

NLCR ANNUAL REPORT



Národní knihovna
České republiky
National Library
of the Czech Republic

*We Protect and Make Cultural
Heritage Accessible to Current
and Future Generations*

2024

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The Introduction by the Director General





Dear ladies, gentlemen, colleagues, readers, and users of the National Library of the Czech Republic!

I will begin my opening words in this year's annual report rather untraditionally with a question: *What is the main, defining activity that each of us expects from the National Library of the Czech Republic?* I suppose I would receive a thousand and one answers if I had a chance to talk to each of you. Each answer will undoubtedly be relevant in its own way, depending on the personal and professional needs or preferences of any of you. In our joint evaluation, we would certainly focus on areas related to the guarantee of modern information services, both physical and digital, providing space for your educational and scientific activities, consulting activities for the entire network of Czech libraries, organisation of professional events, and operation of the backbone systems of Czech librarianship. However, if you had asked me the same question at this moment, you would have received – perhaps in view of my ongoing reflection on the past year – a different response.

It is clearly connected to the role of the National Library of the Czech Republic as the guardian of historical memory and the administrator or protector of

cultural heritage at both national and global levels. We may all take for granted this entirely essential function of any national library, viewing it as a given fact that does not raise any questions or needs, and see it only in terms of what is intended to happen and what is actually happening. But the opposite is true. It is a very complex area, where the care of physical and digital documents is intertwined today, and every step of building, administration, and preservation of relevant collections requires specific conditions, professionalism, and proper expertise of the specialised staff. For me, the last year, 2024, will be clearly associated with a wide array of activities that reflect our responsibility to preserve cultural wealth that has emerged from our intellectual potential for future generations. At the end of April 2024, the construction of a new depository – the third in a row – was initiated at the Central Depository Hostivař. This significant investment activity will enable the National Library of the Czech Republic to continue actively caring for its holdings, which grow by 80 thousand volumes in physical form each year. The new depository capacities will primarily be designed for storing collections with a conservation character, mainly aiming to ensure proper physical conditions for their safe preservation. Spaces for the library's first-rate professional workplaces dedicated to the restoration and conservation of book collections, as well as providing valuable assistance in crisis situations, such as the floods that devastated mainly the northern part of Moravia last autumn, will constitute an inseparable part of the depository. With the support of its founder, private donors, the representatives of professional organisations, and other partners, the National Library of the Czech Republic has achieved a unique result in the prevention and management of these emergencies. Within the bold timeframe of a single calendar year, it successfully created a mobile unit for the preservation and conservation of

book cultural heritage, which, under an aptly symbolic name of Ark I, was sent to war-torn Ukraine, where it will serve to save the cultural memory of this sorely tried nation. This mobile unit clearly showcases the creative and expert abilities of the National Library of the Czech Republic to implement a one-of-a-kind project, with no international parallel, while considering the global preservation of cultural heritage. Adequate care, preservation, and presentation of digital collections were not overlooked in the past year either. The National Library of the Czech Republic has prepared and launched several projects funded by the National Recovery Plan aimed at improving the software and hardware infrastructure for long-term archiving of digital data, including the unique content of the website archive. Furthermore, it created new modules for access, with significant progress in scientific research with historical documents in the Manuscriptorium Digital Library.

It is clear, not only from the aforementioned lines, that the National Library of the Czech Republic is fully aware of its unique position as an educational, cultural, open, and inclusive memory institution, which conscientiously cares for the documents of our rich history that form our current identity. Concurrently, it preserves documents in printed and electronic forms as evidence of the contemporary world of thought for future generations. This is indeed a great responsibility.

In conclusion, I would like to extend my gratitude to all of you for believing in our efforts, supporting us, and co-shaping the daily activities of the National Library of the Czech Republic. In brief, thank you for being with us.

Mgr. Tomáš Foltýn
Director General



The Year's Events



The Commencement of the Completion of the Central Depository in Prague-Hostivař

As early as the autumn of 2023, a tender for the building contractor of the second phase of the new depository at the Central Depository of the National Library of the Czech Republic in Hostivař, which lasted more than one year, was concluded (with the contract price amounting to CZK 556,622 mil. without VAT). The contract with the winning applicant was signed in September 2023; however, due to the ongoing construction on the grounds (reconstruction of the external envelope of the original building), the construction was only launched in March 2024. The tapping of the foundation stone was conducted by Tomáš Foltýn, Director General of the National Library of the Czech Republic, along with Martin Baxa, Czech Minister of Culture, the representatives of the general project architect – the executive director Lubor Hoďánek, the main author of the project Jan Janoušek, and the representative of the general supplier, sales manager Vít Kolářek.

The new building is interconnected with the building of the first stage of the extension, completed in December 2012, by its southern wall and two connecting necks leading to the original depository from the last century. Completing this project required significant patience from the employees currently working in both buildings. The rough construction of the new facility was successfully finished in December 2024. According to the contractual schedule, the entire construction will be completed in March 2026.



Tapping of the foundation stone for the third building of the Central Depository Hostivař.

The new building will feature four storeys of storage facilities, providing space for approximately three million books. This capacity will sufficiently support the growth of book collections for the NL CR, including the mandatory prints, which amount to about 90,000 volumes per year. Additionally, a specialised study room for large-format documents, which was previously missing in the NL CR, will be established.

Other Significant Investment Achievements

In March 2024, **the reconstruction of the outer shell of the original depository** at the Central Depository Hostivař (CDH) was finalised (the overall price amounting to CZK 41,170 mil. without VAT). The NL CR has been using the depository since the mid-1990s. Partial reconstruction of the facility was completed in 2020, with the outer shell unfortunately not being included due to a shortage of funds. Therefore, the NL CR strongly invited the possibility of its renovation

as an independent undertaking. The construction work, including the complete replacement of windows, was conducted while the building was in full operation.

In December 2024, **the reconstruction of a detour road** in the CDH was finished (the overall price amounting to CZK 5,392 mil. without VAT). In the spring of 2025, landscaping will be completed and road lights added.

In July 2024, a building permit was granted for **the third stage of the Klementinum Grounds Revitalisation**. The work on the overall concept of the area dates back to 2007. The initial intention of the NL CR was to commence the third stage of construction immediately after the second stage of revitalisation, i.e. in 2017. Unfortunately, this did not materialise due to a prolonged consensus between the requirements of the heritage care employees and the library's efforts for greater comfort to align with the needs of contemporary users.

In October, **the restoration of 48 historical tables** (the overall price amounting to CZK 2,340 mil. without VAT) in the General Reading Room was completed. The restoration was conducted under the conscientious supervision of a representative of the National Heritage Institute, the guarantor of the Klementinum as a national cultural monument, over seven months.

Smaller investment undertakings included **the installation of a backup cooling facility** for the information technologies in the Klementinum (the overall price amounting to CZK 3,508 mil. without VAT). Until now, water from the River Vltava has provided the source for cooling all the depositories and technologies. However, particularly in recent years, this source has become uncertain due to the decreasing river level

and substantial pollution. The backup source was placed in the attic, and the outdoor unit was installed in a newly built chimney that replicates the original chimney, which is no longer functional.

100 Years of the Slavonic Library

In 2024, the Slavonic Library, a research library specialising in Slavic studies, celebrated its centenary. It was founded in November 1924 under the administration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 1958, it was one of the institutions that joined and created the State Library of Czechoslovakia, now the National Library of the Czech Republic. It has remained part of the latter as an independent department.

The library's centenary was ushered in by the 2024 calendar for librarians, prepared regularly by the National Library of the Czech Republic, which focused on the Slavonic Library.

The concert of Ondřej Havelka and his Melody Makers for the library's employees, partners, supporters, and friends of the Slavonic Library inaugurated the centenary celebrations in the Mirror Chapel of the Klementinum on 11 April.

The activities related to the anniversary culminated with a social evening that involved the opening of the exhibition *100 Years of the Slavonic Library (1924–2024)* held in the Vine Courtyard of the Klementinum on 5 September. The event was attended by the Minister of Culture, Martin Baxa, three former directors general of the National Library, and many other guests, including a group of seven foreign Slavonic librarians. The latter participated in an international symposium 'Slavic Studies Librarianship and Its Influence on

Contemporary Public Education' organised for the Slavonic Library centenary.

Three scientific books associated with the Slavonic Library were published for the anniversary: the monograph of Lukáš Babka, *Slovanská knihovna 1924–2024 (Průvodce po dějinách, fondech a službách)* [The Slavonic Library 1914–2024: A Guide to History, Collections, and Services], the bibliography by Tereza Rejdová, *Slovanská knihovna v tisku a dalších médiích: bibliografie za léta 1979–2023* [The Slavonic Library in the Press and Other Media: Bibliography From 1979–2023], and the catalogue of Jan Hanousek, *Sbírka dokumentů k dějinám Slovanské knihovny (1924–2024): inventář* [The Collection of Documents on the History of the Slavonic Library, 1924–2024: The Inventory]. Additionally, several magazine articles were published, and the library was presented in the media as well.



Introducing the representative publication for the Slavonic Library centenary.

The library's centenary is also associated with the virtual collection 'The Work of the Slavonic Library' created within the National Digital Library, which provides digital copies of all books published by the library throughout its existence.

The podcast *Rewrite History*, with its episode 'One Hundred Years of the Slavonic Library' published on 25 September 2024, has sparked significant public interest.

The library's centenary was also acknowledged by its employees and at specialised events. In April, L. Babka spoke about the library at the Professional Forum organised by the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. In June, he presented a paper at the annual conference of COSEELIS (Council for Slavonic and East European Library and Information Services) in Oxford, United Kingdom. Furthermore, he prepared a summarising contribution for the 48th National Workshop of Librarians at Museums and Galleries (The Librarianship AMG Committee) held in Brno in mid-September. Rita Lyons Kindlerová presented the history and activities of the Slavonic Library at the conference 'Challenges and Current Issues in Czech Slavonic Studies: Language – Literature – History – Archaeology – Art History' which took place in Prague at the end of September.

The notional conclusion of the celebration was marked by the attendance of L. Babka and R. Lyons Kindlerová at the 56th Annual ASEES Convention (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) in Boston, USA, in November 2024. The paper on the library's centenary was part of the panel 'Celebrating Three Historic Slavic Collections on Their Anniversary Year: New Work, Prague, and Helsinki'. Two other papers

related to the anniversary, which were part of the round table programme, 'New Initiatives in the Digital Humanities in Libraries, Archives, and Museums' as well as the panel 'National Awakeners in Carpathian Rus', were also positively accepted.



The international symposium attendees.

The Creation of the Mobile Unit for the Preservation and Protection of the Library Collections to Preserve Ukrainian Book Cultural Heritage

In conjunction with the Ministry of Culture, the Czech National Council of ICOM, and the Military Technical Institute, and with the support of private donors, the NL CR developed a mobile preservation unit called Ark I for the treatment of rare manuscripts, books, and archival documents that have been damaged or threatened during emergencies. Designed in collaboration with restorers, military experts, and other technicians, this specialised container is equipped with essential

conservation procedures. Ark I was prepared in a record time of less than eight months and handed over to the Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine in Kyiv to aid in preserving objects of cultural heritage. The extraordinary project Ark I is the result of a unique collaboration between the public and private sectors within the programme Support of Ukrainian Culture.

The NL CR has been developing the concept of a mobile unit for the preservation of library collections for almost fifteen years. The first visions related to creating this special mobile unit were defined in 2010. Its primary goal was to preserve our cultural heritage stored in libraries, archives, and museums in the event of natural disasters, especially floods. The current version of the unit was inspired by international projects, such as the one in Cologne, where a similar unit was used to rescue archival collections damaged by the collapse of a building.

The mobile conservation workstation is designed to preserve Ukraine's written heritage, ensuring it remains in its best condition for future generations.



Ark I Mobile Workstation.

The costs associated with establishing the workstation, including the necessary facilities and materials, for a fixed period, amount to CZK 10.5 million. The NL CR procured the facilities and materials thanks to the contributions from MND a. s., the Karel Komárek Family Foundation, and Mr Libor Winkler and his friends.

The goal of the Ark I workstation is to provide an initial intervention aimed at protecting collections affected by a natural disaster or similar event. This ensures first aid during disasters that cause extensive and varied damage to library collections or written cultural heritage in general, directly in the afflicted area, where the collections are threatened. The basic element is a mobile unit made from a modified container, which houses devices for acute and immediate intervention and emergency repairs of library collections, including handy storage for necessary materials. In addition to transport equipment and materials for packaging and interlaying, employees have access to IT equipment, as well as equipment for photo documentation, quality lighting, cleaning, record keeping and labelling, devices for specialist operations, personal protective



equipment, laboratory glass and plastic, equipment for emergency repairs, and selected chemicals for interventions. Operations are conducted in sub-locations within the container, organising the workflow of rescue operations in a logical sequence. The advantage of mobility is the ability to transport this specifically furnished workstation to the site of the disaster or conflict and intervene within several hours or days. The first 48 hours are decisive, which is a crucial point for timely and effective care.

Additionally, the potential for international assistance is significant. We are members of an informal group, or network of restoration workplaces around the world, as well as PRESCONS and IFLA, and these contacts can be used when rapid and effective interventions are necessary.

The staff of the Department of Book Collection Preservation (OOKF) substantially contributed to the preparation of online training and instructional videos for Ukrainian librarians as part of the Ark I project. A training session entitled Rescuing the Written Cultural Heritage was organised via the Zoom platform and consisted of four blocks from June to August 2024. More than 275 participants from various libraries and cultural institutions enrolled in the training, despite power outages that disrupted the connections of some colleagues. Therefore, the training was recorded for future reference.

The Implementation of New Services of the National Library Based on RFID Technology

The year 2024 was a key period for implementing RFID technology in the NL CR. This project has been in preparation since 2022, aiming to improve the preservation of library collections, specify their registration, facilitate the search for unfound units, and modernise the circulation of book documents, including the establishment of self-service and contactless services for users. The project is divided into several stages that continue in time and content.

The preparatory stage of the project was initiated with the conclusion of a contract with the RFID technology supplier in February 2024. From May to the end of the year, the technology to chip the library collections was gradually delivered: 1.842 mil. pieces of RFID labels (chips), workstations, security gates, self-checks, a check-out box, and a self-service return machine.

The RFID labels were tested at the Department of Development and Research Laboratories (OVVL), which falls within the OOKF's oversight. The examination focused on quality, long-term stability, and interaction with library collection materials. The testing involved the following methods: Oddy test, artificial ageing, resistance to UV radiation, solubility in water, and identification of materials using an FTIR spectrometer. Due to the satisfactory results, a large-scale adjustment of RFID labels to selected library collections could be implemented. The Department of Preventive Conservation, which also falls under the OOKF, addressed the adjustment of RFID labels on books or appendices with no vacant space for labelling and the risk of covering text or other important information. In the case of bicycle maps, tourist guides, and encyclopaedias, it is

impossible to find an unprinted space; therefore, the chips are glued 'loosely'. The chips are adhered to the Filmolux film, which is then placed onto the upper edge of the page. Because the film is transparent, it does not cover any text or images. Moreover, documents chipped this way can be digitised.

The preparations further involved creating methodical instructions on the application of RFID labels. These instructions included specifics related to the chipping of various collections and providing training for the NL CR employees.



The check-out box at the library's main entrance.

Beginning in September 2024, RFID technology began to be used to preserve collections and modernise services. The Slavonic Library was the first to adopt RFID for assisted lending, which was also introduced in the Main Hall and the Library and Information Science Literature Library at the end of September. In November, the first self-service option based on RFID was launched – a check-out box located at the main entrance of the library in the Klementinum. The box allows users to pick up books ordered online throughout the day.

The Implementation of Goals Resulting From the National Library of the Czech Republic Development Strategy for 2024–2027

In 2024, the NL CR began to fulfil the ambitious goals set in the document *We're Creating a Library. The National Library! The National Library of the Czech Republic Development Strategy for 2024–2027*. This crucial text defines the course of the library in seven main areas:

1. Permanent preservation of national cultural heritage in all its forms
2. Modern services for society
3. Science and research
4. Digitisation and eData
5. Central position of the NL CR in the library system
6. International position of the NL CR
7. Human resources

Working groups were established for these specific areas, identifying concrete steps to achieve the defined goals. Thanks to their efforts, the first partial goals were successfully implemented. The most significant results achieved in 2024 include preparations for the relocation of collections and the launch of construction for a new building at the Central Depository Hostivař, which will create the necessary capacity for the effective administration and preservation of collections. A notable advancement was the systematic processing of collections and their ongoing retrospective conversion, during which records from card catalogues are gradually converted

into an electronic format to improve the collections' accessibility for users.

Another important milestone was the implementation of RFID technology for chipping the volumes and modernising the processes of the library collection administration. The Main Hall and spaces for users were also modernised. A new navigation system was initiated to facilitate visitor access to the NL CR buildings. The self-service offer has been improved, for example, in the lending system, which contributes to greater comfort for users.

The National Library continued to publish the outcomes of science and research, solidifying its role as a research organisation. A *Digitisation Strategy for Modern Documents for 2024–2027*, which clearly defines priorities for the digitisation of significant titles, has been developed. Progress has also been seen in digital libraries, stabilising the operation of Manuscriptorium and launching the fourth version of this crucial digital platform.

Additionally, the year 2024 was marked by international activities, especially those associated with the celebrations of the Slavonic Library centenary, which enhanced the reputation of the NL CR abroad. The internal communication strategy has also improved, including the preparation of welcome packages for new employees, which contributes to a better working environment. All these steps clearly demonstrate the National Library's resolve to fulfil its mission and become a modern, open, and effective institution.

New Presentation of the National Library in the Google Arts & Culture Project and the Manuscriptorium's New Research Environment

In 2024, the NL CR established a partnership with the Google Arts & Culture platform to provide the general public with access to the library's rich collections through modern technologies. This cooperation enables users from around the world to virtually explore the Baroque spaces of the Klementinum, view more than 200 historical documents, including the rare *Vyšehrad Codex*, and learn about digital exhibitions prepared by the library.

The development of the fourth version of the Manuscriptorium Digital Library continued, aiming to meet the current requirements of other scientific branches working with historical library collections and to address the general tendencies for access to the digital environment in the humanities. Using 'quantitative codicology', the structured data characteristics were carefully examined, enabling the heuristic creation of new topics based on hard-to-discover contexts. Drawing on this knowledge, a pilot plant module was developed to notify the user about these options with the functionality *You might be interested* and to allow semi-automatic analysis of full texts. As a by-product, an AI debugger was created, i.e. the draft and development of a client application for debugging AI prompts. The application enables end users to create prompts, receive a real-time response through the API, and verify the correctness of outcomes.

Throughout 2024, full texts were added, including the standardisation of coding and their correlation with image data and relevant metadata, while integration of data from other sources continued.

Significant Exhibition and Cultural Activities in 2024

Why We Do Not Lend You All Books or the Permanent Preservation of Modern Collections in the National Library

This unique exhibition took place at the Klementinum Gallery from 22 March to 31 May. It was prepared by the Collections Management staff in collaboration with colleagues from the Department of Modern Digital Collections and the OOKF. In an engaging format, the exhibition presented the management and permanent storage, along with the related issues of preservation and digitisation of the modern collections of the NL CR. It showcased the collections of the National Archival Collections Management, Universal Collections Management, and other designated collections. Attention was paid to the basic protection of the collections, including cleaning, protective packaging, deacidification, and more. Furthermore, the exhibition illustrated the process of selecting documents for digitisation and access in the digital library. Interesting exhibits were displayed, many of which visitors could try or actively inspect, including the digital library. Throughout the duration, 18 guided tours were conducted.



The exhibition was an extraordinary occasion to introduce the modern collections of the NL CR to the public and present their importance and necessity for preservation in the future. A total of 3,021 people visited the exhibition, making it the most successful show held at the Klementinum Gallery in 2024.

Bibliotheca Astronomica. Astronomical Prints of the 15th–17th Centuries From the Collections of the National Library of the Czech Republic

Held at the Klementinum Gallery from 18 October to 18 December, the exhibition provided visitors with unique insight into the history of astronomy and book printing, presenting rare astronomical books and highlighting their impact on the development of scientific knowledge. The exhibition showcased the works of prominent astronomers, including Nicolaus Copernicus, Tycho Brahe, and Johannes Kepler. Additionally, it focused on the role of the printing press which made astronomical knowledge more widely available and fundamentally changed the way it was recorded and visualised.

Not only did the exhibition map the development of astronomy, but it also featured the stories of the previous owners of these printed books, such as scholars, physicians, noblemen, and monastic libraries. The most remarkable exhibits included newly discovered wall calendars from the 15th century, a unique astronomical clock, and the first printed books with sophisticated wood engravings. Among the most interesting works on display were: *Astronomicum Caesareum* by Petrus Apianus (1540), *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium* by Nicolaus Copernicus (1566), astronomy prints by Tadeáš Hájek of Hájek (1574 and 1578), *Astronomiae instauratae mechanica* by Tycho

Brahe (1598), *Astronomiae pars optica* with Johannes Kepler's dedication to the professors of Charles College (1604), Johannes Kepler's *Rudolphine Tables* (1627), Dialogues by Galileo Galilei (1635), extensive texts by Johannes Hevelius (1647 and 1668), and Bohemian prints of the Jesuits (1621–1687).

The on-site exhibition was complemented by four digital exhibitions, providing a broader context for the displayed works through interactive elements. The online content focused primarily on students and the non-professional public, highlighting the most interesting details of historical astronomical manuscripts and prints.

Both professional and amateur visitors appreciated the opportunity to download a free electronic catalogue with detailed information on the exhibits. The exhibition was organised as part of the research project NAKI III: The Roots and Fruits of European Science in Bohemian, Moravian, and Silesian Historical Library Collections, a joint project of the National Library and the National Museum, National Heritage Institute, Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Olomouc Museum of Art.



