



Republic of Serbia
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA

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Country: **Serbia**

Library: **National Library of Serbia**

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Full version of the report (in Serbian, for 2011) is available at: http://www.nb.rs/view_file.php?file_id=3128

Mission

The National Library of Serbia provides universal access to information by comprehensively collecting, cataloguing and making available the recorded knowledge from Serbia and other countries. The Library promotes multiculturalism and diversity of cultures and ideas. The National Library of Serbia supports true values based on knowledge, culture, education and information.

Legal status

The Library is founded and financially supported by the Serbian government and reports to the Ministry of Culture and Information. The current Law on Libraries is new one and dates from 14 July 2011.

Major achievements and general overview of activities

National Library of Serbia has reopened its doors for users on 12 September 2011 after almost four years of reconstruction of its public area. The number of user places is 600 after the reconstruction, with the increasing of 50% in comparison with the previous number. To the end

of 2011, 5.813 new membership cards have been issued. The Library is open for the users from 8 am to 9 pm.

EFT Company donated hardware equipment for the users in amount of 270.000 € to the National Library of Serbia, including hardware and software equipment for the reading room for visually impaired persons (established in the National Library of Serbia for the first time).

The set of new Library Laws from 14 July 2011 brought many changes in library practice: Act of library and information field (the previous law dated from 1994), Law on old and rare library materials (a new law) and Law on legal deposit of publications (bright new law). The latest brings the obligations for publishers in Serbia to deposit the e-copy of each printed publication (the completely new service, supported by the software application).

In the beginning of 2012, on 20 January, Mr Sreten Ugricic has been dismissed from the position of director, and Mr Dejan Ristic is appointed as acting director. 2012 is a year of changes for the National library of Serbia. It is also the anniversary year when the National library of Serbia celebrates 180 years of its foundation. The new concept of National library work includes, but is not limited to:

- Redefining of the organisational chart in accordance with the new Statute and new systematisation of working positions;
- More flexible and efficient management model with regular meetings of management of all levels, more transparent decisions making, team work;
- Active and ongoing work of the Professional library board;
- Full openness and willingness for cooperation with governmental, national and international institutions, Serbian embassies abroad and foreign embassies in Belgrade;
- Production of completely new cultural events, in order to promote culture and tolerance, to show the social responsibility, to bring more people of all ages to the National library;
- Establishing of the National library of Serbia Foundation with the aim to collect and manage donations and offerings of companies and citizens to the National library, in first order, to continue building library infrastructure.

In the cooperative cataloguing system, Virtual Library of Serbia, hosted in the National library, 10 new Serbian libraries have been included. The final preconditions for upgrading from COBISS2 (COBISS - Cooperative Online Bibliographic System and Services, made by IZUM, Slovenia) to COBISS3 software have been created.

International projects and international cooperation

The European project EMBARK from the Culture 2007-2013 programme (National library of Serbia was one of co-organizers) has been successfully ended in April 2012. It was the first project with European budgeting for Serbian national library.

Another European project of the National library of Serbia is Europeana Collections 1914-1918 from the CIP ICT-PSP programme, where the activities are in progress.

Library is on the way to create new teams for cooperation with IFLA, The European Library, LIBER, Europeana and other international bodies. Library staff attended many international conferences and meetings.

National library of Serbia has signed the cooperation protocols with 11 institutions in 10 countries, based on exchange of publications and library professionals, cooperation in publishing projects, cultural events and international projects.

Cultural events, publications

The large scale of library activities includes lectures, book presentations, exhibitions, celebrations, participation in broader cultural events as well as completely new activities attracting new user groups. For the first time library participated in the *Nigh of museums* manifestation with the programme describing Belgrade in 30s. The workshops for school children are launched for the first time with the topics in Old Church Slavonic writing and book conservation. The cycle of summer *Evenings at Kosancicev venac* (site where the old national library was destroyed during German bombing in April 1941) with literary and musical programme has been initiated too. National library presented its collections in three exhibitions: *Serbia on the Maps of Europe and world*, *Ours or alien: written culture in the Balkans and Central Europe in the Middle Ages* (EMBARC project) and *Culture of Serbs in Dubrovnik, 1790-2010* (in the National Archives of Serbia). Also, National library made programs for the Day of Slavonic culture and for the World's music Day.

Publishing production of the National library includes 6 books, the most important one is the first book of *Serbian Bibliography. Periodicals 1768-2005*, the others are exhibitions catalogues, the third book in Collection of Zoran Djindjic work, *Subjektivnost i nasilje : nastanak sistema u filozofiji nemačkog idealizma*, the book on relations between Serbia and Russia.

Key Facts and Figures (only for 2012 January - June)

Acquisitions:

Books: 15.413

Journal issues: 7.880

Newspaper issues: 16.293

Non-book material: 3.719

e-legal deposit: 18.000 files

Users:

7.056 new users

1.500 – 2.000 visitors a day

155.000 visits to Library web site (nb.rs or нб.рб – Cyrillic domain)

203.533 visits to Digital library web site (digital.nb.rs)

3 million accesses to Kobson (Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition) web site (kobson.nb.rs)

1.600.000 searches of the Union catalog of Serbia (vbs.rs)

Staff:

255 employees

Budget:

4.6 million EUR

ACTING DIRECTOR

14 September 2012

Dejan Ristić