



ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2010

KOSOVO: THE NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF KOSOVA

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

The National and University Library of Kosova is the premier library institution of the country. It was founded in 1944 in the city of Prizren. Its seat was moved to the present day capital, Prishtina, in 1946.

The Library is legally bound to collect, organize and preserve the publications produced within Kosova. It continues to provide regular services to its users through its most enriched collection in the country in terms of quality and quantity.

Two major library conferences took place in 2009 in Kosova. The "Library Week in Kosova 2009" (7th edition) took place between 14-18 April, 2009, characterized by presentations, experience sharing, book promotions, book and art exhibitions, etc.

The "National Librarianship Conference" (4th edition) organized by the National Libraries of Kosova and Albania took place on 23-24 November 2009. The conference emphasized the need to move to the web publication, implementing and respecting international library standards and integrating and aligning the library development with the international library developments.

Another major development is the continuation of the plans to separate the National and University Library into two libraries – a separate National Library and a separate University Library. The new University Library of the only public University of Prishtina has already been built. Its interior and exterior works are to finish in 2010.

2. Library's relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations

The Library's activities in Kosovo, including that of the National and University Library of Kosovo, are regulated through the Law on Libraries, approved by the Assembly of Kosovo in 2003. (<http://www.assembly-kosova.org/?cid=1,191,17>).

Another legal document that reflects in the operations of the library is the Law on Copyright and Related Rights which was approved in 2006 (<http://www.assembly-kosova.org/?cid=2,191,199>).

The National and University Library of Kosovo reports to the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and it will continue to do so until the full implementation of the Law on Libraries is done and the complete new University Library is in place and functional. The Library has the mandate by law to supervise all public funded libraries in Kosovo.

3. Key facts and figures

The present Library building was inaugurated in 1982. It occupies a space of 16,500 m² with 6 floors, two of which are underground to preserve Kosovo's precious intellectual recorded memory. The library provides reading rooms with 600 seats, including separate, individual seats for scientists, researchers and the like.

The size of the collection is approx. 2 million items. Library's collection is diverse both in terms of format and language. It includes collections in Albanian, Serbian, Croatian, Turkish languages as well as in the languages of the world, such as English, French, German, Italian, etc.

The National and University Library is located in the middle of the University of Prishtina campus with a population of 35,000 students. There are 105 library staff employed in the Library.

The Library also includes a number of small libraries, such as the American Corner Library, the NATO Depository Library, The Contemporary Art Library, etc.

4. New developments in creating and building collections

The Acquisition Department has added 1,650 titles or 5,551 items to the collection of the library during 2009 through purchase, legal deposit, and gift.

The Library also aims at taking digital initiatives to digitize its manuscripts, old and rare collections as well as important documents that show the history and development of Kosovo. In this regard, the Library has created the physical "Kosova Memory" collection, which once funds are available, it will go digital.

In 2010 the Library will open its own Art Gallery which will provide space to young artists to exhibit their creativity. In this way, the Library aims at collecting and building some of its art collection.

5. New developments in managing collections

The Library aims at extending the Integrated Library System to all Kosova major public libraries. This will enable the library system in Kosova to have a single information retrieval point.

Since it is a legal deposit library, these institution hosts both the national agencies for ISBN and ISMN, which both provide further information on the publications in Kosova.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

The Library continues to provide access to its collection, and simultaneously enrich its system, through the Aleph Integrated Library System. At the same time, the Library continues to publish bibliographies through the Department of Bibliography. Therefore, the bibliography “Albanian Books: A Bibliography Between 1944-1984” due to be published in 2010. It will include 6500-7000 entries.

The Library also publishes itself materials from the library field. All its publications are provided for free at: http://www.biblioteka-ks.org/Veprintaria_botuese.php.

7. Examples of collaboration between the Library and other national collecting institutions

The Library collaborates locally, regionally and internationally with many libraries. During 2009, it signed an agreement with the National Library of Albania to exchange the Albanian periodicals between the two countries; another agreement with the National Library of Zagreb (Croatia) to collaborate in the joint projects and in the field of IT. It has build further cooperation links with the National Library of Macedonia, with the Central Library of Zurich (Switzerland), with the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich (ETH), etc.

On 29 July 2009, the Library was a cofounder of the Union of Balkan Libraries in Edirne of Turkey.

In 2009, the Library sat for the first time as a full member at the CDNL Annual Conference in Milan, Italy, and it aims to continue to fully participate in this international body.