

**NACIONALNA I UNIVERZITETSKA  
BIBLIOTEKA BOSNE I  
HERCEGOVINE NA RAZMEĐU  
MILENIJA**

**NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY OF BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA AT THE TURN OF  
MILLENIUM**

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Nacionalna i univerzitetska biblioteka BiH  
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**Sažetak**

Nacionalna i univerzitetska biblioteka Bosne i Hercegovine osnovana odlukom Ministarstva prosvjete koja je objavljena u Službenom listu BiH 31. oktobra 1945. godine u čitavom svom višedecenijskom razvoju bila je izuzetno korisna institucija u službi građana naše zemlje.

Poslije razaranja zgrade Vijećnice i glavnine njenih kolekcija, zahvaljujući naporima njenih uposlenika i pomoći bosanskohercegovačkih vlasti, UNESCO-a i Svjetske banke, ova biblioteka uspjela je u periodu od 1992. do 2000. godine obnoviti dio svojih fondova i glavninu svojih funkcija uključujući i neke nove.

Zbog ograničenosti fizičkog prostora u kojem je sada smještena i manjeg od optimalnog broja zaposlenih, ova biblioteka nije bila u mogućnosti da ispuni sva očekivanja svojih korisnika. Inače biblioteke u Bosni i Hercegovini nisu imale onu podršku koju bi, po prirodi svoje misije trebalo da imaju.

**Ključne riječi:** osnivanje, razaranje, funkcije, razvoj, kolekcije, servisi, bibliografija, personal, obavezni primjerak, zgrada, obrazovanje, saradnja, zaštita, Bosniaca

The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NUB BiH) in Sarajevo was destroyed in the night of August 25./26. 1992. The precious collections of books, archival material, and periodical representing the memory of many generation perished during the bombardment. The Library Catalogue together with an irreplaceable collection of journals, published since the middle of 19th century in Bosnia and Herzegovina were also lost. Only a small portion of the Library holdings was saved and is now housed in three different location within the city.

The written records in various languages and scripts were witnesses to the multiethnic, multicultural, and multireligious character of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The NUBBiH housed more than 2 million books and periodical and other items, most of which were catalogued according to the international bibliographic description standards. The Automated Library Catalogue had been started a few years before the war, and the staff was provided with training in modern information technology and carried out library and information research.

In accordance with the legal deposit regulations, the National library, since its establishment in 1945, received all publications that were produced in Bosnia, and other parts of former Yugoslavia and was attributed additional responsibility in 1957, when the National Library also became a University Library. Many generation of the University students remember the spacious halls of the former Town-hall, or Vijećnica, the popular name by which the Library was known.

This landmark and symbol of the City of Sarajevo, was built at the end of 19th Century in pseudo/Moorish style which prevailed in public building construction during the Austro-Hungarian administration in Bosnia and Herzegovina between 1878. and 1918.

**COLLECTIONS AND SERVICES**

Of particular interest to the visitors of this Library were special collections of early rare books including incunabula, collection of manuscripts in different languages and scripts, audiovisual material, a collection of music scores.

In addition, the Library was depository of significant official documents, archival material, private papers and other written data of particular importance to

the cultural and political history of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Furthermore, it held documents containing the history of education as well as private papers and letters of some famous Bosnian writers and unpublished texts of short stories, poems and number of plays of anonymous authors. Archival material consisted of posters, public announcements, postcards, obituary notices, as well as collection of photographs of important personalities, natural sites and architectural landmarks of the country and the city of Sarajevo.

The department of Special Collections in The National and University Library was established in 1951. The important documents it contained bear witness to the cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Among the six different section, manuscripts and rare books were the most valuable.

Thanks to the multicultural character of the country, these collection contained works of Bosniak, Croatian, Serbian and Jewish provenance, as well as works in Latin, English, German, Italian, French, Turkish, Hebrew, Arabic and other languages. Historical circumstances made the country a crossroads of different cultures including not only different languages but also variety of scripts -i.e. Latin, Cyrillic, old Bosnian, Glagolitic, Church Slavonic as well as documents in the Bosnian language written in an adapted Arabic script known as alhamijado.

NUBBiH possessed a number of rare books of significant importance to the cultural history not only of Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also to the other parts of South-Eastern Europe. These were printed books of particular value as to their age, artistic beauty and historical significance which satisfied at least some of the criteria required for this kind of library material. The collection of rare books in the National and University library amounted to 4.000 exemplars origination from the period between the 15th and 20th centuries. The majority of them dealt with law religion, philosophy, grammar, history, literature and, to a lesser extent, with natural sciences.

As an institution, NUB BiH was the most important source of scientific information for the research community of the Country as well as the heart of the cultural and intellectual life of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Library acquired and

processed domestic and foreign books and journals in addition to doctoral dissertations, scientific projects, government and international publications, particularly those from UN organizations of which the majority originated from UNESCO.

On a regular basis representatives of the Library took part in international library conferences and exchanged correspondence with more than 200 renowned libraries and other research institutions worldwide. The automation of some of the library activities started ten years ago and was based on up-to-date information technology. The library staff provided reference services to interested users through on-line access to both domestic and remote international databases.

