

**National Institution – National and University Library
St. Clement of Ohrid- Skopje
ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2022**

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General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library:

The NUL St. Clement of Ohrid in 2022 realized all projects with financial support from the Ministry of Culture, including 16 projects from the field of library activity, 7 projects from international activity, 3 projects from European integration, 1 project from publishing activity, and 4 projects from the field of investments. Of the implemented projects in the field of library activity, the majority of the projects that were realized throughout the year, were the following, “Mandatory copy”, “Purchase of publications and expedition of publications for international exchange”, “Protection of the library funds of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid - Skopje”, “Maintenance of the entire infrastructure (hardware/software) in the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid, “Providing funds for internet subscription” and others.

Also in 2022, the NUL began implementing the project entitled, “Ensuring continuous functioning of the COBISS.MK library-information system and basic functionality of the NUL - VBM center,” which was deemed a project of international significance. In the field of international cooperation and European integration, the projects for membership fees in international library organizations were implemented, as well as the project for participation in the annual meeting of the Conference of European National Libraries - CENL and the project “Macedonian-Turkish literary relations.” In the field of publishing, a new issue of the audio magazine for blind persons and visually impaired persons, Vidici, was published.

The library carried out four projects in the area of investments. For example, public procurements were announced and realized following the contractual agreements, this pertained to the renovation of part of the roof in the old building (blocks 1, 2, and 4). The renovation of the roof in blocks 3 and 5 is expected to be completed in 2023.

In 2022, NUL St. Clement of Ohrid received several donations, with the donations of greater value aimed at equipping and renovating the reading rooms, and other donations contributed to enriching the content of cultural events.

A major problem continues to be the lack of free warehouse space, whereby processed publications from the department for reception and professional processing of library material are not delivered to the warehouses and are not available to users but is temporarily stored in the offices. The need to solve this problem is extremely urgent because the capacity of the offices as temporary storage spaces have been used, which disrupts the dynamics of carrying out professional engagements, and it is equally important that the newly processed publications are placed in the rooms planned and intended for maintaining the library collections so that they are available to the users. With the current standard dynamics and volume of mandatory samples, it is possible to get backlogged and unable to receive new materials from publishers.

Also, the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid continuously faces a shortage of staff in several sectors and departments. Namely, the number of employees continues to decrease, with 8 employees retiring in 2022. Due to the lack of professional staff, several employees from the collections and the Bibliographic Center were engaged in the work of the CIP service, and it should also be mentioned that the problem with staffing in the Bibliographic Center still faces challenges in the addition of the published academic works in the COBISS-MK database, resulting in non-updated data in the

information system for the scientific-research activity E-CRIS.MK and the inability of the research staff to use the data from this database necessary when applying for grant projects and research funds in the Ministry of Education and Science. And the National COBISS Center, which has several functions, responsibilities, and tasks and is responsible for the maintenance, support, and development of the library and information system in our country, is facing a shortage of professional staff. Given that only two people were in charge of the functioning of the COBISS center (one key staff member and the head of the department) it can be concluded that it is not possible to carry out all the prescribed work processes of the COBISS center, especially since the number of members in the system has increased significantly in recent years. Apart from the lack of professional staff, such as librarians and librarian assistants, the hygiene service is in a particularly difficult situation, which is why 4 (four) cleaners were hired by contract, and the same applies to the security service and other departments, which are also facing a shortage of staff.

Highlights from specific library departments:

In the National and University Library, St. Clement of Ohrid - Skopje, during 2022 with the support of the Ministry of Culture a large number of activities were carried out as well as the following projects:

1. Completion and technical processing of library material; international publication exchange, purchase, and gift; expedition of library units

In the reporting period (2022), NUL St. Clement of Ohrid obtained a total of 24,626 library items out of which 11,452 were copies of monographic publications, 4,940 copies of magazines, 6,845 copies of newspapers, 40 copies of small press, 135 copies of the musical art collection (of which 25 library units were book material and 110 library units non-book material on CD), 615 samples for the art collection (book material - catalogs) and 599 masters and doctoral theses. These materials were distributed to adjacent libraries across North Macedonia, including 7,017 recorded and selected for the NUL, and 4,435 were forwarded to the deposit libraries in Bitola (2,221) and Shtip (2,214). From the received 4,940 samples of magazines, 2,964 were recorded and selected for the NUL, and 1,976 were forwarded to the deposit libraries in Bitola (988) and Shtip (988). For the international exchange of publications with libraries abroad, 190 literacy items were distributed. For interlibrary borrowing, 45 literacy items have been sent. To strengthen international resource exchange, international cooperation has been established between the National and University Library, St. Clement of Ohrid, and the Ecole Library Normale Superieure from Paris. For example, in 2022, an international project from CENL's program for underrepresented groups was carried out, titled Secret Stories: Enriching Library Funds with Publications with LGBTQ+ Content. Within this project, 21 publications were purchased for the NUL fund.

