

---

# YUGOSLAVIA

**NARODNA BIBLIOTEKA SRBIJE / NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA**

**MR SRETEN UGRIČIĆ — DIRECTOR**

## **ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002**

### **2001 STATISTICAL SURVEY**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| Holdings – number of items (total)  | 5,500,000            |
| New acquisitions  | 70,441 items         |
| Library registered users  | 7,889                |
| Visitors -  | 71,534 visitors/year |
| Loans (circulation)   | 154,328 items/year   |
| NLS website visits  | 1,100 per day        |
| Publishing activities   | 17 new titles        |
| Staff – full-time employees   | 245                  |
| Staff – employees on contract   | 21                   |
| Total annual budget (Ministry of Culture)   | \$1,100,000          |
| Ministry of Science – acquisition of foreign databases and journals – for the year 2002 | \$760,000            |
| Financial resources provided by different international foundations                     | \$250,000            |

### **INTRODUCTION**

The last year was very important for the National Library of Serbia. After a whole decade of wars, dictatorship, terrors and other social, political and economical circumstances, the government in our country was changed. The whole country is now in the period of transition and is now building a modern, open and democratic society. According to the new cultural policy of development and cooperation, the new General Director, Mr. Sreten Ugričić, was selected and appointed to the position by the Ministry of Culture in June 2001.

Condition and criteria of transition towards the information society does not mean only the political, material and technological standards, but also the strategic decision to determine knowledge as a social priority. Until now, the difficult situation in this domain reflected the difficult situation in the society itself. These relations must be changed by establishing the policy, which will efficiently demonstrate how higher standard of this domain becomes one of the main generators of the development.

The National Library of Serbia has established the new vision of the development and long-term strategy of its institutional and functional reconstruction. The main goal of this strategy is the complete reform of the Library, named the National Library of Serbia 2, as an integrated information network that will contribute to the general development of the whole society.

The National Library of Serbia 2 presents new work's standards:

- improvement and advancement of the existing regular professional functions and performances (installation of the new integrated system for automatization of all processes as a transitional phase to the new working model),
- introduction of the new functions and working models according to the contemporary information environment and new democratic society.

## **NEW PROJECTS**

During the year 2001 the National Library of Serbia has initiated and started many new projects:

### ***VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA***

The Virtual Library of Serbia is the project of building of library information system, which will put together information about library collections in Serbia with information and electronic documents from databases stored on any computer within the system. Library information system in Serbia, through the services developed within the system, will develop into a library without walls, with collections all over the cyberspace of the Internet and with library services supported by the Internet services. The Virtual Library of Serbia will be 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 Virtual Library of Serbia project will directly contribute 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. The aim of the project is to connect all libraries with important collections and developed library services into a uniform information system. In an organized and rational way, that would provide library users with the qualitative access to all kind of information, either generated within the system, or present on any computer on the Internet.

By the Virtual Library of Serbia project the databases of four main libraries in Serbia will be integrated in one network and will be the base for the future shared cataloguing. We expect that the databases of four main libraries in Serbia will be integrated in one common catalogue in September 2002.

The Virtual Library of Serbia will

- establish cooperation which will provide shared use of all resources;
- urge the flow of documents between participating libraries;
- promote services created by the members of the network;
- research the possibilities to use new information technologies for all institutions within the network;
- produce, adopt and present standards for services within the network;
- influence the reduction of expenses for library services, according to the expenses in each institution apart;
- offer new library services, such as online catalogues, collections of electronic publications, portals for reference information.

In this way, the Virtual Library of Serbia will help the academic community and other experts groups, the state and non-governmental institutions, the local communities (including all national and ethnic ones) as well as individual end-users of all profiles, to communicate with all information resources available.

## ***DIGITAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA***

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 Center for digitization. The main goals of this Center are the establishing of the national strategy concerning the projects of digitization of cultural and scientific heritage, coordination of the different projects of central institutions on the national level, harmonization with the international professional and technical standards, sharing information, technical, financial and human resources.

In the framework of this Center The National Library of Serbia has already initiated its own project of the creation of the digital collections. Digital Library of Serbia will present completely parallel virtual institution without walls in which the information will be prepared, stored, distributed and presented in digital form, available on the network and accessible to all users in the house and online. The Digital Library will integrated all electronic resources of Library – databases, CD-Rom networks, digital documents, electronic books, journals and reviews, online and network publishing, multimedia and DVD documents. During the realization of this long-term project (five years) the National Library of Serbia intends to create the collection of 10,000 selected digital books, 1,000 digital reviews and 30,000 digital images from its own holdings (charts and maps, photographs, cards and pictures, graphics and drawings, old and new manuscripts). The selection of documents which will be transform to the digital form will be carry out by the expert teams for different domains of science, history, literature, arts, culture. The final goal will be the integration in the most important international projects of digitization and preservation of cultural heritage: the Memory of the World (Unesco), TEL – The European Library (European Commission) and Bibliotheca Universalis (G8).

