

ANNUAL REPORT - 2009

Name of country: **Croatia**

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation:
National and University Library in Zagreb

Name of Chief Executive: **Prof. Tihomil Maštrović, PhD**

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General overview of recent major developments

The year 2009 was characterised by the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Graphical Collection as a separate collection in scope of the Library. The most significant event in this respect was an exhibition retrospectively showing the most representative part of the Collection which today includes more than 200,000 items.

The past year also saw the establishment of a new collection - the *Collection of Books on Homeland War* in open access with a reading room. The *Foreign Croatica* collection was broadened with the *Collection of books of Gradišćanski Croats*.

To mark the *European Heritage Days* in September 2009, the Library organised a manifestation *Open doors days of National and University Library in Zagreb* with the aim of informing the public with the activities, organisation and the role of the Library in cultural and scientific life in the Republic of Croatia.

2009 brought significant developments in cooperation between the Library and different faculty libraries of University in Zagreb, as well as with different scientific institutes on implementation of integrated library software - Aleph.

The recession and the limited budget, unfortunately, caused the impossibility of acquiring essential equipment and halted the work on the Congress Centre of the National and University Library.

Note of the reporting library's relationship to government

The library continues to cooperate with the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia and with the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Republic of Croatia as well as with University of Zagreb in order to gain support for its efforts, including the financial support through research and development projects.

A special type of cooperation between the Library and government institutions would have been realised through the Congress Centre project. However, the realisation of the project is obstructed by lack of funding caused by the recession.

Key facts and figures

During the past year 23,073 books titles have been registered in the Library. The books were obtained by mandatory copy, purchase, exchange or as a gift. Additionally, 4,865 titles of foreign books have been obtained as well as 4,255 titles of serial publications in print. Due to recession, the users' access to e-collections of relevant international publishers and to bibliographic and citation databases has been diminished. The special collections, graphical, geographical, musical and the collection of old books and manuscripts, each received new valuable items including drawings, atlases, maps, old manuscripts and books and vinyl records.

During 2009, a total of 20,204 users have been registered. A total of 371,403 physical entries into the Library have been registered. The project *The open doors library - 24 hours*, started in April 2007, has developed into a standard library service during 2008 and 2009. A total of 27,831 users have used this service during 2009. The Library website registered 928,036 visits with 1,974,788 page views which is 315,570 more than in 2008. The average time spent on website was 1.54 minutes.

The Library employs 311 people of which about two thirds are expert library staff.

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

A new project, *Portal of digitized old Croatian serial publications* (<http://dnc.nsk.hr>) has opened to the public. The project is a part of a national project *Croatian cultural heritage* (<http://www.kultura.hr>) with the aim of digitalization of archival, library and museum items and financially supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Croatia. The Portal consists of two parts: *Croatian Historic Newspapers* and the *Pilot-project of digitalization of old Croatian humanities journals* and enables users to reach digitized content in one place as well as provides access to the data about collections of older Croatian serial publications

in libraries, archives and museums. Besides providing access, the project also fulfils the function of long term preservation of old serial publications. The realisation of projects *Scientific Heritage of 19th and 20th century: Digitalisation of the Oldest PhD Theses in the Fond of National and University Library in Zagreb* and *Croatian Musical Heritage: Digitalization of Oldest 78 rpm Gramophone Records*.

In addition, users have access to newly founded *Collection of Books on Homeland War*.

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

With the project *Portal of digitized old Croatian serial publications* (<http://dnc.nsk.hr>) the Library has established a model (with administrative, technical and rights aspects) of cooperation with other libraries, archives, museums and professional organizations in Republic of Croatia. Besides the model, a software tool (providing metadata handling, digital ingest and storage, digital preservation and access to digital collections) for publishing of digital copies of serials not in Library's possession has been developed. Cooperation has been started in building of a collaborative database containing info about all old Croatian journals and newspapers by including other Croatian archives, museums and libraries into the process of building the Portal. Gathering the data about collections of serial publications whether in print, microfilm or digital forms will enable better coordination of digitalization and preservation of mentioned content through avoidance of duplicate efforts, provision of the national strategy for digitization and rationalisation of financial resources needed for the process. This will especially benefit the oldest and rarest items.