



NACIONALNA
I SVEUČILIŠNA
KNJIŽNICA
U ZAGREBU

Annual report to CENL 2024

Passing on Ideas Through Time

National and University Library in Zagreb

Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4
10000 Zagreb, Croatia

+385 1 616 4023

www.nsk.hr
glavna_ravnateljica@nsk.hr

NSK, the National and University Library in Zagreb, is the largest Croatian library and operates both as the national library of Croatia and the central library of the University of Zagreb.

NSK mission and vision

As a major institution in Croatia's research and cultural infrastructure, we build and develop our collections and services to promote Croatian cultural and scientific heritage and foster the development of the Croatian library system.

The National and University Library in Zagreb has a dual mandate – it is the national library of Croatia as well as the main library of the University of Zagreb. The Library is responsible for collection, cataloguing, processing, archiving, protection, long-term preservation and making available to the public its entire collection and especially the national collection *Croatica* that is acquired through legal deposit. The Library performs scientific, research and development activities with the aim to support and develop the library system of the Republic of Croatia.

The vision for the development of the National and University Library in Zagreb takes account of the Library's sphere of work in the future, which has shaped the Library's three strategic goals and eleven specific objectives laid out by the Library's current strategy – NSK Development Strategy 2026 – and is summed up in the Strategy's motto as *Passing on ideas through time*.

Legal status and management

Founded and financially supported by the Government of the Republic of Croatia the Library reports to the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth and the Ministry of Culture and Media. The current *Law on Libraries* has been in force since February 2019.

The chief executive is the Director General and the Governing Board consists of nine members, representing the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth, Ministry of Culture and Media, and the Library.

Key Facts and Figures for 2024

Holdings

- 3,7 mil items
- 57 % digital items

Acquisitions

- 114,395 items
- 55 % digital items

Users

- 13,355
- 6,357 new memberships
- 660 – average daily entries

Staff

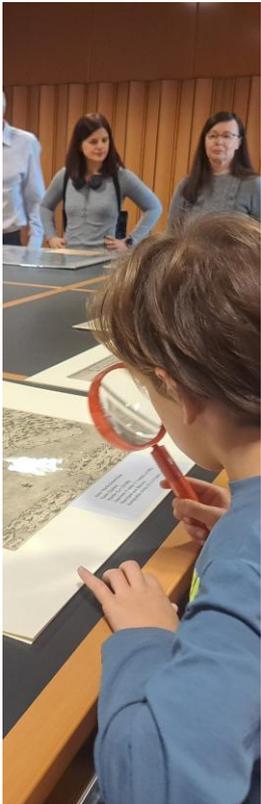
- 305 FTE

Budget

- 16,7 mil. euros

Spaces

- 1,100 seats
- 64 seats in special collections' reading rooms (8 listening booths)
- 2 study rooms with 10 compartments
- 2 digital learning booths (one for individual work, the other for collaborative work)
- 17 meeting rooms and halls in the refurbished part of the building
- 150 seats for night work (9 PM – midnight)



NSK Open Days
2024

2024 Highlights

It is necessary to highlight the key achievements that form the foundation for further development, and which, compared to previous years, show extremely positive trends.

e-University project

As part of the strategic *e-University* project, funded by the *National Recovery and Resilience Plan 2021–2026*, a highly complex public procurement for a new library service platform – a cloud-based library information system (*Alma/Primo*) – was successfully prepared and implemented.

At the same time, demanding implementation activities began intensively at the NSK and 82 libraries across Croatia, meaning that the most advanced academic cloud-based library system – *Bukinet* – will cover and strengthen 70% of academic and research libraries in the country.

User increase

User data show a significant increase across all categories compared to 2023 – a 15% increase in registered members, a 10% increase in first-time registrations at NSK, and a 15.5% increase in total entries to NSK using a membership card (almost 200,000 during the year), excluding spaces and programs in the Grand and Small lobbies and the *CroAtrium*.

It should be noted that compared to 2019, considered the last pre-pandemic and thus “stable” year, the increases are even more pronounced – 33% more registered members and 20% more entries using a membership card. Additionally, there were 20,000 user inquiries and over 7,000 interlibrary loans, 85% of which were fulfilled through digital delivery from the most relevant libraries in the world, with which NSK is connected via a fast digital delivery system.

These indicators result from an enhanced focus on user needs, the development of programs for the public, and an enriched collection of digital and printed materials available to users.

eOP system

The eOP system (system for the delivery of digital legal deposit copies) was implemented, enabling long-term care for digital legal deposit materials, which only gain long-term value when properly archived. This is a result of business digitalization and intensive collaboration with publishers, which will ensure greater stability in the delivery of legal deposits.