Summer Schools Organised in Collaboration with the Department of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books

In 2024, for the first time in its history, the NL CR became involved in teaching at significant international summer schools focused on historical manuscripts, digital humanities, and cultural influences in history. The first, *Chronicles of Preservation: Bridging Manuscripts and Modernity*, was held in Prague and Třeboň between 3 and 7 June. It was organised in collaboration with the University of St Andrews, State Regional Archives Třeboň, and the Faculty of Arts of Charles University. The programme was focused on digital humanities and their application in manuscript studies, including a workshop dedicated to the preparation of parchments and restoration practices. Twenty-five international and ten Czech experts and students participated in this school. The second summer school, entitled *Preaching and Conflict*, was organised in Prague from 15 to 19 July by the NL CR, Faculty of Arts of Charles University, and the Centre for Medieval Studies of the CAS. It addressed the role of preaching in historical conflicts. The programme included lectures, textual analyses, and discussions on cultural and religious influences, and it continued the eponymous conference organised by the Centre for Medieval Studies. Thirty experts and students from various countries attended. The third summer school, *Medieval Manuscripts: From Digital to Material*, took place in Prague and Třeboň between 22 and 28 September. It was organised by the Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Humboldt University, the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, the NL CR, and the State Regional Archives Třeboň. The summer school combined digital methods with traditional palaeographic approaches during the analysis of medieval manuscripts. The programme involved

multispectral imaging, work with palimpsests, and the production of paper. Among the attendees were twenty-five students and ten teachers from France, Germany, Austria, and Slovakia.

The National Library as an Active Employer – New Approaches in Education, International Mobility, and Internal Communication

The year 2024 marked the preparation and implementation of a new internal education system for the NL CR employees. The new approach to systematic education emphasises the comprehensive development of employees' competencies, effective knowledge transfer across departments, and enhanced collaboration throughout the organisation. The education system is multi-levelled, comprising training for managers, employees, the internal team of educators, new employees, and others, ensuring this diversification leads to more effective impacts on the professional and personal development of the library staff.

A total of five training events were held (involving 156 participants in total), focused on the **organizational and managerial competencies of senior staff**. These training sessions helped the senior staff to better manage their departments and sections regarding labour law and staff remuneration, and they were also introduced to, for example, budgeting and the possibilities of publishing their work in professional journals.

The newly assembled internal team of educators organised seven training sessions for all employees,

attended by a total of 354 individuals. The topics covered a wide range of areas, primarily presenting the activities of the individual departments and sections. The addressed topics included, for example: **Care for Library Collections to Preserve Them for Future Generations**, focusing on the correct handling of library collections; **Licensed Databases of the National Library** regarding the possibilities of using a wide range of electronic sources; **What Are Collections or An Introductory Insight into Modern Collections at the National Library** providing a basic orientation in the management of the extensive collections of our institution. Additionally, the **Librarianship Institute Introduction** clarified its role and activities in the context of the NL CR and the library system throughout the Czech Republic to employees. The creators of exhibitions at the Klementinum Gallery gave guided tours to a total of 125 colleagues.

A series of first aid and wellbeing training sessions was held, as well as innovative introductory tours for new employees.

The National Recovery Plan – The National Library Has Partnered on the Project with the Municipal Library in Prague

In 2024, the NL CR continued as a partner in the project 'Culture Educates and Connects'. The educational facilities were provided by the Municipal Library in Prague (MLP) and our institution. By training managers of cultural institutions and individuals working in culture, the project systematically and regularly developed their digital skills, financial literacy, and management skills, including communication skills.

The NL CR held five educational events (<https://microsite.mlp.cz/cs/kultura-vzdelava>). Employees of the NL CR attended educational events in Prague and other locations. On its website, the Librarianship Institute focused on the offerings of all involved organisations (<https://ipk.nkp.cz/programy-podpory/narodni-plan-obnovy-kultura>), and all NL CR employees were regularly informed via e-mail. In 2024, the NL CR concluded a new grant agreement with the Czech National Agency for International Education and Research regarding the continuation of the Erasmus+ project (2024-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000225419), receiving a financial contribution of EUR 65,510 for the next project period.



The Library's Main Activities



Providing Access to Digital Collections

Archiving Data

In 2024, the Digital Collections Standards Department expanded the Standard of the National Digital Library (NDL), which consists of a set of methodologies called Metadata Format Definitions (MFD) for various types of documents and their Description Rules. During the year, the department published a new metadata standard for archiving data prints and updated the following methodologies: MFD for the digitisation of printed monographs in version 2.2, MFD for the digitisation of periodicals in version 2.1, and updated the ALTO XML notation rules. Furthermore, MFD for born-digital documents were updated: MFD for e-monographs in version 3.0, MFD for e-periodicals in version 2.5, and MFD for folded periodicals in version 1.2. To validate data created according to the latest versions of the NDL Standard, the tool Comprehensive Validator was updated. It verifies created data with rules for long-term archiving. Additionally, the website version of this tool was updated, serving its users as a fully-fledged alternative to its desktop version.

The service ČIDLO (Czech System for Identification and Localisation of Documents of Digital Cultural Heritage), shows that 160 registrars (memory institutions) were registered in 2024, which can assign persistent identifiers to new documents. In total, 230,467 identifiers were assigned to new digitised documents in 2024.

As part of its institutional research, the department addressed the issue of copyright metadata and the current possibilities of their noting. At the close of

the year, Pavlína Kočišová published a professional article regarding this issue, which dealt with the current use of copyright information in the management of the National Library's Long-Term Preservation (LTP). The article also compared the available metadata formats in terms of their suitability for Czech digitising institutions.

Long-Term Preservation and Access to Digital Documents

During 2024, the LTP system received 56,960 archival packages, and the total volume of preserved data reached 400 TB. The newly stored data includes 13,211 packages from external producers – documents submitted to the NL CR through the VISK 7 grant programme. Compared to 2023, three times more packages were updated under the logical data protection, bringing the total number of updated packages to 6,000 in the past year. Thus, more than 2,500,000 new pages were made available in the NDL, and over 1,000,000 were made publicly available. In total, the NDL reached a number of more than 76,000,000 pages, with 13,000,000 pages publicly available and 45,000,000 pages remotely accessible upon login. In 2024, the curator addressed no less than 460 email queries related to the functioning of the NDL, the availability of documents through Works Unavailable on the Market (DNNT), and more. Additionally, queries related to VISK 7 were consulted (17 in total) and data replications (25 queries). Work also continued on creating and completing *virtual collections*. The department's staff participated in research projects, such as Smart digilinka – machine learning for digitising printed heritage, Orbis Pictus – Reviving Books for Cultural and Creative Industries, or the large research infrastructure LINDAT-CLARIAH/cz. From 2024 onwards, the Department of Digital Documents

Management and Archiving has been contributing more significantly to the content management of the Czech Digital Library (CDL), which currently includes 13 digital libraries. Collaboration in the field of digital humanities also continued, mainly by providing researchers with data for further use.

In addition, the Department of Digital Documents Management and Archiving presented its activities – between March and May, guided tours were held for the exhibition *Why We Do Not Lend You All Books or the Permanent Preservation of Modern Collections in the National Library* (see Exhibition Activities), along with the presentation of a long-term depository and the digital library. At the Book World Fair, individuals could learn about online services as well as how to work with the NDL at the National Library's stand. In May, the NL CR presented its activities in the field of long-term archiving as well as the department's activities at the online conference Digital Libraries: Storage for Now and Forever, organised by the National Library of Poland. Apart from the Czech Republic, representatives from libraries in Poland, Norway, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Estonia, Ukraine, Georgia, and Romania shared their experiences. Another webinar for the public, focused on the CDL, was organised as part of the Week for Digital Czechia. Participants could get acquainted with its content and practical procedures for searching for information. During the year, cooperation with university students continued through the organisation of several tours for them.

Webarchive

In 2024, the Webarchive accumulated 69,31 TB of new data, bringing the total data volume to over 648 TB. Outside the NL CR's building, 212 sources were made accessible – 132 sources based on licence agreements and 80 sources were made available under the Creative Commons licence. The *thematic collections* created last year include, for example, a collection focused on European Parliament elections, the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris, elections to the Senate of the CR and regional governments, and a collection that reflects the extensive floods that last September affected a major part of the Czech Republic and other European countries. The genesis of the collection of sources concentrated on 100 years from the death of Franz Kafka involved colleagues from the national libraries in Germany (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek), Austria (Österreichische Nationalbibliothek), and Israel (National Library of Israel). The Webarchive continued to assemble long-term collections, such as those focused on the sources of Charles University, the Czech Academy of Sciences, disinformation websites or the collection of profiles of politicians, journalists, and other figures or themes that resonate on social media. Furthermore, it contributed to international collections initiated by the International Internet Preservation Consortium, a consortium of web archives, oriented on the war in Ukraine and the Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games in Paris.

The Webarchive staff presented their activities to both the academic community and the general public at the Professional Forum held in the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, where they demonstrated the essence of a web archivist's role. Furthermore,

they published an article on large data mining in the journal *Čtenář* [Reader] and introduced the web archive to the public at the Book World Fair. Additionally, they delivered presentations for the Institute of the Czech National Corpus at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, representatives of the National Library of Estonia, and students from the University of Pardubice. Furthermore, they provided expert consultations for an article on the decomposition of the Internet in *Wired* journal. Within institutional research, the investigators focused on the disappearance of web resources cited in academic papers and their protection, resulting in a peer-reviewed article in *Knižnica* [Library] journal.

Manuscriptorium

In 2024, Manuscriptorium aimed to address the current requirements of other scientific fields that work with historical library collections, as well as general trends in access to the digital environment within the humanities. At this point, it can be briefly summarised that artificial intelligence (AI) was employed in research for the first time, which will not only enhance the heuristics and reveal previously unknown thematic links between published documents, but will also enrich the descriptive metadata to provide access to the content for a wider range of end users. Integration of new content continued, along with the addition of full texts, including the standardisation of encoding and their correlation with image data and relevant metadata. The development of the Manuscriptorium Digital Library is further detailed in the section dedicated to research and development activities and other projects of the NL CR (see Area 4. Digital Codicology and Librarianships). At the end of 2024, Manuscriptorium contained 409,590 records, 171,025 complex digital documents, and 23,415 convolutes.

Research and Development Activities and Further Projects

Research and Development

A. Institutional Research: The Long-Term Concept of Developing the Research Organisation at the National Library of the Czech Republic

- Project period: 2024–2028
- Coordinator: Mgr. Zuzana Bolerazká, Ph.D.
- Financial support: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
- URL: <https://www.nkp.cz/en/about-us/professional-activities/projects>

The National Library of the Czech Republic assessed research within the extended updated version of the *Long-Term Concept of Developing the Research Organisation at the National Library of the Czech Republic for 2019–2023*. Concurrently, an investigation into the *Long-Term Concept for Developing the Research Organisation at the National Library of the Czech Republic for 2024–2028* was initiated.

Area 1

Research into the History of Book Culture

- Project leader: Mgr. Lucie Heilandová, Ph.D.

The research team members continued to identify the original owners of medieval and modern manuscripts and early printed books deposited in the NL CR. Palaeographic and codicological research on the manuscripts, as well as provenance research, was conducted, and provenance information was added to early modern manuscripts and early printed books,

accompanied by a full transcription of ownership notes. During the provenance research, the primary focus was on collections that were originally in monastic collections, the observation of bonds among various institutions, and their donors. The processing of the collection originally from the Lobkowitz Library in Prague continued: regarding manuscripts, the main focus was on the originally Sternberg-Manderscheid Collection of manuscripts, while, in the case of early printed books, a specimen survey was conducted in the collection from the originally Lobkowitz Library in Prague to identify volumes originating from the Czernin Family Library. In addition, research of Bohemian prints, both in memory institutions in the Czech Republic and abroad, continued, along with the processing of book illustrations in 16th-century Bohemian prints and adding the content to www.e-ilustrace.cz database. One monograph was published: *Knihovna mistra Křišťana z Prachatic* [The Library of Master Cristannus of Prachatic] (Michal Dragoun). In addition, three members of the team published three scholarly studies: *Rukopisy z březnické jezuitské koleje v Národní knihovně České republiky* [Manuscripts From the Březnice Jesuit College in the National Library of the Czech Republic] (Michal Dragoun), *Bohemikální část šternbersko-manderscheidské rukopisné sbírky v zaniklé palácové knihovně na Malé Straně* [The Bohemian Part of the Sternberg-Manderscheid Collection of Manuscripts] (Milada Svobodová), and *The Library and Manuscripts of Kunhuta, Royal Daughter and Abbess of St. George's* (Renáta Modráková). The research team members contributed three articles to a popular history journal *Dějiny a současnost: Klášter nám zrušili a knihy sebrali... Knihovna klarisek z Chebu* [History and Present: They Closed the Convent and Took Our Books... The Library of the Poor Clares From Cheb] (Renáta Modráková), *Yucatán na starých mapách renesance a baroka* [Yucatan in Renaissance and Baroque Old Maps] (Jakub Fryje), *'Klíče' Antonína*

Koniáše a počátky české retrospektivní bibliografie [The 'Keys' of Antonín Koniáš and the Beginnings of Bohemian Retrospective Bibliography] (David Mach).

Area 2

Musicology

→ Project leader: Mgr. Ludmila Šmídová, Ph.D.

The musicology team commenced comprehensive research and detailed processing of the Ludvík Hornov Collection and continued working on the collection of the Hübner family of teachers in Dlouhý Most. In the historical collection of the Prague Conservatory Archives, the records of part of the Elisa Šliková Collection were reviewed, and several dozen items from the manuscript collection and autograph collection were sorted and processed. The cataloguing of operas in the Schwarzenberg Collection in Český Krumlov was initiated, with a focus on verifying the sources and conducting a detailed review of church music within this collection. In the RISM, more items of the music collection were processed: from the Church of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Litomyšl, the Church of St Gall in the Skalsko region, the sheet-music collection from the Church of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary in Zvíkovec, and the music collection of the Church of St John the Baptist in Teplice.

An interim internal database was designed and established, incorporating collections from the Union Music Catalogue (originally on paper cataloguing records and inventories). The database now contains 773 collections deposited in 16 types of institutions in the Czech Republic (archives, theatres, parish offices, monasteries, libraries, churches, museums, orchestral archives, personality memorials, radio stations, private collections, schools, castle and palace libraries, large

estates, etc.). The data for individual collections includes location and contact details, collection siglum, provenance, information about the period from which the documents in the collection originate, details regarding its scope and content, bibliography, information about whether the collection was previously recorded and in which catalogues, and whether and when the collection was processed. This is supplemented by individuals – e.g. composers or copiers associated with the collection. The database was presented at the RISM workshop in May (see below).

Continuously, records were added to the filigree database, now numbering 1,687, and the database of music prints from the Marco Berry publishing house, now numbering 1,706.

Performance material was prepared for the anniversary of Josef Leopold Zvonař, a remarkable contemporary of Bedřich Smetana, and the modern premiere of his *Piano Quartet in B Major* was staged (within the scientific symposium 'Stejného roku, nestejného rodu' Zvonař – Heller – Pivoda 1824/2024 held at the National Library of the Czech Republic on 23 May).

The monograph *P. Augustin Schenkirž OSB (1736–1797): Benediktinský mnich a skladatel* [P. Augustin Schenkirž OSB /1736–1797): A Benedictine Monk and Composer] (Jiří Mikuláš) was published in the *Varia de musica* edition. Following the edition of the early version of Antonín Dvořák's *Concert for Piano and Orchestra in G Minor, Op. 33* (ed. Ludmila Šmídová, pub. in 2023), the performance materials (solo part and orchestral parts) were being prepared.

The musicologists Pavel Kordík and Annini Tsiutis began the initial sorting of materials from the estate

of Ivan Vojtěch, proposing a classification of preserved materials and creating a preliminary list.

The research results were presented at the conference Poohří 13. Preservation of Historical Memory, Louny, 17–18 October 2024 (Eliška Šedivá's paper 'Music Collection of the Strachota Family of Teachers From Panenský Týnec') and the conference Musical Monuments in Memory, Scientific, and Cultural Institutions, Bratislava, 23–24 October 2024 (Eliška Šedivá's paper 'News of the Czech RISM Working Group').

On 16 May, the Music Department organised a full-day workshop – RISM seminar in the NL CR (E. Šedivá addressed the following topics: The RISM Coordination Committee, comparing the RISM Opac and RISM Online catalogues, Beta version of RISM, Cataloguing in the Muscat programme: frequently asked questions, new functions, the Filigree Database (BWD) and RISM, Thematic Catalogues of Music Collection within the NLCR edition *Catalogus artis musicae in Bohemia et Moravia cultae*, The Database of Bohemian and Moravian Music Collections, the Union Music Catalogue and Its Evaluation in the Online Environment, and more).

In 2024, popularisation studies regarding the investigation of the historical collection of correspondence in the Music Department of the NL CR were published, along with studies on the Music Department founder Ladislav Vycpálek and the research of the Ludvík Horňov Music Collection at the Music Department of the NL CR (*Dějiny a současnost* 2024, Nos. 1/2, 5 and 7).

Area 3

Slavonic Studies

→ Project leader: PhDr. Lukáš Babka

The subject of this area is the professional development of the Slavonic scientific discipline and Slavonic librarianship, managed by the independent Slavonic Library (SL) department within the NL CR. The aim is to conduct professional research on the collection of historical manuscripts, early printed books, cartographic and visual collections in the SL, as well as to investigate specific phenomena related to the existence of the library and the composition of its collection.

As part of research, cataloguing, and preparation of the catalogue of historical manuscript books in the SL Collection, 15 manuscripts were thoroughly processed in 2024.

Four manuscript books and one manuscript map from the SL Collection were researched, catalogued according to relevant parameters, and subsequently digitised. Their copies are available in the Manuscriptorium Digital Library.

Research and cataloguing of the collection of historical cartographic documents in the SL Collection has been initiated. One hundred forty map sheets and 11 historical atlases, containing 182 map sheets, have been processed.

The survey of collections of documents associated with emigration from the former Russian Empire after 1917 continued. The recently discovered collection of unique documents related to the activities of Fedir Shevchenko (1886–1945?), a Ukrainian

educator involved in efforts to establish Ukrainian statehood and a member of the Union for the Liberation of Ukraine, was researched, sorted, catalogued, and made available. The material is deposited in two archival boxes and contains 428 inventory units. The sorting of a newly found small collection of documents related to the Belarusian diaspora of the interwar period was initiated.

A team member participated in the International Meeting of Translators of Ukrainian Literature, a conference held in Berlin in August 2024. In her contributions, she introduced the focus of research activities conducted within DKRVO in relation to Ukrainian literature, presented the Ukrainian collection in the SL, and highlighted its importance for translators of Ukrainian literature.

The study of specific issues in the history of the library, along with the origin and composition of individual book and picture collections, is ongoing. The publication of *Sbírka dokumentů k dějinám Slovanské knihovny (1924–2024). Inventář* [The Collection of Documents on the History of the Slavonic Library (1924–2024). Inventory], which includes information about 4,276 inventory units, has completed the research, sorting, and cataloguing of the collection of operational documents of SL, representing a unique source for studying the history of the library and the development of Slavonic studies. Additionally, beyond the

planned goal, one professional article and one book chapter were published.

Area 4

Digital Codicology and Librarianship

→ Project leader: PhDr. Zdeněk Uhlíř

The aim of Manuscriptorium's activities in 2024 was to respond to the current demands of other disciplines that work with historical library collections and the general trends of access to the digital environment in the humanities. It seeks to transform codicological and librarian practices, methods, and methodologies from analogue to digital. It builds on the previous research that laid the foundations for the creation of basic reordering (matching) according to desired profiles. For the research organisation, this means gradual access to all available sources, not only its own, in the virtual research environment of Manuscriptorium and, as a result, not only the presentation and promotion of Czech cultural heritage worldwide, but also the possibility of its quality comparison in the global environment.

The digital revolution, meaning the transition to digital research methods, is gaining ground in all disciplines that utilise the Manuscriptorium environment. For Manuscriptorium, this not only signifies the necessity for continuous digitisation of data, metadata, and paradata, but also necessitates strengthening the creation of new digital tools and configuring the existing ones to meet universal research requirements. In the heterogeneous content of the Manuscriptorium environment, it is therefore important not only to aggregate the documents and sources, but also to standardise them in a manner that ensures their reliable quantitative and qualitative retrieval as well

as further use. Due to the immense scope of Manuscriptorium (c. 400,000 descriptive records and c. 180,000 individual documents), this task is extremely time-consuming and (human) labour-intensive. Hence, artificial intelligence (AI) must be used for the routine tasks of professional cataloguing and other processing activities to make time consumption more acceptable and to reduce the use of high-skilled labour for repetitive routine tasks. AI can compare existing full-value data, enabling it to enhance data that is incomplete or otherwise less valuable. As a result, it is not only possible to provide all users, including end users, with richer and relatively reliable data for direct reading, but it can also, based on the search, provide individual documents (hits) and group them according to the relevant items of inquiry created by the end user (matching). This enables the search for groups of documents that, in effect, represent a new, previously unutilised view on a research problem. This type of heuristics is not only a simple collection of evidence for a known problem, but also an opportunity to uncover a new, previously unknown issue. This way, the end user can discover something they did not know they did not know. This is an immensely important aspect for scientific research. This issue is very complex and can never be solved definitively; however, it is possible to move in this direction. The tool *You might be interested*, which was created this year, is the first elementary step. It is important that it is used so that, based on feedback from users, a more comprehensive tool can be developed.

In 2024, using the methodology of 'quantitative codicology', we thoroughly explored and generalised the properties of structured data, allowing us to heuristically create new themes based on hard-to-detect contexts. Based on this insight, a pilot plant of the module was developed that alerts the user to these

possibilities with the functionality *You might be interested*, enabling them to conduct a semi-automatic analysis of full texts.

AI debugger, i.e. the design and creation of a client application for debugging AI prompts, was a by-product. This application enables end users to create prompts, obtain a response via an API in real time, and verify the correctness of the outputs.

Area 5

Web Archives for Scientific Research

→ Project leader: Mgr. Marie Haškovcová

The research activity developed additional possibilities for acquiring data and the user and research evaluation of archival web data. It builds on previous research focused on analysing and accessing archival data and metadata, especially in the field of disappearing web content. While in the previous period the researchers concentrated on the methodological definition of the dead web concept, the possibilities of automatised detection of disappearing content (developed the *Extinct Websites* curation application), its enrichment with additional data, and mediation within the specialised public *Database of Dead Web Resources*, now they focused their research on the disappearance of web sources cited in scientific and academic studies and on the possibilities of their preservation and protection. Given that the phenomenon known as link rot (the disappearance, modification, or transfer of cited web content) threatens the credibility and authenticity of academic papers, it is a crucial topic that resonates in both the professional and public spheres. The researchers elaborated on the outputs in a peer-reviewed article, *Archivace webových zdrojů v citacích vědeckých a odborných textů* [Archiving Web

Resources in Citations of Scientific and Professional Texts], published in the Slovak professional journal *Knižnica* [Library]. It includes a summary of Czech and foreign findings in the field of citing web resources and their preservation, a clear comparison of existing foreign citation-archiving services from both the user and the web archive perspectives and offers recommendations to researchers on how to best protect the cited content. It concludes with a proposal of its own service that aims at the needs of the academic community, as well as extending the Webarchive's existing acquisition strategies and enriching its existing pool of web resources.

