

# Library as the center of a scientific research institution

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**ABSTRACT:** On the example of the “Ivo Andrić” Library of the Andrić Institute in Višegrad, we are considering the ways in which libraries and the professional staff employed in them can contribute to the improvement of the scientific and teaching activities of the institution. The librarian, the only employee in the library, in addition to the work in the library and information activities, also performs other tasks that directly help the development of the home institution. With the usage of modern technologies in the library business and the wide range of services it offers to its users, the library is becoming the center of a scientific research institution.

**KEYWORDS:** The Andrić Institute in Višegrad, “Ivo Andrić” Library, one-person library, library in a scientific research institution.

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## 1 Introduction

After completing the studies of library and information science, graduate librarians and information professionals are trained to work in all types of libraries. In this paper, we deal with special libraries that are located at scientific research institutions, in the case of a particular library. Special libraries are established at other institutions with the aim of “serving special, closed groups of users, related to a particular institution of which it is a part, and in order to meet the spiritual needs of employed professionals” (Вранеш and Марковић, 2008). Jelena Dobrilović Dragović states that “a special library exists as a special unit within an organization that does not have library goals” (Добриловић Драговић, 2016). Special libraries are often libraries

with one employee (Живановић, 2017). The term "one-person library" is used by John Feather and Paul Sturges to refer to an individual-run library or information service, often with little or no help from another person, and states that as many as 95% of special libraries are in fact one-person libraries (Feather and Sturges, 2003).

In a library with one employee, the librarian performs all the tasks necessary for its functioning: procurement and physical accommodation of materials, cataloguing and classification of the library fund, work with users, which includes borrowing and deleveraging, providing assistance in finding information, including assistance in scientific research, production of different types of bibliographies, public relation, compiling reports and plans, performing administrative tasks and more. The librarian should also have good organizational and communication skills and understand the importance of maintaining contact with other colleagues, both from their profession and within the institution where the library is located.

The role of a librarian employed in a special library at a scientific research institution is to maintain good relations with the parent institution, active participation in performing scientific and teaching activities of the institution, responding to user needs for information, continuous professional development and monitoring modern trends in library and information activities. In order to help improvement of the home institution, and thanks to the knowledge and skills acquired during their studies, graduate librarians-information professionals employed in libraries at scientific research institutions also perform other types of work. In this paper, we try to show the example of the "Ivo Andrić" Library of the Andrić Institute in Višegrad and the ways in which the library and the librarian can contribute to the improvement of scientific and teaching activities of the Institute.

## 2 The Andrić Institute in Višegrad

The Andrić Institute in Višegrad was founded on June 28, 2013, as an institution whose subject is scientific research work in the field of social sciences and humanities. Its founders are the Government of the Republic of Srpska and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, which makes it the only scientific institution founded by these two countries. The mission of the Andrić Institute is based on promoting the ideas and thoughts of Nobel laureate Ivo Andrić with the basic goal of promoting cultural, artistic and scientific development and encouraging young people to study significant problems in the field of science and art. The Institute bases its work on

the principles of ethics, multiculturalism, publicity of action, responsibility, cooperation, tolerance and respect for diversity.<sup>1</sup>

The Andrić Institute organizes its scientific and educational activities through four departments: the Department of History, the Department of Literature, the Department of Serbian Language and the Department of Film and Media. Within the Andrić Institute, there are also the “Petar Lubarda” Gallery and the “Ivo Andrić” Library, which with their work, together with the mentioned departments, contribute to the development of the Institute not only as a scientific and educational, but also as a cultural institution.

The Andrić Institute conducts its scientific research work through research projects, scientific conferences, seminars, lectures, workshops and publishing activities<sup>2</sup>. Since its founding in 2013 until today, the Institute has held more than 30 scientific conferences, 20 scientific lectures, 6 documentaries and about 20 art exhibitions, several round tables, workshops and seminars. In addition, the development of international cooperation is supported and encouraged, so participants in scientific and educational contents are scientists and researchers from various parts of the world. That, on the one hand, allows the general public to get acquainted with their latest scientific research, and on the other, the lecturers themselves, during their stay at the Andrić Institute, get directly acquainted with its mission and convey the story of it to the world.

In addition to scientific research work as a primary activity, the Andrić Institute also conducts teaching activities by organizing the Summer School “Andrić Academy”. The summer school is organized by the Department of Literature with the aim of providing additional education to young researchers, as well as dialogue and exchange of experiences among themselves and with lecturers. The topics of the summer schools held so far were: “The World War I in literature” (2014), “Cultures in meeting” (2015), “Cultural memory” (2016), “Ivo Andrić in our time” (2017), “Literature about the Great War” (2018) and “Contemporary novel” (2019). Participants in the summer school can be students of philological sciences of all levels of study from the Republic of Srpska and the Republic of Serbia.

