

ISSUING THE LICENSES IN THE SEBIAN SYSTEM OF SHARED CATALOGUING COBISS.SR

Nataša Dakić, librarian
University library “Svetozar Marković”

Abstract: From the beginning of the shared cataloguing system in Yugoslavia, from 1988 till its disintegration in 1992, in order to work in shared cataloguing system, librarians had to go through instructions which consisted of 5 days course. In Slovenia, conditions for issuing licenses for shared cataloguing were regulated in 2001 through the *Law on librarianship*, and in 2005 enlarged on the bases of the *Rules on issuing permission for shared cataloguing*. These Rules includes also the conditions for suspending the license. In Serbia, from the establishment of united national bibliographic-information system COBISS.SR in 2003, license for work in the shared catalogue is issued to a cataloguer who, after 5 day course, successfully creates 30 records in test base. In order to increase the quality of the shared base COBIB.SR it is necessary to establish the *Rules for issuing the permission for shared cataloguing*, by which conditions for issuing or suspending the license would be clearly defined, as well as the rights and obligations of the partners in shared cataloguing.

Keywords: shared cataloguing, COBISS software, shared database, license issuing, cataloguing rules, test base

Introduction

The system of shared cataloguing was established in 1988, and it was covering the whole territory of Ex-Yugoslavia. Authors of the project and software were professionals from the University Maribor Computer Center (today IZUM-Institute of information science) and they were elected on the tender of the former Federal ministry of science. As a project financed by the Federal government, it was accepted by the Yugoslav National Library Association, and it consisted of

55 libraries of all republics. Computer equipment in the '80-s enabled shared cataloguing using one central computer – server (located in Maribor) witch was connected through existing telecommunication network for data transfer to local computers, where databases of participating libraries where located. During the disintegration of Yugoslavia, the connections were broken, and libraries continued with online data processing of documents, using the same software, but only on a local level, each library in its own local database.^{1,2}

In Serbia there was a need for reestablishment of library network and creation of national library information system. Two projects were created, “Virtual library of Serbia” and “Building Cooperative Academic Library Network in Serbia” Financiers – Open Society Institute and EU Tempus program accepted both projects.

By support of the EU experts, Slovenian COBISS was selected as the software package, because it was the package which was already present in these libraries from the beginning of the electronic data processing, and it was the only library software with already built-in interfaces and HELP in Serbian language that could be applied immediately and at an affordable price. National bibliographic and information system COBISS.SR was established by coordinating these two projects and joining funds for their realisation.³ 64 institutions with over 100 libraries from all over the country joined this project, and today in the shared database exists over 1,7 million bibliographic units.⁴

From the very beginning in 1988, in order to work in shared cataloguing system, librarians had to pass the instructions which consisted of 5 days course, organized in cooperation between IZUM and national libraries of all republics of former Yugoslavia. By withdrawing our libraries from the system, this type of librarian's education for work in the system has been interrupted.

Issuing the permission for shared cataloguing in Slovenia

Slovenia continued to work in shared cataloguing system, and IZUM original software, then called UKAT (shared cataloguing), was developed, modernized and renamed into COBISS (Co-operative Online Bibliographic System & Services). Slovenia spreaded library network and in 1993 creates national bibliographic and information system COBISS.SI

Based on a deal between NUK and IZUM the procedure for joining the cataloguers in the system of shared cataloguing COBISS.SI has been regulated. The cataloguer should, after 5 days training course, independently create test records, witch revise the librarians in NUK (National and university library) and IZUM. When these two institutions agreed upon the successfulness of the candidate, he gets the permission to create records in the shared database, so called license. This model of issuing the licenses has been kept for several years, and then in 2001 conditions for issuing licenses for shared cataloguing were enlarged and regulated through the *Law on librarianship*.⁵ Three basic conditions for issuing the license were established:

1. passed state professional examination
2. (passed) addition education in shared cataloguing
3. passed test knowledge