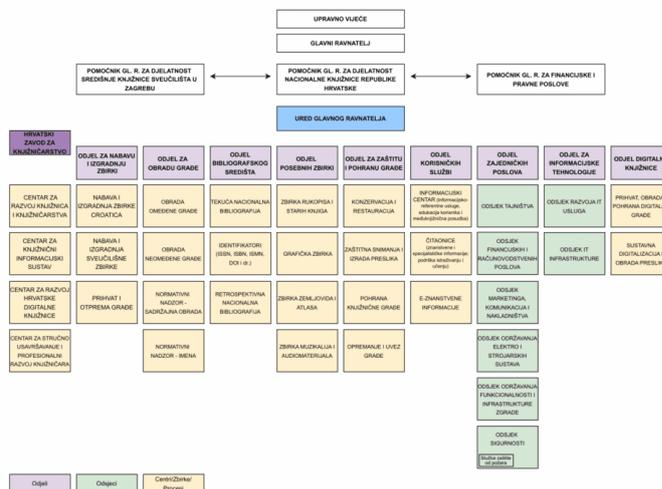
Project CroAtrium

The third phase of the development project *CroAtrium* – Center for Research, Development, and Promotion of the Croatica Collection – was completed by producing a detailed implementation plan for the section of the spaces intended for heritage interpretation and multimedia learning. This is part of the newly renovated space that is already used for public events, exhibitions, conferences, seminars, workshops, and, to a lesser extent, as a space for innovative collaborative learning methods in a digital environment.

Digital Library Department

New public sector salary reform has been successfully applied in accordance with the *Act on Wages of Public and Civil Servants* and *Civil Service Act*. A reorganization of work units and a new job classification for the internal structure regulation of NSK have also been prepared. This regulation came into effect at the beginning of 2025 and serves as the basis for modernizing NSK's operations in the coming years.

As a result of the reorganization, the *Digital Library Department* was implemented and several new structural units (division, departments and processes) were introduced – all without any actual increase in the number of employees.

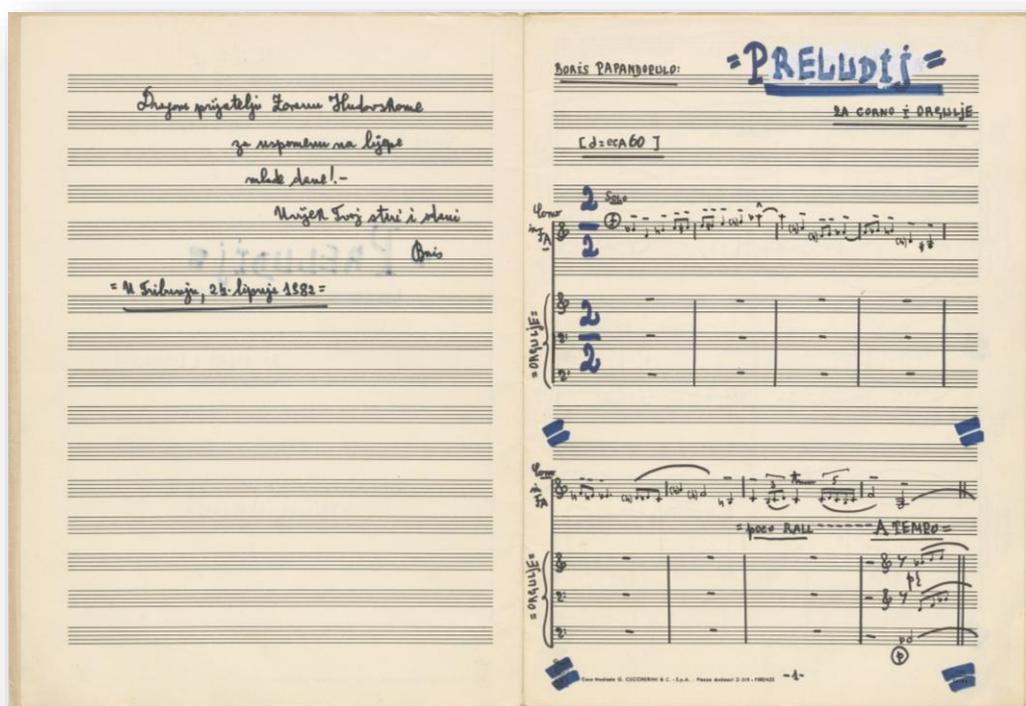


Special acquisitions

The Special Collections of NSK acquired valuable additions during 2024. The Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection was enriched with seven copies of old books and manuscripts. Among the new acquisitions in the Music Collection, the purchase of the legacy of academician Davorin Kempf stands out, including autographs of his scores and the autograph of the composition *Prelude for Horn and Organ* by Boris Papandopulo.

The Map Collection was enhanced by the acquisition of 14 exceptionally valuable maps of Croatia and Europe dating from the 19th and the first half of the 20th century, while the Print Collection was supplemented with eight drawings and eight prints by contemporary Croatian artists.

In 2024, the NSK's holdings were further enriched by valuable personal legacies, most notably those of Borben Vladović and Marija Bašić Uremović, as well as the extensive legacy of Vera Horvat Pintarić, comprising approximately 13,000 books, notes, and working photographs.



Papandopulo, Boris. *Preludij : za corno i orgulje*. Tribunj, 24. 6. 1982.



