

SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN SERBIA: CATEGORIZATION AND ANALYSES

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Abstract: Special libraries are not independent institutions. They belong to the group of libraries that are within other organizations for which librarianship is not their primary activity. Unequal degrees of development of special libraries represent an important characteristic of their actual state and presents the main difficulty in making precise analysis. Given the huge differences in the development of the libraries, only the basic statistics for the last five years are given in this Work. The starting point for the analysis of the general state of special libraries is their precise categorization, in order to analyze their needs and to improved their work in conditions comparable with similar libraries. An explained Categorization of Special Libraries is given in this Work, in relation to the type of organizations to which they belong.

1. Special Libraries – the concept and basic indicators

Different terms are used in our literature for special libraries – special library, expert library, INDOK centre, INDOK service, documentation service. Very often, they are called technical, specialized, professional industrial libraries or INDOK units, depending on how the founders understood the role and tasks of the library within their organisation.

Before the Second World War only a small number of special libraries were founded in Serbia (27). Their development began shortly after the War. Within the period from 1945 to 1955 about 120 libraries of this type were formed, and in the next decade 86 libraries more, which is certainly related to the period of industrialization and higher demand for research activity. At the end of the 1970s, the network of special libraries on the territory of Serbia consisted of 334 librar-

ies (Stanković 1979:146). We have to underline that at the beginning the actual term was neither used for special libraries, nor was meant for the type of library to which it refers **today**. **In the professional literature**, special libraries were treated like special research libraries (if they were part of an Institution or Faculty) and professional libraries (if those were libraries of commercial or socio-political organizations and communities) (Stanković 1979). In the past, within the framework of Yugoslavian Librarianship two types of research libraries were differentiated - general-research and special research libraries, and until the adoption of the standard for special libraries in 1975, as subtypes of special libraries were called institute libraries (including associations) and academic libraries (faculty libraries and libraries of some departments) (Aparac-Gazivoda and Fruk 1985:193).

According to *Yugoslavian standards for special libraries* (Yugoslav Standards for Special Libraries 1976), the special library is defined as a “library from the area of all research and development activities (except libraries within Universities, Faculties and Academic Schools), like libraries within Institutes, Archives, Museums, Theatres, Scientific and Professional Societies, Bodies of socio-political Communities (parliamentary libraries), Institute of Health (medical libraries), libraries within the Industry (industrial libraries) and other”.

Today the network of special libraries in Serbia consists of more than 300 libraries. The Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, within

its statistical yearbook, gives the data on the total number of research and professional libraries, reaching 328¹ libraries in 2004. Within the Central Library Register, conducted by the National Library of Serbia, according to the Law on library activity, 259 special libraries were recorded on December 31st 2008 (49 libraries in Voivodina, 209 in Central Serbia and 1 in Kosovo and Metohia).

Within the Database of the Library Network of Serbia, maintained by the National Library of Serbia for the entire territory of the Republic of Serbia, are data on 240 special libraries. Important sources of data for the analyses of the state of these libraries represent the reports of supervision of the professional work, conducted by parent libraries within their legal tasks.

Based on data submitted for the last five years, we can conclude that special libraries are characterized by an unequal degree of development within almost all segments of library work. There are examples of libraries that are working in extreme conditions, with not enough space, with books placed in corridors, without heating and insufficient lighting. Several libraries within Museums work within an alarming inadequate space, in which the library holdings are endangered and exposed to permanent damages due to humidity (like the Museum Library of the Railway of Serbia). On the other hand, some developed libraries exist within research organizations which work in excellent conditions, with all indispensable resources at their disposal and using the most modern equipment in their library work, enabling access to modern electronic resources to their users. The library of the Institute for Nuclear Science in Vinča is an example of such a successful and highly developed special library.

Considering the fast growth of available electronic resources, an important indicator of the state of special libraries is their equipping with modern informative technologies and communication means for the usage of currently easy-accessible scientific information. Out of 387 li-

braries that have access to scientific information through KoBSON (Serbian *Library Consortium* for Coordinated Acquisition), there are 248 special libraries². However, researchers do not have the same possibilities to use these services within the library site of their parent organizations. Comparing data for the last five years, one can see an inadequate equipping of special libraries regarding the use of modern electronic resources. The number of libraries which are equipped with computers is increasing from 58% in 2003 to 70% in 2007. However, a great percentage of this equipment varies from the out of date to the unusable. To illustrate this, some of the computers with 386 and 486 microprocessors in some special libraries are mentioned as the only computer equipment even in 2007. Only 5% of special libraries in 2007 had a scanner, and 2.5% a video-beam with a projector. As far as a laser printer is concerned, in 2007 46% of special libraries were equipped, which is not an improvement, compared to the 40% in 2003. This fact leads to a conclusion that special libraries, because of their inadequate equipment, have limited possibilities to use all modern electronic resources.