2. Professional processing of library material

During 2022, a total of 3,890 CIP entries were made. Professional processing was carried out (catalog description, classification according to the UDC, subject description, and redaction with bibliographic additions, as well as signing, inventorying, and equipping with stickers) of 1,641 titles of Macedonian monographic publications (from the deposits for the months of May and November 2018 and from January to June 2019), 535 titles of foreign monographic publications, 620 master theses and doctoral dissertations and 437 library units of phonological material.

One key highlight of 2022 is working on compiling a Macedonian micro thesaurus in the field of ethnology and sociocultural anthropology, during which several international standards and national thesauruses have been researched and studied. The manager and one executor were engaged by the library at the National Bank in the professional processing of their periodical publications (507 volumes /10 titles).

3. Referral center

During 2022, 114 searches were performed on the online and offline databases EBSCO, Emerald Insight, OPAC, INTERNET, JSTOR, SAGE Research Methods, and SAGE Research methods cases at the request of 12 users, through 69 held sessions.

A survey of 578 researchers and 48 scientific-research organizations (departments of organizations) was conducted for the E-CRIS web application database, and data was entered for 342 researchers and 48 organizations (departments of organizations), obtained based on surveys, online surveys, etc. Also, in the COBISS database, 25 organizations and 619 researchers are linked with their papers, by entering the appropriate researcher code, through entering 5,747 records.

Through the interlibrary loan service, 148 loan requests were processed. 36 book loans were made by the NUL for other libraries in the country, and 9 copies of articles and 10 books were borrowed from foreign libraries. Also, 11 books were borrowed from the fund of other libraries in our country for the needs of users from the NUL. Loans of 56 books and 1 copy of an article for the needs of the NUL users from libraries abroad were realized. Contacts have been established for cooperation with new 11 foreign academic institutions and university libraries.

4. General fund and services

Central Information Service, Electronic Reading Room, University Reading Room, and Reading Room for Serial Publications

In 2022, 191 users received general information about the possibilities and the way of using information and services of the library. Specifically, 679 catalog information has been provided and 1,174 thematic searches have been made from all areas according to the Universal Decimal Classification through the classic catalogs and the automated COBISS+OPAC catalog. 155 users received instructions on the use of secondary sources of information, and 447 individual trainings on the use of electronic sources were carried out. In the reporting period, the services of the library were also presented to 22 groups with over 700 students from primary and secondary schools and students from the Philosophical and TMF.

The electronic reading room in the period from 1.1.2022 until 31.5.2022 worked with 10 user places intended for users who use their portable computers. As of June 1, 2022, the reading room was closed and has been repurposed for the needs of users who use materials from the library collections.

The university reading room has 15 workplaces, and in the reporting period, it was used by 675 users, who borrowed 385 publications from the collection in the reading room. The librarians from the Central Information Service are continuously involved in searches to complete the library funds, preparation of exhibitions, cooperation with the library with legal and natural persons, etc.

5. Borrowing the library material

During the reporting period, general information about the types of services, the method of using the materials, and instructions for using the catalogs were continuously provided at the desk for issuing library material; 8,180 monographic publications and 7,410 serial publications were borrowed and recorded from the general fund depot. 980 loans of monographic publications were made from the manual fund. 600 publications have been reserved. A service for photocopying documents and library materials under the Law on the Protection of Copyright and other related rights was implemented, and it was continued with the selection of material for retroactive automated processing. Documentation for borrowing materials from the general fund for the needs of the services, digitization, conservation, the preparation of exhibitions, and others is also continuously being prepared. During the reporting period, the records of borrowed materials were checked by the employees and retired employees of the library and lists were prepared, which were submitted to the managers. Due to the revision of monographic publications of the second format from the general fund, the library did not work with users in the period from July 4, 2022. until 15.9.2022.

