

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

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



Národní knihovna
České republiky
National Library
of the Czech Republic



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

I take the liberty of beginning this year's introduction with a quote from the Spanish-American philosopher and essayist George Santayana, which was published in his book *The Life of Reason* in 1905: 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' You may wonder how this statement connects to the National Library of the Czech Republic and its 2025 activities. The answer is straightforward: the National Library is a vital memory institution that has preserved, for centuries, not only the history of the Czech lands but also knowledge of the events that influenced Europe's development. Its collections are virtually limitless in content, time span, and geography. They have been continuously built through the diligent efforts of curators, acquirers, and researchers, who have strived to capture the essence of their era and pass it on to future generations. Nonetheless, the narrators of history themselves are crucial to this process, sometimes adhering strictly to facts and at other times integrating personal interpretation or imagination. In 2025, the National Library

commemorated one of the most significant figures in shaping the well-known image of early medieval history in Central Europe – the chronicler Cosmas, who ranks among the unique storytellers of his time.

The *Cosmas 900* project, whose story had already begun long before last year, clearly showcased the ingenuity and capacity of the National Library of the Czech Republic to leverage its core strengths in a collaborative effort to engage the broader public. It highlighted the importance of systematically prioritising scientific and research activities, critically reinterpreting significant works from a new perspective, and subsequently incorporating these ideas into engaging outputs, such as exhibitions or scholarly and popularising publications. The project confirmed that it is worthwhile for the library to invest in educating future generations, even in fields that may seem distant or complex, like medieval history. However, it is essential to present them in a fresh, understandable way, using creative approaches. The variety and creativity of the student chronicles submitted in response to the National Library's call clearly demonstrate this.

The project greatly enhanced the role of the National Library of the Czech Republic in cultural diplomacy by enabling its long-term, systematic efforts to borrow and display nearly all remaining copies of Cosmas's work, regardless of whether they originated from private collections or major institutions abroad. Moreover, the *Cosmas 900* project showcased the capacity of the National Library's conservation and restoration studios to prepare numerous documents for display, guarantee their safe storage, and maintain suitable physical conditions. The Mirror Chapel of the Klementinum was converted into a distinctive exhibition space that, while respecting the manuscripts displayed, attracted thousands of visitors.

The digital presentation of the topic, primarily via modern virtual exhibitions, also played a crucial role. Many other sections of the National Library of the Czech Republic could also be highlighted for their contributions to this commemorative project. The short list above clearly illustrates what defines a modern national library. The National Library of the Czech Republic is undoubtedly an example of such a modern institution.

In summary, I will briefly address the quote at the beginning of this foreword. It encourages us to consider past actions and learn from them. Cosmas's *Chronicle of the Czechs* offers numerous stories and details about early Bohemian history and everyday life. It portrays the structure of early medieval society and its ties within the geopolitical landscape, demonstrating that historical events do not occur in isolation but within a broader context. Simultaneously, its perspective and interpretation of events aim to position Bohemia, then a duchy, as an essential part of Christian Western culture and society. This legacy, later reinforced by the achievements of notable figures like Charles IV and Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk, remains a vital aspect to remember today, especially as we confront significant challenges and crises.

I assure you that the National Library of the Czech Republic will remain a source of support, inspiration, and knowledge. It will continue to safeguard the legacy of our ancestors and foster a safe, open space for preserving our collective 'memory' for future generations.

Thank you for your loyalty and support.

Mgr. Tomáš Foltýn
Director General

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THE YEAR'S EVENTS

The Completion of the Central Depository in Prague-Hostivař and Other Significant Investment Achievements

The Completion of the Depository

Construction of the new, third building at the National Library's Central Depository in Hostivař continued throughout the year. All three structures will be connected by corridors across multiple floors. Structural work on the new building was finished in December 2024, while in 2025, efforts focused mainly on utility systems, flooring, windows, doors, roofing, and the installation of kitchenettes and compact shelving on each level. For safety, a separate retention tank was built; during heavy rainfall, it will collect and drain water safely into the public sewer, protecting the stored book collection.

The building will primarily serve as a storage area, with administrative offices, technology-equipped rooms, and laboratories for conservators positioned along the perimeter of each floor. The estimated construction cost for the storage facility is about CZK 608 mil. After the final inspection, planned for June 2026, the building will be furnished, and climate-control systems will be installed in the storage halls. Books will be transferred from the Klementinum grounds only once the ideal temperature and humidity conditions are met. The new repository can hold up to three million books.

Other Significant Investment Achievements

As part of cost-saving measures, preparatory work to renovate the roof of the original building at the Central Depository Hostivař (CDH) was carried out in 2025.

The building has gradually undergone partial renovations, including a new façade, marking another step toward improving thermal comfort and operational efficiency in this oldest structure. A feasibility study was conducted to evaluate the roof renovation and the potential use of all campus roofs for installing a photovoltaic power plant (PV). Following the feasibility study, construction drawings were prepared for the tender process, with the aim of starting construction in spring 2026. The installation of the PV system will only proceed once the new storage facility is completed, as it is also part of the project.

In July, work commenced on developing design documentation for the interior of the Klementinum grounds. This project expands on the 2022 interior study, which received a positive review from Prague City Hall's Department of Heritage Care. The effort is carried out in partnership with the National Heritage Institute's expert advisor for the Klementinum.

In the same month, after restoring 48 tables from the General Reading Room, a contract was signed for restoring 200 historical chairs (total cost: CZK 1.814 mil. excluding VAT), which are also part of the General Reading Room's furnishings. Like the tables, these chairs are protected cultural monuments and are being restored under the supervision of a representative of the National Heritage Institute. The restoration was scheduled for completion in February 2026.

In 2025, preparatory work began to renovate two key parts of the Klementinum. Feasibility studies examined the potential of renovating the Main Hall and the General Reading Room as separate units. Tender documents have been prepared for the Main Hall, which serves as the entrance to the NL CR. This project will utilise the Design & Build approach. Meanwhile, the



General Reading Room will be renovated in accordance with standard procedures; tender documents are being developed for construction, design, and restoration plans, given its historical significance.

Cosmas 900: An Example of Inter-Institutional Collaboration and Heritage Preservation

In 2025, the National Library of the Czech Republic launched its key cultural and educational initiative – marking the gooth anniversary of the death of Cosmas, author of the *Chronicle of the Czechs*. This project was designed not just as an exhibition but mainly as a thorough educational and interpretive platform that combined scholarly research, work with historical collections, education, and public outreach.

The aim was not only to highlight the chronicle as a valuable historical resource but also to examine its wider importance: How reliable is Cosmas's *Chronicle* as a historical record? To what extent does it reflect the influence of the contemporary context, legends, and personal perspectives?

This interpretive aspect became the core of the entire project and was also very effective for educational purposes.