Even the professional arrangement of libraries is irregular. Until the end of 2008, 15 special libraries joined the central system of the union shared cataloguing in Serbia (COBISS). On the other hand, the information tools are very undeveloped in some libraries (31% do not have any kind of catalogues, not even the alphabetical card catalogue; 28% of libraries have a special catalogue with UDC, and only 30% have a subject catalogue; while 63% of libraries have the alphabetical catalogue). A total of 29% of libraries, which sent the questionnaire on their library work in 2007, have automated the process of their library work, which represents a negligible progress compared to 24% in 2003.

During 2003, special libraries in Serbia held around 2,350,000 books in total – 67,142 titles of local magazines and newspapers, 41,442 titles of foreign magazines and newspapers, 1,799 doc-

toral dissertations, 2,216 master's thesis, 5,931 specialized printed volumes and 3,679 exam papers. In the last five years, these holdings have increased by a total of 120,814 books, 7,392 titles of local magazines and newspapers, 5,383 titles of foreign magazines and newspapers, 432 doctoral dissertations, 680 master's thesis, 180 specialized paper works and 339 exam papers. On the total level, 24,000 of new books per year were acquired and we can say that this number was regular for these five consecutive years.

The number of users and the usage of special libraries, on the total level, were relatively constant. The smallest capacity of usage was recorded in 2005, but, at that time, we also had the smallest number of libraries responding to the library work questionnaire (101 comparing with 161 in 2003, 155 in 2004, 180 in 2006 and 159 libraries in 2007). The number of users on average was around 125,000 per year within all libraries, whereas the number of users out of parent organizations varied from 16% in 2003, when the number was bigger, to 12% in 2007, when it was the smallest. The annual average of used publications within five past years was around 124,000 books, around 45,000 magazines, 27,000 newspapers, 9,000 secondary publications and 7,000 of other kind of material. In our questionnaire there was not specially highlighted if this material was in electronic or printed form.

A great number of libraries are giving to their users information from their own holdings, while the number of those which gave information outside their own holdings is around 40 on annual basis, meaning 25-30% depending in the year under observation. The same number of libraries has indicated that they provide written information on request to their users. Those are always the same libraries, and this percentage varies on the annual basis depending on whether they all have responded to the questionnaire of the observed year.

The interlibrary loan services from domestic and foreign libraries is provided to users by 21-25% of libraries, depending on the year of obser-

vation. The highest number was reached in 2004 - 39 libraries or 25% of those that responded to the questionnaire on library work, and the lowest number was in 2007 - 34 libraries or 21%. The interlibrary loans with foreign countries, in the last three years, was realized by 7-8% of libraries, while in 2003 and 2004, the percentage was slightly higher and reached 10% in 2003 and 11% in 2004.

The translation service in 2003 and 2004 was provided to users by 20% of special libraries, while the percentage is slightly lower in the past three years and was 17% of those that responded to the questionnaire on library work.

The unequal degree of development of the special libraries represents an important characteristics of their current situation, as well the main difficulty in making precise analysis. Considering the huge differences in the development, for their easier comparison and analysis, it is indispensable to establish primarily an adequate classification, in other words the categorization within the types of special libraries.

2. Categorization of the Special Libraries in Serbia

According to the current Library Law (Official Gazette of RS, no. 34/94) we distinguish two types of libraries - libraries that, as an institution of public service, realize a general interest within library activities, and libraries that, as organizational units within other organizations, can perform library work if entered within the register of libraries. This first type represents independent institutions, while the others are not. Special libraries, therefore, are not dependent institutions, but are part of other organizations for which the library activity is not primary.

In the attempts to reach, in this current situation, some precise categorization within the types of special libraries, the division used by IFLA could be considered. In fact, IFLA does not give explicit division of the special libraries, but it is based on their connection to the thematic areas

of their subject specialties, and it is applied by formation of separate sections for each type of libraries, in other words a discussion group for special libraries in the field of agriculture. Sections are formed for Parliamentary libraries; libraries in the domain of social science; geography and cartography; science and technology; health care and biomedicine; art; genealogy and history and libraries in the field of Law (IFLANET 2008). This division, simply observed, groups special libraries depending on whether within their holdings, are to be found literature in the domain of biomedicine, art, agriculture or physics. It has been derived from the definition of special libraries from the International Standard on *terminology* (*International standard ISO 5127:2001*), as “professional libraries that cover one discipline or a specific thematic areas or library that meet the needs of specific users group.” Under the user group, this standard understands “users with common information needs”.

In our conditions, the realization of the basic activities and tasks of the special libraries depends on its position within the organization in which it is situated. The relation between the founder and the way of financing special libraries have much more influence on its overall position and the achievement of the basic functions than the domain from which they obtain the literature and provide information. In their practical work, special libraries are facing problems which are not related to the type of literature they collect. Their position is much more influenced by whether they are situated within a museum, a research institute or factory, so the categorization of special libraries in Serbia would be easily done based on the kinds of organizations they are part of.

In such a way, according to the type of organization they are part of, we can differentiate more categories of special libraries:

1. Special Libraries within Scientific and Research Organizations,
2. Special Libraries within Institutions of Culture,

3. Special Libraries within State Bodies,
4. Special Libraries within the Institutions of Health and Social Protection,
5. Special Libraries within Economic Entities (Companies) of Different Activities,
6. Special Libraries within organizations that represent different forms of Associations of Citizens (Associations and other Non-Governmental Organization, (NGO), Endowment Funds and Foundations, Political Organizations),
7. Special Libraries within Other Organizations.

