

# SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA / NARODNA BIBLIOTEKA SRBIJE

STRETEN UGRIČIĆ — DIRECTOR

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2002 – 2003

### 2002 STATISTICAL SURVEY

holdings – number of items (total)	5.600.000
new acquisitions	75.744 items
library registered users	8440
visitors	80730 visitors/year
loans (circulation)	164200 items/year
NLS website visits	1200 per day
publishing activities	6 new titles
staff – full-time employees	267
staff – employees on contract	23
total annual budget (Ministry of Culture + own incomes)	1.350.000 \$
Ministry of Science – acquisition of foreign databases and journals – for the year 2002	680.000 \$
Financial resources provided by different international foundations	180.000 \$

### INTRODUCTION

The long term strategic development plan, with the working title *the National Library of Serbia 2*, was adopted at the meeting of the Managing Board of Library in December 2001.

During 2002 the Library established the new vision of its development, starting with institutional and functional reconstruction and realizing many new projects. The Library is a good way towards creating the new integrated information network that will contribute to the general development of the whole society. This year was very important for the National Library of Serbia. The Library adopted the new work's standards, improved the existing professional functions and performances, introduced many new functions and working models according to the contemporary information environment and the new digital age.

### DIGITAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA

In the long term strategic development plan, the Digital Library of Serbia will be the parallel virtual institution without walls in which the information will be created, prepared, stored, distributed and presented in digital form, available on the network and accessible to all users in house and online. The new Digital Library will integrate all electronic resources of the Library, e.g. databases of the complete holdings of the Library and other libraries in Serbia, CD-Roms of bibliographies, books, periodicals, encyclopedias, multimedia, DVD resources, e-books, online and network publishing, electronic journals and reviews, e-lists and magazines. The main activities of the new Digital Library include systematic digitization of

analogue materials and organization and distribution of remote information resources. The main goal is to enable our users to get the possibilities to access and search in the same time local and remote databases and electronic resources. Beside the digitization of our own materials, the Digital Library will also work on the improvement of the development of the whole Serbian information system, on the shared cataloguing, on the network connections with other libraries in Serbia, on the coordinated projects of digitization.

During the year 2002 in the framework of this project we have realized some important activities.

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 Centre for Digitization. In the cooperation of the National Library, this Centre carried out the global survey of the actual state of the projects of digitization in many different institutions in Serbia, organized national conference on digitization, published the new paper and electronic Review of the National Centre for Digitization, initiated many seminars, courses and professional visits.

Supported by the Ministry of Culture, the National Library of Serbia provided the necessary equipment for microfilming and scanning. After the establishing the technical and human resources works preconditions, we have started the work on the building of the first digital collection: the microfilming and digitization of old serials, such as *Politika*, *Zenit*, *Beogradske novine*, are in process; full-text databases of the articles from daily newspapers on the wars in ex-Yugoslavia (on the topics as Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Vukovar, Dubrovnik); digital collection of the Serbian political posters, etc. The updated list of all digital materials accessible in the Library is finished; all preparatory works on the new web presentation of Library are carried out.

During the realization of this five year project 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 including charts and maps, photographs, cards and pictures, graphics and drawings, old and new manuscripts. The selection of documents which will be transformed to the digital form will be carried out by the expert teams from 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).

### **VIRTUAL LIBRARY OF SERBIA (VLS)**

The VLS is the project of building of library information system and integration of different library catalogues. During the year 2002, the biggest success realized in the framework of this project was the creation of the system of the shared cataloguing. Central electronic catalogue of the four main libraries and 12 different university libraries was created and we have started the work on shared cataloguing. This Central catalogue contains about 1,300,000 of bibliographic records, it is accessible in house and online to all remote users.

The Centre of the Virtual Library of Serbia is established as independent organizational unit in our Library with the main tasks to coordinate the activities and to offer the complete technical and professional support to all Serbian libraries members of the VLS. The VLS is 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 VLS project directly contributes 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. The second big success realized during this year was the agreement on free exchange of bibliographic records, signed by five countries of the region, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Serbia.

## **RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF CATALOGUES**

The Project of retrospective conversion of catalogues represents the priority in the work of the National Library of Serbia. 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. 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 the entire library's holdings will be covered with the electronic catalogue.

The first phase of the project was realized during the year 2002. We scanned the printed *Catalogue of monographs on languages of Yugoslav nations, 1868-1972*, transformed images to text by OCR technology, created the software package for parsing the text and its transformation to Unimarc format and started the control of about 350.000 bibliographic records. The first result is the Image Catalogue, as needed transitional solution, which is already available to all users in the Library and online on the Internet. In this moment we are working on the preparation of Unimarc records for import in the Library electronic catalogue. The next phases of the project will include:

1. 500.000 Unimarc records prepared for import in the databases (during the year 2003),
2. 500.000 Unimarc records prepared for import in the database (during the year 2004),
3. 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 Centre,
- Parliamentary Library,
- Forum.

