

ANNUAL REPORT ON THE WORK FOR 2012

Annual report on the work of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NULB&H) for 2012 contains an absolutely affirmative answer to very important questions from the domain of work evaluation, which read as follows: Has this Library accomplished its mission? Is there social justification for its existence? Short-term or long-term observation of NULB&H activities shows that, in addition to reports on the work of Library sectors, there are many effects of work which cannot be expressed quantitatively but they are clearly visible and recognizable in: preservation and assertion of cultural documentary heritage of B&H, development of information literacy of both librarians and library users, user success in learning, studying and researches, user satisfaction with NULB&H services, improvement of librarianship, the successful completion of the projects from the domain of culture, education and science ("Cross Bordering by Book", financially supported by European Union, and TEMPUS project "New Library Services and Repositories for Universities of Western Balkan"), interest of many institutions in cooperation with NULB&H, representation of B&H in international professional associations, participation in international professional and scientific meetings, and organization of domestic meetings.

Here are some of them that should be emphasized, such as promotions of NULB&H's publishing ventures, promotions of projects of international character, celebration of the 10th anniversary of Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award. This celebration was attended by B&H writers nominated for the award, a number of public and cultural workers, the representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Federation of B&H, and Ms. Iréne Westman, the representative of the Swedish Embassy in Sarajevo. The meeting on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of Charles Dickens's birth was attended and addressed by His Excellency Nigel Casey, British Ambassador in B&H. For the organization of this event, NULB&H has been awarded "Silver Snowflake", the special prize of the International Festival "Sarajevo Winter".

Special emphasis was put on the 67th anniversary of NULB&H. Mr. Bruno Racine, the Chairman of CENL (Conference of European National Librarians) and President of the National Library of France, sent the greeting letter to the meeting organized on this occasion. Also, in 2012 we marked the 20th anniversary of the shelling of NULB&H (the building of Vijećnica). The meeting organized on that occasion was attended by representatives of both foreign and domestic

associations and many friends of NULB&H. Bortolo Brogliato, 86-year-old humanist and lawyer from Vicenza, Italy. He has donated over 600 books to the Library and promised to donate another 1000 books from his private library.

We have invested a lot of our efforts to animate the public, to popularize reading and use of library services. We have been alerting the domestic and international public to the consequences of non-solution to legal and financial status of this institution as well as other six cultural institutions of importance to B&H. One of these consequences is the closing of the National Museum of B&H (October 4, 2012), one of these institutions.

In 2012, as well as over all post-war years, the management and employees of NULB&H have been working efficiently and responsibly, even more than they are obliged by law, regardless of almost unbearable and inhuman material, financial, space and personnel conditions (professional staff members have been seeking better jobs).

Institutions that could contribute to normalization and improvement of both quality of library services and personnel standard, i.e. solution to legal and financial status of the Library, still disregard these issues. The real situation is as follows: in 2012 NULB&H didn't get a single convertible mark from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of B&H. At the end of 2012, NULB&H got only 100.000 KM from the Council of Ministers of B&H, although according logic, this governmental body, as a founder, should provide sufficient financial resources for NULB&H, about which we have asked for the opinion from the Helsinki Committee for Human Rights in B&H. The Committee has confirmed that our requirements were justified, about which it officially informed the members of the Presidency of B&H and all the ministers from the Council of Ministers. As this didn't provoke any positive reactions in authorities, NULB&H has filed a suit in the Court of B&H. Now we are waiting for an answer from the Court.

The Steering Committee, management and employees of NULB&H, and to a certain extent, the Federal Ministry of education and science, the Government of Canton Sarajevo, especially the Ministry for education, science and youth, have given their unreserved support and contribution to the functioning of NULB&H.

In 2012 NULB&H was visited by many representatives of domestic and international organizations, including H.E. Valentin Inzko, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ms. Mary Ann Hennessey, the Head of the Council of Europe Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

and a number of ambassadors and representatives of embassies in B&H, as well as many B&H officials.

Certificates of appreciation, charters, awards and recognitions, given to the National and University Library of B&H by diverse institutions and associations, are documented evidence of the importance of this institution, but at the same time, challenge and motivation for additional efforts in striving for the accomplishment of its mission and vision. (For example, the Director of NULB&H as the chairman of technical committee BAS/TC44 – Librarianship, has received the certificate of appreciation from the Institute for standardization of Bosnia and Herzegovina.)

Office of the Director in cooperation with the Steering Board of NULB&H, in extremely difficult and complex financial situation in 2012 coordinated and performed very complex activities, including organizing and managing NULB&H system, representation of NULB&H, planning and programming development of library and information system, media appearances, international cooperation, publishing activity, marketing and providing material and financial resources for effective work of NULB&H.

