

Exhibition "Digital Cyrillics"

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On the occasion of celebrating 90th anniversary and marking the Cyril and Methodius Saints Day also known as the Day of Slavic Literacy and Culture, the University Library "Svetozar Marković" organized "Digital Cyrillics" exhibition accompanied by a virtual and web exhibition which lasted from May 24 to July 1 2016. The authors of the exhibition were librarians from the University Library "Svetozar Marković" Dr. Zoran Bajin, Vesna Vuksan and Milena Kostić. At the grand opening at the Carnegie Hall of the Library on May 24th 2016, the audience was addressed by Prof. Dr. Nada Kovačević, Vice-Rector of the University of Belgrade, Prof. Dr. Aleksandar Jerkov, Head of the University Library "Svetozar Marković", Mrs. Tamara Butigan Vučaj, Deputy Head of the National Library of Serbia, Dr. Adam Sofronijević, Deputy Head of the University Library "Svetozar Marković" and via Skype by Prof. Dr. Günter Mühlberger from the University of Innsbruck and Mr. Claus Gravenhorst, Director of Strategic Initiatives at CCS Content Conversion Specialists GmbH¹ in Hamburg. The recording of the opening of the exhibition is available on the following link: <http://media.rcub.bg.ac.rs/?p=5259>.

1 Exhibition at the Library

On the exhibition at the Library the selection of books about the work and influence of Cyril and Methodius, the translations of works of Slavic literatures into Serbian, published from the mid 19th century to the beginning of the First World War were presented. These translations have revived

¹ <http://content-conversion.com/>

cultural links between Serbs and other Slavic people and languages, whose unity was strengthened by Cyril and Methodius 1000 years ago. Digital card catalog was also presented at the exhibition. This catalog is available on the University Library website: <http://www.unilib.rs/pretraga/katalog/>.

2 Virtual Exhibition

Trying to keep up with the new technological trends in librarianship, and bearing in mind the protection of rare books, the University Library bought Magic Box with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Information. This is a cabinet display which provides virtual, yet very real experience of leafing through the digitized and protected library collections. Magic Box, located on the ground floor, was presented to the audience for the first time at the exhibition opening. The Gospel, which is an exquisite representative of old manuscripts written in the script created for the Slavic people by Cyril and Methodius, was displayed in Magic Box on the day of the opening.

The digitized Gospel can be leafed through on the interactive display and also representative copies from the collections of the University Library: old Cyrillic manuscripts, historical newspapers, photographs and 3D objects.

The presentation prepared by Mr. Claus Gravenhorst from CCS Content Conversion Specialists GmbH in Hamburg, which manufactures Magic Box is available on the following link <http://www.unilib.rs/pretraga/katalog/>. DocWorks software used for improving work with digital documents by creating METS/ALTO files is described in it. The University Library acquired the software in 2016 within the project “New Digitization Horizons in Serbia” supported by the Ministry of Culture and Information. Magic Box, a virtual cabinet display which displays METS/ALTO files, is also depicted in the presentation.

3 Web Exhibition

The web exhibition gives access to the digitized Cyrillic manuscripts and books about work and importance of Cyril and Methodius and translations of works of Slavic literatures into Serbian published between the mid 19th century and the beginning of the First World War. The collection is available on the University Library website on the following link: <http://www.unilib.rs/sadrzaji/virtuelne-izlozbe/>. The description of the digitized materials follows.

3.1 Cyrillic Manuscripts

The University Library “Svetozar Markovic” exhibited seven representative manuscripts from its Cyrillic manuscripts collection in virtual space. Being of unique artistic value, the Gospel is exhibited also in the digital device. Time and place of the origin of the Gospel, which stands out with the calligraphic skills of the scribe and illustrations of four gospels, have not been determined. There is a testimony on the manuscript covers that in 1685 the book was owned by a priest-monk Pahomije from the Crna Reka Monastery. In addition to the Gospel, the following manuscripts were also exhibited virtually: Panegyric of the scribe Venijamin from the Monastery Holy Trinity near Pljevlja from 1595; Monthly Church Book for January with the Service to Saint Sava written by Teodosije at the end of the 16th or beginning of the 17th century; Psalter written in 1652 with appendices from the 16th century with an inscription of Dositej Obradovic; “Služabnik” from the 3rd quarter of the 16th century which contains a Short Service to the Saint Simeon; Transcript of Dušan’s Code from Baranja created in the first half of the 16th century with a short version of Syntagma Canonum by Matthew Blastares and Codex Justinianus; and a collection of ancient narrations accompanied by Indian deductive stories – Ćorović 31.

3.2 Books on Cyril and Methodius

Books about life and work of Cyril and Methodius were physically exhibited at the Library. Three titles were selected for digitization: Serbian translation of the book about Cyril and Methodius by Theophylact of Ohrid published in Budim in 1823; A thousand-year jubilee of St. Cyril and Methodius with Dimitrije Matić’s speech and a short Methodius’ biography by Janko Šafarik published in Belgrade in 1863; and an illustrated *Geschichte der Heiligen Slaven-Apostel Cyrill und Method* by a Czech priest and historian Jan Bily published in Prague in 1863.

3.3 Translations of works of Slavic literatures

The majority of publications displayed in the physical space were translations of works of Slavic literatures created between the middle of the 19th century and the beginning of the First World War. Seven publications from this collection were selected for digitization. Translations of Russian literature: *The Captain’s Daughter* by Alexander Pushkin published in

1849, *The Overcoat* by Nikolai Gogol published in Mostar in 1902 and *Khadzhi-Murat*, the last fiction work by Leo Tolstoy whose translation into Serbian appeared on the eve of the war. Translations of Polish literature: *Cossack Revenge* by Mihail Tchaikovsky published in Belgrade in 1854 and *Tales* by Henryk Sienkiewicz published in Novi Sad in 1887. Translations of Czech literature: *The Village Novel* by Karolina Světlá published in Belgrade in 1879. Translations of Bulgarian literature: *Baja-Ganje* by Aleks Konstantinov from 1907.

The event was covered in the media. There was news on TV, radio and web pages. Overall there were 26 broadcasts. The majority of web portals published the following news² written by the National Television of Serbia. Some news focused on the description of the exhibition “Digital Cyrillics” while some focused on the description of Magic Box.

² <http://www.rts.rs/page/stories/ci/story/124/drustvo/2328542/vremeplov-kroz-istoriju-uz-digitalnu-vitrinu.html>