The project, developed over more than two years through collaboration among experts from memory institutions, universities, and museums, resulted in three interconnected exhibitions. These were held at the Klementinum: in the Mirror Chapel, the Klementinum Gallery, and the exhibition corridors.

In the Mirror Chapel, nearly all surviving medieval manuscripts of Cosmas's *Chronicle* were displayed together for the first time. This included the exceptionally rare Leipzig Manuscript, which features the only known depiction of the chronicler. Nine original manuscripts were loaned from eight institutions

across three countries, including the Austrian National Library in Vienna, the University Library in Leipzig, the Württemberg State Library in Stuttgart, the Bavarian State Library in Munich, the Library of the National Museum in Prague, the Lobkowitz Collections, and the Metropolitan Chapter of Saint Vitus in Prague.

The Klementinum Gallery focused on the 'second life' of the *Chronicle*, examining how it was received and interpreted from the Middle Ages to the Enlightenment. The exhibition areas then displayed Cosmas's impact on education and culture from the 19th to the 21st century. These displays aimed to blend the library's usual collections and emphasise their educational potential.

A central element of the project was its educational component, including workshops, worksheets, and teaching resources for schools. Over 3,500 pupils, students, and teachers took part in these activities. This experience demonstrated that even a complex, specialised subject can be communicated effectively and engagingly when it relies on questioning, interpretation, and active interaction with primary sources.

The project included a significant publishing and digital aspect. It resulted in a scholarly monograph titled *Živé příběhy zemřelých knížat: Kosmova kronika a ústní tradice* [Living Stories of Dead Princes: Cosmas's Chronicle and Oral Tradition], and a critical catalogue was published in both Czech and English. Additionally, a digital critical edition of Cosmas's *Chronicle* was made available in the Manuscriptorium digital library, linked to images of original manuscripts and a virtual annotation system. This approach has proved very effective for integrating research with the educational use of digital collections.



The project was followed by an international academic conference on medieval chronicling and a comprehensive media campaign, both of which significantly boosted the visibility of libraries as lively cultural and educational hubs.

The exhibition attracted over 20,000 visitors during its final phase from 25 September to 23 October 2025. This highlights that libraries do more than guard collections; they also foster interdisciplinary collaboration, develop educational content, and encourage dialogue between the past and present.

The *Cosmas 900* project demonstrates that a difficult historical subject can be transformed into a format that is academically sound, educationally impactful, and engaging for the wider public, providing inspiration for other libraries.

Commission for the Evaluation of the Status of National Cultural Monuments Managed by the National Library of the Czech Republic

On 1 June 2025, an expert commission was established to assess the condition of national cultural monuments managed by the NL CR. Comprised of leading specialists in history, art history, restoration, chemistry, and technology for restoration of historical collections, the commission aims to examine the physical condition of these monuments, explore presentation options that do not compromise their preservation, and implement appropriate handling, transportation, and storage restrictions. If needed,

they will also recommend treatment or restoration procedures. The nine members of the commission are appointed by the Director General of the NL CR.

The first meeting of the commission members was held at the Mathematics Hall of the Klementinum on 1 July 2025. The Minister of Culture, Martin Baxa, expressed his support for forming the expert commission and attended alongside representatives from the Czech Ministry of Culture. Presentations on the history of the *Vyšehrad Codex* and a specialised vault-like display case for the safekeeping of rare written artefacts were prepared for the attendees. Under strict security measures, the original *Vyšehrad Codex* was temporarily brought in for inspection, allowing a preliminary assessment of its physical condition. Afterwards, plans for showcasing national cultural monuments, procedures for evaluating their condition, and possible restoration efforts were discussed.

During the commission's next meeting on 24 October 2025, the survey results for the *Vyšehrad Codex*, the *Chronicle of Dalimil*, and the *Passional of Abbess Kunigunde* were shared and analysed. The discussion included a comparison of the pigment layer, parchment condition, and microbiological contamination levels. Despite their age, these artefacts are in relatively good condition, though the commission emphasised the importance of stabilising the pigment layer on specific manuscripts. To prepare for the restoration project, a wider group of experts, restorers, and technologists was assembled. The project proposal was planned to be presented at the next commission meeting in early 2026.



The commission members.



Vyšehrad Codex – original.

Dan Brown's Visit to the Klementinum

From 16 to 18 September, the American author Dan Brown visited the Klementinum to celebrate the launch of his new book *The Secret of Secrets*, much of which is set there. He selected this historic site as a significant location both for the story and its international promotion.

Dan Brown often praises Prague, considering it one of the most beautiful cities in Europe. He is particularly captivated by its historic architecture, especially the Baroque monuments that inspired his latest novel. A significant part of the story takes place in the Baroque Library of the Klementinum, which plays a crucial symbolic role in the narrative.

During his three-day visit, he conducted interviews with both Czech and international media at the Klementinum and recorded promotional videos for the book. The highlight was a press conference on 18 September in the Mirror Chapel, primarily for foreign journalists. In addition to Dan Brown, the event was attended by the book's American editor, David Kaufmann, and the Czech editor from Argo Publishing, Petr Onufer. The delegation also included screenwriters working on a TV series adaptation for Netflix.

Dan Brown's visit significantly boosted the Klementinum's international reputation as an important cultural and literary monument. This is likely to lead to an increase in literary tourism in the future, similar to trends observed in Paris and Florence, due to the author's earlier works.



THE LIBRARY'S
MAIN ACTIVITIES

Providing Access to Digital Collections

Archiving Data

In 2025, the Digital Collections Standards Department expanded the Standard of the National Digital Library (NDL), which comprises methodologies and guidelines for digitising various documents. That year, the department issued a new regulation called Metadata Format Definitions (MFD), version 0.1, focusing on digitising individual items like newspaper clippings and index cards. It also prepared the MFD for audio document digitisation (version 1.0), covering gramophone records, phonographic cylinders, audio CDs/DVDs, and digital audio files such as e-audiobooks. Additionally, the guidelines were updated for printed monographs (version 2.3) and periodicals (version 2.2). The MFDs for born-digital documents were revised too: e-monographs (version 3.1), e-periodicals (version 2.6), and bound periodicals (version 1.3).

By 2025, the ČIDLO service (Czech System for Identification and Localisation of Documents of Digital Cultural Heritage) had 160 registrars, i.e. memory institutions, able to assign persistent URN:NBN identifiers to their documents. They allocated 126,704 identifiers to newly digitised materials. ČIDLO curators also actively participate in the international URN:NBN Network working group, which serves as a communication platform for European national libraries that use these persistent identifiers. The goal of the platform is to raise awareness of URN:NBN identifiers and promote their use as dependable digital identifiers. More information is available at <https://urnnbn.nuk.si/>.

