

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA / NARODNA BIBLIOTEKA SRBIJE
REPORT 2003

Name of Chief Executive Mr. Sreten Ugricic, Director

2003 Statistical survey

	2003
holdings – number of items (total)	5.400.000
new acquisitions	82.350 items
library registered users	8333
visitors	84271 visitors/year
Loans (circulation)	108304 items/year
NLS website visits	2300 per day
publishing activities	11 new titles
staff – full-time employees	275
staff – employees on contract	20
total annual budget (Ministry of Culture + own incomes)	1.400.000 €
Ministry of Science – acquisition of foreign databases and journals – for the year 2003	870.000 €
Financial resources provided by different international foundations	150.000 €

Introduction

The long-term strategic development plan of the National Library of Serbia was adopted in the meeting of the Managing Board of Library in December 2001. During the years 2002 and 2003 the Library established the new vision of its development, started its institutional and functional reconstruction and realized many new projects. The year 2003 was very successful for the National Library of Serbia, in some way it was the key year of the transformation of the National Library of Serbia to new modern national Library of the 21st Century. The Library finally created the new integrated information network, the common national electronic catalogue of main libraries in Serbia. The Library adopted the new work's standards, new organizational structure, improved the existing professional functions and performances, introduced many new functions and working models according to the contemporary information environment and new digital age.

Legal framework

The National Library of Serbia is working according to the following laws:

- Law on librarianship (1994),
- Law on cultural heritage (1994),
- Law on publishing (1991),
- Law on activities of public interest in the field of culture (1989).

Unfortunately, because of the many political and economic changes in our country during the last decade, all these actual laws are not adequate and create many problems in the everyday work of the National Library of Serbia. During the year 2003, with the help of LIS professionals and lawyers the Library created the drafts of two new laws: Law on libraries and Law on legal deposit. The Library forwarded these drafts to the Ministry of culture and expects that these laws will be discussed and adopted in the National Assembly during the year 2004.

New organizational structure

In the National Library of Serbia we have in total 295 of employees (275 full-time, 7 part-time, 13 on contract). The organizational structure of the Library was very old, more than 15 years, and not adapted to the new information environment, new professional skills and new user needs. During the meeting of the Managing board, held in November 2003, the new organizational structure was adopted. The main goal of this new organization is to improve all activities of the Library, to realize more effective work, to offer new services to our users, to upgrade the quality of work and to achieve the better results. The new structure consists of three main sectors: Sector for programs and projects, Sector for the Virtual Library of Serbia, Sector for administration. Now the Library is on the way to create and adopt new acts and regulations concerning users, staff, working places, preservation, legal deposit, rare books, as well as the new Statute of the National Library.

Virtual Library of Serbia

The VLS is the project of building of library information system and integration of different library catalogues. During the year 2003, the biggest success realized in the framework of this project was the creation of the system of the shared cataloguing. Central electronic catalogue of the four main

libraries and 12 different university libraries was created and we have started the work on shared cataloguing. This Central catalogue contains about 1.500.000 of bibliographic records, it is accessible in house and online to all remote users. The Centre of the Virtual Library of Serbia is established as independent organizational unit in our Library with the main tasks to coordinate the activities and to offer the complete technical and professional support to all Serbian libraries members of the VLS. The VLS is built according to the model of a distributed information system, supported by computer network, which connects libraries and a main host for all common needs. The VLS project directly contributes in establishing new information standards in our country, being the support for new policy in Serbia concerning generation, collecting, maintenance, dissemination and use of knowledge. In the VLS system actually we have about 30 different libraries. Our goal is to include during the year 2004 all "parent" regional public libraries – 27 main libraries.