In accordance with positive legal acts and subordinate regulations, the Office of the Director has been continuing with activities related to the solution to legal and financial status, first of all, by filing a suit against the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a founder of this institution.

No positive move towards the solution to legal and financial status of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina was made in 2012. Our expectations that we would get funds from a grant from the Ministry of Civil Affairs of B&H, necessary for basic Library functions, were not realized.

Our numerous appeals to the relevant authorities for providing funds necessary for work and maintaining vital functions of NULB&H, as well as our warning of possible consequences of non-financing of its regular activities, had no effect.

Trying to attract attention of the authorities and the public NULB&H organized an impressive meeting “A Minute to twelve”, on January 12, 2012. This imposing meeting was reported in the media. Among those who addressed the meeting and expressed strong support to the Library were Faruk Čaklović, the Rector of the University of Sarajevo, Ljubica Ostojić, a writer and teatrology expert, Marko Vešović, a writer and former member of the Steering Board of NULB&H, Ivica Šarić, the Minister of culture and sport of the Sarajevo Canton and Ibrahim Spahić, the Chairman of the Board of the directors of the Cultural Forum of B&H. Also, many

individuals and institutions sent telegrams of support to NULB&H. Among numerous visitors of the meeting were a number of university professors, librarians, students, Library users, and Karlo Filipović, the member of the House of Representatives of the Federation of B&H.

Unfortunately, after this meeting, just like after the closing of the National Museum of B&H, there was no positive answer from the authorities.

However, after all, it can be said that NULB&H efficiently accomplished all its tasks in 2012.

Priority was given to quality assurance, attempts to maintain, or possibly improve, employee standards, rational organization of work, and effectiveness of library services, following modern trends in library and information sciences, and affirmation of NULB&H in the country and in the world.

Summarizing the work results and total productivity of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we should emphasize completion of several very complex projects which are discussed in the reports of the Library sectors.

The project "Cross Bordering by Book", supported through the Programme of over-border cooperation of the Delegation of the European Union to B&H, as well as the final stage of TEMPUS project "New Library Services and Repositories for Universities of Western Balkan, in which NULB&H participated as the representative of the University of Sarajevo, have been successfully completed.

As a member of the most important European and world professional associations, organizations and consortia, such as TEL, CENL, IFLA, LIBER, eIFL etc., and as a partner of the World Digital Library, NULB&H gives its contribution and keeps up with world professional trends in librarianship. Ismet Ovčina was elected again as a member of ISSN Governing Board at the April 2012 General Assembly of the ISSN Network. He is a member of IFLA Standing Committee for National Libraries (2011-2015). The result of his activity was signing cooperation agreement with the National Library of Greece, the National Library of the Czech Republic, and the renewal of cooperation agreement with the National Library of Serbia.

With the aim of promoting reading, NULB&H has published 10 publications, including "Bosniaca" (No17), the indexed journal of NULB&H, bibliographies of serials and monographs, books of writers nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (Edition *Memoria Mundi*). It should be mentioned that NULB&H is the only nominating body from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

NULB&H as a member of the Association of Information Professionals – Librarians, Archivists and Museologists (BAM), was co-organizer of 6th International Conference BAM 2012, held in Sarajevo and Tuzla. The main theme of the conference was “Knowledge management”. Over 200 participants from B&H, Montenegro, Croatia and Serbia, including Ms. Julia Brungs, the representative of TEL, took part in the Conference. NULB&H, as umbrella library institution in B&H, was also a co-organizer of other professional meetings, including International Librarians’ Conference “Juni na Uni”, held in Bihać, numerous book promotions etc. Also, Library staff members took part in domestic and international professional meetings.

The presentation of publishing production of NULB&H at the International book fair in Sarajevo was well-noticed. It should be emphasized that the book "*Od podatka do metapodatka*", written by Dr. Senada Dizdar and published by NULB&H, received the Fair award for the best scientific book. Because of lack of funds, we were not presented at book fairs in Frankfurt, Zagreb, Belgrade and Podgorica, but some of our publications were presented there by the Association of publishers and booksellers of B&H.

Media presentation of all important events and activities of NULB&H contributed to the rating of Library performance. There is no domestic media – press, radio and TV – where we were not present, including live emissions. Our appearances were reported in some of regional and world media. The number of visits to our web page (www.nub.ba) is a good indicator of public interest in this institution and its services.

High mark for the projects realized in unbelievable difficult conditions is an additional motive for overcoming various obstacles, persistent continuation of its mission of culture, education and science, and realization of unquestionable necessary Bosnian-Herzegovinian library of future – and NULB&H can do it **if authorities want it!**

The rest of NULB&H activities can be seen in the reports of Library sectors: Office of Director, Sector for development and education, Sector for acquisition and processing, Sector for information and user services and Sector for administrative and general affairs. The total report on the work of NULB&H will be published in 2013.