As part of its institutional research, the department focused on file formats for electronic publications. At the end of 2025, the journal *ITlib* published a scholarly article by Vojtěch Kopský, M.A., Ph.D., on this topic, which explored options for archiving complex electronic publications containing more than just text (such as interactive or multimedia elements). Staff members of this department are also involved in research projects, including institutional research (Modern Publishing Production in the Czech Lands after 1800) and NAKI projects.

Long-Term Preservation and Access to Digital Documents

In 2025, 103,636 new packages were added to the Long-Term Preservation (LTP) system, almost doubling the 2024 number. The total data in the repository grew to 430 TB. Data from external producers digitising under the VISK 7 programme continues to be accepted, along with ongoing updates to existing data. The National Digital Library now offers over 3,400,000 pages, reaching a total of 80 million pages by the end of 2025. More than 63 million pages are available to the public or through licensed login, including works not available commercially. Furthermore, the Czech Digital Library's content management system, which enables cross-searching, expanded its partnership network to 17, bringing the total number of pages to nearly 150 million.

As part of the National Recovery Plan, the long-term repository has been upgraded and modernised. It now supports electronic publications and audio documents. A data delivery agreement system has been introduced to enhance archived document management. A portal was developed for data reception, greatly simplifying

data transfer from the VISK 7 programme and other external sources. Changes were also made to convert data from the older digital library, including data from digitisation projects with Google. Most optimisations focused on data management now allow updates only to the metadata portion, boosting operational efficiency.

The staff of the Department of Digital Documents Management and Archiving continued their research efforts, focusing on projects like Smart digilinka (Machine Learning for the Digitisation of Printed Heritage), Orbis Pictus (Reviving Books for Cultural and Creative Sectors), and the extensive research infrastructure LINDAT/CLARIAH-cz. Collaboration in digital humanities persisted, with several excursions organised for students and librarianship professionals. In 2025, multiple lectures were also prepared on making modern digital documents accessible and acquiring electronic publications. These included presentations at a national seminar for museum and gallery librarians, a joint seminar of regional libraries, the NL CR, and the Moravian Library, as well as at conferences such as Archives, Libraries, and Museums in the Digital World and Regional Functions of Libraries.

Webarchive

In 2024, the Webarchive added 63.4 TB of new data, increasing the total to over 712 TB. Additionally, 191 new resources were made freely accessible – 100 from licensed sources and 91 under Creative Commons licences. The team developed several new thematic collections while also expanding existing ones. These include, for example, collections of politicians' social media profiles and public service broadcasters' websites. Over the past year, they created themed collections, such as one on URL shorteners covering



Analysis of the colour layer with a digital microscope.



Photo from the conference.



A demonstration of papyrus preservation at the conservation department of the Leipzig University Library.

both active and discontinued services. Additional collections showcase the Czech game *Kingdom Come: Deliverance II*, a notable milestone in Czech gaming; Czech beer culture; elections for the Czech Chamber of Deputies; Czech book publishers; political parties' YouTube channels; and municipal websites of Czech towns.

The Webarchive also contributed to an international collection coordinated by the International Internet Preservation Consortium to commemorate the 80th anniversary of World War II. The outcome of institutional research was the Linkra citation and archiving service – an application designed to preserve sources cited in scholarly texts. It allows users to save cited web sources to the web archive and to create a citation record in accordance with the ISO 690 standard.

The activities of the Webarchive were showcased to both the wider public and experts at multiple events in the Czech Republic and internationally. At the Web Archiving Conference in Oslo, a presentation focused

on the collaborative curatorial approaches of the Czech Webarchive, highlighting two thematic literary collections dedicated to Franz Kafka and Milan Kundera (*Collaborative Curatorial Approaches of the Czech Webarchive Using the Example of Thematic Literary Collections*). Webinars were organised for a broader audience during the Week for Digital Czechia event by the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic (*Jak Webarchiv uchovává český web / How the Webarchive Preserves the Czech Web*) and at the Safe Internet Festival, hosted by the National Cyber and Information Security Agency (*Digitální stopa ve webovém archivu / Digital Footprints in the Web Archive*). The curatorial work was also introduced to staff at the National Pedagogical Museum and J. A. Comenius Library, and to students at the Sedlčany Grammar School and Secondary Vocational School. Additionally, archival web resources – unique web archives – were featured in the article 'Webové starožitnosti' [Web Antiques], published in *ArtAntiques* magazine, which covers art, architecture, design, and antiques. As part of the Erasmus+ programme, representatives of the Webarchive

visited national libraries in Spain and Greece that specialise in web archiving.

Manuscriptorium

In 2025, Manuscriptorium continued its goal of fully transforming codicological and bibliographical practices, methods, and methodologies within a global context. A significant milestone was achieved with the successful launch of the new Manuscriptorium version, which preserved essential descriptive and image data – such as catalogue records and digital copies – and supported automated conversion of user-generated content. Unlike a 'mere' digital library, the new version offers a comprehensive virtual research environment featuring advanced capabilities: alongside a multi-level search catalogue, a customised IIIF viewer, and a module for managing and publishing personal content, Manuscriptorium now also functions as a tool for presenting, searching, managing, and aggregating full-text data.

The flagship of the full-text module is the digital edition of Cosmas's *Chronicle of the Czechs*, prepared for the *Cosmas 900* exhibition project. At the end of the year, a catalogue of full-text editions was also launched, featuring the first test batch of additional medieval and early modern Bohemian texts.

The Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv has become a content partner of Manuscriptorium, contributing a collection of 37 unique Cyrillic prints from the 17th and 18th centuries. Alongside this, digitisation projects under the VISK 6 and NPO programmes have added 146 manuscripts and 26 early printed books (mainly incunabula) from 21 local memory institutions to Manuscriptorium. For the Cosmas anniversary, a digital version of the Brno manuscript of Cosmas's *Chronicle*, held in the Brno City Archives, was made available in Manuscriptorium for the first time. Similarly, the early modern Břevnov Manuscript by Cosmas, held by the NL CR, was digitised. Additionally, the memorial of the Silesian nobleman Herman of Salza from the early 17th century, originally housed at the State Regional Archives in Pilsen (Klášter office), was digitised and is now accessible online in Manuscriptorium, making it another content partner.

The NL CR used its own funds to finance the digitisation of 31 medieval manuscripts from the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department, along with five manuscripts from the Slavonic Library dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries.

By the end of 2025, Manuscriptorium had amassed over 414 thousand catalogue records and 176 thousand digital copies from more than 220 source institutions across 29 countries.

