
BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA

THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF BOSNIA AND HERZOGOVINA

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The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in October 1945 by the decree of the Ministry of Education of the Federal Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the time the Library has accumulated about 3 million library items including approximately 6.000 titles of periodicals, 3.000 manuscripts and old and rare printed books witnessing the multilateral and multiethnic character of the country's history. The building and the content of the Library was almost completely destroyed by Serbian artillery during the night of August 25/26 1992. In the last few years, by collecting what has been saved, the staff of the Library intensively worked on the reconstruction of the library collections and reviving its old and establishing new functions. In this effort particular assistance to the Library was provided by the UNESCO, the World Bank and Government of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

Presently the Library functions on the basis of the Law of the librarianship, (Official gazette of B&H, No.37, dated October, 1995) according to which the National and University Library is a legal deposit and the central institution of its kind in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The provisions are made for its central role in establishing and maintaining library and information services through out the country. It is a member of IFLA and FID. It provides a home for ISSN and ISBN centres. The international cooperation is carried out through the interlibrary loan and book exchanges. In addition the National and University Library is trying to enhance the joint work with the libraries in Bosnia and Herzegovina particularly as regards the development and reconstruction of library services and collections. The purpose of the support given to the development of libraries and librarianship as a profession by the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina is to receive and preserve the documentary heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OF LIBRARIANS

Library has very active program for continuing education of librarians which has benefited more than 200 colleagues from different parts of the country. Recently, in order to create proper conditions for preservation and restoration of library material a special laboratory for that purpose has been inaugurated. It is hoped that this laboratory will be able to perform its task on a much more professional level with additional training of its staff.

NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina publishes the National Bibliography in 3 series: for monographs, periodicals and articles in serial publications. A few years ago the project on retrospective bibliography was initiated. Retrospective bibliography is very important because it will help to fill gaps in Bosniaca holdings of our Library. Even though the Library went through difficult times, the "Bibliography of Bosnia and Herzegovina books from 1992 to 1996" was published. Recently, the publication entitled "Books and Publishers from Bosnia and Herzegovina" was issued. Reprint editions of old and rare books has also been inaugurated. These publications represent a valuable contribution for present and future generations of readers and a testimony of historical development of culture in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

THE STAFF AND ORGANIZATION

Before the war there were 108 employees; today only 69 are working. Strong efforts are made to initiate training programs for library staff and users. The activity of the Library is carried out through the following departments: Acquisition, Processing, Serials, Reference Center, Special Collections, Bibliography, Center for continuing education of librarians, Restoration and preservation, ISSN Center, ISBN Center, Reader services.

SERVICES

Its services to the users include: several reading rooms, various kinds of bibliographic tools, including our library website (www.nubbih.ba) and on-line catalogue, (www.cobiss.ba). The Library carries out the functions of the national agency for ISSN, ISBN and CIP (cataloguing in publication). It represents the depository library for the publications of some UN organizations and UNESCO. The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina as focal point for links to the other libraries in Library and Information System of Bosnia and Herzegovina and connects them in the world information system. Due to the present political arrangements, the library system is quite decentralized, and it will take some time before appropriate arrangements are made.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In the area of the international cooperation the NUL Bosnia and Herzegovina is interested in the following:

- the activities of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in various areas of its concern particularly in the provision of scientific information as the basis for development;
- the building of the library automation network in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- development of library infrastructure in different parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina including construction of library buildings in various municipalities thus bringing the benefits of knowledge and library services closer to the people;
- reconstitution of the lost collections of the literature of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the basis of research in the libraries and institutions of the interested countries;
- exchange of publications between the National Library of interested partners;
- exchange of librarianship experts, professors and students of librarianship between interested parties;
- joint seminars and conferences in the field of the librarianship on bilateral and multilateral level;
- joint projects in the field of librarianship on international level.

CONCLUSION

At present, the Library holdings total over 500,000 volumes, mostly consisting of the humanities and social sciences, and around 900 domestic serials titles. The National and University Library in Sarajevo welcomes its users and visitors to open the door of knowledge about Bosnia and Herzegovina and the World.

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