Area 6

Archiving Digital Data

→ Project leader: Mgr. Filip Pavčík, Ph.D.

The research on long-term digital data archiving in the last period primarily focused on exploring current trends and recent developments in the field of digital archiving. In 2024, the team of investigators thus zeroed in on analyses in the field of copyright metadata and the simultaneous possibilities for their recording. At the end of the year, a professional article was published in the Slovak journal *ITlib*, discussing the concurrent use of copyright information when archiving digital documents in the National Library's LTP archive. Furthermore, the article compared the available metadata formats from the perspective of their suitability for Czech digitising institutions.

The research team members attended lectures, workshops, and discussion panels at iPRES 2024 (International Conference on Digital Preservation) in Ghent, Belgium, where they established contacts with colleagues from international memory institutions.

Area 7

Protecting Book Collections

→ Project leader: Ing. Petra Vávrová, Ph.D.

The main and final result of research activities in the field of protecting library collections in 2024 was the professional article *Novodobé typy usní – identifikace, projevy degradace* [New Types of Leather – Identification, Manifestations of Degradation], which was published in *Knižnica* [Library] No. 4. In 2024, samples were collected from selected libraries with leather covers in the UKF depository. The samples were analysed based on the results of the 2023 research to conduct an analysis of the tanning process and to take photographs of some leather book covers using the USB microscope DINO. The article summarises the partial task that lasted over two years.

Two articles – 'Knižní vazba v rentgenografii' [Book Binding in Roentgenography], which was presented as a lecture at the 27th workshop of the Společenstvo českých knihařů [Czech Book Binding Society] and subsequently published in the workshop's proceedings and the article 'Stálost inkoustových tužek a razítek v parách butanolu' [The Stability of Ink Pencils and Stamps in Butanol Vapour] published in *Knihovna: knihovnická revue* [Library: Librarian Revue] – were other significant results of 2024.

Furthermore, the development and tests of the Devices and Methods for Testing the Mechanical Resistance of Book Binding were conducted, which are expected to be patented in 2025. The article 'The use of X-ray computed tomography and X-ray fluorescence in research into historical printing from the 17th century: book binding, tomographic reading of the text, dendrochronological dating, pigments

analysis' was published in *Heritage Science*. Additionally, the preparation and writing of the Utility Model for SAP Paper were in progress. This paper contains superabsorbent (SAP) as a suitable means of introducing alkaline substances into books to deacidify them.

The primary objectives of the 2024 research included surveying the physical condition of library collections, investigating modern leather in the NL CR collections, testing material properties in library collections (RDIF chips, fibres, a book binding tester, etc.), monitoring climate parameters and air pollution in depositories, verifying and suggesting solution methods, monitoring moulds and insects in depositories, implementing disinfection and disinfestation methods, developing and testing more effective and stable interventions for repairs, conservation, and restoration of library collections (mainly leather), and the development and production of protective cases for specific types of library collections (gramophone records).

In 2024, four additional organisations became involved in researching the physical condition of the collections: the Central Bohemian Research Library in Kladno, the Parliamentary Library, the Library of the Institute of Art History of the CAS, and the Pardubice Regional Library. The proper functionality of filters and data retrieval from the library system was adjusted in the database management, and data was switched to the live version. A total of 5,012 records were processed in 2024, of which 3,271 older records were modified (an additional card with intervention was added, and additional pH was determined) while 1,741 new records were filed.

Area 8

Modern Publications in the
Czech Lands After 1800

→ Project leader: Mgr. Anna Vandasová

In 2024, this research area continued to explore extensive periodical titles with regional editions and to develop and optimise the tools for their effective record keeping that would substantially improve their arrangement and facilitate their management in individual conservation collections in libraries throughout the Czech Republic.

The work on the optimisation and further development of the PerMonik tool, which enables very detailed recording of the information on individual editions and variant editions of periodicals, is being carried out not only by experts from the NL CR, but also by staff from other significant libraries with conservation collections – mainly from the MZK, VKOL, and the Ústí nad Labem Regional Library. In 2024, the research team focused on modifying the editing mode of the PerMonik application to align with the structure and graphic design of the accessibility module, which was developed in the previous year. The new version of the editing mode is being tested in a test environment and will be implemented during the first quarter of 2025. The NL CR is also preparing the next editions of *Československý sport* [Czechoslovak Sport] and other large periodicals with regional editions and inserting their units in the Aleph system so that they can subsequently be inserted into the PerMonik database. In 2024, a record of all PerMonik modifications was kept in the Github repository in the form of issues: <https://github.com/NLCR/evidence.periodik/issues>.

In conjunction with the new version of the application, the researchers also worked on updating the Methodology of Research on Regional Editions of Modern Periodicals, which was submitted as a planned outcome in 2023. The certification of the updated version is expected to be an outcome by 2027; however, the modifications must be treated continuously as PerMonik is modified.

Additionally, the research team began focusing on compiling documents and proposals for developing export software to prepare for the digitisation of periodicals.

The researchers presented the results of their activities at several conferences and also published the article 'Problematika mutačních vydání deníků při jejich zpracování v systému pro evidenci periodik PerMonik a následný metadatový popis' [Issues of Mutation Editions of Daily Newspapers During Their Processing in the PerMonik Periodical Registration System and Subsequent Metadata Description] in *ITLib* No. 2/2024.

The issue of regional editions was also addressed by the Department of Standards for Modern Digital Collections, which updated the Rules for Description of Periodicals, the new version which reflects the results of research on mutation editions and the description of their general characteristics, as well as feedback from digitising institutions.

Area 9

Digital Humanities

→ Project leader: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

In 2024, the tool AuthorGuesser <https://github.com/DigilabNLCR/AuthorGuesser> was optimised and developed. The tool for comparing authorial styles in the digital repositories of the NL CR was tested and modified, including an expansion of its compatibility to the Linux operating system and preparation of a version for poetic texts. One of the original partial objectives was to develop a tool for machine text dating. The research team was involved in creating a design and implementing a tool DateGuesser <https://github.com/DigilabNLCR/DateGuesser>, using machine learning to determine the time categorisation of text samples. Discussions with literary scholars informed the selection of suitable texts for model training and testing. The research team decided on an additional partial objective, namely the use of AI to create descriptive metadata. The research focused on the automatic generation of metadata from document texts using advanced language models. A team of CTU students participated in this task, thus linking library research with technological innovation.

During the year, the research team focused on the integration of machine learning methods in the library environment, thus laying the foundations for a broader use of artificial intelligence in the field of digitisation and scientific data processing in the NL CR.

Additionally, the research team was engaged in popularisation activities related to digital humanities. The use of digital data from the digital library was presented to scientific personnel, representatives of European libraries (Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, and others),

and university students (ÚISK FF UK, FF UHK) at the Institute of the Czech National Corpus. The digital library operation was presented at the Book World Fair – Digitised Documents From Anywhere. Another presentation on digital libraries took place at the 48th National Workshop of Museum and Gallery Librarians – <https://www.mzm.cz/seminar-knihovniku>. A webinar titled Practical Guide to Accessing Digitised Modern Documents was organised.

Regarding national and international cooperation, the NL CR has collaborated with the Institute of the Czech National Corpus and other partners in the research project HIČKOK: Historie češtiny v korpusovém kontinuu [History of Czech in Corpus Continuum], implemented through the Sigma Programme of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (TA CR). The NL CR is a partner institution in the large research infrastructure LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ. It is part of the European Open Science Cloud National Czech Programme, specifically as a member of the working group for the humanities and art. It contributed to the development and improvement of the Czech-Ukrainian machine translator created at the Institute of Formal and Applied Linguistics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University. It participated in the project Matrix of Photomechanical Reproductions: A History of Remote Access to Art. The NL CR is also involved in creating a working group to address digital humanities in libraries, as part of DARIAH-EU (The Digital Research Infrastructure for the Arts and Humanities).

Area 10

The Book as a Medium in the Middle Ages and Modern Ages

→ Project leader: Mgr. Veronika Rákocý

Michael Lužný has completed his research on the Old Czech Dialogue of Matthew of Kraków and has compiled a critical edition, which he will publish next year. Jiří Glonek published the article 'Olomouc jako centrum knihvazačského umění období pozdní gotiky' [Olomouc as a Late Gothic Centre of Book Binding Art] in a peer-reviewed journal *Zprávy Vlastivědného muzea v Olomouci 2023* [Reports From the Regional Museum in Olomouc] in 2024.

Partial results of the research were presented in eight lectures of the series *Z klementinských pokladů* [From the Treasures of the Klementinum]. The *Exhibits of the Month* – displayed in the vestibule of the General Reading Room – came from the NL CR collections and reflected the themes of the particular lectures. Two lectures outside the lecture series complemented the panel exhibition *Královny – šlechtičny – měšťanky. Kulturní aktivity žen ve středověku* [Queens – Noblewomen – Burgher Women: Cultural Activities of Women in the Middle Ages] which was a partner of the NL CR.

Interesting pieces, collections, and themes were presented to the wider public in ten articles published by *Dějiny a současnost*.

In 2024, the first two volumes of the popular educational series *From the Treasures of the Klementinum*. This is a new series that aims to introduce the wider public to interesting but lesser-known historical sources from the NL CR collections. The first volume *Jezuita Ignaz Tirsch jako misionář architekt a umělec*

v mexické Dolní Kalifornii [The Jesuit Ignatius Tirsch as a Missionary, Architect, and Artist in Baja California Sur] (Pavel Štěpánek) presents a manuscript album housed in the NL CR. The second volume, *Knihy čtenářů a kniha návštěv klementinské knihovny* [The Readers' Books and the Visitors Book of the Klementinum Library] (Alena Richterová), addressed unique sources on the history of the Imperial and Royal Public University Library.

In 2024, preparations were also underway for the *Cosmas 900* exhibition that will take place next year.

Area 11

Linked Open Data

→ Project guarantor: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

The standards currently used in processing and accessing library records were identified and evaluated with respect to linked data. Emphasis was placed on the potential of repeated data use, which is essential for libraries and other memory institutions. From a range of conceptual models, BIBFRAME was chosen as the most suitable, as it offers an effective transition to the structure of linked open data in library environments. Once BIBFRAME was selected, it was tested, and a tool was developed to convert between MARC 21 and BIBFRAME formats, with the option to reconvert records to the MARC 21 format. This tool has proven crucial in testing compatibility and evaluating the benefits of format switching.

We initiated key activities aimed at establishing the infrastructure necessary for the permanence of links. This step is regarded as crucial because URIs are a fundamental building block of the entire concept of linked open data. The development of this

infrastructure is intended to guarantee the stability and long-term availability of data links, which is essential for future interoperability and trustworthiness of data in national and international contexts. Moreover, we have already identified specific external URI sources that can be used in practice. These sources have been mapped and documented in detail. This direction of research is a key step towards enabling Czech libraries to effectively switch to linked open data and contribute to the worldwide ecosystem of shared information.

There was an internal discussion among experts at the NL CR focused on the possibilities and challenges associated with the transition to the BIBFRAME standard. A study entitled *Standardy a technologie propojených otevřených dat: Mohou nám propojená otevřená data a jejich standardy pomoci řešit problémy současné katalogizační praxe v České republice?* [Standards and Technologies of Linked Open Data: Can Linked Open Data and Its Standards Help Us Solve the Problems of Current Cataloguing Practice in the Czech Republic?] led to an article that was peer reviewed and published in the *Knihovna* journal in December 2024, adding to the spreading of information about this transition within the professional community. The outcomes were presented at the workshop Standards and Technologies of Linked Open Data held at the NL CR on 23 October 2024 (<https://www.skipcr.cz/knihovnicke-akce/standardy-a-technologie-propojenych-otevrenych-dat>). A total of 96 librarians and other specialised personnel from the Czech Republic attended the workshop, whose theoretical part was recorded and is available on the YouTube channel SKIP (<https://youtu.be/4VrtjfgO8Dk?si=2Hfo2BkigBsEkuyB>). The results were also presented at the conference Archives, Libraries and Museums in the Digital World held at the National Archives on 28

November 2024 (https://www.skipcr.cz/sites/default/files/documents/2024-12/24_Maixnerova_2024.pdf).

As part of the transition to the linked open data standard, a schedule was created that includes, in addition to this transition, an implementation of new cataloguing rules RDA Official associated with this change.

B. Research and Development Programme Projects

In 2024, the projects of the NAKI III programme of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic were addressed in the field of special-purpose funding.

NAKI III project:

- Using Plasma for the Treatment of Library Collections
- Grant recipient: National Library of the Czech Republic
- Project leader: Ing. Petra Vávrová, Ph.D.
- Project period: 2023–2027

The consortium project of the NL CR, the Institute of Chemical Process Fundamentals of the CAS, and the Faculty of Science of the Masaryk University in Brno builds on the previous experience of the individual researchers in the given issue. The project aims to develop a methodology for the application of technologies using low-temperature plasma to conserve and restore a wide range of materials in library collections, and to develop and verify a methodology of disinfection or sterilisation of library fonds using plasma, and to verify the safety of plasma technologies for the treated materials.

In 2024, the project was implemented through experiments and tests. The research is conducted according to a set plan; the teams meet continuously, familiarise themselves with the equipment and activities of individual workplaces, and test procedures and samples are unified. In 2024, many experiments with several types of materials from library collections were conducted. Measurements of the visual and physical properties of samples were made. Tests and analyses of library materials were evaluated to select appropriate equipment settings and sample selections. A number of experiments are still underway and will continue in the following year. All results need to be compared to define conclusions.

The 2024 project was to result in one Jost output entitled 'Studium vlivu DCSBD plazmového výboje na vzorky papírů' [Study of the Effect of DCSBD Plasma Discharge on Paper Samples] in the journal *Fórum pro konzervátory-restaurátory 2024* [Forum for Conservators and Restorers 2024] which was published. In addition, another article was successfully published, planned for 2026 due to a long review process, entitled 'CO₂ Snow Microblasting of Submicron Particles From Cellulose-Based Cultural Heritage Objects: Comparison with Traditional Dry Cleaning Methods' in the *Journal of Cultural Heritage*. We received the result of J_{imp} quickly beyond expectations, with the review process going very quickly and the reviews having no major comments.

The project is presented on the continuously complemented and updated project website (<http://cas.icpf.cas.cz/DH23Po3OVVo68/index.htm>), the library website, and in the NL CR Newsletter. Furthermore, we wrote about partial activities, plans, and the acquisition of handheld plasma equipment for the treatment and testing of plasma effects on the library collection

materials from the project NAKI III on the NL CR website, with a link to the NL CR Newsletter – News From the National Library | July 2024.

Roots and Fruits of European Science in Czech, Moravian, and Silesian Historical Library Collections

- Grant recipient: National Museum
- Project leader: PhDr. Richard Šípek, Ph.D.
- Responsible researcher from the NL CR: Mgr. Anna Vandasová
- Project period: 2023–2027

The project, in which, in addition to the National Museum and the NL CR, the National Heritage Institute, the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV), and the Olomouc Museum of Art participate, focuses on the research of libraries of scientists and scholars, the phenomenon of scientific literature in private libraries of individuals and families, and in institutional libraries. The focus and aim of the research are to map the acquisition practice, reception, and work with books in the field of scientific literature.

In 2024, the NL CR organised the exhibition *Bibliotheca Astronomica: Astronomical Books From the 15th–17th Centuries in the Collection of the National Library of the Czech Republic*, along with a critical catalogue and four accompanying virtual exhibitions. A total of 57 exhibits from the historical collection of the NL CR were displayed.

The virtual exhibitions were designed to facilitate understanding and connect visitors with the originals in the display cases. The online exhibitions were available on touchscreen monitors in the exhibition space, but interested individuals could also browse them from the comfort of their home at the links below:

Knihy a vesmír [Books and the Universe]: <https://exhibition.indihu.cz/view/knihy-vesmir/start>

Vesmír a čas [The Universe and Time]: <https://exhibition.indihu.cz/view/vesmir-cas/start>

Astronomové a vynálezy [Astronomers and Inventions]: <https://exhibition.indihu.cz/view/astronomove-vynalezy/start>

Souhvězdí a komety [Constellations and Comets]: <https://exhibition.indihu.cz/view/souhvezdi-komety/start>

Apart from the exhibition, other project activities continued. In addition to signatures 14 – Mathesis and 15 – Physica, further signatures from the historical collection were researched: 16 – Historia naturalis, 18 – Ars Medica, and 19 – Geographica. The bibliographic records in the STT database are being expanded, along with materials for creating name authorities of owners and authors registered in the national authority file and the Provenio database. The provenance research continues in the reserve collections of the NL CR, where the staff focuses on collections yet to be processed, sorting them and processing them, including the recording of provenance characteristics.

The Written Wealth of Dissolved Monasteries in Bohemia

- Grant receiver: National Library of the Czech Republic
- Project leaders: Mgr. Jan Vojtíšek / Mgr. Lucie Heilandová, Ph.D.
- Project period: 2023–2027

The NAKI project (DH23Po3OVVo56) is a joint venture of the NL CR and the National Archives of the Czech Republic. The project seeks to create a specialised public database allowing for the study of both types of sources – documentary archives and libraries of monasteries – and to present them also in the context of the dissolution of monasteries and the movement of monastic collections. Another planned outcome of the project is an interactive map, which will allow for the setting of the dissolution of monasteries in the broader context of the development of monastic institutions. Finally, two exhibitions and several expert studies are planned within the framework of the project.

In the second year of the project, the research team continued in heuristic and research works, exploration, and processing of the collections housed in the NL CR. As part of the processing, transcripts of handover protocols and other archival and codicology materials from the closed monastic libraries continued, along with the research of medieval and early modern manuscripts and the provenance survey of the early printed books from the NL CR collections. As part of the collection processing, manuscripts relevant to the needs of the project are being digitised. The manuscripts from the closed women's convents were selected for digitisation and will be the primary focus of an exhibition scheduled for 2025.

Additionally, efforts were made to create a database that will be available on the website www.monasteria-abolita.cz, where the project outcomes will be published, or documents from the book and archival collections of Bohemian monasteries closed during the Josephine reforms will be gathered and made accessible.

The research team members published two expert studies: *K výzkumu písemného bohatství klášterů zrušených v době josefínských reforem* [On the Research of the Written Wealth of Monasteries Dissolved During the Josephine Reforms] (Lucie Heilandová) and *Středověké rukopisy z knihoven zrušených českých ženských klášterů: Vzdělávací zdroje pro dívky a mladé ženy ve středověku a na prahu novověku* [Medieval Manuscripts From Libraries of Dissolved Women Convents in Bohemia: Research Sources for Girls and Young Women in the Middle Ages and on the Threshold of the Modern Age] (Renáta Modráková).

Smart Digilinka – Machine Learning for the Digitisation of Printed Heritage

- Grant receiver: Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- Project leader: Mgr. Jana Křížová
- Responsible researcher from the NL CR: Ing. Petr Kukač
- Project period: 2023–2027

This is a joint project of the KNAV, MZK in Brno, VUT in Brno, and the NL CR. The project seeks to develop tools using machine learning in the digitisation process and create a digitisation link pilot plant to make the process significantly more efficient and remove as many activities as possible that can be delivered by modern software. The pilot plant will combine existing tools with tools developed specifically for the needs of

library digitisation centres. The project's outcome will be usable in digitisation workplaces of large Czech and foreign libraries, either as a stand-alone installation or as a remote service provided by the National Library of the Czech Republic or another institution. This includes software tools and methodologies for aligning and scaling captured images, as well as tools supporting the machine generation of structural metadata.

In 2024, the project progressed as scheduled. In particular, the necessary standards for data transfer between the new tools and software of the digitisation lines were defined. The set of documents and pages available online was completed. For public documents, metadata was extracted for a total of 16 million records in the digital library, while an additional 8 million records were extracted from non-public documents. Annotation of the extracted metadata is underway to accurately determine page types, content, and chapter detection. In addition, tools for page layout analysis, content analysis, and piecemeal scanning of scanned items are being developed. The targets set for 2024 have been met.

C. Involvement in Large Research Infrastructures

LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ

- Grant receiver: Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University
- Project leader: Prof. RNDr. Jan Hajič, Dr.
- Responsible researcher from the NL CR: Mgr. et Bc. Michaela Bežová
- Project period: 2023–2027

In 2024, the NL CR continued in its involvement in the large research infrastructure LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ. That year, data from the Czech Digital Library (CDL),

an aggregator of modern digitised documents, was provided to the public repository of this infrastructure. This data is presented through the open-source tool Kramerius. The NL CR develops this digital library along with the Moravian Library in Brno (MZK) and the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV), which are also partners of LINDAT/CLARIAH. In 2024, the NL CR prepared for the installation of the new version of Kramerius (version 7). Through the project LINDAT/CLARIAH, Instrumental Equipment within the Jan Amos Komenský Operational Programme, hardware for the testing and production environment for the Kramerius system, was purchased.

Additionally, new collections in the NDL were established in 2024 (for example, The Work of the Slavonic Library and Czech Music Composers). In 2024, the NL CR coordinated the involvement of other digital libraries in the Czech Digital Library, which included concluding contracts and conducting curators' checks of digitised documents in accordance with the copyright law, special licences, and licence agreements. To facilitate the use of the older version of the Kramerius system, a superstructure was created, which, for example, improves the display of individual pages in the browser. The statistical module for registering user access to works unavailable on the market, which is also used by the Czech Digital Library, underwent further development.

Finally, the research team members delivered presentations at several specialised conferences, such as Book Culture and the Czech-German Language Space in the 19th and 20th Centuries and Archives, Libraries, and Museums in the Digital World. The digital content of the NL CR was presented at the Book World Fair as well.