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
- <http://www.nkp.cz/o-knihovne/projekty-a-programy/nk-vyzkumna-organizace>

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 continued to identify the original owners of medieval and early modern manuscripts, as well as early printed books, stored in the NL CR. They carried out palaeographic and codicological analyses of the manuscripts, along with provenance research. Provenance details were integrated into the records of early modern manuscripts and early printed books,

including a complete transcription of ownership notes. The focus was mainly on collections from monastic libraries, tracing connections between institutions and donors. Work progressed on the Lobkowicz Library in Prague and manuscripts from the former library in Zlatá Koruna Monastery. For early printed books, a copy-by-copy survey was performed on volumes from the Lobkowicz Library to identify items from the former Czernin Family Library. Ownership marks, bookplates, and handwritten notes were documented to refine the collection's original makeup and the provenance of individual volumes, and to review prior data and link new discoveries to the database. Materials were prepared for future cataloguing. Simultaneously, work on the KPS-Knihopis database included editing bibliographic records, updating the alphabetical Supplements, adjusting numerical Supplements, and creating or improving name authorities for authors, enhancing the national bibliography's long-term use by scholars. Research on Bohemian prints was ongoing, both within Czech memory institutions and internationally. Cataloguing of 16th-century book illustrations continued, enriching the database www.e-ilustrace.cz, with a focus on heraldic symbols, sources of inspiration, and the reuse of plates in both Bohemian and foreign publications.

The team members published various scholarly studies: 'Heraldická vyobrazení v předbělohorských bohemikálních tiscích pohledem heraldika – stav a perspektivy výzkumu' [Heraldic Illustration in Bohemian Prints until 1620 from the Perspective of a Heraldist: Current status and research perspectives] (Jan Hanousek), 'Sbírka středověkých rukopisů zaniklé palácové knihovny hraběte Karla Josepha von Palm-Gundelfingen v Řezně a její stopa v evropských a amerických knihovnách' [The Collection of Medieval Manuscripts from the Lost Palace Library of Count

Karl Joseph von Palm-Gundelfingen in Regensburg and Its Trace in European and American Libraries] (Milada Svobodová), 'Brněnské tiskárny a jejich produkce: knižní kultura na přelomu 18. a 19. století' [Brno Printing Houses and Their Production: Book Culture at the Turn of the 18th and 19th Centuries] (Lucie Heilandová), 'Knižní ilustrace v bohemikální produkci raného novověku: od zahraničních předloh k domácím adaptacím a opakovanému využití obrazového materiálu' [Book Illustrations in Early Modern Bohemian Production: From Foreign Models to Domestic Adaptations and the Reuse of Visual Material] (Lucie Heilandová), and 'Středověký katalog obecní knihovny Starého Města pražského' [The Medieval Catalogue of the Municipal Library of Prague's Old Town] (Michal Dragoun).

Michal Dragoun delivered a paper titled 'Fragments of Diplomatic Character in the Manuscripts of the Monastery Zlatá Koruna' at the workshop *Diplomata Fragmentaria: Tracing, Editing, and Interpreting Damaged Documents of Late Medieval Europe*, held from 4 to 5 December 2025 in Brno. The papers are planned for publication in a special issue of *Studia historica Brunensia*.

Additionally, research team members authored two articles for the popular history magazine *Dějiny a současnost: Čas v obrazech. Kalendáře vydávané v Čechách v 16. století a jejich výzdoba* [Time in Pictures: Calendars Published in Bohemia in the 16th Century and Their Decoration] by Lucie Heilandová and 'Vliv osvětenství na vývoj české knihovny: odborní sběratelé a retrospektivní bibliografie' [The Influence of the Enlightenment on the Development of Czech Bibliography: Specialist Collectors and Retrospective Bibliographies] by David Mach.

Area 2

Musicology

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

The musicology team continued their work on the historical music collections under study, making significant progress. Notably, they advanced in documenting the Hübner family of teachers in Dlouhý Most, housed in the Music Department of the NL CR, where work on a thematic catalogue has begun. Similarly, progress was made on the Elisa Šliková collection in the historical collection of the Prague Conservatory Archives, with thematic cataloguing also underway. There, research and cataloguing of the autograph collection continued, while physical inspections and revisions of records were made. This included tracing the filigree notations of church music from the Schwarzenberg Collection in Český Krumlov. Additional items from the music collections of Saint Gall's Church in Skalsko and Saint John the Baptist's Church in Teplice were processed for RISM. For the Řetová music collection at the National Library, incomplete materials from the 'scattered collection' were organised and the authorship of several scores was identified.

A preliminary survey of the rediscovered music collection from Lučany nad Nisou (the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec) has recently been conducted. Initial discussions were held with the National Heritage Institute regarding the conditions for a potential 2026 survey (related to the Plasy Monastery Movable Property Fund). Additionally, an inspection and proposal were prepared concerning the transfer of the music collection from the choir loft of Saint Bartholomew's Church in Rakovník to the State Regional Archives in Rakovník.

The concept for the Database of Historical Music Collections in the Czech Republic has been successfully completed and published. It provides details about the collections listed in the Union Music Catalogue (UMC). Currently, the database includes around 1,000 collections from 19 different types of institutions in the Czech Republic, such as archives, theatres, parish offices, monasteries, libraries, churches, museums, orchestral archives, memorials to notable figures, radio stations, private collections, schools, castle and palace libraries, estates, and other entities. The database has been presented multiple times by its creator, Eliška Šedivá, both within the Czech Republic – at the annual ČNS IAML seminar, lectures at Masaryk University, and a colloquium celebrating the 60th anniversary of the UMC – and internationally at the IAML Congress in Salzburg.

Entries in the Filigree Database have been continuously expanded, now totalling 1,721 entries, while the Database of Music Prints from the Marco Berry Publishing House has grown to 1,708 entries.

A monograph by Jiří Mikuláš, prepared the previous year and focusing on the Benedictine composer Augustin Šenkýř, was published. Additionally, we completed and published another monograph by the same author, dedicated to the Litomyšl composer T. F. Skřivánek, which includes a critical edition of his works.

Musicologists Pavel Kordík and Annini Tsiutis continued organising materials from Ivan Vojtěch's estate and began digitising selected items to ensure their preservation. Markéta Kratochvílová advanced the revision of Otakar Ostrčil's thematic catalogue, an expanded edition of which will be published soon. A study of Smetana's autograph of the *Z domoviny* [From My Homeland] duo was conducted, and a facsimile with

accompanying text was published at the end of 2025 (L. Šmídová). Research into Dvořák's sources at the NL CR led to the creation of a virtual exhibition titled *Bylť Antonín Dvořák genius, jenž posvětil vše, čeho se dotkl* [Antonín Dvořák Was a Genius Who Blessed Everything He Touched] and included lectures in the series From the Treasures of the Klementinum (L. Šmídová). On 28 November, an academic colloquium with international participants was held nationwide to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the UMC's founding (Z. Petrášková, E. Šedivá), along with a thematically related exhibition.

Two scholarly studies were published: Ludmila Mikulášová's 'Skladatelé otec a syn Grohovi' [Father-and-Son Composers the Grohs] and a popular article by Lucie Havráňková 'Kantorská sbírka hudebnin rodu Hübnerů z Dlouhého Mostu u Liberce' [Music Collection of the Hübner Family from Dlouhý Most near Liberec] in the *Dějiny a současnost* journal.