Another successful type of engagement of the Andrić Institute in teaching activities is a three-day seminar on “Individual and group work in the school library” intended for librarians employed in school libraries in the Republic of Srpska, which was held in November 2014. By organizing this seminar and

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<sup>1</sup> [the Andrić Institute](#), accessed 30.08.2020.

<sup>2</sup> More detailed information about the held scientific gatherings, lectures and other activities can be seen on the web presentation of [the Andrić Institute](#)

enabling professional development of librarians, the Institute has shown that it understands the importance of the development of the library profession and its willingness to provide support to this process.

### 3 "Ivo Andrić" Library of the Andrić Institute

Together with the founding of the Andrić Institute, the Institute library was founded and it was named the "Ivo Andrić" Library. During its establishment, the following goals were set (Станчић, 2018):

- forming of the fund in accordance with the needs of the Andrić Institute
- providing access to library and information materials for scientific and educational purposes
- providing support to users during scientific research work: assisting in research, finding and evaluating information; education on the use of electronic sources of information, etc.
- supporting the process of lifelong learning
- formation of a reference collection
- organizing various cultural activities.

The "Ivo Andrić" Library is a library with one employee<sup>3</sup>. By performing various work tasks, the librarian of this library successfully realizes the set goals of work defined during its establishment. In addition to library and information tasks related to the library itself, the librarian performs other tasks directly related to the work of the Institute, such as participation in the organization of scientific conferences, seminars, summer schools, preparation of publications for publishing, cooperation with other institutions and other, which will be discussed in the following sections.

The users of the library are employees and associates of the Andrić Institute, scientists and researchers in the field that are the subject of the Institute's work, students of social sciences and humanities of all levels of study, students of the Summer School "Academy Andrić". The library of the Andrić Institute offers the following services to its users:

- assistance in searching the fund
- assistance in scientific research work

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<sup>3</sup> The librarian at the "Ivo Andrić" Library received his education in the first, second and third cycle of studies in library and information science at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, and she is currently a senior librarian.

- use of literature in the library reading room and outside
- electronic catalogue search.

The fund of the “Ivo Andrić” Library is formed in accordance with the needs of the parent institution. It consists of monographic and serial publications from scientific fields that fall within the scope of work of the Andrić Institute, mostly literature from the field of literature, history, linguistics, art, as well as a significant reference collection. Significant parts of the fund are scientific publications of the Institute itself, which are collected, processed, stored and given for use. The library fund has about 8000 publications, out of which over 6000 have been processed in the electronic catalogue and made available for use. The plan is to process the rest of the fund in the next period and make it available to users. The collection is freely accessible, publications are arranged according to the UDC system, and the library also has a reading room with computers intended for users. The idea of multiculturalism and international cooperation represented by the Andrić Institute is also reflected in the library’s holdings: in addition to literature in Serbian, the library also contains literature in English, Russian, Spanish, Italian, Slovak, Japanese, Chinese, German and other languages.

The library fund is increased mainly by gifts from individuals and institutions. Most of the books arrived at the library thanks to the Selective Procurement Department of the National Library of Serbia, but also as gifts from other institutions, such as the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade, the Film Center Serbia and the Faculty of Philosophy, University of Banja Luka. Also, after the book fair held in Andrićgrad, in which the Andrić Institute is the organizer of the accompanying program, a large number of publishing houses and individuals donate their editions to the library of the Andrić Institute. Gifts to the library often come from individuals, authors themselves or admirers of the written word.

#### **4 The role of librarian in improving the scientific and teaching activities of the Andrić Institute**

In the previous section of the paper, we stated what is meant by activities related to the scientific research and teaching activities of the Andrić Institute and presented the “Ivo Andrić” Library. Further in the paper, we want to point out the ways the library and the librarian employed in it contribute to the development and improvement of the mentioned activities.

#### 4.1 Work in the COBISS system

The systematic filling out of the fund achieves the formation of a library of a special type that will be in accordance with the needs of the parent institution and its users. Since March 2015, the "Ivo Andrić" Library has been a part of the COBISS system<sup>4</sup>, which has enabled the implementation of an electronic catalogue in the Library. The electronic catalogue, which has been formed over the years, is a unique information tool on the library fund that provides information on available literature, enables electronic borrowing of publications and interlibrary loan with libraries across the country. On the web presentation of the Andrić Institute, there is a page with information about the library and a link to the electronic catalogue, which enables users who are not able to physically visit the Andrić Institute to be informed about the library, its fund and services it offers.<sup>5</sup>

After the implementation of the electronic catalogue, the librarian of this institution attended courses that enabled obtaining a license to work in different segments in the system (permission for mutual cataloguing A, permission for mutual cataloguing of serial publications, integrative sources, continuous sources and non-book material). From obtaining the license until the end of 2019, 6099 titles were entered in the electronic catalogue of the library.<sup>6</sup> Bibliographic units are entered continuously in accordance with the allocation of the necessary work licenses to the employed librarian.