Special Libraries in research organizations

In the statistical yearbook of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, the statistics of scientific and research and development organizations are related to the area 73 - Classification of activities: “research and development”. Comprising institutions, companies, parts of companies and units in which they deal with research or research and development activity. Scientific units of the Academy of Sciences are not shown specifically, but are, depending on the forms of organization, included within the research institute or research-development units. According to statistical data for 2006, in Serbia a total of 87 research institutes and research-development units operate within companies and institutions.

Research institutes are independent research institutions of which there is, according to data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, a total of 57 (from which, 18.2% are in the domain of natural sciences, 30.9% in technical and technological sciences, 18.2% in agricultural sciences, 3.6% in medical sciences, 16.4% in social sciences, 10.9% in humanity sciences, and 1.8% in multidisciplinary sciences)³. The group of research and development units consisted of 30 units in total in 2006, within companies and institutions of different or alike activities.

A great number of special libraries were established within research organizations and research and development units. Those are libraries of the

institutes that deal with research activity (for example, Library of the Institute of Nuclear Sciences "Vinča", Library of the Institute for Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering in Belgrade, or Library of the Research Institute for Farming and Vegetable Crops in Novi Sad), then libraries in the research and development units, within other institutions or companies (such as IRITEL - Research Development Institute of Communications and Electronics Systems and Technologies, Center for Research and Development AD "Zdravlje" in Leskovac, the Centre for Vegetable Farming of the Institute "Serbia" for research in agriculture in Belgrade, or RTV Bor, Copper Institute). To this category belong libraries within the Academy of Sciences (including general research special libraries such as the Library of SASA (Serbian Academy of Sciences and Art) and the library branch in Novi Sad), as well as libraries of different Academic institutes, such as Byzantine Institute of SASA, Mathematical Institute of SASA, the Geographic Institute "Jovan Cvijić" and other.

In the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia 72 libraries are registered within this type of organization. They are characterized by stable position (in relation to special libraries formed within some other type of organization), their existence and need for them are not under question since they are necessary for successful research work and development of the organization in which they are, and they certainly can be observed as a separate category within the type of special libraries. The importance of scientific research connects them, the elite users, and holdings so well defined to provide relevant information within the shortest possible time. Within the Holdings are prevailing professional and scientific journals, secondary and tertiary publications, databases, electronic material that allow the most recent scientific information to be quickly delivered to the user. Most of these special libraries are included in the Serbian *Library Consortium* for Coordinated Acquisition

(KoBSON), as a rational way to create and to complete holdings of the most important scientific world journals and to enable their users to access electronic services to review new scientific knowledge and achievements.

Within the Library Law, libraries within scientific and research organizations are already isolated in some way as a specific category, because during the enclosure prescribed by parent functions, they were placed under the jurisdiction of the University Library "Svetozar Marković" in Belgrade, Library Matica srpska in Novi Sad and the National and University Library "Ivo Andrić" from Priština, while all other special libraries are under the civil jurisdiction of main parent libraries within district centres.

It is important to distinguish academic institutions whose activity is scientific and educational from research institutions, namely institutes where there is no teaching. Higher schools, faculties and art academies within the statistical annual of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia are classified in the area code 80 - Classification of Activities: "Education". Libraries in higher education institutions that perform research and teaching activities are not special libraries; they are separated as a special type of academic libraries. Their users are primarily students, then teachers and professors and other employees of higher education institutions, while users of research institutions and organizations are primarily scientists and researchers in various fields of science.

At the same time, we should distinguish research institutions, namely institutes that carry out research activities, from the Institute, which apart from research activities, also perform specialized work in the field of medicine, providing health services and health care. In the statistical annual of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, health facilities and social protection are classified in the area code 85 - Classification of activities: "health and social work". Libraries within these institutions belong to the category

of special libraries within institutions of health and social protection. Their users, doctors and other medical staff, as well as researchers in the field of medicine, are searching for scientific information and new knowledge and methods that they will, above all, apply in their doctor's practice. On the other hand, library users in the research institutes can seek for theoretical information, which is particularly expressed within social and humanistic sciences. In this sense, libraries in institutes, which in addition to their research activities, perform activities of health care (such as the Library of the Institute for Maternal and Child Health of Serbia in Belgrade, or the Library of the Institute for Orthopedic-Surgical Diseases "Banjica") do not belong to this category, but are separated into a special group of special libraries within the Institutions of Health and Social Protection.

Special Libraries within Institutions of Culture

Unlike libraries within research organizations, which place the emphasis on the currency of the material and insist on the most recent scientific information, libraries within institutions of culture are keeping older editions, being important for the study of cultural and historical past. Institutions of Culture by their nature are focused on cultural heritage preservation, and often, as treasure of their library holdings important figures for old titles of journals and legacies are mentioned. Within their holdings are kept old and rare books, protected by Law as cultural artifacts. The specific feature of information provided by libraries within institutions of culture is that it remains relevant, does not become obsolete, and does not require an urgent update.