6. Reception, completion, and placement of library material for the general fund

In the reporting period, the problem of accommodating monographic publications of the second format remains due to lack of space, so only 536 monographic publications were received in the warehouses. 885 volumes of serial publications were received, and 168 volumes were inserted into already formed volumes for completion. 818 volumes of serial publications were received in the manual warehouse. 178 volumes of serial publications were handed over for binding, and 54 volumes placed in warehouses were received. Appropriate documentation is prepared for the materials that are handed over to the protection department.

7. User registration

In the reporting period, 304 users were registered, of which 249 were new users and 55 users who also used the library's services in the previous period. According to the usual categorization, the users are in the categories of students (215), employees (62), unemployed (14), students (3), and retirees (10).

In the reporting period, 3 legal entities were registered that collectively use the services of the library (the Institute of Macedonian Literature, OHO Production, and the Cabinet of the President of the RSM).

From September 1, 2022, the user registration process has been facilitated by creating user cards at the desk for borrowing library material. With the renovation of the reading rooms, the conditions for the users have improved significantly, but difficulties remain with maintaining order and discipline in the user area and maintaining hygiene.

8. Collections

The library has various collections, including an Archaeological Center, A collection of rare monographic and serial publications, a collection of contemporary manuscripts and photographs, a Fine Art Collection, a Cartography Collection, a Collection of Musical Art, a Small Print Collection, a Collection Archival Sample, A Collection of doctoral dissertations, master's theses, scientific reports, research projects, and microforms. The collection funds were presented several times in 2022.

9. Center for the blind and visually impaired

During the reporting period, Rules for the use of materials from the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired were drawn up and updated. and the Braille Book Catalog and the Audio Book Catalog from the center's holdings.

As part of the cooperation with the Association for the Promotion of Art Fluktus, creator of the first platform for audiobooks in the Macedonian language - www.samoglas.mk, the project, High school students of Samoglas Vol . 3, financed by the Ministry of Culture. The audiobook, Peter Pan by J.M. was recorded in the sound studio of the Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Bari, a high school student narrator, was selected in a competition realized within the framework of the project.

In 2022, a computer system was purchased for the needs of the sound studio.

In the reporting period, the arrangement of the space and the modernization of the equipment in the sound studio was started, which enables its more intensive use, but the problem remains with the failure of the Braille printing machine, which due to the obsolescence of the equipment can hardly be repaired. An additional problem with using the Center's services is the repurposing of the reading room space.

10. Protection of library funds

10.1. Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration

In the reporting period, the documentation process of the materials continued, which includes the collection, arrangement, and processing of data and preparation of technical and other documentation according to the established methodology, respectively the Law on the Protection of Cultural Heritage and the by-laws. From level 5 (Recordkeeping) prepared and approved: internal and external reverses for debiting material to the Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration, and internal and external obverses for debiting materials.

During the reporting period, the processes of preparing the materials for immediate protection were carried out, whereby 6,464 sheets underwent the dedusting treatment, and 421 sheets underwent dry cleaning. Small protective interventions such as straightening were done in 6,093 sheets, and gluing was done in 2,654 sheets. Restoration and protection with synthetic films were done for 427 sheets. Treatment of immediate protection was carried out on manuscript material, rare monographic and serial materials, monographic and serial materials from the general fund, and monographic materials and posters from the Collection of Fine Arts.

10.2. Protection of funds by tying

94 hardcovers were made for serial and monographic publications from the general and archive fund of the library and for 5 inventory books. 108 publications are bound with spirals and the covers for 5 monographic publications from the general fund are glued.

11. National COBISS Center (VBM)

The National COBISS Center (VBM) is responsible for the maintenance, support, and development of the library-information system in our country, it plans, installs, and maintains the computer, communication, and programming equipment for the operation of the library-information system, organizes training and continuously carries out professional training of librarians for work in the library-information system, checks the work in the mutual cataloging system, provides professional assistance to libraries in current work and performs work in the field of research and development. The National COBISS Center is continuously facing a shortage of professional staff. Namely, in 2022 only two people were in charge of the functioning of the COBISS center (one manager and one executor).

12. Digitization

During the reporting period, 3,540 pages were scanned. (TIF format) and 914 p. (JPG format) of materials from the Archaeological Center, Collection of rare serial publications, Collection of Fine Arts, Collection of Oriental Studies, and monographic and serial publications from the general fund. For the needs of the library, 1418 pages were scanned. (TIF format), and for external natural and legal persons 2112 p. in TIF format and 914 p. JPG format.

At the same time, 25 calculations have been prepared at the request of external users, such as AD Alkaloid Skopje, Music Publishing Center, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Association of Citizens Sovremenost, OU Koco Racin-Prilep and others. A form has been prepared for downloading digital objects at the request of users.