Other Application Projects

A. National Projects

A.1 The Library Public Information Service Programme (VISK)

All the projects in the individual sub-programmes are designed for one year. These projects concern support for specific library activities in the areas of education, operation of digital libraries, protection of collections, production of digital data (retrospective conversion of catalogues, digitisation of collections), operation of information portals, access to digital sources, etc. The list of projects no longer includes the statutory activities that were formerly financed from the VISK Programme for which the NL CR had received funds directly into its budget.

VISK 1

The VISK Programme Coordination Centre

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Vít Richter
→ URL: <http://visk.nkp.cz/>

The VISK Programme Coordination Centre ensured all specialised, organisational, and coordination activities associated with the implementation of the VISK Programme.

The Sociological Survey Reading and Readers in the Czech Republic 2023

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Vít Richter
→ URL: https://ipk.nkp.cz/odborne-cinnosti/ctenarstvi-1/12_Cten.htm#pruzkumy

The results of the survey are summarized in a publication issued by the NC CR in cooperation with the HOST publishing house *Ohrožený druh. Kolik, jak a co čteme a co si se čtením spojujeme* [Endangered Species. How much, how and what we read and what we associate with reading] (Jiří Trávníček).

Czech Digital Library – Management (Support for the Operation of the Czech Digital Library)

→ Responsible officer: Ing. Petr Kukač
→ URL: <https://ceskadigitalniknihovna.cz/>

The project focused on ensuring the operation of the CDL, specifically areas falling within the competence of the NL CR.

Thanks to the allocated funds, the full integration of other libraries into the CDL portal has been successfully completed, thereby expanding the range of titles available to readers from a single-entry point. Readers can search 357,647 titles from the digital collections of 13 libraries, of which 260,392 titles are immediately accessible to registered readers of Czech libraries via remote access without any need to navigate between the websites of the Kramerius source digital libraries.

During 2024, the operation and services of the CDL were stabilised, or rather their level and availability were enhanced to make this service more attractive for the wider public.

The National Digital Library Complex Validator

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Filip Pavčík, PhD.

The 2024 aim of the project was to develop an updated version of the Complex Validator tool to support the validation of data created according to the latest

specifications of the NDL Standard for the digitisation of printed documents published in the given year. In 2024, a new standard for data discs was released, for which validation templates were created in the validator in the form of a formalised DMF. To improve the functionality and performance of the tool, deficiencies reported by users on the publicly available Github have been removed.

The Complex Validator tool serves to verify the compliance of the created data with the terms and conditions for long-term archiving. In addition to the updated version of the application, which is available in the open-source mode, the website version of the Complex Validator was also updated to serve users as a full-bodied alternative to the desktop version.

The Register of Czech Books

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

The aim of the project was to ensure the development of a registry as a central hub for book metadata in the Czech Republic providing services to libraries, publishers, distributors, booksellers, ISBN/ ISMN publishers and agencies, the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers (SČKN), and the Ministry of Culture of CR. The development of the registry is managed by Tritius Company following a tender procedure. During 2024, the Users and Publishers modules, as well as part of the Agency module, were created. The Czech translation of the Thema subject classification was revised, and translations of selected ONIX codebooks were provided.

VISK 2

Innovative Information Literacy Courses

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Eva Dostálková

The objective of the new innovative courses was to provide the required skills for working with ICT and, at the same time, to offer an opportunity to deepen and expand advanced knowledge in the field of ICT to those who have already acquired the basic skills. The target group is the staff of public libraries of all types, and especially, in the case of interest, from small municipal libraries. With the financial support of the Czech Ministry of Culture (subprogramme VISK 2), it trained more than 3,700 librarians between 2001 and 2024.

Educational Courses for Librarians in the Area of Book Collection Protection

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Roman Giebisch, Ph.D.

The aim of the project was to provide resources for the financial evaluation of the lecturers of the librarianship courses to minimise the costs of the course participants. The content of the courses is based on the National Register of Qualifications, and the lecturers are accredited experts from the NL CR and external institutions. The courses are attended by individuals employed in libraries as well as those preparing for a career in libraries. In 2023, only the courses *Knihovník v přímých službách* [Librarian in Direct Services] and *Knihovník katalogizátor* [Librarian Cataloguer] were opened due to demand. A total of 27 participants enrolled in the courses. Thanks to the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, interested persons from all types of libraries could attend these sources, and thanks to their participation in the librarianship requalification courses, they acquired professional competences according to the National Register of

Qualifications, regulated by Act No. 179/2006 Coll., on the verification and recognition of the results of further education and the amendment of certain acts (Act on the Recognition of the Results of Further Education, as amended). The aim of the courses is to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of the current state of librarianship in the Czech Republic, including relevant legislation, as well as the processes and activities in libraries. It is expected to acquire both theoretical and practical knowledge as well as basic skills in the field of library and information activities.

VISK 4

Protection of Physical Modern Library Collections of the NL CR II

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Vojtěch Halama

→ URL: <http://kramerius-info.nkp.cz/>; <http://visk.nkp.cz/visk-4>

In 2024, the NL CR received a subsidy for activities linked with the physical protection of the collection offered by the VISK 4 programme. Thanks to the funding, archive-quality cardboard was purchased and used to create protective packaging for digitised, deacidified, and endangered documents. Furthermore, materials used in the physical survey of the collection were purchased (filter paper, buffers, preservation solutions). The funds raised for the services were used for the development and management of two backbone tools used for the management and protection of collections (Application for Research into Modern Collections and Deacidification Register) and for the large-scale deacidification of library collections. In 2024, 453 documents with a total weight of 203 kg were deacidified. Apart from these activities, the funds were used for other personal costs for temporary workers who loosened the book bindings

and for simple repairs before and after digitisation (the periodical *Právo lidu* [Peoples' Right], which is in poor physical condition, is being gradually digitised during the second year of the project), preparatory work before and after deacidification, production of protective packaging, and research of the physical condition of modern collections.

In November, a regular workshop for the VISK 4 and VISK 7 programmes was organised and held both at CDH and on the Zoom platform. There were more than 100 attendees. At the end of October, the Meet and Greet was held for VISK 2, 4, 5, 7, 8/B, 9/I, and 9/II (online on the Zoom platform), which allowed the investigators to ask the main coordinators of each grant programme about specific problems.

VISK 5

The Retrospective Conversion of the General Catalogue of the NL CR Universal Library Collection I

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Nataša Mikšovská

The objective of the project was to pre-select and prepare about 3,200 print records. The records were prepared for the next stage of retrospective conversion. In addition, 13,100 new records in the MARC 21 format were processed, to which access has been provided in the NL CR online catalogue (NKC) and transferred to the Czech Union Catalogue (SKC). A total of 3,160 records were created or merged with the NKC. Field 920 with a TIFF image number from the General Catalogue of the Universal Library Collection I was added to these records. This mainly involved records of monographs that contain several works or reprints and have been processed analytically in the General Catalogue of the Universal Library Collection

I. The records from the international book production from 1801–1950 were processed in the alphabetical range LUCI–MARCH. Selected elements of the material description were added to 5,400 records previously processed by retrospective conversion.

VISK 6

The Digitisation of Historical Documents at the NL CR

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Zdeněk Uhlíř
→ URL: <http://www.manuscriptorium.eu>

In 2024, a total of 29 documents, i.e. 10,854 images/pages, were digitised from the collection of the NL CR (ORST and SL). All digitised documents were included in the digital library Manuscriptorium.

The Digitisation of Rare Historical Manuscripts and Printed Works From the Music Department's Collection

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Ludmila Šmídová, Ph.D.
→ URL: <http://www.manuscriptorium.eu>

In 2024, 37 documents were digitised, resulting in a total of 1,482 images. Most of these originate from the collection of the Strachota family of teachers from Panenský Týnec, with a smaller portion coming from a similar collection of the Hübner family from Dlouhý Most. The copies primarily date from the last quarter of the 18th century and the first third of the 19th century. The authors of the compositions include František Xaver Brixi, Jan Křtitel Vaňhal, Vinzenz Maschek, Jiří Ignác Linek, and Václav Pichl. In addition to music scores, the digitised documents include theoretical manuals and textbooks. The digitised music materials are linked to the records of the RISM International Inventory of Musical Sources and are accessible to

researchers using this database for study at www.rism.info in the Manuscriptorium Digital Library.

VISK 8/A

Multi-Licence Access to Electronic Information Sources

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Barbora Korandová
→ URL: <http://visk.nkp.cz/visk-8-a>

The provision of access to electronic information sources, including Czech and foreign resources in public libraries registered for the project, continued in 2024. The libraries could choose from databases containing up-to-date professional and popular scientific information, such as those in the areas of economics, politics, culture, and law.

In addition to the long-standing databases, including the Czech media database Anopress, the legal database ASPI, and the PressReader database, offering foreign dailies and popular science magazines, the project has newly included the database News Archive from the Czech News Agency (CTK). As the name implies, the database offers an archive of verbal news from 2000 to the present. Access to the newly added News Archive Database of the CTK was chosen by 10 libraries, 25 libraries were registered in the ASPI database, 30 libraries used the PressReader database, and 49 libraries used the Anopress database.

Monthly statistics of the use of databases are sent to libraries and, as in previous years, online seminars were organised in spring and autumn. In total, more than 250 participants registered for these webinars.

VISK 9

Technical Administration, Review, and Supplementation of the ANL Database

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Eva Svobodová
→ URL: <https://aleph.nkp.cz/cze/anl>

As of 31 December 2024, the database contained 2,026,186 records. In 2024, a total of 52,101 records were added from 26 regional and departmental libraries.

A total of 14 libraries (10 regional libraries and 4 libraries of the CAS) contributed 20,112 records under the VISK 9/1 programme (the commitment was 20,186 records).

A total of 184,156 edits were made by the database administrator in 2024, targeting corrections and additions of name and subject authorities, linking of full texts or substantive revision of records, including 798 new records..

A.2 Cultural Activities

The projects from the Cultural Activities programme of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic last for one year.

The Bookstart Project (S knížkou do života) – Methodological Handbook

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Roman Giebisch, Ph.D.

The preparation and publication of the methodological manual for the Bookstart VIII project entitled *S pohádkou do života* [With a Fairy Tale into Life] is designed for the staff of children's departments in libraries participating in the international Bookstart project. The publication includes scenarios that have

been implemented and tested based on book stories for joint meetings of parents and children within the Bookstart project. The project aligns with the priorities of the National Cultural Policy regarding the professional training of cultural personnel – librarians, as well as education for all. The publication is distributed free of charge to the participants of the project *S knížkou do života* [With a Book into Life – Bookstart]. The published methodological manual will serve nearly 400 libraries involved in the project, as well as parents of preschoolers who have received our gift sets over the course of six years. This is a non-profit project.

The Preparation for the 2024 Library of the Year Awards Ceremony Organised by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic in the Mirror Chapel of the Klementinum

- Responsible officers from the NL CR: PhDr. Vít Richter and Mgr. Martina Košanová
- URL: <https://ipk.nkp.cz/knihovnicke-soutez-a-ceny/knihovna-roku/knihovna-roku-2024>

The Library of the Year 2024 award and other library awards were presented on 10 October 2024. On this occasion, the NL CR, with the support of the Ministry of Culture of CR, published the publication *Knihovna roku 2024 a další knihovnická ocenění* [Library of the Year 2024 and Other Library Awards].

100 Years of the Slavonic Library – A Culture-Popularising Event

- Responsible officer: PhDr. Lukáš Babka

The project represented one of the activities undertaken in 2024 in connection with the celebrations of the centenary of the Slavonic Library, facilitating the preparation of a visual style for the anniversary. The graphic design for a collection of promotional

items was created, and their production was ensured. Furthermore, an anniversary exhibition, *One Hundred Years of the Slavonic Library (1924–2024): Anniversary Exhibition*, was prepared and opened to the public in the exhibition corridor on the ground floor of the Klementinum from September to November 2024. On 11 April 2024, a festive Concert for Slovanka was held in the Mirror Chapel of the Klementinum for the staff, partners, supporters, and friends of the Slavonic Library. On 5 September 2024, a jubilee cultural and social gathering took place in the Vine Courtyard of the Klementinum in the presence of the Minister of Culture and other guests. Beyond the scope of the project and the original plan, the jubilee exhibition was installed in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ostrava (Pavlač Gallery) in October, and the anniversary was presented at the 48th National Seminar of Museum and Gallery Librarians (AMG) which took place in Brno from 17 to 19 September 2024.

A.3 Cultural Activities – International

The projects from the Cultural Activities – International programme of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic last for one year.

Intensive Knowledge Transfer in the Innovative Environment of the Library of Congress

- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

From 18 to 22 November 2024, six staff members of the NL CR travelled to Washington, D.C., USA, to visit the Library of Congress (LC). The LC prepared a programme that guided us through most of its departments and provided us with an opportunity to speak with the managers. The changes to the library system at the LC were discussed in detail, including the transition to the linked data standard, the revision of cataloguing

rules, the alteration of the acquisition process, and the processing of book documents. We had an opportunity to visit the Martin Luther King Jr Memorial Library and its newly opened Southwest Neighborhood Library branch, where we focused on innovations in library services and promoting information literacy. We also visited the Washington Research Libraries Consortium, where we discussed the library system change and saw a modern depository of library documents.

The Slavonic Library – A Hundred Years of Its Activity

- Responsible officer: PhDr. Lukáš Babka

The objective of the project was to provide international activities linked to the celebrations of the Slavonic Library centenary. Its outputs suitably complemented other activities related to the anniversary. On 5 September 2024, the international symposium Slavic Studies Librarianship and Its Influence on Contemporary Public Education was held in the Klementinum. The programme of this public event included six foreign participants who were involved in this public event – Slavic librarians, one foreign participant living in the Czech Republic, and one Czech participant. The event facilitated more intensive cooperation between the Slavonic Library and the international library community and appropriately placed the Slavonic Library anniversary in an international context. The library's anniversary and unique items from its collection were presented by two of its staff members at the 56th ASEES Congress (Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies) in Boston, USA, in November 2024. The main outcome of the journey was the organisation of the panel Celebrating Three Historic Slavic Collections on Their Anniversary Year: New York, Prague, and Helsinki, where the centenary was commemorated with a separate paper. The

library's activity and collections were further accentuated in the round-table programme New Initiatives in the Digital Humanities in Libraries, Archives, and Museums and in the panel National Awakeners in Carpathian Rus'. The paper Centenary of the Slavonic Library in Prague presented the anniversary in the programme of the annual COSEELIS Conference (Council for Slavonic and East European Library and Information Services), which took place in Oxford, Great Britain, in June 2024.

B. International Projects

B.2 Czecho-Slovak Collaboration During the Acquisition of Documents

The Czech Library at the Bratislava University Library and the Slovak Library at the National Library of the Czech Republic

- Project period: continuously from 2006
- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Mgr. Jeanne Janoušková
- Financial support: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic
- URL: <http://aleph.nkp.cz/web/csknih/2023/index.htm>.

The project is implemented based on the agreement between the ministries of culture of both countries. Within the project, the NL CR purchased 585 book titles for CZK 299,999.15 for the Bratislava University Library in 2024. The amount of EUR 12,000, granted by the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic for the purchase of Slovak publications for the collections of the NL CR and the Slavonic Library, was used up to the amount of EUR 11,999.53: a total of 643 publications was purchased for the NL CR and the Slavonic Library.

Slovak acquisitions received over the years of the project's duration are available on the NL CR website.

B.3 The Erasmus+ Programme

Adult Education

- Project: 2020-1-CZ01-KA120-ADU-000094191; 2023-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000129529 (ongoing project period until 31 May 2025); 2024-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000225419 (new project period until 31 August 2025)
- Project leader: Czech National Agency for International Education and Research
- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Mgr. Roman Giebisch, Ph.D.
- Project period: 2020–2027
- URL: <https://www.dzs.cz>

Erasmus+ is one of European Union's most important programmes promoting international education. Libraries can use this programme as a tool to strengthen the skills of their staff to improve the services provided to the public, especially in the field of adult education. In the current programming period Erasmus+ 2021–2027, the supported applications focus on the themes of inclusion and diversity, sustainability, digitisation, and civic engagement.

Mobility projects in the field of adult education focus on international travel for staff from organisations involved in this educational sector, as well as for travel opportunities for adult learners with limited access. These projects foster international cooperation among organisations in the adult education sector, where they share their experiences with partners, develop new methodologies, and innovate the

school environment to raise the quality of education in individual European countries.

In 2024, a total of 41 activities financed by the Erasmus+ project took place, including 30 shadowing trips to a foreign institution, 7 educational activities/courses and 4 foreign experts were invited to lead workshops in the NL of the CR.

B.4 Interreg Slovenia – Austria, European Union – European Regional Development Fund

- Project leaders: Dr Johannes Tintner-Olifiers, BOKU, Austria; Matija Strlič, PhD. FIIC FRSC; Professor of Analytical Chemistry / Professor of Heritage Science, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia
- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Ing. Petra Vávrová, Ph.D.

The aim of the Ancient Book Craft (ABC) project is to systematically explore, for the first time, the potential of evidence-based, historical dating methods in conjunction with infrared spectroscopy for non-destructive access to library materials. The NL CR is a recognised user of the results of the international ABC project. In 2024, the Near Infrared (NIR) and Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) Fourier-Transform mid-Infrared (FTIR) technology was tested on specimens from the collections of the NL CR. Additionally, in the autumn of 2024, manuscripts and incunabula from the collections of the NL CR were provided for spectral measurements and the possibilities of using spectroscopy in the field of materials dating. In 2024, approximately 25 specimens were measured involving materials such as leather, parchment, and paper (whether binding or bookblock), for which the age of these items is known. The model spans the approximate period between the 12th and 18th centuries,

incorporating a few older and recent objects. Patrick Layton, a researcher from the Institut für Naturwissenschaften und Technologie in der Kunst- (Institute for Natural Sciences and the Arts), visited the site. The project should result in dating models that will be created through multidimensional data analyses. The results are intended to be published.

B.5 Media and Information Literacy for Societal Resilience (MILSR)

- Project leader: IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions)
- Financial support: Gulbenkian Foundation
- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Mgr. Vladana Pillerová
- Project period: 7/2024–3/2025

The main objective of the project is to support and strengthen media and information literacy in society. The core of the project is an upcoming exhibition entitled *Supercharged by AI*, which explores how artificial intelligence influences the creation, distribution, and perception of media and information in society. The exhibition will take place in the NL CR and other libraries in the Czech Republic at the beginning of 2025. The project, which is a joint venture of the Czech Republic and other European countries, is organised by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) and is co-funded by the Portugal-based Gulbenkian Foundation.

Other Projects

The Integrated System for the Protection of Movable Cultural Heritage (ISO)

The Digitisation of the Czech Press Agency's (CTK) Photographic Archive

- Responsible officer from the NL CR: Ing. Daniela Blažková
- Financial support: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic
- Project period: 1 July 2019 – 31 December 2025

The primary objective of the project, conducted in partnership between the NL CR and CTK, is to preserve the cultural heritage of the photographic collection stored on traditional analogue materials since the agency's inception. In 2024, the project continued with the routine digitisation of black and white images. During the year, a brand-new solution for correcting the effects of colour degradation, particularly concerning colour as well as black-and-white materials, was tested and gradually implemented in coordination with the NL CR and CTK. The newly implemented solution employs progressive calculations using artificial intelligence algorithms, enabling the resulting images to achieve high accuracy in replicating the original colours with minimal increase in processing effort.



**Economic
Indices,
Statistics,
Graphs**

4

The Basic Statistical Data of the National Library of the CR in 2024

Library items, total	7,795,951
of which manuscripts	22,928
Number of incoming periodical copies	10,090
Number of library items on open shelves	54,090
New volumes	70,101
Lost volumes	1,500
Number of the NL's specialised databases (other than the Electronic Catalogue)	33
Number of licensed electronic information resources	443,303
Registered users	20,207
Visitors at the library (physical visits)	479,924
of whom visitors to loan departments and reading rooms	149,944
of whom using the Internet in the library	5,986
of whom visitors of cultural events	49,538
of whom visitors of educational events	8,206
of whom visitors to other events where the NL CR is not the main organiser	190,651
Visitors of online services from outside the library	32,225,025
Visitors of the library's website	4,041,582
Loans, total	308,969
of which loans of periodicals	27,636
Requests for Interlibrary Services, total	4,806
of which ordered from abroad	1,749
Online information services (number of questions answered)	21,332
Meetings and consultations for librarians, booksellers and publishers	4,802
Educational events for librarians (seminars, courses, etc.)	1,391
Cultural events for the public (forums, exhibitions, tours, etc.)	208

Educational events for the public (seminars, courses, etc.)	181
Online seminars, workshops, lectures	27
Participation	1,011
Other events where the library is not the main organiser	2,910
Number of the titles of non-periodical publications issued pursuant to Act No. 37/1995 Coll. as subsequently amended	15
Number of copies (in pcs)	10,190
Number of titles of periodicals issued pursuant to Act No. 46/2000 Coll. as subsequently amended	1
Number of copies (in pcs)	300
Number of titles of the electronic documents issued including the Internet	9 e-publications, 3 e-periodicals
Number of seats for studying*	537
equipped with a computer	30
of which computers with the Internet connection	19
equipped with another technical device	20
Number of seats in lecture halls and classrooms*	539
of which equipped with a computer	19
Number of seats for relaxation and refreshment*	106
Library user area in sq m	7,098
Number of opening hours per week	80
Library staff (full-time equivalent – FTE)	449.23

Financial Management

The NL achieved a balanced economic result as of the 31 December 2024.

Basic Data From the Profit and Loss Account (in thousands of CZK)

Item	Main Activity
Total costs	730,305
Operating costs	729,517
of which: material costs	390,772
Personnel costs	339,294
Financial costs	239
Income tax	549
Total revenues	730,305
Activity revenue	76,418
Financial revenue	24
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers	653,863
Income from operations after tax	0

Financing Shares to Cover the Costs of the NL CR From the Library's Own Revenue and From Transfer Revenue

Item	in thousands of CZK
Activity revenue and financial revenue	76,461
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers – MoC provider	610,041
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers – other providers	43,803
Total revenue	730,305

Chart of Transfers and Overview of the Use of Investment Resources (current as of 31 December 2024, in thousands of CZK)

Activity/Programme	Non-Investment Resources	Investment Resources	Source of Financing
I. Provided by the founding entity – MoC	648,656	277,419	MoC

Activity/Programme	Non-Investment Resources	Investment Resources	Source of Financing
I.1 Operating fund	599,152	0	MoC
Special-purpose subsidies	8,992	0	MoC
Cultural activities	1,695	0	MoC
Library Public Information Services (VISK)	9,093	0	MoC
Total	618,932	0	MoC
Institutional research	15,122	1,713	MoC
Research projects funded by the MoC	6,925	0	MoC
Systematic and individual subsidies	16,669	275,706	MoC
Projects funded through other institutions	5,185	1,173	
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers + other providers	640,429	278,586	

Other providers: The NL CR was actively involved in many projects funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports and Czech Academy of Sciences as the project leader or partner. They particularly included projects in research, development, and innovation.