This type of libraries includes special libraries established in museum, archives, theatres, within the Republic *Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments*, galleries, and similar. There are many examples of special libraries in the institutions of culture, such as the Library of

the National Museum in Šabac, Natural History Museum and the Museum of Science and Technology Belgrade, Historical Archives in Valjevo, Archives of Serbia and Belgrade Drama Theater. In addition, the Library of the Yugoslav Film Archive (the national film archive), the Library of the Center for *Study in Cultural Development* in Belgrade and the Library of Zmaj's Children games in Novi Sad. In the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia there are 71 special libraries within the institutions of culture. The total number of special libraries within institutions of culture is significantly higher than the existing number of registered ones, given also that a few dozen library were established within different institutions of culture, and are not included within the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia (for example, 36 libraries more within Archives and Museums)⁴.

Compared with libraries within other organizations, special libraries within institutions of culture are characterized by a relatively stable position within the institution. In some legal regulations governing the area of culture, it is defined that it is an obligation of an institution to have a library. Within the *Regulation on closer conditions for the beginning of the work and performing activities of institutions for protection of cultural goods* (Official Gazette of RS, no. 21/95) closer conditions regarding the rooms/space, technical equipment and professional staff are prescribed for start of the work and activities of an Institute for Protection of Cultural Monuments, museums, archives and film archives. For each type of institution, it is conditions are specifically determined to begin the work and to perform the activity, if, among other things, there is a room for the accommodation of a library. This obligation to establish a library can be also found within new proposals of legal solutions. The example is the Draft Law on Archives and Archival Services by which is prescribed the obligation to establish a special Library of Archives⁵.

In this category are included libraries within all institutions of culture, regardless of whether they were established by the Republic, the City, the Municipality, or they were created as private cultural institutions, as prescribed by legal regulations which cover this domain. Institutions of culture depend largely on the Bodies of state administration, concerning the ways of financing their activities, due to the large number of cultural needs which have to be funded from the budget.

According to data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, in Serbia, in 2006, there were 38 Archives, 110 Museums (from that four Natural-Historic, nine Economic-Technical, 20 Socio-Historical, 58 Complex and 19 Art), 40 Professional Theaters, 34 Amateur and 11 Children's Theaters⁶.

The body of the Serbian Museum Network, according to *the Solution in the Determination of Museum Competency by types of artistic and historical Works and by Territory* (Official Gazette RS, no. 28/95) consists of 50 museums, organized according to hierarchical and regional principles. They are classified by specialized (7 museums) and regional (43 museums). At the top of the pyramid is the National Museum in Belgrade, as a Central Republic Organization for Protection of movable Cultural Goods.

Beside the National Museum, six more museums (Ethnographic Museum, History Museum of Serbia, Museum of Applied Art, Museum of Contemporary Art, Natural History Museum and the Museum of Science and Technology), are facilities specialized for collecting specific types of artistic and historical works, from the overall Serbian cultural area and have the parent jurisdiction by types of cultural goods, that are situated in other museums in Serbia. All mentioned museums have a special library entered within the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia.

Regional Museums, that contain in their name terms such as national, public, local, mu-

nicipal (43 museums), are of a complex type with responsibility for a particular territory, which stretches from one Municipality (Bečej, Gornji Milanovac, Smederevo) to several (National Museum of Valjevo, the National Museum in Vršac, the National Museum in Kragujevac, etc). The financing of these museums is the obligation of the Founder of the Museum: the municipality, several municipalities together, of the city or province. The Special library is part of 35 Regional Museums, and 19 are entered within the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia.

The Ministry of Culture is entirely financing the work, the maintenance and program implementation of 13 national museums, founded by the Republic or where the Republic assumed the rights and duties of its founders. The examples are the National Museum in Belgrade, Gallery of Matica Srpska, Museum of Theatrical Art, the Museum of Victims of Genocide, etc. Eleven national museums have a special library registered in the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia.

The work of a number of smaller independent museums, galleries and memorial or museums that work like organizational parts of cultural-educational centers, is also financed from the budget of the Republic of Serbia and / or of cities. Those are institutions in which activity is focused entirely on the work of one artist, a specific period, area, type or collection of historical works of art. Most of them have a special library in their structure (e.g. the Municipal Museum in Senta - Center for Culture 'Turza Lajoš', the National Museum - Center for the Culture of Smederevska Palanka, Local History Museum – The Castle of Culture Vrnjačka Banja, etc.).

Regarding Museums, founded as part of organizational institutions or companies (such as the Museum of PTT, the Railway Museum, the Museum of Black Metallurgy "Sartid" in Smederevo, etc..) the organization of work, the financing, personnel and equipment are under the jurisdiction of the parent organizations or of the

jurisdiction of the Republic of Serbia. Most have a special library in their structure.