## ***RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF CATALOGUES***

The Project of retrospective conversion of catalogues will represent the priority in the work of the National Library of Serbia in the next period. Retrospective Conversion implies the transformation of the card and print catalogues of the library, so called historical catalogues, into electronic database, meaning an online catalogue accessible to all. More than five million documents are housed in stocks of the National Library of Serbia. In the electronic library's database, based on the Slovenian software COBISS, there are about 450,000 bibliographic records. 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 project will be accomplished in several phases; the modern technology and processes, already used in other world libraries, will be used. The final result of the RC project will be complete electronic catalogue of the Library, available in the house by workstations and online accessible by Internet to all users all over the world. All the existing library's catalogues, card and print catalogues will be scanned first. The result will be the Image Catalogue, as needed transitional solution, which is going to be available to all users in the Library and on/line on the Internet. Next will be to procure the needed sophisticated software package for the transfer of the Image catalogue in the database and the transformation of bibliographic records into UNIMARC format.

Expected results:

- 1 Image catalogue of all holdings of the Library (until the end of the year 2002),
- 2 350,000 Unimarc records prepared for import in the databases (March 2003),
- 3 500,000 Unimarc records prepared for import in the databases (during the year 2003),

- 4 500,000 Unimarc records prepared for import in the database (during the year 2004),
- 5 CD-Rom edition "Serbian books published in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" (at the end of the year 2004).

### ***CIVIC LIBRARY***

The main mission of this project is the direct inclusion of the National Library of Serbia in the process of democratization and development of the stable civilian society. The Civic Library consists of three main segments:

- Law Center,
- Parliamentary Library,
- Forum.

Law Center will contribute to the development of the information infrastructure network for the field of law studies in the country, as well as to the fruitful exchange of information with other countries. Law Center will collect, store, distribute and present publications from the field (printed and electronic documents, databases and web links). All materials will be available to the large scale of users in the national and international level through user-friendly access. We will offer new services to domestic and foreign professionals from the field (loan, scanning, reproduction, digitization, thematic bibliographies). We have already purchased the most important domestic and foreign publications, as well as some databases (Justice). The Law Center will house also the deposit collection of some international organization (OSCE, Council of Europe, UN). The ceremony of opening was held on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2002.

Parliamentary Library will offer services to the legislative authorities of the country and will be a main resource of objective and exact information in their work. This Library will collect, create, store, and distribute the information necessary to the work of decision makers and political authorities. This Library will cooperate with similar parliamentary services in the world and will exchange official publications on the international level.

Forum of the National Library of Serbia is already established as a space for public debates on actual professional questions, especially concerning the discussions in the process of adopting of the new acts in the field of culture (Library Act, Act on Publishing, Act on public cultural goods, Act on national cultural policy).

### ***LIBRARY CONSORTIA***

During the year 2001 the National Library of Serbia received from the Ministry of science and technology the list of databases and reviews that have to be provided for our scientific community. After this call, we have prepared our own proposal for the acquisition. After the meeting with the Ministry and participating libraries in the system, we have initiated the foundation of the Consortia of Serbian libraries. All libraries have agreed that the National Library of Serbia will be the Center 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 center for promotional and educational activities concerning provided electronic resources.

The Consortia for coordinated acquisition of foreign databases and reviews was established during this year. 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. The National Library of Serbia is the center for the coordinated acquisition, its experts are charged for the licensing agreements with foreign aggregators and publishers and for the distribution of information to all members of Consortia. During this year the National Library of Serbia purchased many important databases on CD-rom and has subscribed to many online resources (eIFL Direct - Ebsco, Web of Science, Ideal – Academic Press, Link – Springer, IEEE) and about 650 printed reviews for libraries in Serbia. The National Library of Serbia has developed user services for access to foreign information services through the Internet, sign consortium agreements, and manage the services on behalf of authorized users from the system.

#### ***SCHOOL LIBRARY+***

In a period of rapid change continuing education for the individual is vital. Permanent education was lacking in our library community and that function performs now Training Center for Continuing professional education of librarians and information specialists, named School Library+ and established in the National Library of Serbia.

During the year 2001, in cooperation with other libraries and various institutions, the School Library+ carried out its first year program of education (spring and fall cycle), in which 18 different courses have been realized (26 days, 208 hours, for 304 participants from 138 different libraries, 28 lecturers). The four main sessions have been consisted of courses that have been designed on mutual subjects and participants have been able to choose one or more of them. Participants were the graduated librarians and those with the state professional exam, engaged with the corresponding fields of professional work, from different types of libraries. Evaluation of courses was carried out through specially designed questionnaires, distributed after the completion of each individual course and at the end of the year. On December 20 2001 in the National Library of Serbia, on the occasion of the end of the school year, School Library + issued certificates to successful students.