Area 3

Slavonic Studies

Project leader: PhDr. Lukáš Babka

This area focuses on the professional development of Slavonic studies and Slavonic library science, managed by the independent Slavonic Library (SL) department within the NL CR. Its aim is to conduct scholarly research on the collection of historical manuscripts, early printed books, and cartographic and visual collections, while also exploring specific phenomena related to the library's history and collection composition.

In 2025, 48 manuscripts from the SL collection were thoroughly examined and processed as part of the cataloguing and preparation of a historical manuscript catalogue.

For digitisation efforts, five manuscripts were studied, catalogued based on relevant criteria, digitised, and their digital copies were subsequently uploaded to the Manuscriptorium digital library.

For the second year in a row, the survey and cataloguing of the historical cartographic documents in the SL collection continued. In total, 138 individual map sheets and 106 sheets from a historical atlas from 1716 were professionally processed.

In managing special collections, sorting and identifying documents from the estate of the former SL Director Jiří Vacek began. These documents mainly detail the history of the Slavonic Library and Slavonic literary studies. Throughout the year, 1,748 items of correspondence, 61 prints and paintings, 30 photographs, 47 literary manuscripts, and various other documents were catalogued. In total, 2,048 items were sorted and identified.

A recently discovered collection of visual materials on the history of the Cossack movement has been examined, sorted, catalogued, and uploaded for access. It comprises 415 unique visual documents, with digital copies gradually being made available online.

Research continued on collections of documents concerning émigrés from the former Russian Empire after 1917. A newly discovered small collection of archival materials related to the Belarusian diaspora from the interwar period was sorted. The sorting and identification of a unique collection of about 4,500 photographs depicting activities of Russian emigration in interwar Czechoslovakia, acquired by the Slavonic Library at the end of 2024, was started. About 500 photographs were catalogued during the year.

A team member participated in the 17th International Congress of Slavists, where he delivered a paper incorporating insights from institutional research.

Area 4

Digital Codicology and Librarianship

Project leader: PhDr. Zdeněk Uhlíř

In 2025, Manuscriptorium aimed to advance the global digital transformation of codicological and bibliographical approaches, methods, and methodologies. By leveraging IIIF technology and applying AI techniques, heuristic tools were enhanced, and a foundation for automatic data and metadata enrichment was established. The continuous integration of all available digital tools has enhanced user experience and broadened the scope for virtual research, both within Manuscriptorium and beyond. Currently, the full testing phase is underway for the comprehensive integration of the metadata catalogue of digital documents, image data, editions, and full-text data.

Full-text data must be stored separately from image data and their metadata, and it requires specialised metadata. Simultaneously, this data should be linked to allow independent work on image and full-text data while ensuring consistent verification of accuracy and formatting. A comprehensive tool for full-text processing offers users a straightforward way to manage all data and metadata in Manuscriptorium, including automatic aggregation of different editions of historical texts.

The result is a partially operational comprehensive tool for processing full-text data.

By the end of 2025, Manuscriptorium had 414,104 records, 176,025 digitised items, and involved 226 source institutions from 29 countries.

Area 5

Web Archives for Scientific Research

Project leader: Mgr. Marie Haškovcová

The research activities built upon earlier work focused on analysing and improving access to archived data and metadata, particularly regarding disappearing web content. This included defining the concept of the dead web, creating an application called Extinct Websites to automatically identify vanishing web content, and making it accessible through a dedicated public database. The research team then addressed the issue of web resources cited in scientific and academic texts that disappear over time, exploring methods for their long-term preservation and protection. Based on findings from a peer-reviewed article 'Archivace webových zdrojů v citacích vědeckých a odborných textů' [Archiving Web Resources in Citations of Scientific and Professional Texts] (*Knižnica*, 2024) with recommendations for researchers on safeguarding endangered cited content, the citation archiving service Linkra was developed in 2025 (<https://linkra.webarchiv.cz/>, with technical documentation and manual available at <https://github.com/WebarchivCZ/linkra>). This application enables users to save cited web resources to a web archive, retrieve archived URLs, and generate citation records using an internal citation generator – which is also usable independently. It provides pre-made templates and allows customisation of citation structures as needed. The citation record includes the archived URL of the source. One of the research goals is to promote the use of archived copies in academic citations, in line with ISO 690 guidelines that recommend citing archived versions. The application aims to address the

academic community's need to prevent link rot, thereby safeguarding the integrity of scholarly work, and also to enrich the collection of web resources in the Webarchive of the NL CR.

Area 6

Archiving Digital Data

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

In 2025, research efforts concentrated on archiving formats, especially those used for electronic publications with multimedia or interactive features. A peer-reviewed article on this subject appeared in issue No. 2 of *ITlib*, titled 'Možnosti archivace komplexních elektronických publikací obsahujících další než jen textový obsah (interaktivní či multimediální prvky)' [Options for Archiving Complex Electronic Publications Containing Content Other Than Text (Interactive or Multimedia Elements)]. This article offers a thorough analysis of the risks involved in archiving such publications and suggests strategies for preserving their complex content.

Another research area involved persistent identifiers. Throughout the year, the research team revised the Methodology for the Assignment and Lifecycle Management of Unique Persistent Identifiers for Digital Documents to align with the URN:NBN standard. The update primarily reflected long-term operational experience with the CZIDLO system and expanded its scope to include additional document types, such as audio files, data discs, and individual items within collections. These revisions adhered to the internet standard RFC 3188 and international standards ISO 16363:2012 (ČSN ISO 16363) and ISO 14721:2012 (ČSN ISO 14721). Certification of the revised methodology is scheduled as a project milestone in 2026.

Area 7

Protecting Book Collections

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

The primary outcome of the 2025 research on library collection preservation was securing a patent and a utility model. The Industrial Property Office granted Patent No. 310450 for an invention titled Device and Method for Testing the Mechanical Strength of Book Bindings. This invention features a device for evaluating the mechanical durability of book bindings.

As an unexpected outcome, utility model No. CZ 39079, titled Superabsorbent Paper, was secured. The key achievement was the development of the methodology Identification of Modern Types of Leather, and the certification process for Care of Modern Bookbinding Leathers is underway. The monograph *Air Quality in the Depositories of the National Library of the Czech Republic: Prevention of Damage to Books* was published and can be accessed at: <https://hdl.handle.net/11104/0368806>. Additionally, a leaflet called First Aid for Water Damage to Library Collections During Accidents and Floods – General Principles and Procedures was produced. For infrastructure enhancement, a handheld XRF spectrometer was acquired to analyse the chemical composition of materials in the library's collections.