During 2002, we have organized the opening ceremony of the Law Centre. The Creation of this Centre is supported by Open Society Institute, Council of Europe and OSCE. This Centre 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 Centre collects, stores, distributes and presents publications from the field (printed and electronic documents, databases and web links). All materials are available to

the large scale of users in the national and international level through user-friendly access. We provided the most important domestic and foreign publications, as well as some databases (Justice). The Law Centre will house also the deposit collection of some international organization, the OSCE, Council of Europe, UN.

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*.

During 2002 we have realized the functions of the Law Centre and Forum, but we have not succeed realizing the function of the Parliamentary Library, not because of our ineffectiveness, but because of the absence of necessary political and administrative preconditions in government institutions, e.g. in Federal and Republic parliaments.

### **CONSORTIA KOBSON**

During the year 2002 the National Library of Serbia initiated and established the Consortia of Serbian Libraries for coordinated acquisition of foreign databases and full-text services (KoBSON). The National Library of Serbia is the Centre and the coordinated body charged with all activities concerning the cooperation with ministries, publishing houses in the world and the financial resources, as well as the centre for promotional and educational activities concerning provided electronic resources. The acquisition of foreign databases and journals in paper, as well as the subscription to the most important electronic full-text services is supported by the Ministry of science and technology. 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 centre 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, Science Direct, Emerald) and about 800 printed reviews for libraries in Serbia. The National Library of Serbia has developed web 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.

### **CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

In the new established Training centre for continuing professional education of librarians and information specialists, during the year 2002 we have realized many courses, seminars, workshops and lectures in our Library and in different public and university libraries in Serbia: in the framework of the School Library+ we carried out about 20 different courses, within the VLS project about 10 different seminars, within the eIFL project about 15 courses. About 20 respectable foreign lecturers were our guests and gave the lectures for LIS specialists in Serbia on many actual topics: digital libraries, copyright and licensing, libraries and democracy, new standards and protocols, European projects for libraries, network of public libraries, etc. The new electronic lab was equipped with new facilities, 12 new computers of high quality, LCD projector, digital camera etc. In the near future, the National Library of Serbia will found the Consortium for education of librarians and information specialists. This Consortium will include the following forms of education:

- School Library
- Virtual Library of Serbia's education centre
- Educational activities of Serbian Consortium for coordinated acquisitions of foreign databases,
- Professional education for state professional exam
- Formal education program - Department of library and information sciences at the Faculty of Philology, Belgrade

## **CULTURAL CENTRE**

The concept, content and working models in our Department for cultural activities are completely changed. Through different forms of cultural activities and artistic expression, the National Library of Serbia is promoting the national cultural values, but it will also insist on the values that promote our country as a part of European community, world's cultural heritage and modern culture and art. During the year 2002, the NLS Cultural Centre organized 6 exhibitions in our gallery spaces, 3 virtual exhibition on our web site, "Books – projects" – 16 different events, within the Forum "Literature policy of 90ies" – 5 events, Forum "From the revolution to the democracy" – 4 discussions, "Video and multimedia" – 6 events, Seminar "Psychoanalyse and narratology", many lectures on Greek tragedy, Shakespeare, Joyce, Dante, about 10 different concerts, in total more than 100 different events.

## **INFORMATION CENTRE 1991- 2001**

During the year 2002 we have established the Information Centre for Exchange of Documentation and Information on the wars in former Yugoslavia 1991-2001 that would be a centre for gathering, processing, and exchanging material, especially in digital form, but also in traditional analog forms. The Centre would be located in the National Library of Serbia which would be the information channel for exchanging material. The Centre will be the multimedia archive and necessary information resources centre for social facing with the recent past. The main role of the Centre is to be the intermediary, the multidirectional interactive communication and exchange channel between different domestic government and non government organizations and foreign institutions charged with the processing and distribution of information on the subject of the wars in the Balkans. During the year 2002 we have established the cooperation with the Library of Congress, and negotiations on this matter with national libraries of France, Great Britain, Germany, Russia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia are in process.

The basic goal of the project is to establish between the different institutions channels of permanent exchange of information and documents on the collapse of Yugoslavia, i.e., materials 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.

## **INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION**

During the last year we have prepared the new program of international cooperation and we hope that we will realize more fruitful cooperation with the international community. We tried to improve and develop our cooperation with the most important international organizations, such as IFLA, EBLIDA, CDNL, CENL, UNESCO, UN, Council of Europe, OSCE. European libraries participate in a number of multilateral collaborative projects with all types of libraries

and other institutions and our wish is to take part in some of those very important projects on the European level: GABRIEL, CELIP, LIBECON, TEL, NEDLIB, MACS, ISIL.

During the year 2002 more than 100 foreign guests visited our Library, about 45 of NLS specialists were in foreign countries in different conferences, seminars, professional meetings. We have established and advanced the cooperation with national libraries in Balkan countries, improved the cooperation with more than 300 our partners in the world, started active participation in many international projects such as eIFL, Tempus, Pulman, Celip, Book Market Upgrade etc.

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