Marco Antonio de
Dominis

Exhibitions, Events and Editions

Exhibitions

From 18 to 27 September, in cooperation with the Institute for Migration and Ethnic Studies, the Croatian Heritage Foundation, and the National and University Library in Zagreb (NSK), the exhibition *Textbooks and Manuals of Croatian Education Abroad in the 20th Century* was held in the Library's premises as part of the international scholarly conference *Croatian Language and Culture Schools in Overseas Countries*.

The exhibition presented a selection from the rich holdings of the NSK's *Foreign Croatica Collection*, displayed through four thematic sections. This unique exhibition offered insight into the history of Croatian educational literature abroad and highlights the remarkable contribution of the Croatian diaspora to the preservation of language and culture.

On 15 October 2024, NSK hosted the opening of *Marco Antonio de Dominis: A Visionary's Perspective*, an exhibition spotlighting an outstanding Croatian theologian, philosopher and scholar at the turn of the 17th century.

Jointly organised by the Library, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Pontifical Croatian College of St. Jerome in Rome, the exhibition, which took place as part of the 2024 *European Heritage Days* programme, presented the achievements of the Dalmatian visionary through multimedia and digital content.

The Golden Age of the Fountain Pen, the final event of the Library's programme marking the 130th anniversary of the founding of the Library's Manuscripts and Rare Books Collection, opened on 3 December in the Grand lobby.

Organised with the support of the Croatian Ministry of Culture and Media, the exhibition spotlighted the Collection's treasures such as the autograph manuscripts of the world-famous Croatian writer Miroslav Krleža (1893-1981), letters of the internationally acclaimed Croatian sculptor Ivan Meštrović (1883-1962) and those from Albert Einstein to Croatian world-renowned mathematician Vladimir Varićak, thus using this valuable material in order to give an overview of the development of the fountain pen through history.



*Escape Room:
Ivana Brlić
Mažuranić*

Events

The scientific conference *History of the Croatian Language and the Digital Age – Commemorating the 500th Anniversary of Marko Marulić’s Death*, organized by the Institute for the Croatian Language and NSK, was held in the Library on 21 and 22 November. The conference with participation of as many as 39 speakers was organised as a part of the celebration of the *Year of Marko Marulić*, proclaimed by the Government of the Republic of Croatia.

On 19 April NSK hosted an *escape room* event to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić (1874-1938), the author of the iconic works of Croatian children’s literature and a six-time nominee for the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Solving puzzles, almost 500 participants in this exciting game had the opportunity to find out many interesting details about the life of this great Croatian writer and delve into the fascinating world of her fairy tales. Through this one-of-a-kind programme, the participants also got to experience the largest Croatian library in a completely new way and learn that some of the first editions of Brlić-Mažuranić’s works are preserved as part of the Library’s collections.

The thirteenth *Festival of Croatian Digitisation Projects*, the Library’s annual conference spotlighting issues surrounding the digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage, once again brought together experts in heritage digitisation and digital collection management.

After Croatia’s first two decades of heritage digitisation, the 2024 D-fest spotlighted the need for properly assessing Croatian digital heritage collections and using the assessment results to establish the extent to which digitisation and digital content are important for heritage users, as well as for heritage collections themselves.

The Festival’s participants have also had the opportunity to attend workshops on Europeana Impact Framework, Europeana’s tool for evaluating and measuring the impact of digital cultural heritage.



Luko Paljetak
Kajkavske pjesme

Editions

In June, a Latin transcription of the edition of the Senj Glagolitic printing house *Meštrija dobra umrtija s ritualom* (1507/1508), edited by Assoc. Prof. Ivana Eterović and Juraj Matej Kovač, has been presented in the *CroAtrium* space.

The Latin transcription of this edition should contribute to its appropriate evaluation in the history of the Croatian language and literature, and facilitate future philological and other research into the publications of the Senj Glagolitic printing house.

Nine students of the undergraduate study of Croatian Studies at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb, participated in its preparation the course Language of Croatian Glagolitic Books in the 16th Century during the winter semester of the academic year 2022/2023.

Luko Paljetak (1943-2024) was the Library's invaluable collaborator on numerous projects, the author of some 40 poetry collections, a dozen titles of children's literature, radio plays, numerous editorials, commentaries, treatises and more than the rightful holder of several lifetime achievement and literary awards.

Released as part of the *Biblioteka Trilix* series, the last collection of poems by the master of Croatian poetry *Kajkavske pjesme* is dedicated to Dragutin Domjanić, to whom Paljetak paid tribute with poems written in the Kajkavian idiom. This attractive edition is enriched with expressive drawings by Ivan Lovrenčić, one of the most expressive illustrators in contemporary Croatian art, whose many works are preserved as part of the NSK Print Collection.

On 11 December, NSK hosted the presentation of a print portfolio by an award-winning Croatian painter, sculptor and graphic artist Dražen Trogrlić *Galaktički ples / Galactic dance*.

Published by NSK, the portfolio's 15 prints convey the author's vision inspired by the immense and infinite galactic expanses. The Library's 2024 cooperation with this distinguished Croatian artist, who has been enriching the national art scene for over 40 years and during that time proved himself skilful in working with a wide array of media, comes as a sequel to several previous successful similar collaborations.