The results of the research activities were presented at professional events, such as a lecture titled 'Air Quality in the Depositories of the National Library of the Czech Republic or the Prevention of Damage to Books' at the 89th IFLA WLIC General Conference and Assembly in Astana, Kazakhstan; a lecture titled 'Mobile Workplace for the Protection of Written Cultural Heritage in the National Library of the Czech Republic and Other Activities' at the ICOM Congress in Dubai, UAE; a lecture

at the conference Culture and Creative Sectors' Future in the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034 at the International Cultural Centre and the Cloth Hall in Kraków, Poland; an online lecture and presentation of the mobile unit for British Library staff; lectures at the KKR conference titled 'ARCHA I – Mobile Workstation for the Protection of Library Collections', 'Mass Drying of Archival Documents after the 2024 Flood: The Use of the Multipurpose Vacuum Chamber'; and a lecture at the KOBED 25 conference in Kraków titled 'Development of the Mobile Workplace for the Protection of Written Cultural Heritage Ark I at the National Library of the Czech Republic for Ukrainian Libraries'.

Another objective of the research in 2025 was to assess the physical condition of the library collections, specifically the modern leather-bound volumes in the NL CR's collection; to test the properties of materials used in the library collections (RFID chips, fibres, bookbinding testers, etc.); to monitor climatic parameters and air pollution in the storage facilities; to verify and propose solutions; to monitor mould and insects in storage facilities, to develop and test more effective and stable interventions for the repair, conservation, and restoration of library collections (especially leather-bound volumes); and to develop protective covers for specific types of library collections (gramophone records). Further research included examination of damage to the paint layers of national cultural monuments, such as the *Vyšehrad Codex*, call number XIV A 13; research into sound documents in the NL CR collection; testing of book cover films; monitoring of microbiological contamination of the air in the premises of the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department; preparation of scholarly articles; measurement of climatic conditions, lighting conditions, and airborne pollutants; the effect of X-ray radiation on collagen-based materials; testing of cleaning agents on compact discs

(CDs); adjustments to the measurement parameters and functional elements of a patented bookbinding strength tester; a survey of silverfish infestation in the NL CR premises; the effect of fogging disinfection on mould elimination and on the properties of bookbinding materials; conservation of architectural models of the new NL CR building and cleaning of accompanying materials for these architectural models and independent design of new types of cardboard packaging with a hinged front for easier removal of items from the packaging. Further research comprised processing foam as inserts for boxes containing architectural models; testing suitable materials for plotter cutting to produce holders for inserting labels to mark call numbers in the Baroque Hall; original designs for decorating blocks using thermal foil; testing the database for collection research prior to launching the production server, including tests after deploying the live version on the production server; testing the effectiveness of Gellangum for stain removal, specifically from book pages, and its application to trim edges and page margins; testing the cleaning effects of Cleanmaster and Unger sponges, monitoring differences in cleaning results; issues related to removing glued-in inserts from books for digitisation purposes, finding the most suitable and gentle method for removing inserts without damaging the binding, and preparing an educational programme on basic bookbinding.

In 2025, two more organisations participated in the survey assessing the physical condition of library collections: the Faculty of Pharmacy at Charles University in Hradec Králové (June 2025) and the Faculty of Social Sciences at Charles University (June 2025). Several libraries began using the Survey Database to identify copies in need of intervention, enabling them to apply for grants from the VISK 4 programme. Database management included updating filters, retrieving data from

the library system, and migrating data to the production environment.

The survey of the physical condition of library collections is ongoing, with 3,623 new records added to the collection survey database and 13,607 existing records updated. Additionally, 715 deacidification cards, 95 conservation cards, and 36 cards documenting other interventions were incorporated into the records. The survey also extended to audio materials, and preparations for next year's methodology are underway.

In 2025, various events were organised to promote research and share results. These included a workshop on gilding transfer from leather, a session on preserving papyrus collections in Leipzig, Germany, multiple workshops on on-site repairs with Filmoplast R, staff training for collection surveys and book deacidification, and an international webinar titled 'Advanced Rescue of Written Cultural Heritage' for colleagues in Ukraine.

Area 8

Modern Publications in the Czech Lands After 1800

Project leader: Mgr. Anna Vandasová

In the coming period, this research continues to primarily focus on large-scale periodicals with regional editions. It also focuses on developing and refining tools for the efficient cataloguing of these collections, which will greatly enhance transparency and ease their management in libraries across the Czech Republic.

In addition to experts from the NL CR, staff from other major libraries with preservation collections – including the Moravian Library, Olomouc Research Library, and the Ústí Regional Library – are collaborating on the optimisation and further development of the PerMonik

tool. This tool allows for highly detailed documentation of individual issues and editions of periodicals. In 2025, the research team primarily focused on enhancing the editing mode of the PerMonik application. The updated editing mode, aligned with the new structure and design of the access module, was tested in a test environment and went into production in the first quarter of 2025. The NL CR is also preparing upcoming volumes of *Československý sport* [Czechoslovak Sport] and other major periodicals with regional editions, entering their records into the Aleph system for future inclusion in the PerMonik database. Additionally, all modifications to the PerMonik application were documented again this year in the GitHub repository through issues: <https://github.com/NLCR/evidence.periodik/issues>.

With the new application version, the project team also continued refining the Methodology for Researching Regional Editions of Modern Periodicals, a planned deliverable for 2023. This methodology outlines the details of regional variants or editions of extensive periodical titles, how they are currently processed – though not optimally – in libraries, and provides detailed guidance on using the PerMonik periodical cataloguing system. Certification of this updated methodology is expected by 2027 but work on its modifications must continue as PerMonik is updated.

The research team has also drafted a proposal to develop export software for digitising periodicals, with development scheduled to start in early 2026 and the software expected to be delivered by the end of this year.

They shared their findings in an article titled 'Využití nástroje PerMonik na příkladu periodika *Československý sport*' [The Use of the PerMonik Tool: The Case of the Periodical *Československý sport*], published in

the Slovak journal *Knižnica: Časopis pre knihovníctvo* (No. 4/2025).

Area 9

Digital Humanities

Project leader: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

Work continued on enhancing the AuthorGuesser tool (<https://github.com/DigilabNLCR/AuthorGuesser>), with input from literary scholars helping select appropriate texts for training and testing. Throughout 2025, efforts focused on significantly expanding the training dataset from 23 authors to over 300, with the expansion still ongoing. Early results indicate that even with this larger dataset, prediction accuracy remains stable. The team also decided to develop a poetry model using the same delexicalised features as AuthorGuesser, but with additional features tailored to poetic texts. This new tool, PoetGuesser (<https://github.com/NLCR/PoetGuesser>), includes several models trained on tens of thousands of poems from the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The team also explored using AI tools to describe documents. They held discussions and consulted experts on the automatic generation of named and subject entities for inclusion in the bibliographic metadata of monographs.

