



Republic of Serbia
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA

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Skerliceva 1

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ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2013¹

Country: Serbia

Library: National Library of Serbia

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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 in Serbian society, based on knowledge, culture, education, morality and tolerance.

Legal status

The Library has been founded and financially supported by the Serbian Government and reports to the Ministry of Culture and Information. The current Law on Libraries dates from 14 July 2011. In spring 2013, Serbian Government declared the National Library of Serbia as the institution of the national importance, together with 60 other cultural institutions.

Major achievements and general overview of activities

The National Library of Serbia Foundation has been established in 2012 with a mission to improve the financial status of the Library through the system of donations and sponsorships. The biggest donation of 27.000\$ came from the American Embassy in Serbia for purchasing the equipment for the Conservation Department in 2012.

The Expert Council had monthly meetings considering the most important issues in the Library. The

¹ The report is referring to the period July 2012 - June 2013

stock revision has been started at the beginning of 2013, first time after moving the National Library in the new building in 1973.

The new version and technical solution of Digital National Library of Serbia has been launched in early 2013, in strategic partnership with Mathematical Institute of Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts and is available at: <http://serbia-forum.mi.sanu.ac.rs/Webbook.jsp?setLang=en>. For the first time, National Library of Serbia is working on the metadata system for all the types of digital library items.

In the cooperative cataloguing system, Virtual Library of Serbia, hosted in the National Library of Serbia, 9 new Serbian libraries have been included, so the system is consisted of 161 local databases of Serbian libraries. There are 46 new licensed librarians for work in the COBISS system.

As a marketing activity, National Library created first souvenirs, based on the most beautiful parts of its own Collection.

International projects and international cooperation

The National Library of Serbia has collaborated in the following international projects and actions:

- Europeana Collections 1914-1918 (CIP ICT-PSP programme) - <http://www.europeana-collections-1914-1918.eu/>, <http://www.velikirat.nb.rs> (national portal on First World War)
- AMARCORD project (UNESCO Participation Programme 2012-2013) - www.amarcord-unesco.rs
- CENDARI project - <http://www.cendari.eu/> (as associated partner)
- COST action, Medieval Cultures & Technological Resources (Medioevo Europeo) - http://www.cost.eu/domains_actions/isch/Actions/IS1005

The National library of Serbia has signed the cooperation protocol with the Goethe Institut in Serbia, based on common cultural and library programmes and free German language courses for librarians. The cooperation has been launched with French Institute, Austrian Cultural Forum and a number of foreign embassies in Serbia. Library has participated in the state manifestation “Days of Algerian culture in Serbia” in May-June 2013 by hosting the exhibition of Algerian books and photos, enriching this way its collection with more than 300 Algerian books.

From 2013, the National Library of Serbia has 6 representatives in 6 IFLA Sections Steering Committees: Manuscript and Rare Books, Statistics and Evaluation, Library Theory and Research, Classification and Indexing, Libraries Serving Persons with Print Disabilities and Audiovisual and Multimedia.

Mr John Tsebe, CDNL chair and director of the National Library of South Africa, has visited National Library of Serbia in August 2012 and had a number of meetings with directors and librarians of NLS and other Serbian libraries. Dr Tomasz Makowski, director of the National Library of Poland visited National Library of Serbia during the Belgrade Book Fair in October 2012 and signed the cooperation agreement between two national libraries. The Conference of Directors of the SEE national libraries has been held in the National Library of Serbia in October 2012 (having CENL as a model). All the participants of this conference agreed that the better regional cooperation is a perfect recommendation for the broader cooperation.

Regional meeting (South-East Europe) of representatives of ISBN agencies has been held in the National Library of Serbia in May 2013.

National Library of Serbia participated for the first time at the Zagreb Book Fair Interliber in November 2012. In the National and University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski” in Skoplje, Macedonia, National Library of Serbia co-organised the exhibition of the Serbian literature after 90’s, translated in Macedonian language and the meeting of Serbian and Macedonian writers.

Cultural events, publications

Cultural activities of the Library include lectures, discussions, workshops, book presentations, exhibitions, concerts, all with aim to promote culture and tolerance, to show the social responsibility, to bring more people in the National Library. The Day of the National Library of Serbia, 28 February, has been celebrated for the first time as the National Day of Book, with a rich programme, covering many library activities. For the second time Library participated in the *Night of museums* programme with topic of Youth Work Actions in the former Yugoslavia. The cycle of *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 successfully continued. National Library of Serbia presented its collections in two exhibitions: *I Leave You Only Words*, about great Serbian poet Desanka Maksimović and *They Spread the Word Among the New Nations*, dedicated to 1150th anniversary of St. Cyril and Methodius mission.

The Living Library, project launched by Council of Europe Office in Serbia, promoting diversity and human rights, has been strongly supported by the National Library of Serbia.

Publishing production of the National library includes 13 new titles in 2013 including two books published in English. Four titles are presenting the results on research of the Manuscript collection of the National Library of Serbia, including the new issue of the journal *Arheografski prilozi*. It is good to point out a book *Politics and Society* belongs to Zoran Djindjic collection, a monography about Marina Abramović, the famous Serbian performance artist, two editions of Jovan Cvijic study *Balkan Peninsula*.

Key Facts and Figures

Acquisitions:

Books: 15.596 ; [34.024 in 2012](#)

Journal issues: 7.820 ; [13.585 in 2012](#)

Newspaper issues: 19.016 ; [36.117 in 2012](#)

Non-book material: 3.774 ; [4.339 in 2012](#)

e-legal deposit: 19.342 PDF files ; [26.156 in 2012](#)

Users:

7.774 members ; [13.299 in 2012](#)

150.000 visits to the Library web site (nb.rs) ; [305.000 in 2012](#)

3.8M accesses to Kobson (Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition) web site (kobson.nb.rs) ; [6.7M in 2012](#)

2.149 followers of Facebook Library page in English (3.472 for page in Serbian)

Staff:

255 FTE

Budget:

6.64M EUR

ACTING DIRECTOR

Dejan Ristić