The research activity and the protection of immobile cultural heritage (monuments of culture, spatial cultural-historical units, archaeological sites, famous places) are performed by 13 Institutes for the Protection of Monuments of Culture, with the responsibility for a particular territory, which stretches from one city (Belgrade, Novi Sad) to several dozen or more municipalities (Department for Protection of Cultural Monuments in Niš, Regional Office for Protection of Cultural Monuments of Smederevo, etc.). The funds for research, protection and use of immobile cultural heritage are provided from the budget of the founders of the Institute (one or more municipalities together). The library of the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Monuments of Belgrade is the only registered library in this group of institutions of culture, although most have a special library in their structure.

Archives are institutions in which the archival material is kept permanently, professionally processed and available for use. There is a general archive (archive tasks performed on the archives from all areas of social activity), and special archives (performing archival tasks of the archives of a founder or some specific branches of activity). The work of the Protection of the Archival materials on the territory of the Republic of Serbia is performed by the Archival Network, with the Archives of Serbia, as the central institution of protection. The Archival Network was organized by territorial principle and according to the *Decision on determining the territory of Archives* (Official Gazette RS, no. 7 / 96) consisting of a total of 38 Archives. Within its structure, 19 Archives have a special library, of which 16 are entered within the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia.

To this category of special library belong libraries formed within the Institute for Protection of Nature, although the protection of cultural and natural heritage protection, and protection of cul-

tural and natural resources in the administrative sense, are not under the jurisdiction of the ministries, and institutions for the protection of nature are not institutions of culture. In some countries within environment protection of natural resources (national parks and nature parks, nature reserves, nature monuments and natural rarities) are in the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture. The activity of the Institute for Nature Protection is historical and natural, and the position of the library within the institute facilities, is similar to special libraries within the institutions of culture. Typical representatives are the library of the Institute for Nature Protection of Serbia, Belgrade, Library Division for the Protection of Nature in Niš, and other.

Special Libraries within State Bodies

Libraries within governmental bodies have a specific position compared to other special libraries within other types of organizations. They are classified in a special group, not only by their status within the parent organization, but also by their holdings, where official publications of governmental bodies prevail. They are differently defined and the organization of work is significantly different comparing to other special libraries.

Typical representatives are Parliamentary (Assembly) Libraries, such as the Library of the National Assembly of Serbia and the Library of the City Assembly of Novi Sad. Alongside them, other libraries belong to this category, formed within the bodies of legislative, judicial and executive authorities and other state bodies, which certainly constitute a special category within types of special libraries. Those are libraries within some ministries (e.g. Library of the Ministry of Finance or the Library of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs), libraries of governmental bodies within Ministries (e.g. Library of the Flight Control Agency of Serbia and Montenegro in Novi Beograd, as the legal successor of the Federal Administration for flight control,

the Library of the Directorate of Measures and Precious Metals, etc), special libraries within organization of public administration – republic institutions and secretariats (such as the Library of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, Institute for the Evaluation of the Education Quality and Republic Institute for Seismology, etc), then the libraries within the field of Justice (such as the Library of the District Court in Šabac or the District Public Prosecutor’s Office in Belgrade), and libraries formed within provincial authority bodies and bodies of local government (e.g. the Library of the Service for General and Legal Affairs of Provincial Bodies in Novi Sad or the Library of the Municipal Administration in Zrenjanin). To this group belong libraries within Police Forces and special Army libraries. Until now, the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia has registered 32 special libraries within State Bodies. A certain, smaller number of those libraries has not yet been registered. The examples are the Library of the Institute for International Scientific, Cultural, Educational and Technical Cooperation in Novi Sad, the Library of the Service for Information and Information-Documentation Affairs - Department for Foreign Documentation and Information in Belgrade and other.

The work of state bodies and the relations between them are based on certain rights and duties defined by the Constitution, Law and other General Acts. The bodies are the Government and its Coordination bodies, the National Assembly, the State Administration (ministries, state bodies within the ministries and special organizations - secretariats, offices, etc), courts and public prosecutions, bodies of autonomous province (the Provincial Assembly and other Provincial Authorities) and organs of local self-government (municipalities and cities).

The total number of ministries in the Republic of Serbia is 24. But only three ministries have their special library entered within the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia.

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia data in 2006, the total number of courts and prosecutors offices in Serbia was 326 - of which there are 186 regular courts (1 supreme court, 30 district courts, 138 municipal courts, 17 commercial courts) and 140 public prosecutors offices (1 republic office, 30 district and 109 local offices). In the Central National Library of Serbia are registered only 7 special libraries within this kind of State Bodies.

The system of local self-government consists of 194 municipalities and 23 towns, and in the annual statistics of the Republic Bureau of Statistics provides data for 165 municipalities and 22 cities⁷.

The Constitution of the Republic of Serbia in its section, entitled “State Government” (Art. 136-138), contains provisions related to the position of the state administration, recommendations of the public authority and public services. The State Government is independent, linked to the Constitution and Law, and it is obligated toward the Government for its work. By the Law on State Government of Serbia (Official Gazette RS, no. 79/2005), it is defined as a part of the Executive Authority, which performs administrative tasks within the framework of rights and duties of the Republic of Serbia. The State Government consists of ministries, governmental bodies within ministries (Administration, Inspectorate and the Directorate), and special organizations (secretariats, institutes, etc.).