The research also included a legal assessment of artificial intelligence tools used in digital libraries. Particular attention was paid to whether these tools can be applied to copyrighted content, or whether their use is permissible only for works in the public domain. The requirements of both European and national legislation were analysed, including the impacts on the operation of digital libraries and the provision of services to users. The main conclusions were summarised in the

peer-reviewed article 'Autorskoprávní a regulační výzvy digitálních knihoven v éře AI' [Copyright and Regulatory Challenges for Digital Libraries in the AI Era], which systematically describes the identified risks, legal limits, and possible models for the responsible use of AI in the library environment.

Jan Pokorný participated in the Igelu Conference and Developers Day 2025 in Siena, which highlighted current trends in library technology development. The focus was on artificial intelligence tools and their applications in digital humanities. The programme covered practical strategies for integrating AI into library services, automating workflows, managing large datasets, and using machine learning to enhance access to cultural and scientific heritage. Additionally, new data-handling methods in the digital humanities were discussed, such as linking open data, expanding metadata using generative models, and supporting research with intelligent digital tools.

This year's research results were showcased at the 26th annual conference titled Archives and Museums in the Digital World, in the session titled Memory Institutions and Artificial Intelligence, with Lenka Maixnerová as the session's academic advisor and moderator. The session took place on the conference's second day, 27 November 2025 (<https://www.skipcr.cz/knihovnicke-akce/archivy-knihovny-muzea-v-digitalnim-svete/2025-26-rocnik>). Two presentations were given: 'The Use of Machine Learning Methods to Determine the Authorship of Czech Texts from the Turn of the 19th and 20th Centuries' by Jan Pokorný and František Válek, and 'Copyright and Regulatory Challenges for Digital Libraries in the AI Era' by Lucie Smolka. Additionally, L. Maixnerová, M. Bežová, J. Hrzinová, and V. Jiroušek participated in a workshop on AI and copyright law at the Moravian Library in Brno on 14 November 2025.

During the review period, the NL CR engaged in various international and national research collaborations across digital humanities, language research, and open science. It joined the Library Working Group at DARIAH-EU, established in 2024, which convened in June 2025 at the DARIAH Annual Event in Göttingen, and it also participates in the Europeana Aggregators Forum, connecting European institutions contributing to the EUROPEANA digital library. In partnership with ETH Zurich, the Moravian Library, and the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences, it submitted the ELC-DHLR project, titled Enhancing Library Collections for Digital Humanities and Language Research, under the Swiss-Czech Cooperation Programme of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Nationally, the NL CR contributes to the TA CR Sigma-funded HIČKOK project, is part of the LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ research infrastructure and the OP JAK LINDAT/CLARIAH Instrumentation project, collaborates with the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences on the Horizon Europe project, and actively participates in the EOSC National Programme and working groups focused on humanities, arts, and Open Science within the Association of University Libraries. Simultaneously, it supports research and education by facilitating access for students and faculty at Charles University's Faculty of Arts to tools like DL4DH Feeder and Kramerius Plus for automated analysis of digitised and digital data.

Area 10

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

Project leader: Mgr. Veronika Rákocy

In 2025, research focused on the role of a book as a cultural and social medium and aimed to share the

results with both scholars and the wider public. A significant achievement was the *Cosmas 900* exhibition, organised to celebrate the 900th anniversary of the chronicler Cosmas's death. Led by Tomáš Klimek, a team of authors developed a comprehensive, thematically organised exhibition.

The exhibition was divided into three interconnected sections: the panel exhibition *Proměny textu* [Text Changes] in the Klementinum cloister traced the development of Cosmas's *Chronicle* as a historical document; the *Kronika v čase* [Chronicle in Time] display at the Klementinum Gallery highlighted Cosmas's role in shaping Czech historical memory; and the main highlight, *Nejstarší rukopisy* [The Oldest Manuscripts] in the Mirror Chapel, showcased nearly all surviving medieval copies of the *Chronicle of the Czechs*, including the exceptionally valuable Leipzig Manuscript with the only known depiction of the author. This event was made possible through international cooperation with various foreign memory institutions.

The project featured a comprehensive educational and public programme that included guided tours, school programmes, and publications aimed at both professionals and the general public (see Publishing Activities). A key product is the exhibition catalogue *Mirror of the Czechs: Cosmas' Chronicle and Czech History*, also available in English. It highlights the project's main scholarly themes and contextualises Cosmas's work within a wider cultural and social framework. Additionally, a separate brochure was created to make the manuscript tradition of Cosmas's *Chronicle* more accessible to the public.

Additional interim research results were shared during the ongoing lecture series *Z klementinských pokladů* [From the Treasures of the Klementinum], which consisted of eight lectures in 2025 focusing on manuscript

and book culture. This was followed by the regular exhibition series, *The Exhibit of the Month*, which highlighted selected artefacts from the collections of the NL CR. Key items from the historical collection were also featured in the periodical *Dějiny a současnost* in the section 'From the Treasures of Libraries'.

Publishing activities expanded further in 2025 with the third volume of the popular-science series From the Treasures of the Klementinum, dedicated to historical cartography, and the second volume of the scholarly series *Monographia Klementiniana*, examining Cosmas's connection to oral tradition.

Research findings were also shared through the media – including radio, television, podcasts, and other popularisation formats – broadening the project's audience and encouraging public discussion of medieval historiography and book culture. In this way, Area 10 successfully achieved its 2025 goal of connecting fundamental research in book history with systematic dissemination and public engagement.

Area 11

Linked Open Data

Project leader: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

In 2025, work commenced on translating the RDA Registry, which includes vocabularies that define entities, elements, and other controlled terms used in the RDA cataloguing rules. These rules are the key standard for creating library metadata in the Czech Republic. Introducing the RDA Registers is a crucial step toward implementing linked data in Czech libraries. The process of selecting sources for linked data has already started, with updates on the transition presented at working groups focused on name and subject authority control.

These groups are responsible for adding sources by the end of 2025. Additionally, information on standard updates and the transition was shared at the Seminar on the Union Catalogue of the Czech Republic and National Authorities, which was attended by nearly 300 library staff members. During this research, a MARC Validator tool was developed and tested to validate MARC data, especially fields with coded data like field 008, ensure data compliance with the EDTF standard, and verify ISBNs. The team actively tested the validator against current CNB data in accordance with RDA rules and corrected errors. The validator, along with documentation, is accessible here: <https://metacpan.org/release/SKIM/App-MARC-Validator-0.04>.

The research team, along with the programmer and analyst M. J. Špaček, refined the validator to ensure that its error reports are suitable for further use. It is anticipated that additional libraries will adopt the validator, especially those participating in the CARDS project, which focuses on data migration.

The research team concluded that authority records would be implemented for publishers to support the shift to linked data in publishing metadata. They also advanced a proposal for a central repository equipped with a metadata editor for linked data. Following analysis, the decision was made to modernise the system for creating, sharing, and distributing authority records, which will play a key role in the central repository alongside the Register of Czech Books.