Mandatory indicators: Contributions to operating costs and special-purpose grants provided in 2024 were used in compliance with their intended purpose. They were tracked separately in the accounts (analytical accounts, cost centres).

Levy on write-offs and buildings: As of 31 December 2024, the amount of CZK 41,590 was transferred to the income account of the Ministry of Culture of the

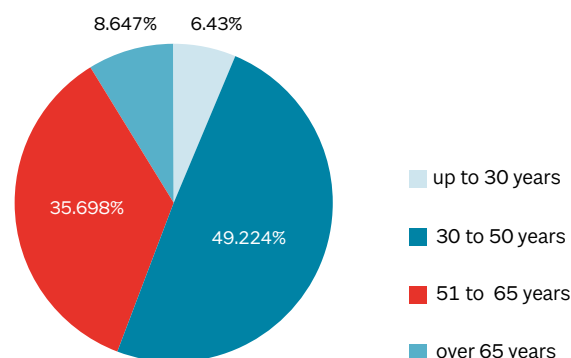
Czech Republic as a levy on depreciation of immovable property. The liability determined under the approved 2024 budget schedule of the NL CR was therefore settled on time.

Conditional indicator to use of the contribution to operating costs: The contribution to operating costs was allocated CZK 9,027,000 to cover material costs for the performance of those statutory activities that were previously financed through a special-purpose grant from the Ministry of Culture programme for the Library Public Information Service (VISK); of that, CZK 186,000 were provided for other personnel costs (OON).

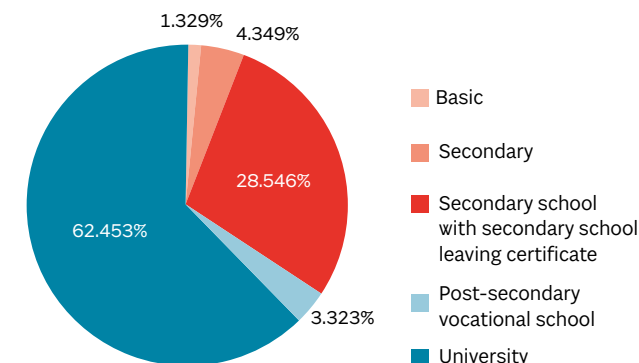
The limit for the number of converted full-time equivalents within the framework of employment regulation was set at 447.3 for the National Library of the Czech Republic for 2024. The total number of converted full-time equivalents, including full-time equivalents whose salary costs are covered by extra-budgetary sources, was 451.38 in 2024.

Personnel Data

Breakdown of Employees by Age



Breakdown of Employees by Educational Attainment



The Acquisition, Bibliography and Cataloguing Division

Statistics of Domestic Non-Periodical Production in 2024

The Annual Report on Non-Periodical Publications compiled by the NL CR is required for the official statistical reporting of the Czech Republic. It is sent to the Ministry of Culture of the CR which submits it to the Czech Statistical Office. The data presented represent the book production of the Czech Republic also abroad; they have been adopted by EUROSTAT as well as UNESCO.

The tables of the report inform on non-periodical publications issued in the Czech Republic. The data have been processed according to the prescribed methodology, namely on the basis of legal deposit copies acquired by the National Library in 2024.

Titles of Non-Periodical Publications by Subject

Subject Group		Total Number of Titles			First Edition Subtotals		
		Books	Pamphlets	Total	Books	Pamphlets	Total
1	Generalities	377	87	464	349	85	434
2	Philosophy, psychology	358	65	423	300	50	350
3	Religion, theology	373	79	452	317	72	389
4	Sociology, statistics	222	25	247	203	22	225
5	Politics, economics	286	21	307	221	21	242
6	Law, public administration, social relief and welfare, insurance	481	21	502	376	15	391
7	Military art and science	134	14	148	121	11	132
8	Education, teacher-training, leisure	628	250	878	377	158	535
9	Trade, communication, transport, tourism	137	32	169	110	30	140
10	Ethnography, cultural anthropology (customs, folklore, mores, tradition)	67	11	78	61	11	72
11	Philology, languages, linguistics	183	15	198	121	12	133
12	Mathematics	74	7	81	54	6	60
13	Natural sciences	380	122	502	307	115	422
14	Medical sciences, public health	400	122	522	322	117	439
15	Engineering, technology, industries, trades and crafts	180	75	255	163	71	234
16	Agriculture, forestry, stockbreeding, hunting and fisheries	292	120	412	261	118	379
17	Domestic science	195	14	209	165	13	178
18	Management, administration and organisation	113	3	116	89	3	92
19	Physical planning, town and country planning, architecture	200	52	252	183	48	231
20	Plastic and graphic arts, photography	500	152	652	482	150	632
21	Music, performing arts, theatre, film and cinema	244	19	263	224	16	240
22	Games and sports	230	36	266	198	34	232
23	a) History of literature and literary criticism	118	7	125	110	7	117
	b) Literary texts	5,212	662	5,874	4,143	578	4,721
24	Geography	347	34	381	290	29	319
25	History, biography	1,147	95	1,242	1,016	85	1,101
Total		12,895	2,080	14,975	10,578	1,822	12,400
of which	School textbooks	434	144	578	169	72	241
	Children's books	1,605	840	2,445	1,180	721	1,901
	University textbooks	224	2	226	151	2	153

Non-Periodical Publications by Language of Publication

Language of Publication	Number of Titles
a	2
Total	14,975
Czech	13,148
Czech and other languages	852
English	475
Slovak	242
German	36
Polish	35
Italian	27
French	19
Hungarian	16
Spanish	14
Russian	9
Ukrainian	8
Esperanto	6
Romanian	6
Bosnian	1
Bulgarian	1
Lithuanian	1
Lusatian Serbian	1
Dutch	1
Multilingual (not including Czech)	77

Non-Periodical Publications – Translations From Other Languages

Source Language	Number of Titles
a	2
Translations – total	5,853
English	3,245
German	883
French	308
Slovak	288
Japanese	197
Spanish	181
Italian	113
Polish	111
Swedish	62
Russian	54
Norwegian	34
Dutch	21
Ukrainian	19
Modern Latin and Medieval	17
Chinese	12
Finnish	11
Portuguese	11
Classical Greek	11
Danish	10
Korean	8
Classical Latin	7
Romanian	7
New Hebrew (ivrit)	6
Old Hebrew	6
other ancient languages	6
Icelandic	5
Clasical Arabic	4
Esperanto	4
Catalan	4
Hungarian	4
Romani	4

Modern Greek	4
Modern Arabic	3
Bosnian	3
Bulgarian	3
Croatian	3
Turkish	3
Albanian	2
Lithuanian	2
Slovenian	2
Armenian	1
Estonian	1
Georgian	1
Hindi	1
Irish	1
Yiddish	1
Latvian	1
Macedonian	1
Sanskrit	1
Serbian	1
Multiple languages	165

Foreign Acquisitions in 2024

This does not include acquisitions of the Slavonic Library and of the Librarianship Institute.

Total: 7,270 library items

- Printed documents: 7,225
- Non-printed documents: 45 of which:
 - Exchange: 1,457 (20.14%)
 - Microdocuments: 21 (46.66%)
 - Donations: 3,042 (42.10%)
 - Audio recordings: 1 (2.22%)
 - Purchase: 2,726 (37.73%)
 - Electronic source: 23 (51.12%)

A. NON-PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS Analysis of Total Acquisitions by Country

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-Printed Documents	Total
1	Germany	185	892	892	0	1,587
2	USA	243	512	512	21	1,184
3	Great Britain	24	292	292	0	840
4	Slovakia	33	501	501	0	577
5	France	21	122	122	0	364
6	Spain	30	9	9	0	354
7	Switzerland	5	115	115	0	350
8	Poland	121	64	64	0	204
9	Austria	45	103	103	0	189
10	Hungary	70	22	22	1	149
11	Russia	93	28	28	0	123
12	Ukraine	0	82	82	0	109
13	Belarus	101	0	0	0	101
	Serbia	81	19	19	0	101
14	Italy	3	43	43	0	100
	Romania	66	6	6	0	100
15	The Netherlands	1	33	33	0	98
16	Croatia	71	10	10	0	81
17	Belgium	0	12	12	0	64
18	Moldova	58	1	1	0	59
19	Finland	39	1	1	0	40
20	Canada	2	24	24	0	36
21	Portugal	0	4	4	0	35
22	Montenegro	29	4	4	0	33
23	Sweden	15	10	10	0	28
24	Azerbaijan	26	1	1	0	27
	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	1	1	0	27
25	Mexico	12	7	7	0	25
26	Bulgaria	16	6	6	2	22
	Singapore	0	2	2	0	22
27	Unknown country	0	5	5	0	18

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-Printed Documents	Total
28	Brazil	0	12	12	0	14
29	Macedonia	13	0	0	0	13
	Japan	13	0	0	0	13
30	Israel	0	11	11	0	11
31	Egypt	0	10	10	0	10
	Luxembourg	0	10	10	0	10
	Greece	0	9	9	0	10
32	India	0	6	6	0	9
	United Arab Emirates	9	0	0	0	9
33	Denmark	0	3	3	0	8
	South Korea					
	Slovenia					
34	Estonia	4	1	1	0	7
35	China	2	4	4	0	6
	Lithuania	5	1	1	0	6
	Norway	0	4	4	0	6
36	Argentina	0	1	1	0	5
	Philippines	0	5	5	0	5
37	Australia	0	4	4	0	4
	Kosovo	3	0	0	0	4
38	Armenia	0	3	3	0	3
	Latvia	1	2	2	0	3
	Vietnam	3	0	0	0	3
39	Ireland	0	1	1	0	2
	Kazakhstan	0	2	2	0	2
	Sri Lanka	0	2	2	0	2
	Thailand	0	2	2	0	2
	Taiwan	0	2	2	0	2
	Turkey	0	2	2	0	2

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-Printed Documents	Total
40	Albania	0	1	1	0	1
	Georgia	0	1	1	0	1
	Republic of South Africa	0	1	1	0	1
	Republic of Cape Verde	0	0	0	0	1
	Madagascar	0	1	1	0	1
	Mongolia	0	1	1	0	1
	Nepal	1	0	0	0	1
	New Zealand	0	1	1	0	1
	Pakistan	1	0	0	0	1
	Tajikistan	1	0	0	0	1
	Uzbekistan	0	1	1	0	1
	Vatican City	0	1	1	0	1
	Venezuela	0	1	1	0	1
	Total	1,457	3,042	3,042	21	7,247
	% of the total acquisitions	20.10%	41.98%	37.62%	0.30%	100.00%

*) incl. CD-ROMs, microforms, video and audio recordings

Analysis of the Total Acquisitions by Subject

	Subject Group	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-Printed Documents*)	Total	%
1.	Generalities	104	141	190	1	436	6.02
2.	Philosophy, psychology	42	367	145	0	554	7.65
3.	Religion, theology	20	466	153	0	639	8.82
4.	Sociology, statistics	88	167	104	0	359	4.95
5.	Politics, economics	158	288	301	3	750	10.35
6.	Law, public administration, insurance	143	110	29	17	299	4.13
7.	Military art and science	38	20	33	0	91	1.26
8.	Education, teacher-training, leisure	22	60	17	0	99	1.37
9.	Trade, communication, transport, tourism	8	16	4	0	28	0.39

	Subject Group	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-Printed Documents*)	Total	%
10.	Ethnography, cultural anthropology	66	26	42	0	134	1.85
11.	Philology, languages, linguistics	30	148	72	0	250	3.45
12.	Mathematics	4	8	60	0	72	0.99
13.	Natural sciences	35	93	121	59	308	3.41
14.	Medical sciences, public health	4	20	36	0	60	0.83
15.	Engineering, technology, industries, crafts	11	29	14	0	54	0.75
16.	Agriculture, forestry	7	7	3	0	17	0.23
17.	Domestic science	1	10	2	0	13	0.18
18.	Management, administration and organisation	2	8	6	0	16	0.22
19.	Town and country planning, architecture	30	46	114	0	190	2.62
20.	Plastic and graphic arts, photography	111	153	261	0	525	7.25
21.	Music, performing arts, theatre, film and cinema	65	248	138	1	452	6.23
22.	Games and sports	5	15	10	0	30	0.41
23.	Literary studies	111	76	158	0	345	4.76
24.	Geography	27	85	20	0	132	1.82
25.	History, biography	292	218	625	0	1,135	15.65
26.	Literary texts	39	228	71	0	338	4.66
	Total	1,457	3,042	2,726	22	7,247	100.00

*) incl. CD-ROMs, microforms, video and audio recordings

B. PERIODICALS

	titles	%
Exchange	56	26.05
Gifts	12	5.58
Purchase	147	68.37
Total	215	100.00

Commentary on Statistical Analyses of Foreign Literature Acquisitions

The acquisitions activity is focused mainly on the selective acquisition of documents from profile fields (social sciences, natural sciences, culture, and art). The acquired publications are included in the National Archival Collection (NAC) and the Universal Library Collection (UKF). In exceptional cases, publications are transferred to the Slavonic Library and the Librarianship Institute.

A total of **7,247 items of non-periodical literature** were acquired for the collections of the NL CR, of which 7,225 items were printed documents and 23 items were non-printed documents.

Within printed documents, 6 cartographic documents (6 UKF), 8 prints (1 NKF, 7 UKF), and 188 music materials (2 UKF, 186 Music Department) were acquired. During 2024, **4,535** orders for foreign book production were verified and stored in the database.

All new acquisitions were processed by acquisition (acquisitions acquired by purchase and exchange also in the ACQ module).

In 2024, 1,817 volumes were sent abroad as part of the exchange, of which 925 volumes were sent to the EU. For this purpose, 1,268 publications were purchased, and the rest were donated. In total, we handled 531 orders from abroad.

In 2024, foreign documents were purchased for approximately CZK 3,628,000. In percentage terms, the share of foreign literature purchases in the total budget of the Foreign Acquisition Department (FAD)

was again higher than the share of exchanges, which confirms the tendency to dampen exchanges in favour of purchases as a type of foreign literature acquisition. A total of 2,726 volumes acquired by purchase and 40 volumes acquired by direct purchase were processed. The average cost per foreign volume was CZK 1,181.52.

In 2024, the FAD staff made maximum effort to acquire profile publications for the collections of the NL CR at the lowest possible cost by taking advantage of major promotional discounts from foreign suppliers/publishers and trade fair discounts. Nevertheless, the constant rise in prices on the book market, the increase in postage costs, the not insignificant VAT rate on books, and the exchange rate of the Czech crown have affected the purchases of foreign documents. To mitigate the negative effects of the above factors, it will be desirable to continue to focus on direct purchases at trade fairs. The FAD participation at the International Book Fair in Frankfurt am Main was very successful. Discounts on the purchase of publications commonly reached 40%. Some Frankfurt publishers, with whom we have been cooperating for a long time, sent us the ordered publications with the usual fair discount, even though they did not participate in the fair. CZK 536,138.02 were saved on discounts when purchasing foreign literature.

In 2024, the exchange accounted for 20.17% of the total acquisition of foreign literature (1,457 volumes). The exchange still has its indispensable place in the overall acquisition of foreign documents, mainly from non-EU countries, and the exchange of periodicals is significant, which is undoubtedly financially beneficial for the NL CR.

In 2024, the share of exchange in the acquisition of foreign printed periodicals increased slightly to 26.05% (it was 19.05% in 2023). By contrast, the exchange within Western Europe and the USA has been stagnating for several years. Purchasing is the main type of acquisition in these regions.

In 2024, a total of 3,042 documents from 45 donors were registered, with a total estimated value of CZK 3,042,000.

It is worth mentioning the most important donor of the year 2024. In March, the Czech Republic symbolically accepted a significant book donation including several dozen English-language publications, the comprehensive work of Václav Smil, a world-renowned Czech-Canadian scientist active in the fields of the environment, energy, social issues and innovation, professor emeritus at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg.

The Statistical Indices of the Services

The National Library of the Czech Republic provides library and information services as its fundamental statutory activity under the conditions determined by the Rules and Regulations of the National Library. These rules have been amended, and the updated version has been in force since 1 April 2024. The spectrum of basic services remains stable. Since the last quarter of 2024, the introduction of RFID technology has influenced the range of services, and the NL CR has thus gradually begun to offer its users services based on this technology. In addition to utilising the physical collections on site, making the content of documents available online and through

digital libraries is a common part of the fundamental services. It is gratifying that the trend of gradually increasing interest in the library in its physical form continues. A comparison of physical attendance and the long-term decline in the volume of orders and physical book loans suggests that, for many users, the space itself is becoming a service of interest. The NL CR's recent efforts to cultivate its spaces in recent years have certainly had a positive effect on the physical use of the library. In selected study rooms, furniture is provided alongside the traditional study places, which allows visitors to relax for a while during studies. In October 2024, the second *Deskohraní* (Central European Mind Sports Olympiad) took place at the Klementinum along with other events that bring new potential users to the library.

Physical visits increased slightly in 2024 (to 110% of the 2023 volume, see the table Overview of Services Provided... and Graphs 3 and 8). Although the physical use has declined for some spaces, it is encouraging to see that total visitor numbers have continued to rise since 2022. In 2024, there were even 2,500 more visitors compared to 2019, the last pre-COVID-19 year. As the initial reception centre for users, the Main Hall remains the most frequented reading area, recording 72,283 reading visitors. It is worth noting that, since the beginning of 2024, the Main Hall has been providing a more pleasant environment, with fewer study places, as part of it now serves as an exhibition space. Among the study rooms, the General Reading Room is the most used in the long term, with the number of visitors rising to 116% of the 2023 volume. This study room has the highest number of study places and, together with the Individual Study Zone and the Chill Out Zone, also has the longest opening hours – 75 hours per week. For the first time in a long while, the number

of visitors to the Periodicals Reading Room has increased (to 125% of the 2023 value). The Study Chill Out Zone proved its popularity (increasing to 115% of 2023 attendance). Visitation to the Library of Library Science Literature increased significantly in 2024 (140% of the 2023 volume). On the other hand, a slight decrease in physical visits can be observed in the Reference Centre and the Scholars' Reading Room (97% of the 2023 value), the Slavonic Library (94%), the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Reading Room (91%) and the Music Department Reading Room and the Hostivař Reading Room (88%).

The number of loans of physical volumes – another of the monitored indices – was slightly lower on average in 2024 compared to the previous year (down to 95% of the 2023 volume). Thus, the increase in borrowing in 2022 appears to have been merely a response to the dramatic drop in 2021 (see tables Overview of Services Provided... and Basic Services of the NL CR in Figures... and Graph 7). From 2023 onwards, this indicator is again on a downward trend. The decrease in the volume of physical loans can be linked to society's continuing inclination to use materials in electronic form, and in the environment of the NL CR to the higher number of documents displayed in the NDL (including documents in the works unavailable on the market mode). In 2024, a large variation from the above-mentioned average could again be observed at individual loan departments. In particular, the specialised reading rooms – the Slavonic Library (an increase to 165% of the 2023 volume), the Music Department Reading Room (108% of the 2023 volume), and the Scholars' Reading Room (104%) – show a higher volume of loans than in 2023. In the case of the Slavonic Library, the increase can be associated with the celebrations of 100 years of its establishment and, in general, with the promotion

of the Slavonic Library and its collections. There was a minor decrease in the volume of recorded loans in the Periodicals Reading Room (92% of the 2023 volume). A greater decline compared to 2023 can be observed in the Main Hall (81%), the Social and Natural Sciences Reading Room (77%), and the Library of Library Science Literature (75%). The loans in the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Reading Room and the Hostivař Reading Room marked an even more significant drop (68% and 69%).

In 2024, readers placed 111,703 orders, i.e. about 25% less than in the previous period. Most orders were placed online. The standard high level of percentage success rate is achieved by the positive completion of the request, with 99.7% in 2024. The users benefit from the convenience of reminders and warnings, of which the automated loan system sends out tens of thousands.

In this context, it is pleasing to note that, after a longer period, a greater interest can be observed in registration in the NL CR or its renewal. After a long-term decline, the number of new registrations has started to rise again since 2022, and in 2024, 18,429 registered users used the NL CR (see the table Overview of Services Provided... and table Basic Services of the NL CR in Figures... and Graph 2). The year-on-year base of the NL CR users has thus grown by 815 registered users. The number of users renewing their registration in the NL CR online, i.e. contactless, is also increasing. In 2024, 34% of all registration renewals took place in this way. In connection with the new Library Rules, the NL CR has started to accept the data box of a natural person as one of the means for remote registration. This way, 44 users registered in the NL CR in nine months of operation. A total of 1,113 new users used all available

remote registration methods in 2024. That is, new users are coming or their interest in using the NL CR is continuing, either in terms of physical services and physical space or in terms of online services.

In the world of the Internet, online access to subscription databases and the growing importance of digital libraries, interlibrary loan services primarily cover the very specialised requirements for obtaining loans and copies. As a rule, these are hard-to-find documents that are highly costly to acquire, especially those that require shipping from abroad. In 2024, the number of requests for domestic and international interlibrary loan services increased slightly, to around 78% of the 2023 volume (see the table Overview of Services Provided... Graph 5).

In the area of reprographic services, the number of mainly printed outputs has continued to increase since 2022 (see Table Overview of services provided... and Graph 6), with the number of copies reaching 109% of the previous year in 2024. Reprographic services include the eBooks on Demand (EOD) service, which offers digitisation of copyright-free works on demand. Under EOD, the document is always digitised as a whole, and the digital copy can be published after a two-month period from the delivery of the eBook to the customer. This year, the NL CR also participated in the international Christmas EOD event, which ran from 25 November to 8 December 2024, and offered to make digital copies at a discounted single price of CZK 250 (EUR 10). During this event, users ordered the digitisation of seven titles. A total of 6,180 pages were scanned through EOD in 2024, 18% fewer than in the previous year, although the number of orders placed was the same in 2024 and 2023, i.e. 35. The cooperation with the Czech Blind United (SONS) continued and the NL CR digitised

14,292 pages of text for blind and severely visually impaired users.