The activities of the Digitization Center were presented during the visit of the director of the Austrian National Library and the Minister of Culture, and a one-day workshop was held for students from the primary and secondary school NOVA Skopje. The executive participates in the preparation of promotional materials and administration and updating of the website and FB profile of the Digital Library, and prepared the photographs and participated in the design of the canvases and the catalog for the exhibition within the project "Macedonian-Turkish Literary Relations" in the KIC of RSM in Istanbul, R. Turkey. With the presentation "One Library, Many Stories: How I Found Rime, et prose del 1589" on the 22nd week of the Italian language, organized by UGD-Shtip, the Italian digital library was presented at dlib.mk. As part of the celebration of the library's patron holiday, a virtual exhibition was prepared on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the old library

building.

In 2022, licenses were provided for the operation of the Digital Library and an upgrade was made to the software for scanning the materials.

In the reporting period, the activities were carried out with greater dynamics due to the tendency to intensify digitization and make available to users the library goods from the library's funds and due to the increased number of requests from outsiders to use the center's services.

13. International cooperation, public relations, cultural manifestations, marketing

The NUL St. Clement of Ohrid- Skopje is an equal member of the European and world library associations and organizations and has also signed agreements for international cooperation with national and university libraries from several countries. In 2022, annual membership fees were paid in the international associations and agencies in which the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid-Skopje: IFLA, CENL, ISBN, ISSN, IAML, e-IFL, and LIBER. The Director participated in the Annual Meeting of the Conference of European National Libraries (CENL) held in Ankara from June 18 to 22, 2022.

In the first half of 2022, an intensive marketing campaign was carried out through social networks, information to the media, the creation of posters, active updating, regular announcements, and advertisements about the work of the Library on the official Facebook page, to improve the public image of the institution. Through our intense marketing campaign, the library obtained several key donations that ensured that various projects were carried out and completed in 2022.

Over thirty meetings held to generate ideas for improving international cooperation between the NUL and other CENL member libraries, international literacy organizations, and domestic institutions were carried out. The NUL employees met with representatives of foreign embassies and cultural institutions in our country, as well as domestic institutions, associations, and companies. In 2022, the library signed memoranda of cooperation with the Conservation Center, the State Archives, the Macedonian National Theatre, Bibi's World, MSMJLK at UKIM, the Austrian National Library, the Croatian National Library, the Association of Citizens Green ARKA, the Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, the Center for Research on nationalism and culture (CINIK) and others. The cooperation memoranda included activities in the field of digitization and exchange of library material, exchange of information on scientific meetings, and innovative and other projects of mutual interest. Contacts and visits were made to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, as well as to the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain. Preparations were made for the inclusion of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid in the European ERASMUS program in coordination with the National Agency for European Educational Programs and Mobility. One of the events that marked the year 2022 was the signing of a memorandum with the Austrian National Library, which took place on March 31, 2022. With the support of the Balkan Economic Forum and Sparkase Bank, an event was organized where books were donated to us from the Austrian National Library and they were exhibited in a thematic exhibition entitled, Days of Austrian Literature.

In April, the NUL observed World Book and Copyright Day by giving out books and roses to visitors. At the commemoration, the messages of the Director General of UNESCO, Audre Azule. The Macedonian message for the event was delivered by Prof. Dr. Anastasija Gjurchinova, and the international message was read on behalf of Mrs. Audrey Azoulay, Director General of UNESCO. In addition to the books presented by NUL, the Embassy of the Kingdom of Spain, the Confucius Institute and the publishing houses Ars Studio, Three and Svetot na Bibi participated in the celebration with their donation and contribution.

In May, the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid marked Macedonian Language Day with a special exhibition of Macedonian language dictionaries, entitled "Lexicographic facts in the NUL - from Pulevski to today". At the opening of the exhibition, several eminent Macedonian linguists (Prof. Dr. Ljudmil Spasov, Prof. Dr. Dimitar Pandev, Dr. Veselinka Labroska, Dr. Liliana Makarijoska and Dr. Elena Jovanova - Grujovska , director of The Institute of Macedonian Language Krste P. Misirkov).

