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

**ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020**

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 2020. NULB&H employs 48 people.

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 2020, 115 publishers and 114 author publishers were included in the Center for the ISBN of Bosnia and Herzegovina. ISBN was assigned for 1.939 titles. ISMNB&H Center was established in 2005 and although Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have long tradition in publishing printed music. During 2020, 3 new publishers of musicals were registered.

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. In 2020, 240 ISSN numbers were assigned to serial publications.

DOI agency started operating in January 2020. During the year, 12 DOI prefixes were assigned to publishers.

Virtual library of Bosnia and Herzegovina – VLB&H has achieved very significant results, so the Union COBISS.BH Catalogue covers 538.956 items (monographic publications, continuing resources, articles, non-book material). Virtual Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina continues to educate and assign licenses to use COBISS.BH system.

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 2020, 47 new researchers were added.

During 2020, 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 and presentations.

NULB&H continuously makes progress in digitization of its collections. During 2020, 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 16 participants. Also, in June and October, 28 candidates successfully completed and took professional librarian exam.

Some of events and happenings worth mentioning during 2020 include:

* 75 years since establishment of NULB&H
* 28 years since destruction of NULB&H in Vijećnica (Sarajevo City Hall)
* Special collections become a national monument of B&H
* Establishing of DOI agency
* Nippon Foundation donated books about Japan
* Marking International Literacy Day in NULB&H
* NULB&H nominates candidates for Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award
* National treasure from NULB&H funds – exhibition
* Director, Dr. Ismet Ovčina at the Annual General Assembly of the Europeana Network Association
* National and University Library and Dr. Ismet Ovčina attended online (zoom) meetings - IFLA, LIBER, CENL, National Libraries of South East Europe Directors (SEENL)
* Corona free corner in NULB&H - Covid-19 Support Fund (CENL)
* Exhibition - 25 years of the Dayton
* COBISS Annual Conference - COBISS Meet 2020

Although with limited resources, Center for Restoration and Conservation of Library Materials in NULB&H continues to do great work. During 2020 the Center regularly worked on preserving and binding of damaged materials, from regular funds and Special collections fund and Old periodical, 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 20.181 unique visits, of which digital collections portal had 6.181 and online version of library journal Bosniaca had 3.651 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 online conferences, meetings, etc. Also, NULB&H kept collaborating with University of Sarajevo, Gazi Husrev-bey’s Library, International University of Sarajevo and other libraries and related institutions.

**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 5monographies and 7 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.

One of the edition is *A guide to public libraries of Bosnia and Herzegovina,* published by National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which presents librarianship in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is clear that, although faced with difficulties regarding the funding, limited recourses and inadequate conditions, COVID-19 pandemic, 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. It is very important to declare that collections from the Special Collections Department were proclaimed as national monument of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For dedicated work during the pandemic of COVID, National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina received an international CENL grant, for project - Corona free corner in NULB&H, which NULB&H gratefully and proudly implemented during 2020.