Taking in consideration the fact that the expressed needs and demands for continuing education of librarians and information specialists in Serbia are still greater than existing offer, the team of experts from the National Library of Serbia and from the School Library+ have organized during this spring some professional meetings to discuss the future strategy of continuing education in Serbia. We have decided to found the Consortium for education of librarians and information specialists. This Consortium will include the following forms of education:

- 1 School Library+,
- 2 Virtual Library of Serbia's education center,
- 3 Educational activities of Serbian Consortium for coordinated acquisitions of foreign data-bases,
- 4 Professional education for state professional exam,
- 5 Formal education program - Department of library and information sciences at the Faculty of Philology, Belgrade.

The Consortium will be located at the National Library of Serbia. The main tasks of the Professional board of the Consortium will be the official foundation of the Consortium, making of the strategic plan of continuing education of librarians and information specialists in Serbia for next period, coordinated work on the continuing education, cooperation of the different centers and institutions on the continuing education, selection and accreditation of courses, creation of the well-structured and up-to-date curriculum, survey of the needs of library community, monitoring and the control of the realization of courses, creation of the directives for the future work, sharing the professional, human, technical and financial resources, mutual acting and cooperation with governmental bodies and decision makers, cooperation with similar training centers in the regional, national and international level. During the year 2002 the Consortia for education will coordinate more than 50 different courses.

***INFORMATION CENTER FOR EXCHANGE OF DOCUMENTATION ON THE WARS IN FORMER YUGOSLAVIA 1991- 2001***

For almost 100 years the Library of Congress in Washington and the National Library of Serbia in Belgrade have been cooperating in exchanging material, information, and specialists, as well as collecting and distributing material of significance in preserving the cultural and historical legacies of our countries. As a result of events linked to the fall of former Yugoslavia and the totalitarian nature of the political regime in Serbia in the last decade, this cooperation has become weakened in many ways and the flow of information between our two libraries, as well as between our countries, has almost completely stopped. Considering the positive political changes in Serbia, as well as the rapid development of information technologies in the world, we believe it necessary now to increase cooperation through new forms of information and document exchange. As a result, we have decided to launch a project which would enable us to make the existing cooperation more fruitful, effective, useful, and of higher quality for both our libraries and countries.

We have established the Information Center for Exchange of Documentation and Information that would be a center for gathering, processing, and exchanging material, especially in digital form, but also in traditional analog forms. The Center would be located in the National Library of Serbia which would be the information channel for exchanging material. The Library of Congress and other American sources would be on one side of the exchange, and on the other side would be the National Library of Serbia and other institutions and organizations in Serbia, which would work to develop a database and documentary archives specifically for the 1991-2001 periods.

The National Library of Serbia would send to the Library of Congress copies (microfilms and digital documents) of material, which the National Library itself possesses. In addition, it would systematically gather, process, and send already existing information and material from various government and non-government organizations, as well as from government institutions and centers.

The basic goal of the project is to establish between the two libraries channels of permanent exchange of information and documents on the collapse of Yugoslavia, i.e., material testifying to the crimes committed in this area, but also to the many years of resistance to the regime carried out by opposition political parties, students, the civil sector, and non-government organizations between 1991 and 2001.

The Library of Congress would provide to the National Library of Serbia its official documents (e.g., reports from meetings of Congress, State Department) and open source material from the media archives. Such material would also pertain to the 1991-2001 period and its subject matter would cover the collapse of Yugoslavia, reports of the United States media on the situation in former Yugoslavia, as well as documents on decisions of the United States government regarding the situation in Yugoslavia at that time. After the realization of the first phase of the project, the cooperation will be extended to many other libraries and institutions in the world interested for the related documents.

#### ***INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION***

After this very difficult period of total isolation of Serbian libraries from all international organizations and projects, we would like now to try to return to all important organizations and institutions and to work in the future in more active and effective way. During the last year we have prepared the program of international cooperation and we hope that we will realize more fruitful cooperation with the international community. We will try to improve and develop our cooperation with the most important international organizations, such as IFLA, EBLIDA, CDNL, CENL, CERL, ICOLC, UN, UNESCO, ELAG, Council of Europe.

Many European libraries have long collaborated on bilateral projects and initiatives to great mutual benefit, many of which are within European programs and under the auspices of European Commission and IST program. European libraries also participate in a number of multilateral collaborative projects with all types of libraries and other institutions. Our wish is to take part in some of those very important projects on the European level: GABRIEL, CELIP, LIBECON, TEL, NEDLIB, PULMAN, MACS, ISIL.

#### **ADDRESS:**

Skerliceva 1  
11000 Belgrade  
Yugoslavia

Tel: + 381-11-451-750  
Fax: + 381-11-451-289

Email: [sugricic@nbs.bg.ac.yu](mailto:sugricic@nbs.bg.ac.yu)

WWW: <http://www.nbs.bg.ac.yu>