Year	Fund growth in the COBISS system
2015.	10
2016.	1818
2017.	2123
2018.	1137
2019.	1012

**Table 1.** Overview of the growth of the fund of the "Ivo Andrić" Library since the implementation of the electronic cataloguing system

<sup>4</sup> Statistical data relating to the period from 2015 to 2018 can be found in (Станчић, 2018)

<sup>5</sup> The Andrić Institute, accessed 30.08.2020.

<sup>6</sup> Statistical data are available in the document "Bibliographic databases and fund data", accessed 30.08.2020.

In addition to the basic licenses that enable the processing of bibliographic units from the library, the librarian also has a license from the course *Use of software COBISS3 / Cataloguing – advanced*, which includes the possibility of analytical processing of articles from proceedings and publications that are published continuously. That enabled the processing of articles published in proceedings of conferences held at the Andrić Institute. Articles from the proceedings processed in this way are also visible in the mutual catalogue, so users can get acquainted with the content of the proceedings or get additional information about individual works even before borrowing a book from one of the libraries.

## **4.2 Organization of scientific conferences**

Since its founding in 2013, over 30 scientific gatherings have been held at the Andrić Institute. Here are just a few of them: Scientific conference “Serbian Literature and the World War I” (2014), Scientific conference “About Branko Ćopić” (2014), Scientific conference “About Petar Kočić” (2014), Scientific conference “Marking 1914 in 2015” (2015), International scientific conference “Bridge in literature, history and cinematography” (2016), Scientific conference “Pages of the history of Serbian-Russian relations in the 19th and 20th centuries” (2017), Scientific conference “Dream of the City” (2017, 2018, 2019), International scientific conference “Serbian Poets” (2018), International scientific conference “Years that changed the world. The World War I in history and historiography” (2018), Scientific conference “Ivo Andrić and the Serbian language” (2018), Scientific conference “Current issues of Serbian spelling” (2018), Scientific conference “Language, literature, music: poetry and music of Bora Đorđević” (2018), International scientific conference “Literature in translation” (2019), International scientific conference “Andrić and European literature” (2019), Scientific conference “Current issues of phonetics and phonology of the Serbian language” (2019), Scientific conference “Serbian literature as the basis of the Serbian language” (2019), Scientific conference “Literary works of Matija Bećković in poetic and stylistic analyses” (2019), Scientific conference “Literary works of Goran Petrović” (2019), Scientific conference “Poetic intertwining of Andrić’s and Selimović’s prose” (2020).

In addition to scientific conferences, about twenty scientific lectures were held, out of which a dozen lectures within the cycle “Serbian 20th century” during 2019. Some of the lecturers were prof. Dr. Slobodan Antonić (lecture “Two centuries of elections in Serbia”), Emir Kusturica (“Peter Handke

– Apostle of Truth”), prof. Dr. Milo Lompar (“Serbian Modernists”), prof. Dr. Jovan Dušanić (“Economic review of the margins of the Serbian 20th century”), Dr. Borivoje Milošević (“Orthodoxy in Bosnia and Herzegovina from the new Patriarchate of Peć until 1918”) and others. In addition to the mentioned scientific gatherings and lectures, six documentaries and about twenty art exhibitions and several workshops and seminars were held.

The librarian of the “Ivo Andrić” Library participates in the organization of scientific conferences held at the Institute. That implies communication with participants regarding the organization of the conference and collecting papers for publishing proceedings of abstracts and papers. The library premises are often used as a venue for scientific gatherings, and the participants of the gatherings borrow from the literature needed for research or presentation. Scientific gatherings are accompanied by the publication of proceedings of abstracts and papers, and the holding of scientific gatherings results in the enrichment of the publishing activities of the Institute with new titles.

### 4.3 Publishing activity

With the publication of the book “Beseda” by Matija Bećković in co-publishing with the publisher “Štampar Makarije”, the Andrić Institute started publishing in 2013. Since 2014, the Institute has been publishing independent publications, and over the years it has established cooperation with other publishers. Through its publishing activities, the Andrić Institute includes topics from various scientific fields: language, history, literature, and one part includes the publication of literature that has been translated from other languages. The librarian also participates in publishing activities, performing mainly proofreading tasks, and thus directly participates in the preparation of books for publishing. For the sake of better information, in the proceedings of conferences and in some monographic publications, name registers are made, which are also prepared by the librarian of the Andrić Institute.