The number of visits to selected websites and on-line services of the NL CR increased significantly compared to last year. The NDL recorded 53% more visitors than in 2023, even though the number of pages viewed or downloaded decreased by 24%. At the same time, however, the use of NDL content accessible in the works unavailable on the market mode (DNNT) has increased dramatically compared to 2023, and the number of remotely registered users who choose this method of registration in the NDL precisely in order to view DNNT-licensed content in the NDL is also increasing. The data for www.nkp.cz is similarly volatile – the number of visitors increased by 47%, but the number of pages downloaded or viewed decreased by 16%. In the case of www.nkp.cz, the increase in traffic can be linked to the preparation of the new NL CR website presentation. It also includes a check of the completeness of the prepared website in relation to the existing website. The long-term decline in usage data for the Manuscriptorium Digital Library, which focuses on manuscripts and early printed books, is due to technical problems in tracking usage following the implementation of the IIIF standard, rather than user disinterest.

Electronic information resources (EIZ) have long been among the areas that most influence users and the public in evaluating the quality of online information services. Loans on personal reading devices from electronic libraries (such as ProQuest Ebook Central, EBSCO eBook Collection, Springer) are a standard component of the library's services. Until 31 August 2024, the library's main catalogues and electronic resources were also accessible through the EBSCO Discovery Service (EDS) interface. On that

date, the NL CR contract for the use of EDS expired. For financial reasons, the NL CR has opted not to initiate a competition for the supply of discovery for the next period and will explore the possibilities of using access to the central index Summon, which is offered by the Moravian Library in Brno within the portal Knihovny.cz. From January to August 2024, 30,668 accesses and 39,737 searches were recorded in EDS. When compared proportionally to the data for the whole year 2023, these figures can be assessed as increasing purely mathematically. The MyHeritage Library Edition database has experienced a very substantial increase in usage. Unfortunately, due to a change in the producer's licensing policy, it was not possible to renew the contract under which the NL CR provided this database to its users, and the subscription ended on 31 December 2024. The ProQuest Ebook Central database maintained its popularity in 2024, with 36,633 full texts viewed by users, marking a slight increase over the previous year. The number of full texts viewed in the Czech Anopress database increased significantly to 20,781.

Overview of Services Provided by Loan Departments and Reading Rooms of the National Library of the CR in 2024

Items Monitored	Main Hall	General Reading Room	Social and Natural Sciences Reading Room	Scholars Reading Room	Study and Relaxation Zone	Reference Centre*	Periodicals Reading Room	Manu- scripts and Early Printed Books Read- ing Room	Music Department Reading Room	Reading Room in the NL CR in Hostivař	Library and Information Science Library	Slavonic Library*	Archives of the NL CR
Registered loans	142,072	78,299	325	29,984		3,233	19,034	1,022	1,356	2,081	2,228	30,071	378
of which: home loans	135,099	0	0	0		1,839	465	0	47	0	1,799	21,974	2
in-house use of documents	6,973	78,299	325	29,984		590	18,569	1,022	1,309	2,081	429	8,097	376
Registered users	18,429					1,778						1,293	19
of which new library cards	4,823											226	
Library usage	72,283	40,429	7,771	4,368	11,268	6,088	3,666	378	766	327	735	5,548	33
Users Requests	111,703												
of which fulfilled	111,401												
Interlibrary-service requests						4,488						318	
of which ordered abroad						1,741						8	
Overdue notices sent through the lawyer's office	12											0	
Photocopying and printing services for users	8,241		33,178			55,288	1,754			68		604	

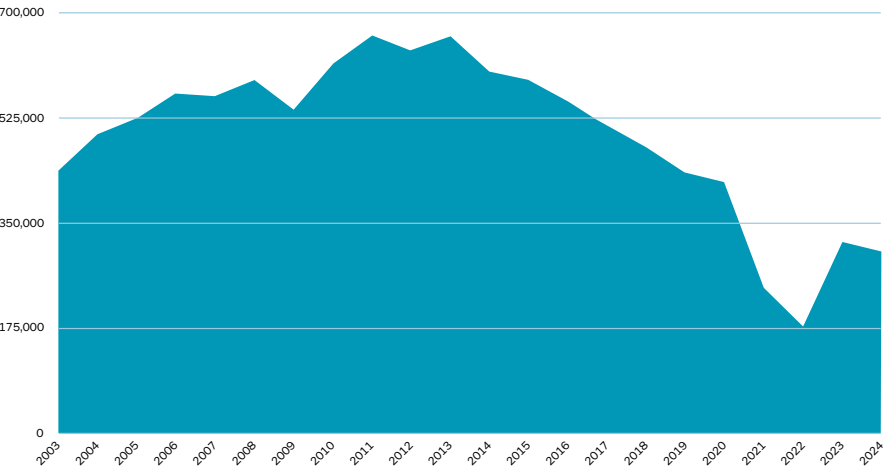
* The service is provided in temporary space and non-standard conditions.

Basic NL CR Services in Figures in 2001–2024*

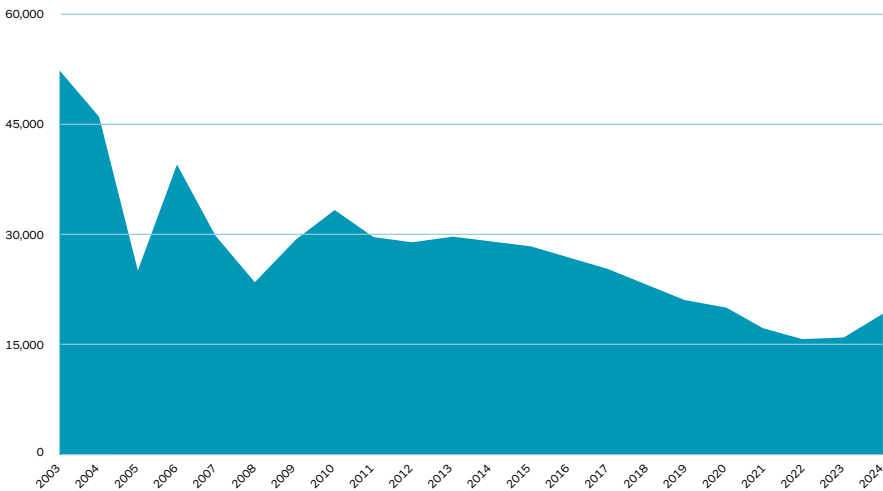
Items Monitored		Registered Loans	Registered Users	Library Visits (Visitors to the Main Hall and Main Reading Rooms)	Requests Sub- mitted by Users	of which fulfilled	Request Suc- cess Rate in Percentage	Interlibrary-Ser- vice Requests	of which ordered abroad	Photocopies and Print-Outs for Users
2001– 2010 average	number	553,764	35,324	435,476	290,720	278,075	95.65%	24,447	6,987	492,546
	index	100	100	100	100	100		100	100	100
2012	number	638,731	29,130	344,362	322,766	317,151	99.25%	18,040	4,784	460,736
	index	115	82	79	111	114		74	68	94
2014	number	661,102	29,799	350,179	343,971	341,394	99.32%	16,582	4,622	386,132
	index	119	84	80	118	123		68	66	78
2016	number	603,926	28,975	322,987	295,804	293,403	99.64%	15,882	4,541	354,532
	index	109	82	74	102	106		65	65	72
2018	number	589,323	28,388	316,529	316,044	313,910	99.62%	15,671	4,612	303,696
	index	106	80	73	109	113		64	66	62
2020	number	554,506	26,897	294,118	283,068	281,632	99.67%	15,081	4,552	249,712
	index	100	76	68	97	101		62	65	51
2022	number	512,280	25,453	270,898	261,799	260,866	99.63%	12,757	4,230	203,597
	index	93	72	62	90	94		52	61	41
2024	number	477,488	23,433	226,803	231,391	230,340	99.73%	10,884	3,378	168,503
	index	86	66	52	80	83		45	48	34
2018	number	436,287	21,013	140,505	205,886	205,103	99.62%	9,625	2,712	127,530
	index	79	59	32	71	74		39	39	26
2019	number	419,067	20,021	139,854	173,721	173,174	99.69%	8,635	2,451	147,230
	index	76	57	32	60	62		35	35	30
2020	number	242,473	17,386	84,427	102,124	101,783	99.67%	5,965	1,439	76,162
	index	44	49	19	35	37		24	21	15
2021	number	180,259	15,827	58,281	77,674	77,502	99.78%	5,532	1,419	61,266
	index	33	45	13	27	28		23	20	12
2022	number	318,376	16,086	111,159	113,166	112,746	99.63%	5,059	1,359	80,775
	index	57	46	26	39	41		21	19	16
2023	number	303,393	19,371	126,369	131,043	130,663	99.71%	5,720	1,782	91,609
	index	47	66	37	41	41		32	37	20
2024	number	272,947	20,207	145,873	111,703	111,401	99.73%	4,488	1,741	100,535
	index	43	69	42	35	35		25	36	22

* Basic services include: Main Hall, General Reading Room, Scholars Reading Room, Social and Natural Sciences Reading Room, Reference Centre, Periodicals Reading Room.

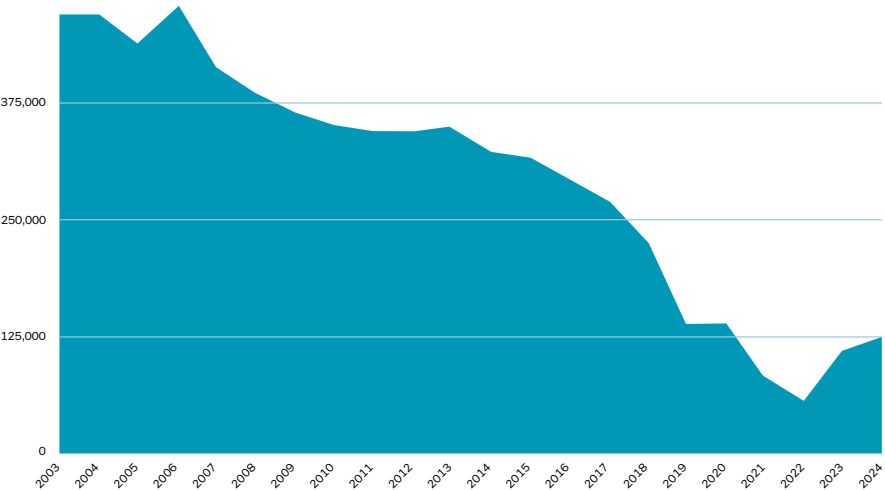
1 Loans



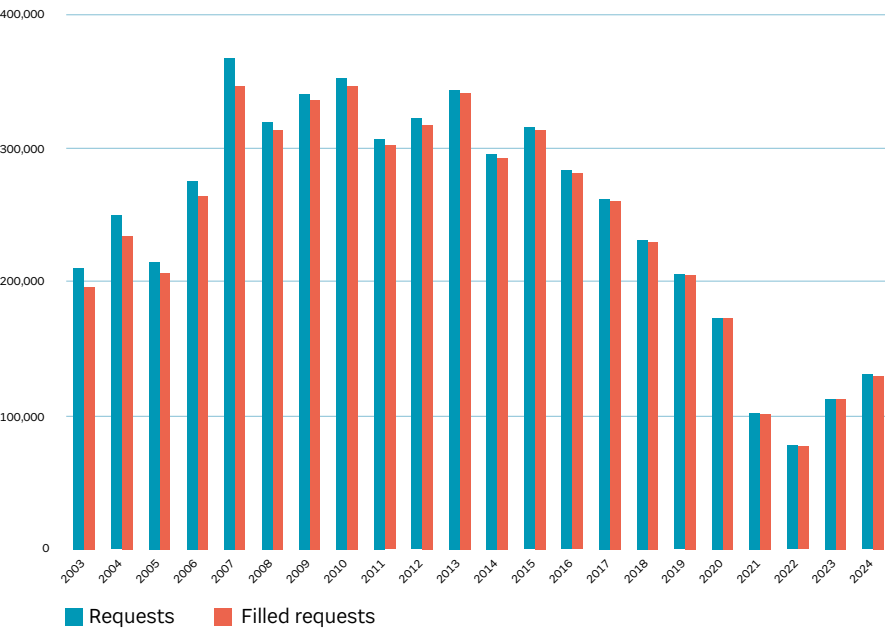
2 Registered Users



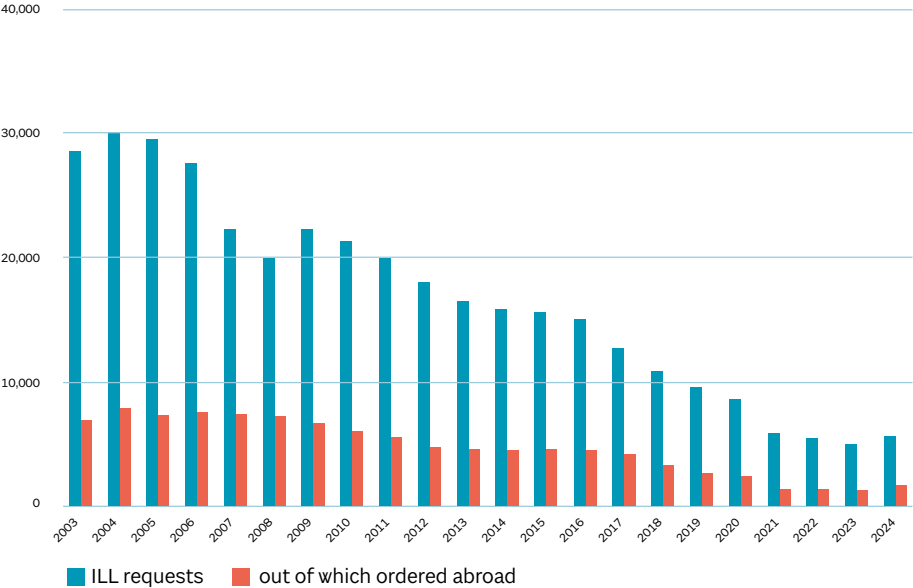
3 Attendance Rate at Loan Departments and Reading Rooms



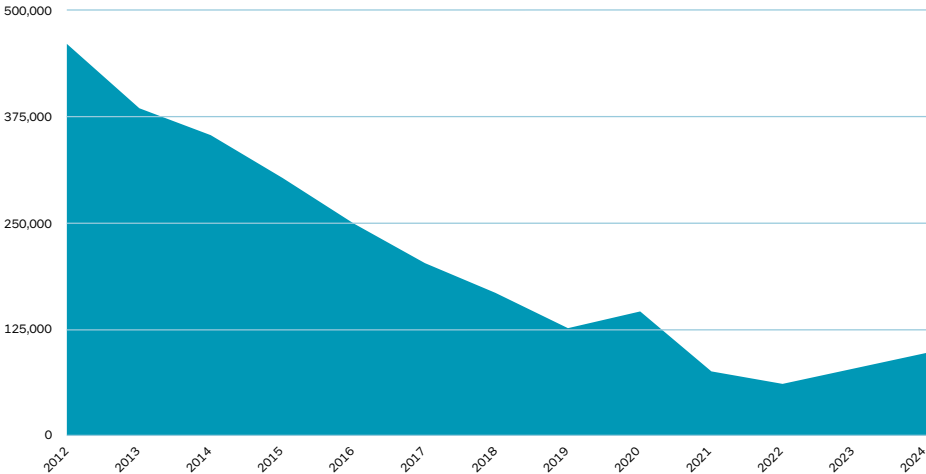
4 Requests



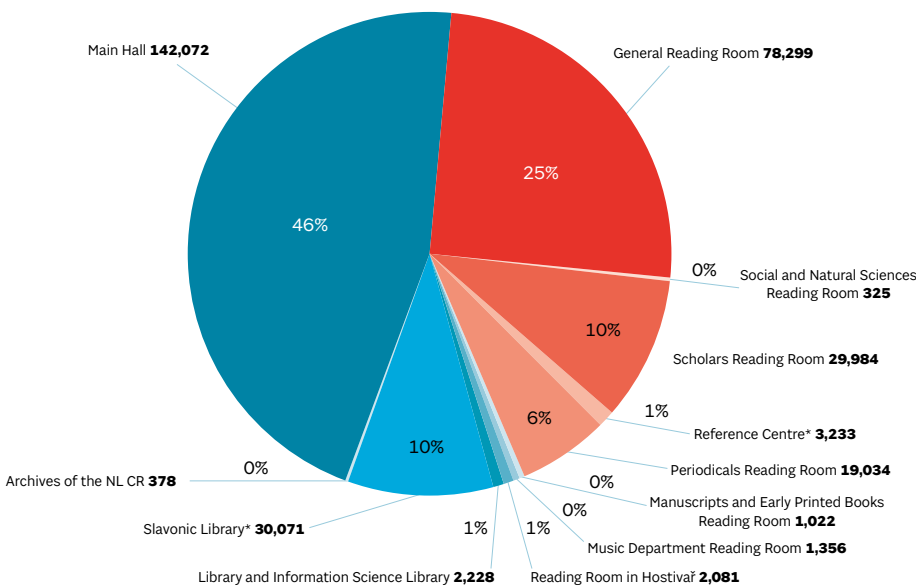
5 Interlibrary Services



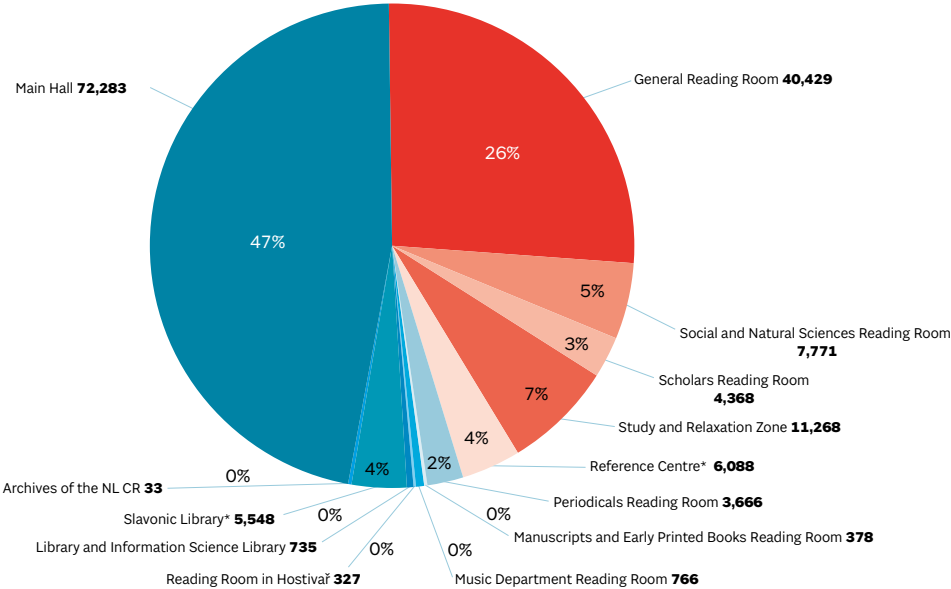
6 Photocopying and Printing



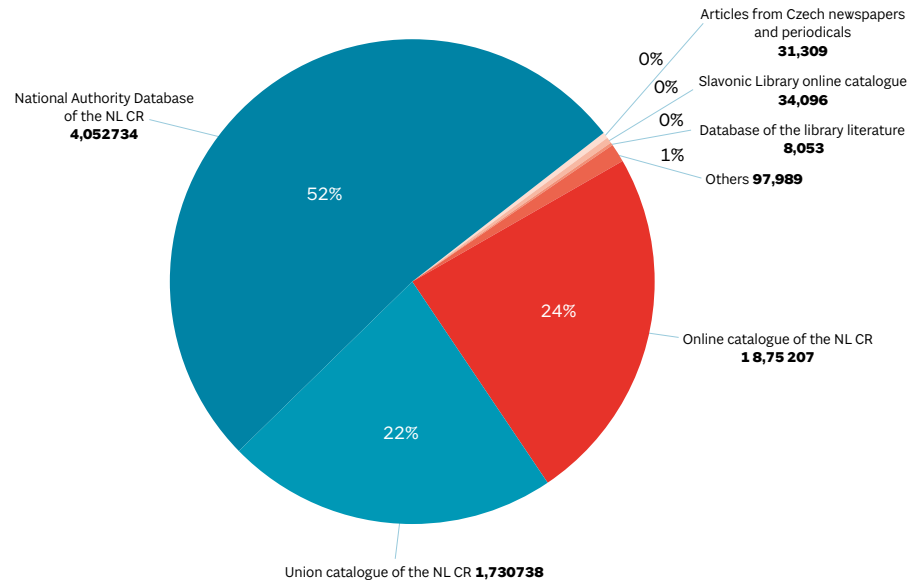
7 Registered Loans



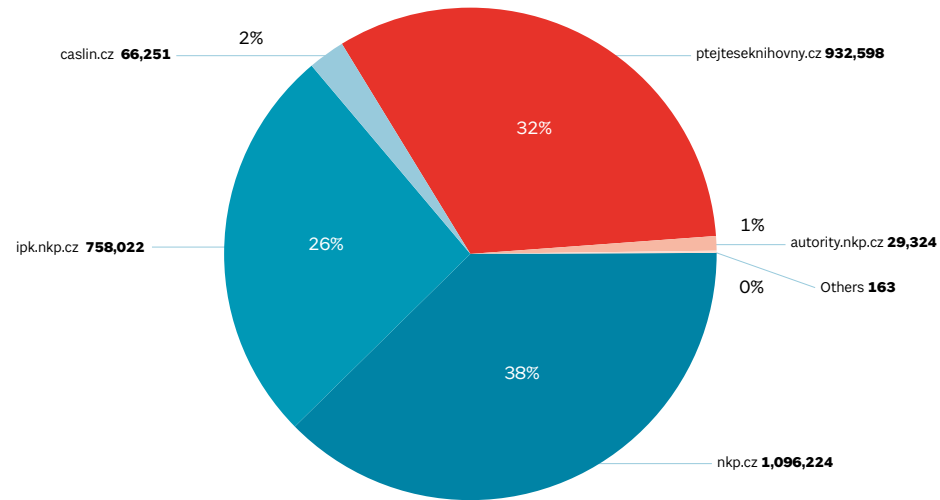
8 Library Usage



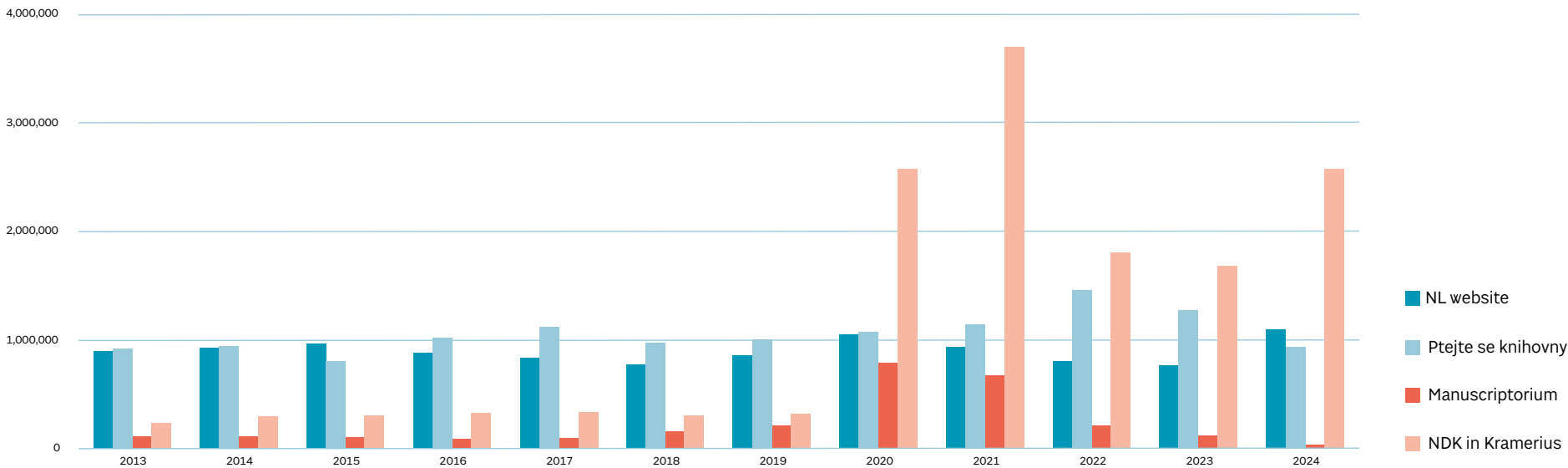
9 Usage of the Catalogues and Databases of the NL CR



