

83rd - IFLA World Library and Information Congress

Jelena Andonovski
andonovski@unilib.bg.ac.rs

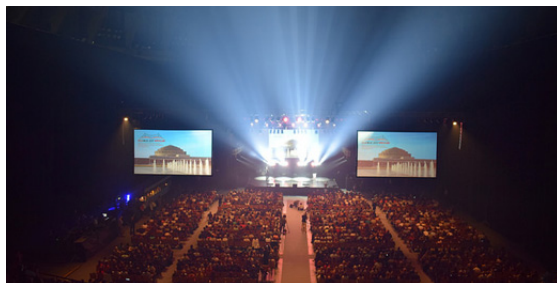
Nataša Dakić
dakic@unilib.bg.ac.rs

*University Library
"Svetozar Marković"*

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The 83rd World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) called Libraries, Solidarity, Society was once again successfully organized by The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In the period from 19th to 25th August 2017, Wrocław, the historic capital of Silesia and the fourth largest city in Poland, was home for more than 500 speakers and 3100 delegates from 122 countries all over the world.¹



Serbian Library Association enabled free minibus transfer to Wrocław for 19 members of the Society, colleagues from all library types. Trip to Wrocław was realized due to the project "Librarians on the road: 1000 kilometers to 1000 ideas" co-financed by the Association's funds and project approved by the Ministry of Culture and Information. Thanks to this project, Serbian librarian's delegation with 30 registered participants was the largest Serbian delegation to IFLA congresses ever. Due to persistence and creativity, the

¹ <https://www.ifla.org/node/11814>

participants from Serbia received well-deserved attention, approval and tribute from the international library community, including now already former, IFLA President Donna Scheeder.



The colleagues who travelled to Wrocław thanks to the Serbian Library Association had the opportunity to visit different libraries in Slovakia, Czech Republic and Poland: University Library in Bratislava – the oldest and the largest library in Slovakia; Moravian Library in Brno – regional library of the South Moravian Region and the second largest library in the Czech Republic; Public library in Opole; as well as Silesian Library in Katowice – one of the most modern libraries in Poland and the scientific and regional public library.

After spectacular Opening Session of the 83rd Congress, with the warmest of hugs, Donna Scheeder handed over her presidency to Glòria Pérez-Salmerón. A new Governing Board was presented with a main task to steer IFLA in these exciting times of transparency, openness and fresh ideas.

Online voting platform “IFLA Global Vision” was launched with the aim to propel inclusive global discussion to unite the library field. Also, during the Congress, the real-time voting was organized where 360 delegates voted simultaneously. This voting platform had been opened until October 16th. Since the launch, the IFLA Global Vision has received more than 22 000 votes. Library experts from 213 countries gave their opinion about the place, role, challenges and activity of libraries in the contemporary world in the process of globalization. The project motto is “Together we create the future”

and we expect the final report with the guidelines for the development of the librarian profession in the future.

The congress itself was organized in 247 sessions which covered all aspects of our profession and represents an invaluable experience for all participants. It also represents a place to meet colleagues from all over the world, provides professional development and opens door for further collaboration between libraries. Many librarians from Serbia participated as volunteers, authors of papers and posters, members of sections and working groups of IFLA, and among them was one IFLA World Library and Information Congress Participation Grant holder.

The University Library "Svetozar Marković" was presented to the international library community very successfully through two posters and two papers:

1. Nikola Smolenski, Aleksandra Trtovac, Nataša Dakić, Jelena Andonovski, Adam Sofronijević: Adding value for society by efficiently presenting cultural heritage with minimum additional costs: In-house development of digital tools for searchable collections at University Library Belgrade (poster)
2. Marija Bulatović, Vera Petrović: University Library "Svetozar Markovic" in Belgrade and its digital funds (poster)
3. Tatjana Brzulović Stanisavljević, Dragana Stolić: Accredited Seminars as an Example of Good Educational Practice: Program 'Copyright in Library and Information Science' of the University Library 'Svetozar Marković' in Belgrade (paper)
4. Milena Kostić, Vesna Vuksan: Volunteer and Tech Power Bringing New Ideas to Life at the University Library, Belgrade (paper)

Participants from University Library presented the first fully searchable corpus of digitized historic newspaper texts with almost 600,000 pages in Serbian Cyrillic from the period between the beginning of the 19th century to the middle 20th century, as well as activities related to continuous professional development of librarians through the accredited courses, workshops and seminars.

The 84th IFLA World Library and Information Congress, called Transform Libraries, Transform Societies, will be held from 24th to 30th August 2018 in Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia.² The main feature and success of the Congress lies in the exchange of experiences, knowledge and skills

² <https://www.ifla.org/node/11754>



directed towards improvement of the profession as a whole. Therefore, we hope that librarians from Serbia will have the opportunity to participate.