In order to increase the quality of their own bibliographic and information system in 2005 these conditions were enlarged on the bases of the *Rules on issuing permission for shared catalogu-*

ing, which was granted by the minister of science in cooperation with the minister of culture. According to the Rules, education for working in the system is conducted by NUK and IZUM. NUK provides courses, which refer to catalogue rules and other bibliographic standards, and IZUM provides courses which refer on usage of CO-MARC format and software equipment. When cataloguer passes the course, he should independently create 30 bibliographic units for various types of monographic publications in the test base. If the records are not in accordance with cataloguing rules and COMARC/B format, they would be returned to cataloguer for correction. The procedure of returning and correction could be done only 3 times. When it happens that even then records are not in accordance with the rules, cataloguer must again attend the training course and create another 30 records. If the records are valid, cataloguer passes the test. In front of the Commission which consists of 2 members from NUK and IZUM (one member from each institutions) candidate should catalogue 4 books which Commission chooses. If necessary, candidate can answer questions asked by the Commission. This exam can also be taken 3 times, and after third unsuccessful attempt, candidate is returned on reattending the course and creating another 30 records. After successfully passed exam, cataloguer is issued the license for creation the bibliographic records for monographic publications in the COBISS.SI system. Cataloguer can process another type of bibliographic material only through further education, i.e. by attending successfully the training courses for their processing.

Also, these Rules include the conditions for suspending the license. License can be suspended in the next cases:

1. if the cataloguer in 3 years does not create a new bibliographic record, or enlarge the previous one, license could be suspended
2. redactor can propose suspension of the license to a cataloguer who 3 times creates units

which are not in accordance with cataloguing rules or COMARC format

3. if the cataloguer reveals his username and password to another person, or if he corrects record under another username, license can be suspended in the period of 3 years.

Issuing the permission for shared cataloguing in Serbia

Until the foundation of united national bibliographic-information system COBISS.SR, neither in the University library "Svetozar Marković", nor in the National library of Serbia and Library of Matica srpska existed the unified way of education, except state professional examination, which librarians are due to pass after one year of working in the library.

Shared database COBIB.SR is the result of merging local databases of those 3 libraries. Local database of BMS was taken as a base, so, some of the bibliographic units in NBS and UBSM are marked as duplicates. The database of JUBIN (Yugoslav bibliographic-information institute) was added in the shared database. The license for work in the system was given automatically to all of cataloguers, who were working in the local data bases until 2003. Libraries, which have been joining the system, could instantly download the records from the shared catalogue and only after proper education and issued license could create new records.

Original Slovenian model for issuing the license has been adopted in Serbia. VBS (Virtual library of Serbia) center organizes 5 days training course for work in programme COBISS.SR to candidates who had successfully passed state professional examination. After this education, candidate should independently create 30 bibliographic records for monographic publications in test base. Commission for issuing licenses, which consists of members elected from employees in NBS and UBSM, examines the records. If it has been established during the exam that some records are not created according to the cataloguing

rules or COMARC/B format, they are returned to a candidate for revision. After successfully created 30 records the Commission, by mutual consent, issues the permission for creating records in shared database COBIB.SR. Following this procedure, 293 attendees received licenses until March 27th 2007.

In practise this training course is proved to be insufficient for a number of candidates. Not rarely, candidates are librarians who didn't become ones through university education, but persons who became librarians due to professional work in a library and passing the state professional examination. They passed state professional examination 15 or 20 years ago, and in their libraries obtained only card catalogues, or even, they worked only with users. On the other hand, training course assumes excellent knowledge of cataloguing rules.

In order to help faculty libraries, which were joining the shared cataloguing system, University library "Svetozar Marković", as their main co-ordinating library, organized professional consultancies. Namely, cataloguers and redactors were visiting faculty libraries and in the direct contact explained and solved problems, which had appeared during the processing in test database. Also, during 2003 and 2004 several workshops with a theme "Error analyses in the test base" took place at the University library "Svetozar Marković". Typical mistakes, which appeared as a result of differences between card catalogue and electronic catalogue, as well as insufficient knowledge of cataloguing rules have been evidenced.