NUBBiH today is the main focal point for library science and information research in BiH. It provides guidance within the framework of research and development to university, municipal, school and other types of libraries not only from Sarajevo, but also from the other parts of the country. It organizes seminars and conducts professional examinations which culminate in Librarianship certificates.

University education in library science is provided at the Faculty of Philosophy - Department of Comparative literature and librarianship in Sarajevo. Greater efforts in the future, will be concentrated on creating a more suitable library education program, thereby improving the subject teaching of technical and information services at the University level.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

In its capacity as a research institution, NUB BiH issues on a yearly basis a Current bibliography of Bosnia and Herzegovina for monographs and serials.

A few years ago the project on retrospective bibliography was initiated starting from the beginning of literacy in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is hoped to continue this work with greater participation of members from the research community representing all fields of sciences and arts. Future efforts will take into consideration the material on Bosniaca existing in foreign library collections and research institutions. It is also hoped that the results of this research will be published as they become available.

Also of great importance is the continuation of the project concerning the origin and history of books and periodicals of Bosnia and Herzegovina particularly when taking into account the need for the reconstitution of the collections lost during the war.

The bibliographic control of the scientific production in Bosnia and Herzegovina should be one of the priorities. The awareness campaign related to the reconstruction of the Library will be supported by continuous publishing activities related to the cultural heritage of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well.

### PERSONNEL

Before the war the Library employed 108 persons in various departments: today only 67 are working. It is hoped that, in the near future, required number will be employed. Strong efforts are made to initiate education and training programs for librarians with a view to upgrade library and information education in general for entire Bosnia and Herzegovina.

#### Presently active department of the library area:

- Acquisition
- Processing
- Reference Center
- Special Collections
- Periodicals
- Bibliography of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Restoration and preservation
- ISBN and ISSN Center
- Reader services

### LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The National and University Library was established in 1945 by the Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina and is under the supervision of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport. It is financed from the budget of BiH and Sarajevo Canton. The Library's management is ensured by the Director advised by the Governing Board (seven members). A scientific collegium deals with professional matters.

With its professional staff and documentary resources our Library is well prepared to serve different information requirements of various government departments including the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

### OLD AND NEW LIBRARY BUILDING

#### VIJEĆNICA

With reference to the old library building - Vijećnica long term goal is to revitalize it and make it home for rare books, manuscripts and archival material documenting cultural identity of people of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as the memorial of the barbaric siege of the City of Sarajevo (1992-1995).

In order to accommodate growing volume of documentary records of BiH, completely new Library building will be needed, with space of approximately 20-25.000 m<sup>2</sup>.

Having in mind the important role which NUBBiH plays in the cultural and scientific life in Sarajevo and BiH, among priorities is finding financial resources for continuing reconstruction of temporary premises, provision of funds for acquisition of Library material (journals and monographs, CD-ROM's, subscription to selected on-line information services - OCLC, DIALOG, BLAISE LINE etc., purchase of equipment and training of requisite personnel.

It should be structured as modern library, balancing traditional and digital resources oriented toward the mission of University in education, research, and services provided as a National Library.

Its collections should include domestic and foreign resources. The ultimate aim would be to create full-text electronic archive making available on world wide basis the literature of/on Bosnia and Herzegovina as the country of centuries long tradition of tolerance and cultural pluralism.

Reconstruction of NUB BiH should serve as a model for reconstruction of other libraries and information centers in BiH. Wherever possible cooperation with friendly countries should be sought to establish ground - work for useful cooperation.

Library automation package should be open for development and sustainable with necessary adaptations to local needs (language, script etc.) and accessible to outside, including foreign users.

### RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Short-term and long-term education and training of librarians of the highest professional standards will be carried out by the Library. Every effort will be made to implement research programs in various fields of librarianship incorporating modern automation technology.

### INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

NUB BiH cooperates with Council of Europe, UNESCO, IFLA, FID, ISBN agency and ISSN center and is open to expand this activity to include new partners institution and associations through various twinning programs (exchange of staff, publications, etc.)

### PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

Every effort is being made to enable Library to become focal point for preservation and restoration of library material in BiH through trained personnel and modern technology. The cooperation with interested libraries and organizations abroad is sought for this important endeavour.

### RECONSTITUTION OF BOSNIACA

**Bosniaca** is an irreplaceable and unique part of the documentary memory of Bosnia and Herzegovina within the context of South Eastern Europe. It is only natural that, after it was mostly devastated in the destruction of Vijećnica, the priority task is to reconstitute its collections and to bring them back to life.

The effort to rebuild the Library depends, partially at least, on the reconstruction of its catalog.

During the meeting convened by UNESCO of the Expert Group on the Reconstitution of Bosniaca held at the National Library in Prague, 25-26 November 1994 Bosniaca is defined as all documents in any format written or published, on the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina in its historical framework. This regardless of the languages and scripts in which they were written or published and about Bosnia and Herzegovina in every territory or in any language regardless of the authors' origin. Different kinds of this library material (monographs, serials, maps, etc.) still exist not only in BiH, but also in some other countries of the world particularly in the immediate neighborhoods.

Through modern information, reprographic and scanning technology, financial resources, good will of host institutions and librarians it will be possible to recover at least some of the lost documents and make them available to become part of the collection of National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo.