In addition to the aforementioned jobs, the librarian also keeps records of the scientific work of the parent institution. As a result, in 2019, a bibliography of the Andrić Institute was published in the journal LIK(Станчић, 2019)<sup>7</sup>. Proceedings and journals are processed analytically in the bibliography, down to the level of individual papers. In order to increase the level of information, the following indexes are given at the end of the bibliography:

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<sup>7</sup> LIK, accessed 26.10.2020.

name, chronological and title index. The publication of this bibliography enabled the general public to be informed about the publishing activities of the Andrić Institute, and researchers were given the opportunity to obtain information about the literature. Authors of papers in proceeding published by the Andrić Institute can easily find bibliographic data of their works.

The Andrić Institute presented and still represents its publishing activity at book fairs in Banja Luka, Belgrade, Novi Sad, Moscow and Andrićgrad, and it has received some significant awards there, such as:

1. award of the International Book Fair in Moscow for the best design for the book “Sidi Abdallah: Ratni dnevnik Miodraga V. Petrovića” (Вранеш and Марковић, 2008) in 2015,
2. the “Moštanica” award of the Book Fair in Banja Luka for the reprint edition of the magazine “Ideje” (edited by Milivoj Nenin and Gorana Raičević) in 2017, and
3. award of the Novi Sad Fair for the entire publishing activity in 2018.

These awards represent recognitions for the previous scientific research work of the Andrić Institute and its associates.

#### **4.4 Cooperation with other institutions of science, culture and education**

Over the years, the Andrić Institute has established and still maintains the cooperation with many institutions of science, education and culture at the national and international level and its library has contributed to increasing that number.

At the national level, the Institute cooperates with the National and University Library of the Republic of Srpska. Cooperation with this institution is reflected primarily in activities related to publishing (submission of CIP, ISBN number and mandatory copy), work in the COBISS system, inter-library loan and more. At the international level, the Institute cooperates with the National Library of Serbia in terms of procurement of publications for the library fund, organizing expert visits of colleagues from the National Library of Serbia to the Institute’s library, by submitting its publications through a mandatory copy of publications.<sup>8</sup> The local obligatory copy is

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<sup>8</sup> Since its founders are the Government of the Republika of Srpska and the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the Andrić Institute is obliged to respect the law, i.e. the rulebook on submitting a mandatory copy of publications in both countries.

delivered to the Public Library "Ivo Andrić" in Višegrad. The obligatory academic copy is delivered to the University Library "Svetozar Marković" in Belgrade, so the editions of the Andrić Institute are also available to local professors, students and researchers.

Thanks to the cooperation of the librarian of the Andrić Institute and the Association of Librarians of the Republic of Srpska, in June 2019, the 23rd Meetings of Librarians of the Republika Srpska were held at the Andrić Institute. The Andrić Institute, in the role of the host, presented its activities, and ceded its premises to librarians from all over the country.

By opening the library for use, the Institute is cooperating with professors and students of primary and secondary schools from Višegrad and the surrounding area, with professors, researchers and students of faculties in the Republic of Srpska and the Republic of Serbia.

#### 4.5 Interlibrary loan

The "Ivo Andrić" Library is also active in the interlibrary loan system. Interlibrary loan applications from other libraries arrive several times a year. If it is determined that the requested publication exists in the library of the Andrić Institute, colleagues from other libraries send a request by e-mail for the publication. The requested publication is delivered to the library that sent the request, and it forwards it to the user. After use the publication is returned to the fund the same way.

In this way, cooperation with other libraries and scientific institutions is established and maintained, and at the same time the promotion of the "Ivo Andrić" Library and the Andrić Institute itself is carried out. Through a direct conversation with the users, we learned that they were pleasantly surprised by the information that the book they had been searching for a long time could be found in the library of the Andrić Institute. As a reason for that surprise, they stated that they did not expect such a "young" library to have such a rich and high-quality fund.

## 5 Conclusion

A well-equipped library, its rich fund, and a capable, motivated and organized librarian give maximum support to the implementation of scientific research activities of the institution in which they are located. With the use

of modern technologies in the library business and the wide range of services it offers to its users, the library can and should become the center of a scientific research institution.

The Andrić's institute strives to include the Serbian language, literature, history in its scientific activities, and as a result of these efforts, there are results of the work of its departments of History, Serbian Language, Literature and Film and Media. Through the work of the "Petar Lubarda" Gallery and the "Ivo Andrić" Library, the scientific activity of the Institute is deepened in both art and librarianship. The library supports the scientific (and teaching) activities of the Andrić Institute through its activities: business automation, fund formation and providing services to users, as well as cooperation with other scientific, educational and cultural institutions.

The librarian with her constant professional training, library management, filling in the electronic catalogue, making the current bibliography of the Institute and participating in other activities gives her contribution to the development of the Andrić Institute as a scientific institution that is already recognized in the Serbian-speaking area and beyond.

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