

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2008

Name of country: Croatia

Name of library: National and University Library in Zagreb

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General overview of recent major developments

The previous year for National and University Library in Zagreb will be remembered for several exceptionally significant events. The most prominent of these is surely the international recognition of the Croatian language in which NUL played an important role. Although the struggle for the issue to be resolved was led since 1835, and especially since the international recognition of Croatia in 1992, it was not until 2008 that ISO 639-2 Registration Authority approved the international recognition of our language which we consider to be an historical event. The initiative was joined by Croatian Standards Institute and the demands have been coordinated with the National Library of Serbia and the Institute for Standardization of Serbia. The joint demand of these institutions was accepted and the decision about new terms and language codes has been in effect since 1st September 2008. Since then, the international classification includes two separate languages *Croatian* (with the language code *cro*) and *Serbian* (with the language code *srp*). Previous codes *scr* (*Serbo-Croatian-Roman*) and *scc* (*Serbo-Croatian-Cyrillic*) have been withdrawn from application. The use of the new language codes will make possible the singular identification of Croatian collections in world libraries and international bibliographic databases.

Another significant event was the organisation of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) which was for the first time held in Croatia in Zagreb from 24th to 27th September 2008. The CENL in Zagreb was attended by 44 director generals of European national libraries. Besides panels on issues of modern librarianship the main topic was The European Library project (TEL), of which the National and University Library in Zagreb is an active member since 2005. The CENL participants were introduced to the history and current activities of NUL Zagreb, to professional and scholarly achievements of Croatian librarianship, as well as to the cultural heritage of Zagreb and Croatia.

NUL Zagreb has also organized special events to mark 500 years birth anniversaries of two Croatian literary greats, Petar Zoranić i Marin Držić. Expositions of their works and relevant catalogues have been organised for

these occasions. Besides NUL Zagreb, these expositions were also held in other libraries of major Croatian cities.

Note of the reporting library's relationship to government

The library is in continual cooperation with the Croatian Ministry of Culture and the Croatian Ministry of Science, Education and Sports as well as with the University of Zagreb in order to get support for its activities including financial support through scientific and professional projects.

A special cooperation has developed between the Library and various government organisations through the Congress Centre project which will be opened in the yet unfinished part of the NUL's building. The opening of the congress centre represents a new role for NUL in social events, especially in expert and scientific university congress activities.

Key facts and figures

The last year, NUL Zagreb registered 23,401 books which were obtained as mandatory copies, purchases, exchanges and gifts. 3,453 serial titles were obtained in print form. Users can access e-collections of all relevant international publishers (ScienceDirect, Springer, Wiley-Blackwell, EBSCO etc.), as well as bibliographic and quotation databases. Special collections, graphic, cartographic, music, and manuscripts and old books collection, obtained valuable materials including drawings, atlases, maps, old manuscripts and books. The details may be found at (<http://www.nsk.hr/Library.aspx?id=17>).

During the year, the library registered 19,961 new users, which is 3% higher than the previous year. 291,928 total library visits were recorded, with a daily average of 1,900 users. 912,310 users visited the library website, which means 2,485 visits per day on average. The Open doors library - 24 hours service, was used by 26,907 users which is 22% higher than in 2007.

New developments in creating and building collections, and providing access to collections (digitisation)

Work has started on the realisation of the project *Portal of older Croatian serial publications* as a part of the national project *Croatian cultural heritage* for digitization of archive, library, and museum materials (<http://www.kultura.hr>). The project is financially supported by Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. The Portal consists of two parts: *Older Croatian newspapers* and *Pilot-project of digitization of older Croatian humanistic journals*. The portal will enable users to access in one place the digitized materials and the data about library, archive and

museum serial publications collections in Croatia. Besides providing availability of older Croatian serial publications, the project is also striving to solve the problem of long term preservation and storage of older serial publications.

Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

With the project *Portal of older Croatian serial publications*, NUL has built a model (with administrative, technical, and rights aspects) for cooperation with other libraries, archives, museums and professional associations in Croatia. Besides the model, a tool is being built (including professional software, metadata model and handling, digital ingest and storage, digital preservation and a model for accessing digital collections) for publishing older serials in digital form, including those not in NUL's possession. A collaborative database including data about all older Croatian serial publications will be built by including other Croatian archives, museums and libraries as contributors to the project. The gathering of data about printed, microfilm and digitised collections of Croatian serial publications will help avoid repeated digitization efforts and enable better coordination of digitisation of serials as well as forming of the national strategy of digitization of serial publications. This will be especially beneficial for the oldest Croatian newspapers and will help in a more rational financing of digitization projects.