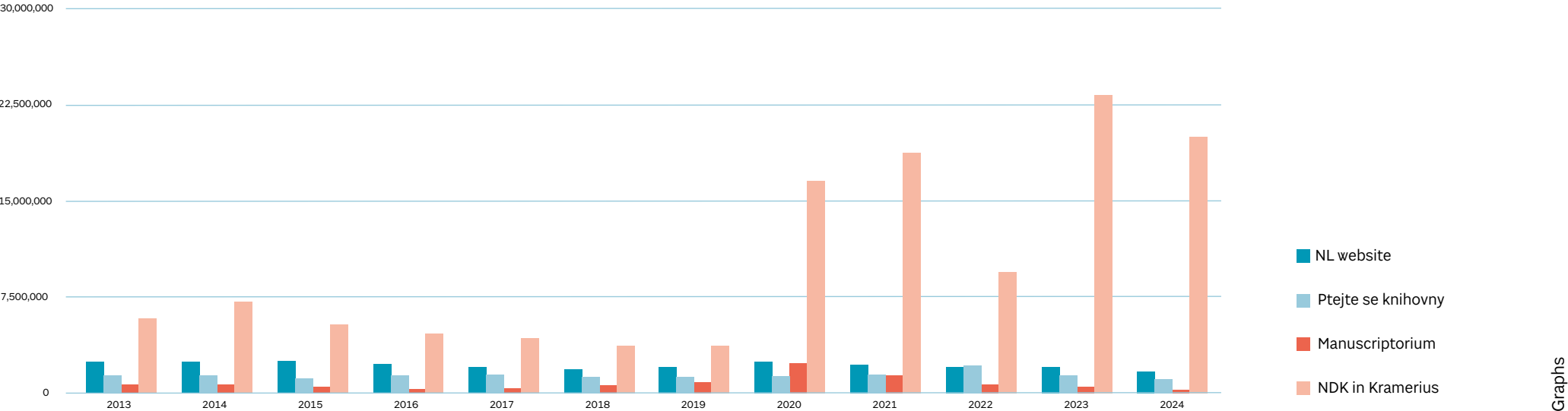
10 Website Access Rate



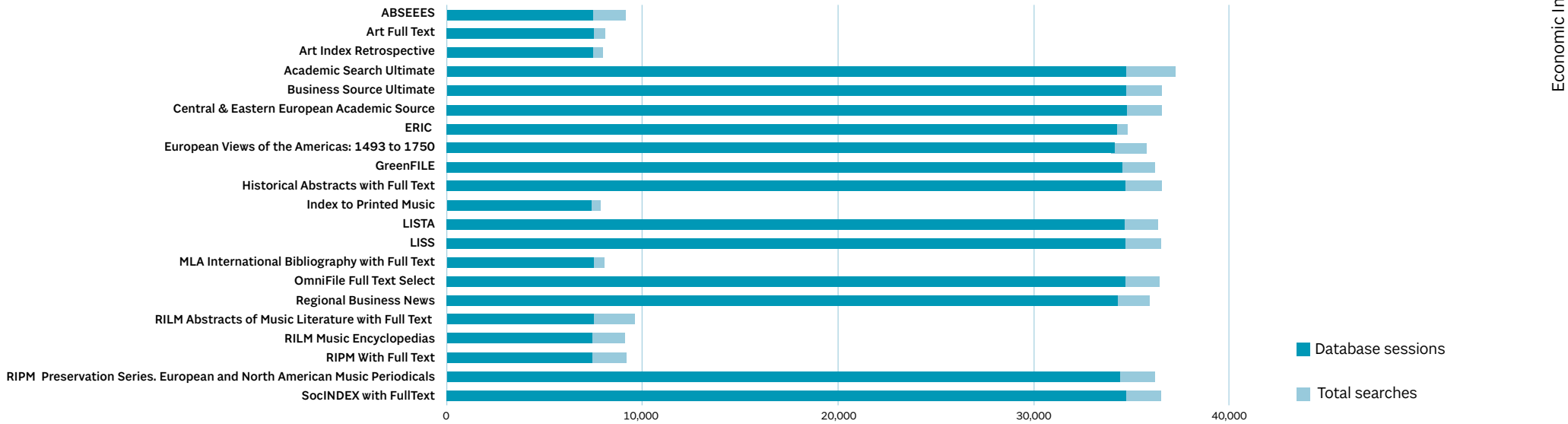
11 Visits to the NL Website and Digital Libraries



12 Downloaded/Displayed Pages from the NL Website and Digital Libraries



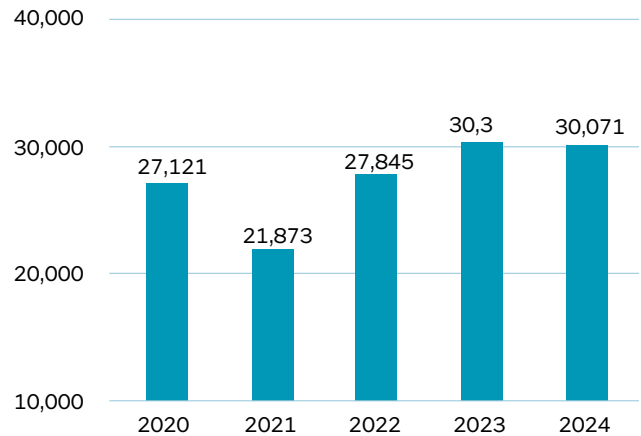
13 Use of Licensed Electronic Information Resources



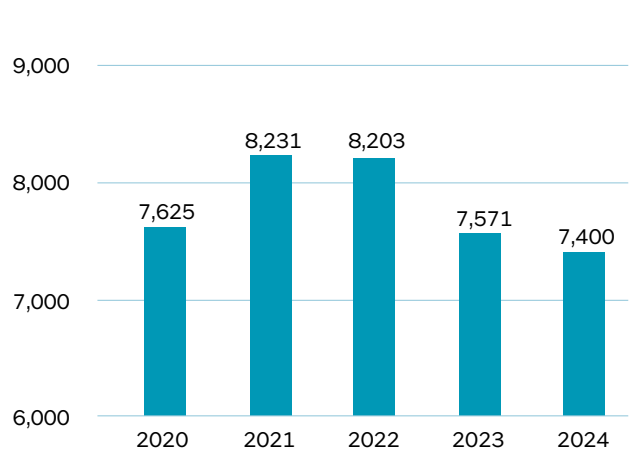
Services Provided

Registered users as of 31 December 2024	1,293
Library usage	5,548
Total number of loans	30,071

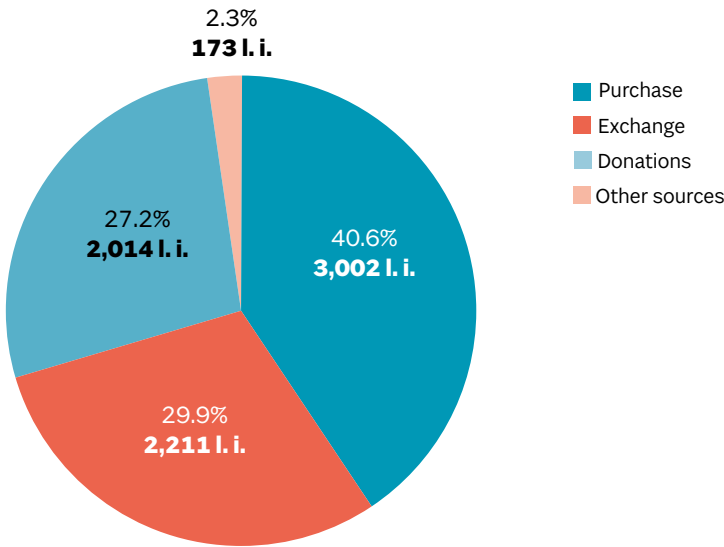
Number of Registered Loans (2020–2024)



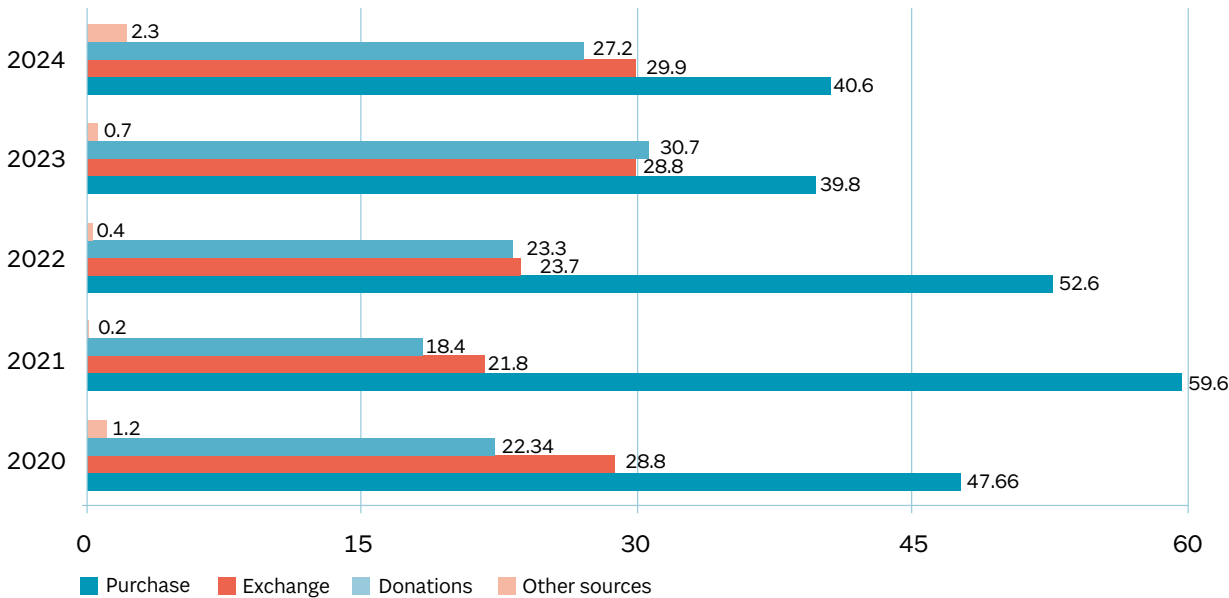
Collection Acquisitions



Proportion of Individual Acquisition Sources in the Total Acquisitions in 2024



Acquisition Structure During 2020–2024 (in %)

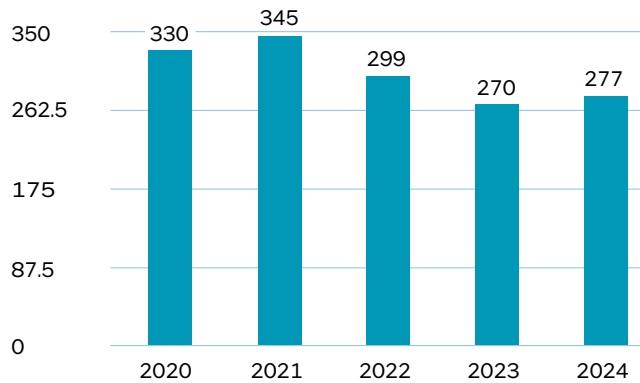


Library and Information Science Library

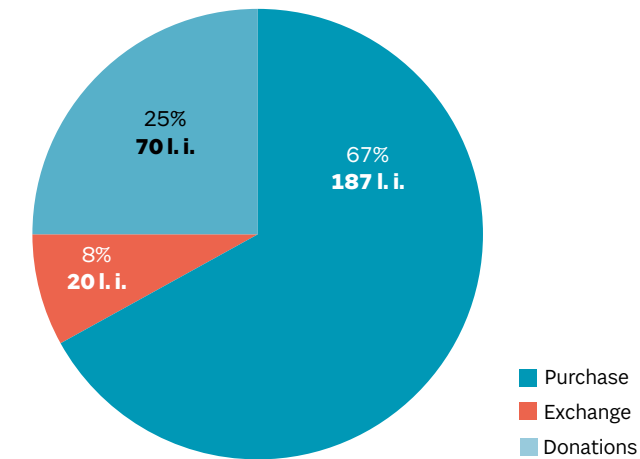
Services Provided

Library usage	736
Total number of loans	2,586

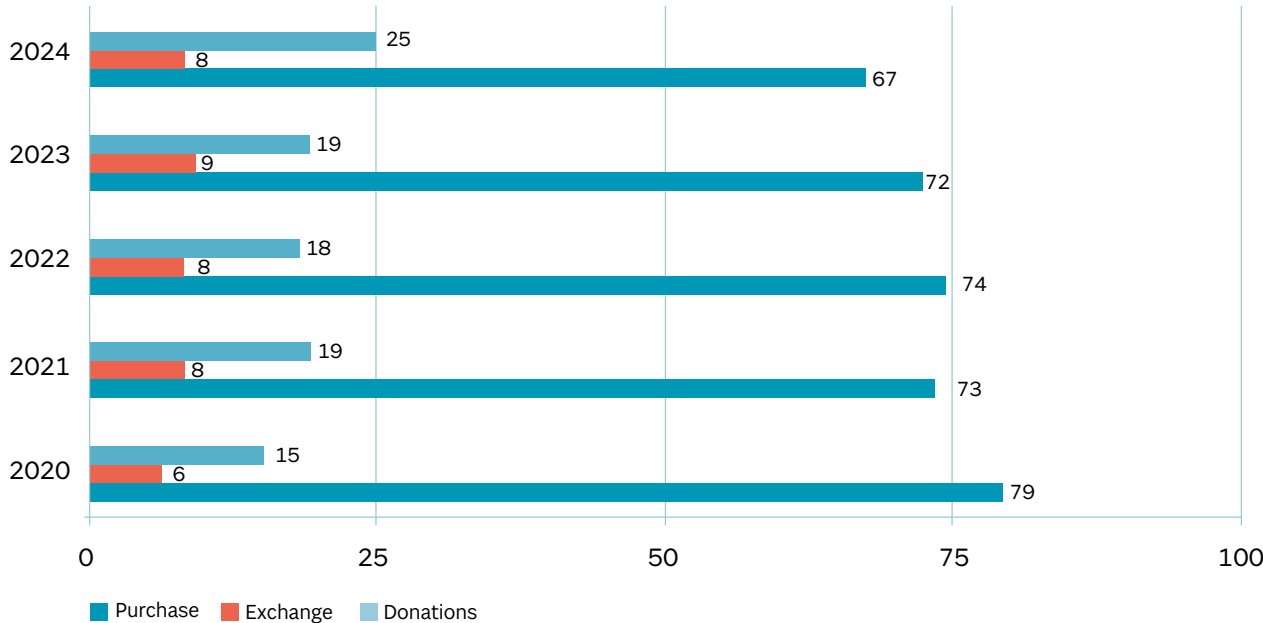
Collection Acquisitions



Proportion of Individual Acquisition Sources in the Total Acquisitions in 2024



Acquisition Structure During 2020–2024 (in %)





The Library's Cultural, Educational, and Publishing Activities



Important Events Throughout the Year

5 January

The NL CR Gala Evening in the newly restored space of the Main Hall.



6 March

Book Donation Ceremony and Presentation of Works by Václav Smil.



13 March

A discussion with journalist and literary historian Ivan Tolstoy on the occasion of the publication of his new monograph *Chranitěli nasledstva* (Prague, 2023). Organised by the Slavonic Library.

27–28 March

Transformations of Intimacy in Central and East European Literatures (1890–1920), an international conference organised by the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, University of Nova Gorica, and the National Library of the CR – the Slavonic Library.

10 April

A visit by Jean-François Rappo, a Swiss graphic designer and typographer, a guest of UMPRUM.

11 April

Gala Concert for 'Slovanka', held on the occasion of 100th anniversary for staff, friends, and supporters of the Slavonic Library.



16 April

Declaration on the Cooperation between the NL CR and Czech Radio for 2024–2026 on providing media support to the NL CR for important cultural activities.

16 April

A discussion with the author, a prominent independent Russian journalist and LGBTQ+ activist Yelena Kostyuchenko on the occasion of the Czech publication of the book *My Russia. News from a Lost Land*. Organised by the Slavonic Library and the Prague collective 'Будет толк'.



22 April

Travelogue of the Year – Hanzelka and Zikmund Award, an award ceremony of Czech Radio in the Mirror Chapel.

26 April

Foundation Stone Laying for the NL CR depository building III.

23–26 May

Book World Prague 2024. A presentation of activities of the NL CR as a traditional information institution full of modern technologies and digitised data. On the first day of the fair, the NL CR was the guarantor of the programme for the professional public.

23–24 May

Musicological symposium ‘Same Year, Different Lineage...’ Zvonař – Heller – Pivoda 1824/2024, held on the NL CR premises, was organised in conjunction with the Music Department.

29 May

Memorandum on the Cooperation between the NL CR and the Government Office of the CR.

30 May

Memorandum of Understanding between the NL CR and the Szechenyi National Library in Budapest on exchange of professional staff.

3–7 June

Summer school Chronicles of Preservation: Bridging Manuscripts and Modernity – the NL CR Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department participated in its organisation and lectures in association with University of St Andrews, the State Regional Archives Třeboň, and the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

4 June

Agreement on International Cooperation between the NL CR and the Slovak National Library in Martin on exchange of professional staff.

13 June

Digitisation with Google

In 2024, the digitisation of the NL CR historical collections was resumed in cooperation with Google. Two transports of books from the collections of the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department and the Slavonic Library were organised.

18 June

Memorandum of Understanding between the NL CR and the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers on the principles and rules to make the Out-of-Commerce Works available to users.

19 June

Vasil Bykov 100, an annual meeting dedicated to the 100th birthday anniversary of Belarusian writer and public personality Vasil Bykov (1924–2003). Organised by Osvětový spolek Skaryna and the Slavonic Library.

20 June

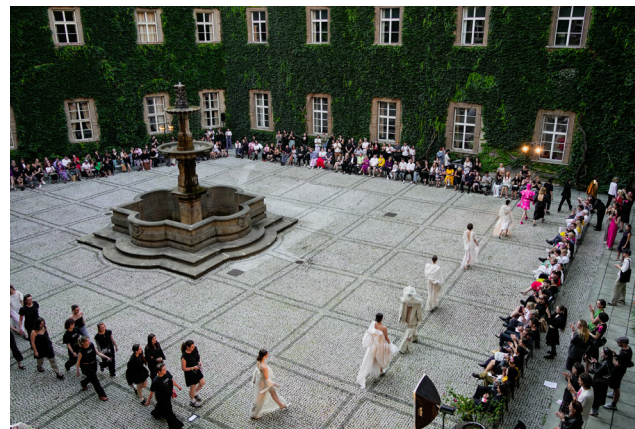
Memorandum on Cooperation between the NL CR and Czech Television.

20 June

Memorandum on Cooperation between the NL CR and the Labour Office of the CR on the framework for cooperation between the parties in the training of digital competencies among library staff and other target groups of the public, and the education to support the use of digitised state and public administration systems.

22–23 June

UMPRUM Fashion Show in the Klementinum.



26 June

A Visit by Mons. Stanislav Přibyl, Bishop of Litoměřice in the NL CR. Mons. Přibyl appreciated the guided tour of the Klementinum with special attention to the Music Department. His visit significantly deepened mutual contacts and led to the settlement of property relations between the NL CR and the Diocese of Litoměřice, which is the owner of the organ on the loft of the Mirror Chapel.

15–19 July

Summer school Preaching and Conflict – the NL CR Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department the NL CR Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department participated in its organisation and lectures in association with the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, and the Centre for Medieval Studies, Czech Academy of Sciences.

