**NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019**

The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NULB&H) is responsible for collecting, cataloguing, processing, archiving, protection, long-term preservation of library material, as well as making its entire collection publicly available. In addition to the function of a national library that primarily collects, processes, catalogues and makes available national collection acquired by legal deposit copy, known as Bosniaca, NULB&H also has a university function and is an associated member of University of Sarajevo. Among other duties, this Library provides numerous professional services to its users and the overall cultural and academic community of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**Legal status and funding**

NULB&H was founded by the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina but because of the war consequences does not have adequate funding. Despite the difficult circumstances and inadequate conditions, thanks to the dedicated work of employees in many departments, centers, agencies and service centers, NULB&H has functioned without any delays and achieved significant results during 2019. NULB&H employs 55 people, of which 45 are professional librarians.

NULB&H fulfilled obligations required and in accordance to the Law of Librarianship B&H (Official Gazette of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina No. 37/95), completed various projects and continued to improve and develop all of its regular activities regarding librarianship in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

**General overview of activities**

As a regular activity, NULB&H successfully runs national agencies for ISSN, ISBN and ISMN, as well as Virtual Library of B&H (Cooperative on-line Bibliographic System and Services).

In 2019 the ISBNB&H Center celebrated 25 years since its establishment. This Center regularly sends reports to the ISBN Agency (International ISBN Agency, London), gives instructions and helps publishers from Bosnia and Herzegovina. In June, a regional meeting of ISBN agencies was held in Ljubljana. Director of the ISBN agency from London, Stella Griffits, as well as heads of agencies from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Albania, Bulgaria and Romania participated in the meeting.

ISMNB&H Center was established in 2005 and although Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have long tradition in publishing printed music, there is at least one publisher per year.

The National ISSN Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina registers and identifies serial publications and continuing resources published in Bosnia and Herzegovina; consults publishers regarding all aspects of serial publication editing, particularly when launching new journals in all media versions; monitors assigned ISSN numbers and performs bibliographic control of serial publications based on ISSN and key title. Representatives of NULB&H attended the regional meeting of National ISSN agencies at the Institute of Information Sciences in Maribor during October. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the International ISSN Office, Dr. Gaëlle Béquet, with fifteen representatives of National ISSN agencies from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia, Serbia and Ukraine.

Virtual library of Bosnia and Herzegovina – VLB&H has achieved very significant results, so the Union COBISS.BH Catalogue covers 516,008 items (monographic publications, continuing resources, articles, non-book material). Virtual Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to educate and assign licences to use COBISS.BH system, therefore three different courses were held during 2019. It is important to point out a meeting of COBISS.BH members hosted by National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina during December. This meeting was very successful and attended by 70 librarians and library directors from various parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Considering the fact that director of NULB&H, dr. Ismet Ovčina, is president of the Council of COBISS.net, the Council held a meeting at this time. It is also worth mentioning that revision of Archives fund, Austrian reading room funds and doctoral and master thesis funds was carried out during reported period.

In addition to fore mentioned Centers, NULB&H keeps records on researchers and research organizations in a system called E-CRIS.BH (Current Research Information System in B&H). During 2019, 13 new researchers were added and all data was updated for the previously registered 2.169 researches and 85 research organizations.

During 2019, NULB&H participated in, but also organized, hosted and co-organized many important scientific and cultural events, which include scientific meetings, courses, librarian training, book promotions, book fairs, literary evenings, exhibitions, workshops and presentations. It is worth mentioning that NULB&H organized and hosted International Scientific Conference about scientific publishing in B&H and the region, with attendees and speakers from Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia.

NULB&H continuously makes progress in digitization of its collections. During 2019, material from Special Collections and the Department of Old periodicals was selected, reviewed and prepared for digitization. Library materials for the implementation of different projects, exhibitions, at request of library users and in order to protect the materials are digitized if needed.

NULB&H takes pride in professionally training librarians in its Center for Permanent Education of Librarians which operates on the basis of international program of permanent library and information education. In the reported period, the Center organized and held courses and workshops on two different occasions, with 25 participants. Also, in June and October, 34 candidates successfully completed and took professional librarian exam.

Some of events and happenings worth mentioning during 2019 include:

* 74 years since establishment of NULB&H
* 24 years since destruction of NULB&H in Vijećnica (Sarajevo City Hall)
* Eugene Schulman donates 6000 library units, Schulman reading room opening
* “Let’s learn Bosančica” (Bosančica: extinct variant of the Cyrillic alphabet that originated in medieval Bosnia) workshop
* New exhibit from NULB&H in House of European History in Brussels
* NULB&H nominates candidates for Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
* NULB&H receives award for Best book promotion on Sarajevo Book fair
* NULB&H nominates candidate for Dublin Literary Award
* NULB&H implements projects in Department of Special Collections

Although with limited resources, Center for Restoration and Conservation of Library Materials in NULB&H continues to do great work. During 2019 the Center regularly worked on preserving and binding of damaged materials, from regular funds and Special collections fund, with focusing particularly on documents written on an extinct variant of the Cyrillic alphabet that originated in medieval Bosnia, known as Bosančica.

In regards to NULB&H official web-site – nub.ba, website traffic shows that it had 49.312 unique visits, of which digital collections portal had 2.212 and online version of library journal Bosniaca had 2.092 unique visits.

**Cooperation with regional and international organizations and institutions**

The Library continued implementing modern professional standards and also proudly represented B&H librarianship in in the most competent world-wide and European professional organizations and associations, such as IFLA, CENL, CDNL, LIBER etc. During the reported period, NULB&H continued its professional cooperation with mentioned organizations and associations, and promoted the most important segments of its work by actively participating in various conferences, meetings, bookfairs, etc. Also, NULB&H kept collaborating with University of Sarajevo, Gazi Husrev-bey’s Library, International University of Sarajevo and other libraries and related instituions.

**Publishing**

National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina publishes print and electronic publications in four different editions: Memoria Bosniaca, Memoria Mundi, Professional Library Literature, and Bosnian-Herzegovinian Bibliographies. During the reported period eight monographies and four serial publications were published and they include books, catalogues, reports, journals. Among issued publications, journal Bosniaca stands out in particular. Bosniaca is a recognizable Bosnian Herzegovinian library journal indexed in the Web of Science – Emerging Sources Citation Index, EBSCO-CEEAS and EBSCO – the Belt and Road Initiative Reference Source databases, available in CEEOL (Central and Eastern European Online Library) and ROAD – Directory of Open Access scholarly Resources, Hrčak – scientific and professional journal portal, KoBSON.

It is clear that, although faced with difficulties regarding the funding, limited recources and inadequate conditions, the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued with all its general activities with exceptional efforts, made significant progress and successfully implemented all planned activities.