Examples of errors made in test database:

Wrong	Correct	Explanation
1. 1010 ager – nemački 3001 aPrevod dela: La dynamique du capitalisme	1011 \$ager – nemački \$cfre – francuski 3001 aPrevod dela: La dynamique du capitalisme	If the book is a translation, indicator in field 101 is 1; code for original language is mandatory in \$c
2. 2001 aComputer Games feditor David N. L. Levy hII	2001 \$aComputer games \$h2 \$feditor David N. L. Levy	Dependent title designation which is entered in \$h must precede \$f
3. 2000 aAustrian foreign policy, 1908-18 fAlfred Francis Pribram gPredgovor G. P. Gooch 205 a2.izd.	2000 \$aAustrian foreign policy \$e1908-18 \$fAlfred Francis Pribram \$foreword G. P. Gooch 205 \$a 2nd ed.	Years must be entered as subtitle in \$e, author and edition statement must be written in language and script of the item
4. 2000 aUspomene i doživljaji Dimitrija Marinkovića fDimitrije Marinković	2000 \$a Uspomene i doživljaji Dimitrija Marinkovića	If the author is part of a title he can not be entered in \$f
5. 2000 aIstorija srpskog naroda u srednjem veku elzvori i historiografija fStanoje Stanojević 3001 aKnjiga 1. O izvorima	2000 \$aIstorija srpskog naroda u srednjem veku \$eizvori i historiografija \$h≠Knj. ≠1 \$iO izvorima \$fStanoje Stanojević	Subtitle begins with a small letter, dependant title designation and dependant title must be entered in field 200
6. 2000 aCarolingian Painting fFlorentine Müntherich gJoachim E. Gaehe 700 1aMüntherich bFlorentine 4080 – autor uvoda	2001 \$aCarolingian painting \$fintroduction by Florentine Müntherich \$gprovenances and commentaries by Joachim E. Gaehe 702 1\$aMüntherich \$bFlorentine \$4080 702 1\$aGaehe \$bJoachim E. \$4080	When anonym concerned, indicator must be 1, statements of responsibility must be transferred from the title page originaly; in case of anonyms 700 is not used.
7. 2250 aNova srpska politička misao; Posebno izdanje v2	2250 \$aNova srpska politička misao \$iPosebno izdanje \$v2	Dependant collective title must be entered in \$i
8. 320 aRezime: 367-390 str. 320 aNaslov rezimea: Die frühe und mittlere Bronzezeit in rumänischen Banat und am Unterlauf der Marosch	320 \$a Zusammenfassung: Die frühe und mittlere Bronzezeit in rumänischen Banat und am Unterlauf der Marosch	Generic term must be entered in language of the summary without page numbers

Conclusion

From these examples one can clearly see processing unaccordance with the cataloguing rules and ISBD standard, as well as ignorance of the format COMARC/B. In aim of creating more qualitative shared database VBS, beyond 5 day basic course for cataloguing, which is based on elementary acquaintance with COMARC/B format, at least 2 day course for renewal of basic cataloguing rules should be organized, which would precede COBISS/Cataloguing course. As an additional help to fellow colleagues, Serbian Academic Library Association should renew organization of workshops: error analyses in the test base; cataloguing dissertation; subject processing; OPAC (Online public access catalog) search; COBISS/commands; because they proved to be very useful in the practice.

For VBS members the imperative is making the *Rules for issuing the permission for shared cataloguing*, by which it would be clearly defined which monographic publications cataloguer should process in order to gain the license, how many and what sort of mistakes could be tolerated in test base, should the oral exam be introduced in front of Commission, as it is in Slovenia, what are the rights and obligations of the par-

ticipants in shared cataloguing system, in which cases librarian loses the right on creating records in shared database and all the other, so far not defined, matters in Serbia, concerning license issuing for shared cataloguing.

References:

1. Platforma COBISS. <http://www.cobiss.net/platforma>
2. Filipi-Matutinović Stela. Bibliotečki sistemi i problemi njihovog povezivanja u Srbiji. Čačanski glas, 2005, str. 1-5
3. Mazić Bogoljub, Filipi-Matutinović Stela. The Virtual Library of Serbia: the Union Catalogue of Serbian Libraries. International Cataloguing and Bibliographic Control, vol. 34, 2005, No. 4, pp.67-69
4. Projekat VBS. http://vbshome.nbs.bg.ac.yu/SR/vbs_project.htm
5. Seljak, Marta. Izvajanje določil pravilnika o izdaji dovoljenja za vzajemno katalogizacijo v sistemu COBISS.SI. Organizacija znanja (Tisk. Izd.). [Štampano izd.], 2007, letn. 11, zv. 4, str. 208-214.