In the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia, the largest number of registered special libraries within governmental bodies are libraries within various national institutes and other special organizations (31.3%).

Special Libraries within Institutions of Health and Social Protection

A large number of libraries have been established in clinics, hospitals, health centers, and institutes for health or social care. The examples are: the Library of the Health Care Center in

Kraljevo, the Library of the Special Clinic for Lung and Eye Diseases and Tuberculosis “Ozren” in Sokobanja, the Library of the Health Care for workers of the Railways of Serbia in Belgrade, the Library of the Institute for Blood Transfusion in Belgrade, the Library of the Institute for Orthopedic-Surgical Disease “Banjica”, the Library of the Center for Gerontology - a Social Health Care facilities for adults care in Subotica, and many others.

The Central National Library of Serbia has so far registered 31 special libraries within the institutions of Health and Social Care (of which two are veterinary institutions).

Institutions of Health and Social Care (including also facilities for Health Protection of animals) do not need to have a library; the Law does not obligate them to, nor is the position of libraries within their structure as stable as in research organizations or institutions of culture. On the other hand, those libraries are in a much better position compared to the professional, special libraries within the companies or professional and other associations. The work of a large number of these institutions is financed from the budget (if they are not private institutions), their existence is not questioned, and the need for professional medical library is evident. It is sufficient to specify only the number of doctors as potential users of special libraries within this type of institution, to make this data illustrative. Therefore, libraries within the structure of this type of institutions, regarding its position within the parent organization, can be classified as a separate category of special libraries.

According to the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia data for 2007, in the network of Health Care institutions of the Republic of Serbia there were a total of 19,644 doctors (of which 3,091 are general medical practitioners, 1,567 doctors on specialization and 14,986 doctors-specialists) and 2,460 dentists. The total number of organizational units of Health Care in Serbia was 3,915. This number is not related to the number of institutions, but to the total number of

services or organizational unit of Health Care according to yearbook data of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia.

The organization of Social Protection includes facilities for children and adolescents, facilities for adults and companies for vocational rehabilitation. In 2006, their total number reached 124 (of which 43 institutions are for the Social Protection of children and young people and 81 institutions for the Social Protection of adults). Potential users of special libraries within the institutions of Social Protection are educational, health and social workers, psychologists, pedagogues. In 2006, their total number was 9.716 – of which there is a total of 2.742 workers within institutions for Social Protection of children and youth, and 6.974 employees within facilities for Adult Social Care⁸.

Medical libraries can certainly be classified into a separate group, based on thematic areas to which they refer. Within IFLA there is a special section for libraries in the domain of Health Care and Biomedicine (Health and Biosciences Libraries). Special libraries in this area, with holdings where the professional medical literature prevails, are attracting more and more ordinary users, and not only the professional medical personnel for whom they are primarily intended. To illustrate this, Medline (Medical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System Online), the most popular bibliographic database in the field of biomedical science, processed by the National Library of Medicine USA, has about a million daily users, of whom only 180,000 are doctors. That shows the increasing interest of ordinary users to find answers to questions related to medicine⁹.

Special Libraries within Economic Entities (Companies) of Different Activities

Those are libraries within companies in certain types of property (public, private, mixed, social), with different activities and different forms of organization, namely legal form. Ac-

ording to the Company Law (Official Gazette RS, no. 125/04) they are differentiated following legal forms of business subjects as legal persons: Partnership Society with limited activity (OD), Trade Society (KD), Society with limited liability (DOO) and Joint-Stock Company Ltd. (AD) - open or closed.

Statement no. 196, of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, of July 2008, publishes data from the Register of companies, institutions and other legal entities in the Republic of Serbia as of 30 June 2008. Data are given by form of organization and type of property. From a total of 104,445 companies - 92.4% are privately owned, 3.4% of the state, 2.5% of social and 1.7% in mixed property. The activity of these companies is different. The greatest contribution in the total number of companies had wholesale and retail trade and repair (41.4%), processing industry (21.3%) - refers to the production in its wide sense (food, beverages and tobacco, chemical products, oil derivatives, plastic and rubber products, textile, leather, metal production, machinery, transport means, electrical and optical devices, etc) transactions with real estate, renting (13.3%), transport, storage and communication (6.4%), construction industry (6.3%), etc¹⁰.

The need for a special library is not equally expressed in all types of activities and all forms of organizing companies. In the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia a total of 39 special libraries within this type of organization are registered. A certain number of libraries is not registered, and they operate within the framework of companies with different activities, such as Libraries of the Nikola Tesla Belgrade Airport, of the Cable Industry in Jagodina, of the Sugar Factory in Senta, or the Library of the Electro-Distribution "Voivodina" in Novi Sad. KoBSON records a total of 54 unregistered libraries within companies with different activities as uses of its services¹¹.