2 September

A Visit by the Delegation from South Korea led by the wife of the President of the Republic of Korea Kim Keon-hee and the General Director of the National Library of Korea Heesop Kim, during which the memorandum on mutual cooperation of both national libraries was signed. The delegation appreciated the presentation of Czech and South-Korean restoration procedures.

5 September

Slavic Studies Librarianship and Its Influence on Contemporary Public Education – an international symposium on the occasion of the centenary of the Slavonic Library. The international event was intended to introduce the audience to important aspects of global Slavic studies librarianship, such as the activities of professional organisations, the development of professional information gateways, the production of specialised databases, reference activities, as well as the existence of unique collections of Slavic literature. Organised by the Slavonic Library.



5 September

A gala reception on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Slavonic Library in conjunction with the **Rudolf Medek Prize Ceremony for 2024**. This year, the Prize was awarded to historian Vratislav Doubek. It is presented by the Slavonic Library and the Russian Tradition Association.

20 September

Memorandum of Understanding between the NL CR and South Korea.

22–28 September

Summer school Medieval Manuscripts: From Digital to Material – the NL CR Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department participated in its organisation and lectures in association with Centre national de la recherche scientifique, Humboldt University, the Faculty of Philosophy, Charles University, and the State Regional Archives in Třeboň.



28 September

The Open Day at the Ministry of Culture of the CR. Presentation of the NL CR activities.

28 September

The Day of Architecture at the Klementinum. As part of the largest architecture festival in the Czech Republic, the public could see the otherwise inaccessible historical spaces of the NL CR, especially those associated with the reconstruction under the leadership of the architect Ladislav Machoň.

9 October

A Visit by the Commissioner of the Government Office for Human Rights Klára Šimáčková Laurenčíková. Discussion on the possibilities of specific cooperation and the involvement of library networks in the prevention of risky social behaviour resulted in the accession of the NL CR to the Charter against Domestic Violence.



10 October

The Library of the Year, an award ceremony took place in the Mirror Chapel in the presence of the Minister of Culture Martin Baxa.

10–13 October

Signal Festival 2024 in the Klementinum continued a three-year project Ecosystems II: Quest. The installation in the Student Courtyard used light effects to emphasise perfect shapes of electrical vehicles Mercedes-Benz: AURA.

12–20 October

Deskohraní at the Klementinum. The 24th year of the Prague festival of board games and tournaments was focused on pupils of elementary schools in morning hours.

15 October

Ceremonial Signing of the Agreement among the NL CR, the Hoover Institution (California, USA), and East View Society (Minnesota, USA) on the Slavonic Library's Involvement in the Russian Diaspora Initiative project. The project is aimed at building a freely accessible digital library of Russian émigré newspapers published outside the territory of Russia in the 20th century – Russia Abroad Digital Collection (RADC). The project will allow to digitise part of the unique newspaper collection of the Slavonic Library, which is included in the UNESCO Memory of the World Heritage List.



16 October

A meeting with the writer Andrei Ivanov (Tallinn) dedicated to his novel about Russian emigration *The Moths of Kharbin* (2013). Organised by the Slavonic Library and the Prague collective 'Будет толк'.

17 October

Opening of the exhibition **Bibliotheca Astronomica. Astronomical Prints of the 15th–17th Centuries in the Collections of the National Library of the CR.**



18 October

Umění & duševní zdraví [Art & Mental Health], a conference on a new role of arts in the transforming society.



23 October

Signing of the Memorandum of Understanding among the NL CR, the Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine, Kyiv, and the Ukrainian Library Association, including the donation agreement between both mentioned libraries on the transfer of a mobile workstation for the protection and conservation of printed book heritage of Ukraine.



7–8 November

Memory Days of the Czech Alzheimer's Society at the NL CR drew attention to the importance of early diagnosis of dementia and offered the public a memory examination.



13–14 November

Library Workshops 2024 as a meeting of librarians from local and city libraries brought the traditional presentation of libraries awarded in the Library of the Year competition.

18–24 November

The Week for Digital Czechia. The NL CR took active part in the nationwide educational initiative. Its aim was to promote digital literacy and bring digital technologies closer to the public. As part of the programme, the NL CR organised workshops focused on digitised modern documents and the Manuscriptorium Digital Library. The issue of copyright and the use of images from the Internet was presented in cooperation with Wikimedia. The on-site conference Cybersecurity focused on vulnerable groups was held in the NL CR.

6 December

Manga Day in cooperation with the CREW Publishers, the first in the NL CR, organised in association with SKIP, was held as part of the Children's Book Day. On this occasion, the NL CR was visited by the Ambassador of Japan to the Czech Republic, H. E. Kensuke Nagaoka, and the Cultural Attaché Arata Mise.



12 December

Memorandum on Mutual Cooperation between the NL CR and the Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

18 December

Signing the Charter Against Domestic Violence. The NL CR joined the Charter Against Domestic Violence together with the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Charles University, and many other significant signatories.

18 December

Ark I Ready To Depart for Ukraine. A press conference in the Hostivař Depository informed that the project for the protection and conservation of printed cultural heritage of Ukraine had been completed thanks to

the cooperation of the Ministry of Culture, the ICOM Czech Republic, and the NL CR with the support of private donors. The completed mobile conservation unit was presented to the public in the presence of the Minister of Culture Martin Baxa, representatives of the Embassy of Ukraine, and the donors.

Regular Events Organised at the Klementinum

From the Treasures of the Klementinum

A series of lectures of the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department held in connection with the display of the exhibit of the month, a document related to the presented topic. The lectures are intended for the public, who can come in person, or watch the live streams on the Internet, and recordings of lectures are posted on the NL CR YouTube channel.

Genealogy Plus – a series of sixteen lectures on-site and online.

Exhibition Activities

The Klementinum Gallery

25 November 2023 – 7 January 2024

The Jubilee Exhibition of Nativity Scenes in the Klementinum. Only Once in 100 Years

The exhibition took place in the Klementinum, where the first Nativity scene was created in the Czech lands in 1562 and where the Jubilee Manger Scene Exhibition was organised in 1923.

22 March – 31 May

Why We Do Not Lend You All Books or The Permanent Preservation of Modern Collections in the National Library

The extensive National Library holdings include nowadays over 7.7 million volumes. Most of them are the modern library collections, i.e. documents published after 1800. Every year the collections grow by tens of thousands of various documents that we must care for in order to preserve them for future generations. Visitors had the opportunity to look behind the scenes and discover what happens to books after they 'enter' the National Library.

12 June – 31 July

Polish Alphabet Book. Iconic Polish Works on Posters by Young Artists

The exhibition featured 44 works created in Poland after 1918 that gained international fame or are characteristic of authors, whose renown crossed national borders.



16 August – 29 September

The Gardens of Eden, Fruit Orchards and Overgrown Gardens. Nature and Landscape in Historical and Contemporary Illustration

The exhibition revealed a rich book culture depicting nature and the landscape from medieval travel books and Benedictine herbal gardens through the herbariums of highly learned doctors to contemporary illustrators, who pay tribute to medieval illuminations and early modern printed illustrations.

18 October – 18 December

Bibliotheca astronomica. Astronomical Prints of the 15th–17th Centuries in the Collections of the National Library of the CR

The exhibition has been prepared within the framework of the research project NAKI III *The Roots and Fruits of European Science in Czech, Moravian, and Silesian Historical Library Collections*.



Klementinum, ground floor

25 November 2023 – 7 January 2024

We Have Been the Music Department for 100 Years, The 100th Anniversary of the Music Department of the National Library of the Czech Republic 1923–2023

The exhibition outlined the department's history, presented the exceptional features of historical and modern music collections as well as research and publishing activities related to them. Visitors can also explore the process of cataloguing the music documents including their preservation.

1 February – 22 March

What Does It Mean?

Polish and Czech are close languages from the same West Slavic group, we often understand each other well, and learning the basics is not difficult. However, some words that sound similar can have completely different meanings. The exhibition commemorates the 100th anniversary of the establishment of Polish Studies at Charles University.

6 March – 30 April

Montenegrin Cyrillic Printing of the 15th and 16th Centuries

The exhibition was prepared by Matica crnogorska and has been organised in association with the Slavonic Library. Display panels with texts in Czech and English clearly present this significant initial period of Slavic book printing, its key personalities, and their work.



27 March – 31 April

Slovenian Literary Modernism in the Czech Environment

The exhibition featured the phenomenon of Slovenian literary modernism, with the focus on its key personalities, the forms of the influence of the Czech environment on their work and especially, on the reception of their work in the Czech environment. Special attention is paid to Ivan Cankar and Zofka Kveder. The exhibition, organised by the Faculty of Arts, Charles University, University of Nova Gorica, and the Slavonic Library, has been prepared as part of the international conference 'Transformations of Intimacy in Central and East European Literatures. (1890–1920)'.



17 May – 29 June

Cultural Activities of Women in the Middle Ages. Queens – Noblewomen – Burgher Women

The exhibition featured the range of activities by which noble and lowborn women influenced the society and acted as cultural agents in the broadest sense of the word: they participated in the creation of material and spiritual culture and at the same time used these means to fulfill their political role and strengthen their personal or family powerful position.

5 September – 8 November

The Slavonic Library – A Hundred Years of Its Activity (1924–2024)

The exhibition on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the establishment commemorates milestones in the library's history, important personalities, as well as the most interesting parts of the library collections. Presented are also publishing, exhibition and organisational activities of the library including the participation in specialised Slavistic projects. Featured are unique materials from the collection of visual documents. The exhibition has been prepared by the Slavonic Library.



27 November 2024 – 31 January 2025

Threads of Memories – Destinies of Women in the Gulag

The exhibition presents everyday life in the Soviet camps in an unconventional way, from arrest to return to freedom. The main means through which the visitor can learn the details of the individual stories are photographs of unique objects and other exhibits that the women brought with them from the Gulag camps. The exhibition has been prepared by the Memorial and Gulag.cz organisations in association with the Slavonic Library.



Ante-Room to the General Reading Room – **Exhibit of the Month**

Each month, one specimen from the rich collections of historical books is presented, which relates to the topic presented in the lecture series 'From the Treasures of the Klementinum'.

First floor

20 June – 31 August

Vasil Bykav 100

The exhibition on the occasion of the 100th birthday anniversary of the Belarussian writer Vasil Bykav featured his works and their translations from the collections of the Slavonic Library, as well as original letters, photographs, and personal items. He was and still is one of the most important and most read Belarussian writers, both in his country and abroad. The exhibition has been organised by the Skaryna Educational Association and the Slavonic Library.



Main Hall, ground floor

8 January – 28 March

The Depiction of Biblical Stories in Renaissance Illuminations

The panel exhibition featured selected music manuscripts, hymnals, and graduals from the NL collections, used in congregational singing at town churches in the 16th century.

5 August – 31 December

Changes of the Klementinum in Photographs

The presented photographs show the Klementinum area from the end of the 19th century to around the middle of the 20th century. They tell long-forgotten stories and remind of places that have disappeared or changed in connection with the reconstruction for the needs of the then Public and University Library.



Hall No. 101

27 June – 4 July

The Graduates of the Department of Fine Arts, UMPRUM – Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design

The display presented final works by this year graduates from the Department of Fine Arts, of the Academy of Arts, Architecture & Design in Prague. Graduates from five studios represent contemporary approaches to various artistic media from painting, sculpture, through installation, to video and film.

Exteriors – Student Courtyard

6–19 May

Memo Map: The History of the Holocaust in Prague

Sixteen panels presented how the space of Prague was reduced for those labelled as Jews, depending on the issuance of protectorate anti-Jewish regulations. Orders and regulations led to the creation of invisible barriers that prevented contact between Jewish and non-Jewish residents of Prague.

Publishing Activities

I Professional texts from the areas of library science, information science and book culture

a) Proceedings, handbooks, studies, bibliographies, and promotional material

Kamil Boldan, Jana Vackářová

Bibliotheca astronomica. Astronomické tisky 15.–17. století ze sbírek Národní knihovny České republiky [Bibliotheca astronomica. Astronomical Prints of the 15th-17th Century from the Collections of the National Library of the Czech Republic]

ISBN 978-80-7050-811-4 (paperback);
978-80-7050-816-9 (online: pdf)



Pavel Štěpánek

Jezuita Ignaz Tirsch jako misionář, architekt a umělec v mexické Dolní Kalifornii [The Jesuit Ignatius Tirsch as a Missionary, Architect, and Artist in Baja California Sur]

ISBN 978-80-7050-802-2 (paperback)



Michal Dragoun

Knihovna mistra Křišťana z Prachatic [The Library of Master Christian of Prachatic]

ISBN 978-80-7050-815-2 (hardback)



Knihovna roku 2024 a další knihovnická ocenění [Library of the Year 2024 and Other Library Awards]

ISBN 978-80-7050-812-1 (paperback); 978-80-7050-813-8 (online: pdf)

Lenka Dostálová, Vít Richter, Marie Šedá

Knihovna v obci: příručka pro starosty a zastupitele [The Municipal Library: a Guide for Mayors and Councillors]

ISBN 978-80-7050-806-0 (online: pdf)



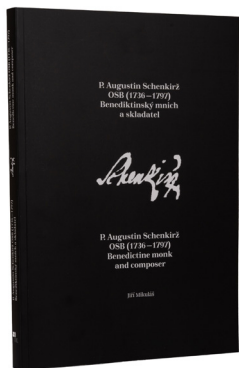
Alena Richterová

Knihy čtenářů a kniha návštěv klementinské knihovny [Readers' Books and Visitors' Book of the Clementinum Library]

ISBN 978-80-7050-819-0 (paperback)

National Library of the Czech Republic: Annual Report 2024

ISBN 978-80-7050-804-6 (online: pdf), ISSN 1804-8633 (online: pdf)



Jiří Mikuláš

P. Augustin Schenkirž OSB (1736–1797): benediktinský mnich a skladatel [P. Augustin Schenkirž OSB (1736–1797): Benedictine monk and composer]
ISBN 978-80-7050-810-7 (paperback)

Pavčina Mazáčová

Rozvoj kompetencí učícího knihovníka: výzkumy – kurikulum – gramotnosti [Developing Teaching Librarian Competencies: Research – Curriculum – Literacy]
ISBN 978-80-7050-803-9 (online: pdf)

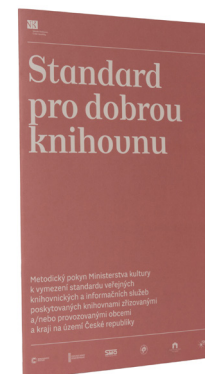
Lucie Macháčková, Marie Šedá

Regionální funkce knihoven: výroční zpráva o plnění regionálních funkcí krajských knihoven na území ČR za rok 2023 [Regional Functions of Libraries: Annual Report on the Regional Functions of Regional Libraries in the Czech Republic for 2023]
ISBN 978-80-7050-805-3 (online: pdf)



Václav Mertin, Barbora Jandíková a kol.

S pohádkou do života: scénáře podle známých pohádek: metodická příručka pro práci knihoven s rodiči a dětmi: projekt S knížkou do života (Bookstart) [A Year with Bookstart: Scenarios Based on Well-Known Fairy Tales: Methodological Guide for Libraries Working with Parents and Children: Project Bookstart]
ISBN 978-80-7050-817-6 (paperback), 978-80-7050-818-3 (online: pdf)



Standard pro dobrou knihovnu [Standard for a Good Library]

ISBN 978-80-7050-807-7 (paperback), 978-80-7050-808-4 (online: pdf)



Lucie Macháčková, Eva Semrádová, Vít Richter, Marie Šedá

Statistika knihoven: příručka pro práci se statistikou ve veřejných knihovnách [Library Statistics: A Handbook for Working with Statistics in Public Libraries]
ISBN 978-80-7050-821-3 (paperback)



Pavlína Mazáčová

Učící knihovnice, učící knihovník: od přípravy k evaluaci vzdělávacího programu [Teaching Librarian: From Preparation to Evaluation of a Training Programme]

ISBN 978-80-7050-820-6 (paperback)

kol. aut.

We're Creating a Library. The National Library! Together!

ISBN 978-80-7050-797-1 (paperback)

b) Periodicals

Knihovna [Library] Year 35, Nos. 1, 2 (2024)

ISSN 1801-3252, ISSN 1802-8772 (online)

Knihovna plus [Library Plus] Year 20, Nos. 1, 2 (2024)

ISSN 1801-5948 (online)

Přirůstky odborné literatury ve fondu Slovanské knihovny [Acquisitions of Specialised Publications for the Collection of the Slavonic Library]

Year 34 (50), Nos. 1–4 (2024)

ISSN 1802-3797 (online)

II Slavonic Library Publications

Černohorský cyrilský knihtisk 15. a 16. století [Montenegrin Cyrillic Book Printing of the 15th and 16th Centuries]

ISBN 978-80-7050-799-5 (paperback)

Compiled and Initial Studies Written by Jan Boháček, Daniela Brádlarová, Marek Ďurčanský, Jiřina Urbanová

Jaroslav Bidlo (1868–1937) a Milada Paulová (1891–1970): bibliografie publikovaných prací [Jaroslav Bidlo (1868–1937) and Milada Paulová (1891–1970): Bibliography of Published Works]

ISBN 978-80-7050-782-7 (paperback)



Jan Hanousek

Sbírka dokumentů k dějinám Slovanské knihovny (1924–2024): inventář [The Collection of Documents on the History of the Slavonic Library (1924–2024) – The Inventory]

ISBN 978-80-7050-814-5 (paperback)



Compiled Tereza Rejdová

Slovanská knihovna v tisku a dalších médiích: bibliografie za léta 1979–2023 [The Slavonic Library in the Press and Other Media: Bibliography 1979–2023]

ISBN 978-80-7050-809-1 (paperback)



III Others

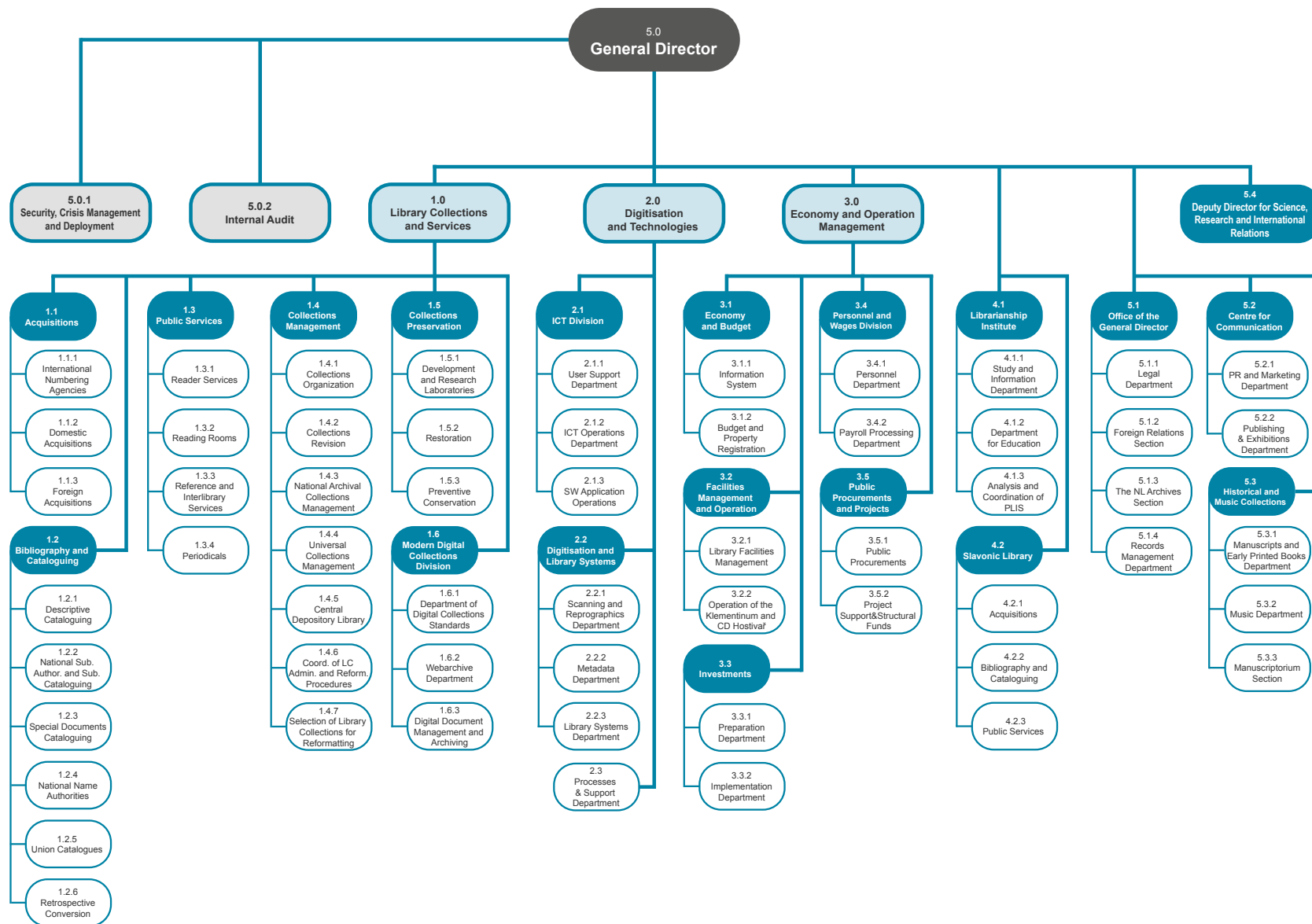
A Desk Calendar for 2025 Na Nový rok o slepičí krok [On New Year's Day by Hen Step]



The Appendices



The Organisational Structure as of 31 December 2024



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→ <https://www.nkp.cz/slovanska-knihovna>

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→ (+420) 221 663 239, reference@nkp.cz
(Research and Bibliographic Services)
→ (+420) 221 663 202, mvs@nkp.cz
(Interlibrary Loan Services)

The Main Hall

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→ (+420) 221 663 248 (Information Desk)
→ (+420) 221 663 131 (Reprographic Services)
→ hala.os@nkp.cz; pujcovna.os@nkp.cz

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→ (+420) 221 663 521 (Collection Management)
→ (+420) 221 663 575 (Collection Preservation)
→ (+420) 221 663 327 (Acquisitions)
→ (+420) 221 663 173, 221 663 306
(International Numbering Agencies)

The Donation Account of the National Library of the CR

- 123-85535011/0710
Česká národní banka, Prague 1

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