Current National Bibliography

In the actual Law on librarianship one of the main tasks of the National Library of Serbia is to publish regularly the current national bibliography. During more than 40 year, in the former Yugoslavia, this work was realized in the Yugoslav Bibliographic Institute for all republics and all national libraries in the region. Unfortunately, after the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, because of many political difficulties, it was not possible to our Library to transfer these activities from the Yugoslav Bibliographic Institute. Finally, during the year 2003, the National Library transferred these activities from Bibliographic Institute and started to publish current National Bibliography. In the same time, the Yugoslav Bibliographic institute ended to exist as the national bibliographic agency. The National Library also incorporated in its staff 28 professionals from Bibliographic Institute, with the permission of the Ministry of culture. It was very difficult task of national interest, but successfully realized. During the year 2003 the Library published the following series of the current National Bibliography:

- Bibliography of Serbia – Monographs 2003 (4 volumes),
- Bibliography of Serbia – Monographs 2003 – Annex and Indexes (2 volumes),
- Bibliography of Serbia – Translations 2003, 1 volume,
- Bibliography of Serbia – Serials 2003, 1 volume,
- Bibliography of Serbia – Non-book materials 2003, 1 volume,
- Bibliography of Serbia – Official publications 2003, 1 volume.

During the year 2004 the Library will publish also the three series of Bibliography of articles published in Serbian periodicals. The Bibliography is published only in printed form, but we are planning now to publish it also in electronic form, on CD-rom and on the web.

National ISSN and ISMN agency

During the year 2003 the Library also transferred some other activities from former Yugoslav Bibliographic Institute. The Library signed the agreement with the International ISSN Agency from Paris, and now we have two national ISSN agencies in our country: the National Library of Serbia is the ISSN agency for the territory of Serbia and the National Library Djurdje Crnojevic from Cetinje is the ISSN Agency for the territory of Montenegro. The National Library of Serbia signed also the agreement with the International ISMN agency form Berlin and established for the first time in our country the National ISMN agency. During the year 2004 the National Library of Serbia will also become the National ISBN Agency for the territory of Serbia and the National Library Djurdje Crnojevic from Cetinje will become the ISBN Agency for the territory of Montenegro.

Digital Library of Serbia

In the long-term strategic development plan, the Digital library of Serbia will be the parallel virtual institution without walls in which the information will be created, prepared, stored, distributed and presented in digital form, available on the network and accessible to all users in the house and online. During the year 2003 in the framework of this project we have realized some important activities. Together with other important national institutions, such as the National Archive, the National Museum, the Academy of Sciences and Arts, the University of Informatics and Mathematics, the National Library of Serbia founded the National Centre for digitization. This Centre organized during the year 2003 the international conference on digitization.

Supported by the Ministry of culture, the National Library of Serbia provided the necessary equipment for microfilming and scanning – we purchased the new hybrid line for microfilming and scanning and we are in process of providing one professional scanner of high resolution - Book Eye.

After the establishing of the technical and human resources work's preconditions, we have started the work on the building of the first digital collection: the microfilming and digitization of old serials. We created microfilms and digital copies of old newspaper *Politika* for the period 1904-1945. In the same time, we digitized the printed *Catalogue of Yugoslav books 1868-1972*, as a first step of our project of retrospective conversion. The Library is participating in the International Children's Digital Library project and digitized the 130 most beautiful Serbian children's books. Now we will create in our web site the Serbian Digital Children's Library. For the Day of the Library, we had the promotion of the new Internet presentation of the Library which is now modern, technologically upgraded, dynamic, elegant and managed by the new software Content management system.

Retrospective conversion of catalogues

The Project of retrospective conversion of catalogues represents the priority in the work of the National Library of Serbia. More than five million documents are housed in stocks of the National Library of Serbia. According to calculations, rendered in the preparation phase, we came to estimation that we need to put in the library's electronic database about 1,5 million more of records, so that all the entire library's holdings will be covered with the electronic catalogue.

The second phase of the project was realized during the year 2003. We scanned the printed "Catalogue of monographs on languages of Yugoslav nations, 1868-1972", transformed images to the text by OCR technology, created the software package for parsing the text and its transformation to Unimarc format and started the control of about 350.000 bibliographic records. The first result is the Image Catalogue, as needed transitional solution, which is already available to all users in the Library and online on the Internet. In this moment we are working on the preparation of Unimarc records for import in the Library electronic catalogue.