The greatest number of libraries is located within companies in the field of the processing

industry (77%). Many are examples such as the Library of the Company "Zastava" in Kragujevac, Libraries of the Factory "Cer" in Čačak, Libraries "-Henkel-Merima" Kruševac or in the NIS "Jugopetrol" in Belgrade. Libraries within companies whose activity is publishing, printing and reproduction also fall into this group. These are libraries within the structure of all types of printed and electronic media, libraries which, as their organizational units, establish publishing houses and newspaper publishing companies, such as the Publishing Company "Glas Podrinje" in Šabac, the Library of the Media Center in Belgrade, or the Library of the Radio Television Serbia.

In the field of transport and communication 12.8% special libraries within companies are registered. Those are libraries formed within companies in the field of road, river/maritime, air and telecommunications traffic, for example the Library of the Directorate of Civil Aviation, the Library of the Company of Telecommunications "Telekom" Serbia in Belgrade or the Library of the City Transportation Company "Beograd", etc..

Within the production activity and supply of electricity, gas and water, 5.1% special libraries within this type of organizations are registered. The examples are the Library of the Electro-Distribution and Public Company "Elektroistok" in Belgrade.

Within the field of financial transactions, there are libraries within financial organizations such as banks, stock market, and insurance companies - such as the Library of the National Bank of Serbia, the Library of the Insurance Company "Dunav" or the Library of the Belgrade Stock Exchange. According to data of the Statistical Office, so far, in Serbia, were registered a total of 107 financial organizations. It is known that many of them have a library as an organizational unit, but to date only the Library of the National Bank of Serbia was registered in the Central Register of the National Library of Serbia.

Compared to all other categories of special libraries, the professional libraries of companies are in the least advantageous position. They have the same or similar status within their parent organization, and therefore belong to the same category of special libraries, regardless of the companies' different activities.

In this type of organization, the library should be the central place to store all the material about the research work and reports on the development and within its holdings there are not only books and periodicals, but also standards, patents and similar material as resource of information. The emphasis is on technical information, but also information of commercial character (addresses, trade names, information about the products of some economic organizations, etc), then statistical data on imports, exports, information of a legal nature (laws and regulations, information on tax), information of economic character (financial conditions of business, situation and changes in the economic policy of the country, situation in the industry, and similar). For smaller industrial companies, it is important to collect and use information that will enable the resolution of technical and technological problems, even without any particular fundamental researches done within the company.

The position of some special, professional libraries is unenviable within the companies that used to be in social ownership, whether they are in the meantime privatized or not. The libraries are neglected, the unresolved status of their companies reflected also on their destiny. Their existence within these new conditions is in question, and the new status within the institution is often demonstrated by it's the new function as a library lending fiction to employees or their children.

However, the functions of a special, professional library are much more complex, primarily because it should provide specific professional information from the area of the parent organization, to provide professional advanced education,

research work, as well as the development of the organization as a whole. Its main activity is also to build different catalogues and indexes relevant to the work of its organization, to build all forms of professional bibliographies, to publish regular newsletters, and to present and give information available through electronic resources, as well as translation of foreign literature relevant to basic activity of the parent organization. The special library "Naftagas – NIS" is an example of a successful library in this category.

Special libraries within Organizations that represent different forms of Association of Citizens (Associations and other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Endowment Funds and Foundations, Political Organizations)

An association is any form of voluntary connection of group of people or legal persons for the improvement or implementation of a common or general interest or goal, and which primary purpose is a non-profit gain.

Endowment Funds and Foundations are legal entities which have no membership, whose founder had assigned a certain property, and they are created for the benefactor's implementation of public (general) interest. Foundation and Endowment Funds may be established by one or more natural or legal persons, on the basis of a contract, testament/legacy, or other establishing act, while the Association may be established by at least three natural or legal persons.

In our Legislation, Associations and Endowment Funds are tagged as non-profit and non-governmental organizations. Today, in Serbia, over 30.000 of these organizations operate (Paunović 2000). All non-governmental organizations, considering the types of activities and the objectives of their foundation, can be divided into following groups: organizations of culture and art, educational and research organizations, environmental organizations, societies and movements, humanitarian organizations, socio-humanitarian organizations, youth and student organizations,

organizations for the development of local communities, business and professional associations, organizations for the protection of human rights, organization for legislation, advocacy and public policy (think tanks), peace organizations and groups, women's organizations and groups, organizations of refugees and displaced persons, international organizations and other unclassified organizations.

NGOs are one of the forms of interest groups and one of the possible forms of association of citizens. These associations have the status of legal persons (they are institutionalized), separated from the state, of non-profit, non-commercial and non-party nature, based on voluntary work and investment funds.

A greater number of these organizations has a special library within its structure. Often those are libraries and various other professional associations - such as the Library of the Branch Office of the Serbian Medical Society in Leskovac, Libraries of the Pharmacy Society of Serbia or the Serbian Chemical Society in Belgrade, the Library of the Astronomical Society "Ruder Bošković" in Belgrade, Kalemegdan or the Library of the Association of Jewish Municipalities in Belgrade. Until now, in the Central Registry of the National Library of Serbia are registered 13 special libraries within this type of organizations. A certain number is not yet registered, but it is difficult to estimate their exact number. The Library of the Fund for Humanitarian Law in Belgrade is an example of successful library of this group. It represents, with the Library of the Centre for Civil-Military Relations, one of the first special libraries within Non-Governmental Organizations, which is included within the shared cataloging system in Serbia (COBISS), but still not registered.

