

CENL
Foundation Conference of European National Libraries

Annual report 2006

The National and University Library
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1. Management of the library: performance indicators, planning, decision-making, evaluation, mission statement

All the programs for the year 2006 were successfully completed and the majority of them were concentrated around preparations for the celebration of the 400th anniversary of our library.

Due to financial constraints for acquisition and capital expenditure, unfortunately, we were unable to realize some projects and programs.

However, an important project which needs to be especially emphasized is the acquisition of our new library software Voyager. This project is of an importance not only for the National and University Library and other research and university libraries in Croatia, but for the development of all librarianship and library services in the country. It is an integrated library management system which will enable us to develop a sophisticated computerized system in Croatia. Voyager has been successfully implemented in the National and University Library and preparations have been made for other university libraries in the system.

The National and University Library's mission is to further remain the mediator between those who create knowledge and those who use it, applying new technologies and thus becoming an active participant in scientific and cultural advancement of the society in general.

2. Handling of electronic publications and formats, including new legislation

Management of our electronic databases is administrated via the Center for online databases of the Ministry of Science and Technology, CARNet (Croatian Academic and Research Network) and IRB (Institute Rudjer Boskovic), with the aim of providing online access to commercial databases, as well as to those publicly available, to the entire scientific and research community of the Republic of Croatia, whereby we strive to provide access to the most important databases in a given scientific area.

3. Funding

There were cuts in our book acquisition program due to financial constraints for acquisition and capital expenditure. We tried to make up for it by leasing out library space to various cultural activities, realizing some additional funds.

4. Legislation

The revision process of our library legislation started last year, which will introduce certain fundamental changes in the National Library Act. One of the most important novelty is that the National and University Library will now be singled out and will have its own act.

5. Buildings

There were no changes regarding library space.

6. Staffing matters

The library did not hire additional staff due to the hiring restriction in government services. Nonetheless, it maintained a high level of service to its users.

7. Information technology and networks

The biggest advancement was made through acquisition of our new integrated library software Voyager. In preparing for this project, necessary steps were taken for successful implementation. The conversion of data from UNIMARC to MARC21 was carried out and necessary custom made software tools were designed. The work on the entire project has been organized in three subprojects: implementation, migration and education. Migration of data from our old system to Voyager has been successfully completed. The old card catalogue was successfully digitalized, with pending download to our online database.

8. The digital library

The digitization project encompasses the most valuable collections from Croatian cultural heritage. Selection is being made according to assessment of value of the collection, in other

words, according to its historical, artistic or intellectual content, and then, the collection which is likely to be requested by our users for longer period of time. Furthermore, the collection which is more frequently used is also among the priorities for digitalization, as well as the newly acquired collection. This project is carried out by heads of our special collections departments, head of preservation and head of information technology. As part of our electronic services, we would like to single out our online reference service: Ask a librarian.

9. Legal deposit of materials

In accordance with legislation, our library receives two copies of all published material in the country, and publishers in general comply with this requirement.

10. Acquisitions

Acquisition had been carried out according to our planned program and within the framework of given financial resources. For the integrity of our special collections departments, we had some very valuable acquisitions: the manuscript of Krsto Ivekovic, *Cronica degli Annali di Budua*, written in 1650, then, Baldo degli Ubaldi, *Consiliorumpartes prima et secunda*, (Brixiae, 1490/1491), Petar Pavao Vergerije st., *De ingenius moribus* (Brixiae, 1511), as well as several equally valuable and rare books from the sixteenth century. In addition, we acquired a series of views (panoramas) of Croatian cities from the sixteenth to the eighteenth century which deserves special mentioning. The most valuable among them is the wood engraving from Sebastian Münster from 1574 with a depiction of the city of Zadar, and the copper plate engraving from the famous publisher Alphonsus Lasora Varea, with depictions of the cities: Trogir, Senj, Novigrad and Rab from 1713, then lithography with the depiction of the city of Rijeka from 1862, and the copper plate engraving of the city of Hvar from 1688. A special rarity is an album of old postcards of the city of Zagreb, originating from the end of the nineteenth and the beginning of twentieth century, which belonged to Croatian artist Vera Nikolic-Podrinska. Among other valuable items, special additions to our collection are the very valuable geographic maps from the sixteenth to the nineteenth century.

11. Preservation & Conservation

Budget intended for our collection preservation is not adequate to the extent that would be necessary for optimal fulfillment of all the programs we wish to undertake, considering the condition of some collections, particularly library material in our special collections departments. Also, the level of our preservation equipment needs to be upgraded. Our conservators worked on several complex tasks such as estimating the extent of damage to some parts of our library collection and determining the proper course of treatment. As experts and consultants, they also worked on proposals and conservation recommendations for outside libraries which house valuable collections. Last year we also completed an extensive program of conserving our newspaper collection. Unfortunately, the department is short of the needed number of additional highly skilled conservators.

12. Services to readers

Services to our users are free of charge. Only copying and dubbing are charged. In addition to our interlibrary loan services, we now have a new service: Ask a librarian.

13. Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

During the last year the National and University Library organized a series of cultural events, several of which deserve mentioning:

- The exhibition under the title *Duhovnim tragovima Friedricha Schillera (Following the traces of Friedrich Schiller)* was realized within the framework of cultural cooperation with Wirttemberg's regional library from Stuttgart.
- The exhibition *Počeci hrvatskoga novinstva i publicistike (The beginnings of Croatian journalism and publicist writing)* was presented on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the appearance of the first newspaper in the Croatian language.
- International newspaper photo exhibition *World Press Photo 06* was organized with the cooperation of the Croatian Journalist Society.
- A grand exhibition was organized on the occasion of marking the 70th anniversary from the tragic death of famous Spanish poet, *Federico Garcia Lorca – život i djelo (Federico Garcia Lorca – life and work)*.
- Another grand exhibition was arranged under the title: *Knjige Riječi: Tanah, Biblija, Kuran u Hrvatskoj (The Books of Words: Tanah, Bible, Kur'an in Croatia)*. This exhibition presented the holy books of three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam to a wider public, while Christianity was presented with its three traditions: catholic, orthodox and protestant.

These are only some of the most important exhibitions presented last year.

Within our publishing activities, among others, two graphic maps were issued: *Bespredmetnost* from two Croatian graphic artists, Igor Konjušak and Josip Zankij, and the graphic map *Predavanje o dimovima / Lezione sui fumi / A lecture on Smoke* from Croatian writer Nikola Šop and artist Dražen Trogrlić.

14. Library co-operation

As the leading library in Croatia, the National and University Library cooperated with many libraries, especially with university and research libraries. From our international activities, among the most important is our cooperation with CENL, which is becoming more fruitful each year. The third seminar for EWG – Editorial Working Group of the European Library international team was held in our library, as well as CDNL – Conference of Directors of National Libraries. We also participated on the 34th yearly conference: *Turning the libraries upside down*, where issues related to collection conservation in large research libraries were addressed, as well as organizational concerns and issues at the time of the development of digital libraries. Our library is a member of several international professional organizations such as IFLA and our staff members are active in various committees. Our activity is especially noticed in IFLA Standing committee for UNIMARC and the Working group for the development of ISBD and FRANAR. The library is also a member of IAML (International Association of Music Libraries).

15. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

All of last year was marked with preparations for the grand anniversary of immense importance not only for the National and University Library, but for the entire cultural history of our country as well, the 400th anniversary celebration of our library.

16. Organisation chart

National and University Library, Croatia: Organisation chart

