature **4%**
Museology and museums **1%**
Numismatics **0%**
Art history **12%**
Other interests **4%**
Urbanism and architecture **29%**

Of all the collections, the most frequently used is, as expected, that of Art Monographs. However, it is significant that, in the hierarchy of uses, the collection that comes immediately afterwards is that of Special Collections, which seems to indicate that positive results have been obtained from the Library's policy of enriching collections such as the personal libraries, documents and papers of leading figures, as well as collections and donations of great documentary and informative value, and undertaking their corresponding digitisation. In this way, it can be said that this strategy has responded to the needs and interests of the Library's users.

Distribution of loans by collection category

45980	Monographs — Art
5942	Monographs — Complementary
245	Non-book materials
6477	Periodicals — Art
649	Periodicals — Complementary
307	Reference
82	Non-profit sector
1781	International Collection
1	Monographs — Modern Art Cent
971	Publications by the Foundation
11988	Special Collections

Uses made of the catalogue, website and FLICKR

Both the number of people using the Library's catalogues and the number of searches made increased significantly in 2009. The number of visitors to the online catalogue rose from 134,382 to 167,661, representing a growth of 25%. The number of visits rose from 204,630 to 277,382, representing an increase of 36%.
The number of searches was the indicator displaying the greatest growth during the year, rising sharply from 4,406,823 searches in 2008 to 14,914,643 searches in 2009, representing a highly significant increase of 238%.
Another indicator of the utilisation of the Library's catalogues is the use made of the recently added functions (introduced since 2008) for the subscription of contents (RSS feeds), which also increased significantly, rising from 249,692 to 1,285,461. This represents an increase of 80%.
The library website received 54,487 visitors, who made a total of 92,648 visits.
The photo gallery on FLICKR was viewed 645,558 times, ending 2009 with over a million views since its introduction in July 2008.

Reference service
Answers were provided to the 549 queries presented by users through a wide variety of different channels, and 2,305 reference interviews were carried out.

Conservation and management of collections

Conservation and restoration work was performed on 16 collections, involving a total of 15,861 items.

For reasons connected with the management of storage space, the current relevance of information and its relationship (or not) with the central subjects covered by the Art Library, permission was given for the sale of 267 monographs and 2,591 issues of periodical publications.

Cooperation activities and participation in events

As far as its internal and external cooperation activities were concerned, the Library answered all requests addressed to it in good time. In the first instance, requests were presented from the Foundation's other departments, namely the Fine Arts Department, the Modern Art Centre, the Cultural Centre in Paris, the Gulbenkian Museum and the "Next Future" programme.

Externally, the Library rendered services to various cultural institutions, both lending documents from its collections and searching for and organising information on artists or specific themes. Attention is drawn to the support given to the National Tile Museum for the preparation of its exhibition commemorating the 500th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Monastery of Madre de Deus, the Belém Cultural Centre, the Serralves Foundation, the Soares dos Reis National Museum, ExperimentaDesign, and the Berardo Collection Museum, among others.

Several members of the Art Library team took part in national events related to the central themes covered by its services, including: the conference on "Squares of Europe, Squares for Europe. A Square, a European Heritage – What Future for the Praça do Comércio?", at the Lisbon University Autonomous, 27 April; the Seminar on "Casa Perfeitíssima: 500th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Monastery of Madre de Deus 1509-2009", at the National Tile Museum, 21-23 May; 3rd Decorative Arts Conference on the theme of "Iconography and sources of inspiration: image and memory in European engraving", at the Ricardo do Espírito Santo Silva Foundation School of Decorative Arts, 19-21 November, "Copyright and Libraries: Current Implications", at the Portuguese National Library, 20-23 October, 2009; "Legal Deposit and Donation Management: What Policies?", at the Orlando Ribeiro Municipal Library, 29 April. A paper was also presented at the conference on "Ingénieurs et architectes réunis dans le même projet: la revue A Construcção Moderna".

Internationally, the Art Library played an active role in the annual conference of ifla (International Federation of Libraries and Institutions), participating both in the Pre-Conference of the Art Libraries Committee, on the theme of "Art and History: Sharing sources in international research networks", held in Florence, on 19-21 August, and in the actual conference itself on the theme of "Libraries create Future: Building on Cultural Heritage", held in Milan, on 22-27 August. A paper was presented at the pre-conference entitled "The Private Library of Calouste Gulbenkian".

The Library also continued to be part of the following international working groups:

› IFLA – International Federation of Librarians and Associations – having members in the following Standing Committees: "Art Libraries" and "Classification and Indexing".

› EBLIDA – European Bureau of Library, Information and Documentation Associations.

Internships and study visits

There were six study visits made during the year, attended by 85 individuals.

In 2009, the Library welcomed seven interns in the area of library management and documentation science, coming either from university master's degree courses in Information and Documentation Sciences or from vocational schools.

In support of the project for the restructuring of the library at the Cultural Centre in Paris, two internships were organised for two librarians at the Centre.

Human resources training

At the internal level, the Art Library held a training course for all of its employees on the theme of "Catalogue 2.0". The main aims of this scheme was to update the knowledge of the whole team on the developments introduced into the Library catalogues during 2008 and 2009.

Four employees participated in the Olissipo II Project of the 2007-2013 Lifelong Learning Programme – Leonardo da Vinci Scheme, resulting in their participation in training courses at similar European institutions.

During the year, various training courses were attended by the Art Library team, both in the history of art and in the technical areas of information sciences, including:

› "Introduction to Iconography", at the Ricardo do Espírito Santo Silva Foundation School of Decorative Arts, 3-19 March.

› "Art, Power and Identity", at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of the New University of Lisbon, 13-17 July.

› "Variations in Painting or Dialogue with the Past", at the Faculty of Human and Social Sciences of the New University of Lisbon, 6-13 July.

› "FRBR: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records", at the Portuguese National Library of Portugal, 16 November.

› "UNIMARC: Updating the Format", at the Portuguese National Library, 17-18 November.

› "Inventorying the Architectural Heritage", at the Institute of Housing and Urban Renewal, 23-27 November.

Internal services

At the internal level, a need has long been felt for organising the technical information produced both by the Library itself and in the form of national and international guidelines, thus making it generally available at the same time. In response to this need, an area was created, in the context of the Foundation's intranet, for storing, organising and providing such information, in addition to other contents, such as reports, materials linked to training, and an agenda of activities.