To this group of special libraries also belong libraries within Endowment Funds – but, for now, only the Library of the Endowment Fund "Ilija M. Kolarac" is registered, although it is known that other significant libraries of this type

exist too. The example is the Library of the Endowment Fund "Ivo Andrić", working within the Center for Documentation, and provides technical and professional assistance to researchers and to other persons interested in Andrić's work. The Library has a reading room open to the public and offers a rich material on Andrić's life and work to the readers.

To the Group of special libraries within the Non-Governmental Organizations also belong Libraries for people with special needs - Libraries within Organizations for the people with Disabilities and Libraries for the Blind (such as the Library Union of the Blind of Serbia "Dr Milan Budimir" in Belgrade, or the Library of the Union Organizations for the Blind and Low Vision People of Voivodina, in Novi Sad).

Libraries within political organizations also belong to this category of special libraries. Political parties are organizations that represent a form of association of citizens, although, in legal terms, they are not identical type of organization to endowment fund and foundations. For now, there is only one registered special library of this kind in Serbia – the Library of the Municipal Committee of the Socialist Party of Serbia (SPS) in Valjevo.

Special Libraries in Other Organizations

To this category belong various special libraries that remained unclassified, not belonging to any of the previous 6 categories, and alone they can not be separated in a special category neither based on their number, nor potential increase of their number in the future, nor based on the need for such library and its existence within these types of organizations, nor based on the number of potential users.

An illustrative example is of special libraries established within preschool institutions, pupils and students campuses. These organizations belong to the type of educational institutions, their primary activity is education, and in the statistical yearbook of the Statistical Office of the Re-

public of Serbia, the total number is given along with the number of schools for primary, secondary and higher education or faculty. However, special libraries formed within this small number of preschool institutions and campuses for pupils and students, according to their function, basic tasks and status within the organization can not be compared with school, namely academic libraries, legally obliged to be found as integral part of school for elementary, higher education, college or faculty.

In preschool institutions, campuses for pupils and students, there is no obligation to establish a library, and even if it exists, it is not obligatorily a special library, since in this type of organization the need is much stronger for the presence of a library with holdings of general character, with accentuation on fiction books, collected to satisfy different reading interests of all users of services of these institutions, and not only for employees' professional specialization. Examples of less numbered special libraries within this type of institutions are the Library of the Preschools "Naše dete" ("Our Child") in Šabac, of the Preschools "Pčelica" ("Little Bee") in Sremska Mitrovica, and the Library of the Student Campus "Angelina Kojić - Gina" in Zrenjanin. The holdings of these libraries contain professional books from one closely specialized area, Pedagogy, and are the only registered special libraries within this type of institutions. No conditions are present for these libraries to be a separate category of special libraries within educational institutions, given the small number of actual libraries and the little probability that they will be found furthermore within this type of organizations. On the other hand, they can not be classified in any of previously divided six categories of special libraries.

3. Conclusion

A precise categorization of Special Libraries represents a starting point for the analysis of the general state of these libraries, on the basis of

which the starting parameters for the improvement of their work could be defined. Given the large differences in the development of special libraries, for their adequate equipping, improvement of working conditions and providing quality services and conforming to the purpose of their foundation, it is essential first of all to classify these libraries. The Categorization is established in order to analyze their needs and to improve their work in conditions that are comparable with similar libraries that have the same or similar status within the organization of which structure they are a part.

¹ No data for Kosovo and Metohia.

² National Library of Serbia. *List of Libraries*, Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition, <http://nainfo.nb.rs/Kobson/service/Biblioteke.aspx?Let> (update 01/19/2009).

³ Scientific-research and research and -development units which founders are the Ministry of Interior Affairs and the Ministry of Defense are not included.

⁴ Data on these libraries can be found on websites of their parent organizations and within (Benderać 2000)

⁵ "Draft Law on Archival Material and Archival Services", Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia, <http://www.kultura.sr.gov.yu/?jez=&p=13> (11/24/2008).

⁶ Without data for Kosovo and Metohia

⁷ Without data for Kosovo and Metohia

⁸ Institutions of Health and Social Care data published in the yearbook of the Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia for the territory of Central Serbia and Voivodine, without data for Kosovo and Metohia.

⁹ City Institute for Public Health Care, <http://www.zdravlje.org.yu/adrese2.html> (11/19/2008).

¹⁰ Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia, *Working Document of Companies in Serbia, by size 2007*, no 64, July 2008.

¹¹ National Library of Serbia. *List of Libraries*, Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition, [http://nainfo.nb.rs/Kobson/service/Biblioteke.aspx?Let=\(01/19/2009\)](http://nainfo.nb.rs/Kobson/service/Biblioteke.aspx?Let=(01/19/2009)).

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