In May, the project from the area of international activity Macedonian-Turkish literary relations was

successfully implemented in the Cultural and Information Center in Istanbul, Republic of Turkey (May 25, 2022), where the Macedonian publishing production and the oriental collection of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid- Skopje. A selection of books translated from Turkish into Macedonian and Albanian was made, with which a suitable exhibition was made, a selection of works by several contemporary authors from our country and their presentation to the audience (poetry reading in Macedonian and Turkish), as well as a selection of Ottoman Turkish manuscripts with interesting ornamentation and content that were made into canvas reproductions and exhibited for visitors to the event at KIC Istanbul. The purpose of this event was to deepen Macedonian-Turkish literary ties and encourage interest in translating works by contemporary authors, opening new opportunities for cooperation between librarians, authors, and translators, as well as enabling greater cultural communication between the two peoples. A Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid and the Cultural and Information Center in Istanbul. The event passed with particular interest, as evidenced by the photos and videos on the official Facebook profiles of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid and KIC Istanbul.

In June, we completed the project, "Enrichment of library funds with publications related to the LGBT+ population", and it was realized with the financial support of CENL. At the same time, the books purchased with the funds for this project were exhibited in the hall of the library. During June, we obtained funding for another project from CENL from the Covid-19 Support Fund, titled, Virtual Bookclub.

In October, in the hall of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid, there was an open exhibition of original creations inspired by the works of Moliere, as well as French editions and translations of the works of this extremely significant French writer from the library's holdings, entitled "Moliverzum", which met with great interest.

In November, the Study Fair was held in France, and the opening was addressed by the Deputy Minister of Education and Science, the Ambassador of France, the director of the French Institute in Skopje, and the director of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid. Also, in November at the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid the event "Food as Art" was held in cooperation with the Embassy of the People's Republic of China.

In November, "COBISS Days" were organized in our country, and the director of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid, Mr. Kuqi, the president of the Kobis Council and director of the NUL - Sarajevo, Dr. Ismet Ovčina, as well as the director of IZUM - Maribor, Mr. Ales Bosnjak, and several employees of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid, experts from IZUM - Maribor and others.

On December 7, 2022, the patron saint and state holiday - St. Kliment Ohridski - was celebrated with an appropriate ceremony and the jubilee marked 50 years since the commissioning of the NUL facility St. Clement of Ohrid- Skopje. A physical and virtual exhibition was prepared on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the opening of the library facility and they were presented to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Bujar Osmani, and in front of an official delegation from R. Bulgaria led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Nikolay Milkov, who previously laid flowers in front of the monument of St. Kliment Ohridski in the courtyard of the library. Deputy Minister of Culture Mr. Daim Luchi, as well as representatives of the diplomatic corps. The celebration began with the performance of the national anthem by a choir at the School of Music in Skopje, and then the director of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid, Rahmetula Kuqi, awarded certificates of appreciation for the special contribution and support to the institution of the Minister of Culture, the embassies of the People's Republic of China and the Kingdom of Spain, as well as to the donors, NLB Bank, Croatia insurance, KS service, NOVA International Schools, and Bibi's World. In the second part of the event, prof. Dr. Mitko Panov delivered a sermon about St. Kliment Ohridski, then Prof. Dr. Minas Bakalchev delivered a speech about the NUL facility St. Clement of Ohrid, and Bojana Mulichkoska, on behalf of the family, gave an emotional speech about the eminent Macedonian architect and professor Petar Mulichkoski, whose design work is the library building. Then the traditional jubilee

awards were given to the employees. The commemoration also included an exhibition of works by well-known fine artists, inspired by St. Kliment Ohridski from the collection of Klime Korobar. As part of this cultural event, several instrumentalists from the Faculty of Music also performed several musical compositions.

In December, a delegation of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid led by the director Kuqi made an official visit to the National and University Library in Zagreb, R. Croatia, during which a memorandum of cooperation was signed, and at the working meeting with the director of the NUL - Zagreb, prof. Dr. Ivanka Stricevic, for cooperation in the direction of a more intensive exchange of library materials, as well as an exchange of experiences in the application and use of funds from the EU pre-accession funds that offer support and development of the library activity. Also in December, the exhibition "Memories from the Ashes: National Library of Serbia, April 6, 1941" was organized together with the Museum of Genocide Victims from Belgrade, which presented artifacts testifying to the bombing and destruction of the library building during World War II.

At the end of 2022 on the premises of the NUL St. Clement of Ohrid the exhibition "Collection of old measuring instruments and teaching materials in psychology" was opened. This exhibition featured some of the old measuring instruments and teaching materials that were acquired for research and teaching purposes after the establishment of the Institute of Psychology at the Faculty of Philosophy - Skopje.

Skopje, 30.5.2023

Director,
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