Consortia KoBSON

During the year 2003 the National Library of Serbia formally established the Consortia of Serbian Libraries for coordinated acquisition of foreign databases and full-text services (KoBSON). The National Library of Serbia is the Centre and the coordinated body charged for all activities concerning the cooperation with ministries, publishing houses in the world and the financial resources, as well as the centre for promotional and educational activities concerning provided electronic resources. The acquisition of foreign databases and journals in paper, as well as the subscription to the most important electronic full-text services is supported by the Ministry of science and technology. More than 130 libraries in Serbia entered into partnership with the main goal to share the financial, technical and human resources in the process of acquisition of foreign high costs databases and full-text resources. In the framework of the Consortia, the Library provided more than 600 foreign printed journals and subscribed to about 14 foreign electronic services for journals. Now, the members of the Consortia can access about 12.000 electronic journals in full-text form.

New equipment

During the year 2003 the National Library of Serbia equipped the new electronic reading room with 18 computers. On these workstations our users can access Internet, Library catalogues, as well as all foreign electronic journals subscribed through the Serbian Consortia. The Library established also the new microform reading room with three new microfilm readers. For our staff we provided also about 50 new workstations, so now in our local area network we have about 250 computers. Unfortunately, the infrastructure of our academic network is not yet adequate, and during the year 2004 we are planning to upgrade our network and to connect our Library to the new optical cable from the University of Belgrade.

Project Bibliodyssey

In the framework of the project Bibliodyssey –Serbia and Montenegro Book Market Upgrade, which is sponsored by the foreign donations, we have published for the first time in Serbia *the Books In Print catalogue (KnjigaInfo*: more than 20.000 titles, directories of 1600 publishers, 400 bookstores) and established the regional book market web portal. We have also established the national distribution centre which main goal is to improve the distribution of books and periodicals to all bookstores and libraries in the country.

Unesco Memory of the World Program

The director and the deputy director of the National Library of Serbia are the members of the Unesco National Commission. During the year 2003, in the cooperation with other cultural actors, and especially with the help of the Director of the Nikola Tesla Museum from Belgrade, we sent our national nomination of the Nikola Tesla Archives for the inscription in the Unesco World Register of the cultural documentary heritage. The nomination was accepted by the Unesco International Advisory Committee and the Nikola Tesla Archive is inscribed now in this very important World Register *Memory of the World*. It is very big success for the whole country and the National Library of Serbia is very satisfied to have this opportunity to help the process of nomination of archive of our famous scientist Nikola Tesla.

Continuing professional education

In the new established Training centre for continuing professional education of librarians and information specialists, during the year 2003 we have realized about 20 different courses with domestic lecturers and about 20 courses with foreign speakers. Participants came from all libraries from Serbia, of all types and different levels of knowledge.

Cultural Centre

The concept, content and working models in our Department for cultural activities are completely changed. Through different forms of cultural activities and artistic expression, the National Library of Serbia is promoting the national cultural values, but it will also insist on the values that promote our country as a part of European community, world's cultural heritage and modern culture and art. During

the year 2003, the NLS Cultural Centre organized 15 exhibitions in our gallery spaces, 5 virtual exhibitions on our web site, 13 different lectures, 23 public discussions, 7 concerts.

International cooperation

During the year 2003 the National Library of Serbia organized with the Faculty of Philology and other main libraries in Serbia the international scientific meeting on the topic of "Intellectual freedom and modern libraries". The Conference was held in the Library with about 22 speakers from 17 foreign countries and 20 domestic speakers. The Proceedings of the Conference will be published during the year 2004 and as the follow-up the Library will organize with IFLA two workshops on intellectual freedom for librarians from public libraries in Serbia.

At IFLA Conference in Berlin we had 18 participants from Serbia, and we are very satisfied with this result, especially after so long isolation of our country.

The Library signed the agreements on the cooperation with the Library of Congress, with the National Library of Iran, with the national libraries of Balkan countries. In the Conference of the directors of Balkan countries, in November 2003 in Bulgaria, some new projects were initiated: web portal of national libraries of Balkans, Standing conference of directors of national libraries of Balkans, Balkan Bibliography 1987-2003.

The National Library finally became the member of the CENL - Conference of the European National Librarians, which is also very big success – before, it was not possible because our country was not the member of the Council of Europe. Now we are working on our presentation for Gabriel web portal and we hope that we will participate more actively in other important projects of the European Union. During the year 2003 more than 100 foreign guests visited our Library, about 50 of NLS specialists were in foreign countries in different conferences, seminars, professional meetings.

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