Throughout the year, the working group actively informed the professional community about upcoming changes at several events: The Libraries of Today conference in Jihlava, 2025 (where Lenka Maixnerová discussed Modernisation of Central Library Systems in the Czech Republic / Overview of the Direction

and Current Ecosystem), the Bibliotheca Academica conference in Hradec Králové, 2025 (with Lenka Maixnerová presenting on Linked Data as a New Standard: The Future of Library Data Creation and Management in the Czech Environment), the CARDS Strategic Forum held online in 2025 (featuring Lenka Maixnerová on Modernisation of Central Library Systems in the Czech Republic), the Electronic Library Services conference in Zlín, 2025 (another presentation by Lenka Maixnerová on Linked Data as a New Standard), a discussion at the NL CR in 2025 on modernising central library systems (where M. Denár and J. Moravec shared a vision for a central linked data repository), and the Collections for the Future conference in Prague, 2025 (with Petra Šťastná discussing National Authorities and Linked Open Data, and Lenka Maixnerová participating in a panel on sharing datasets in the cultural sector, building authority vocabularies, and AI use).

The research team hosted the Sharing Book Metadata seminar on 20 November 2025 at the NL CR. The event highlighted the significance and opportunities for sharing book metadata among publishers, distributors, booksellers, libraries, and other stakeholders in the book industry. It included presentations on recent research and current trends, as well as a professional discussion among experts. For more details, visit <https://www.nkp.cz/program-akci/sdileni-kniznich-metadat-seminar-pro-nakladatele>. The speakers featured Lenka Maixnerová, Irena Pilíková, Petra Šťastná, Michal Denár, and Michal Závíška, representing publishers, as well as Juan Zamura from Karolinum Publishing and Milan Zpěvák from Euromedia Distribution. About 70 participants attended, including publishers, librarians, booksellers, and distributors.

Team members L. Maixnerová, E. Lichtenbergová, P. Šťastná, and B. Drobíková participated in the

international Bibframe conference in Naples, where the latest updates on linked data, the BIBFRAME standard, and RDA cataloguing rules were shared. Additionally, the team member J. Pokorný attended the Wolfcon conference in Kansas City, where discussions included metadata editors and their roles in creating linked data, among other topics.

B. Research and Development Programme Projects

In 2025, 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 Projects:

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 Masaryk University in Brno builds on the previous experience of individual researchers in this field. The project aims to develop a methodology for applying 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 2025, the project involved a series of sub-experiments and tests. It is progressing on schedule, with teams regularly reviewing interim results and activities

of individual workgroups. Testing procedures and sample standardisations are underway. The project included experiments with various library collection materials, focusing on optimising plasma application equipment settings, measuring physical and visual properties of samples before and after treatment, and monitoring changes after accelerated ageing, artificial soiling, and contamination with microbiological agents. It also involved testing plasma's cleaning and disinfecting effects, along with the impact of plasma combined with a two-phase spray on submicron and supermicron particles in lab conditions. Experiments and analyses to select suitable equipment settings and samples are ongoing and will extend into next year. All results must be compared before final conclusions can be drawn.

The 2025 project resulted in a Jost-type outcome. The results of a study on the application of a mixed spray to paper surfaces were published in the peer-reviewed open-access journal *Fórum pro konzervátory-restaurátory* [Forum for Conservators and Restorers] (2025, Vol. XV, No. 1). This research focused primarily on testing the operational parameters of the combination of both nozzles and their impact on the treatment outcome. Particular attention was paid to cleaning efficiency depending on the nature of the contamination and potential damage to the paper.

Another output, which was presented to the professional community, was a poster of the NL CR, titled 'Research on the Effect of DCSBD Plasma on Library Collection Materials', presented at the 32nd Annual Conference of Conservators and Restorers, held on 10–12 September 2024, at the Střelnice Vrchlabí Cultural Centre.

The project and its preliminary results were also presented at the international level. A workshop was held on 3–6 November 2025 at the Leibniz Institute of Surface Engineering (IOM) in Germany. Publicity for the project is ongoing via the project website.

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 practices, reception, and use of books in scientific literature.

In 2025, the NL CR mainly prepared for the exhibition *Historia naturalis v historickém fondu* [Historia Naturalis in Historical Collection], scheduled for autumn 2026. Research included the incunabula collection and call number series 16 – Historia naturalis, 37 – Polymathie, and other series focusing on the natural sciences, such as Ars Medica and Geographica. Simultaneously, the exhibition script was drafted, and a broader selection of artefacts was chosen. Work also continued on virtual exhibitions for *Historia naturalis*, drawing from the 2024 *Bibliotheca Astronomica* project. Topics of current interest – such as bees, herbaria, encyclopaedias,

and animal husbandry – were identified, and a virtual guide was developed to direct visitors to key exhibits. This guide aims to maintain engagement with the virtual format after the physical exhibition concludes.

Provenance research is currently underway to compile personal authority records for owners and authors, as well as corporate authority records, with a particular focus on monastic libraries. Two studies have been published: Kamil Boldan's *Ratdoltova astronomika* [Ratdolt's Astronomy] in the *Knihy a dějiny* periodical, and Markéta Bendlová's *Včely a včelařství v historických knižních sbírkách* [Bees and Beekeeping in Historical Book Collections] in the *Knihovna: knihovnická revue* journal.

Provenance research also continues in the reserve collections of the NL CR, with staff focusing on unprocessed collections, sorting and cataloguing items including provenance marks. Lenka Smolková Nemravová chose the priest, teacher, and historian Dr Vincenc Oehm as the subject of her study, scheduled for 2026. Oehm utilised various provenance marks during his lifetime, and most of his original library is now held at the NL CR.

The NL CR also oversees the management of name authority records entered into the national authority database.

The Written Wealth of Dissolved Monasteries in Bohemia

- Grant recipient: National Library of the Czech Republic
- Project leader: Mgr. Lucie Heilandová, Ph.D.
- Project period: 2023–2027

This project is a joint venture of the NL CR and the National Archives. It investigates library and archival sources from dissolved monasteries in the Czech lands and their combined interpretation in light of the relocation of monastic collections during the Josephine reforms. The project's aim is to develop a specialised public database that facilitates the interconnected study of these sources, and to create an interactive map and scholarly outputs, such as studies and exhibitions.

In 2025, the research team maintained their heuristic and research activities, focusing on processing collections at the NL CR. This included transcribing handover protocols and other archival and codicological documents from the libraries of dissolved monasteries, studying medieval and early modern manuscripts, and investigating the provenance of early printed books. Simultaneously, they selected and digitised manuscripts that aligned with the project's needs, primarily focusing on those from dissolved women's monasteries. Additionally, efforts continued to develop the project's database, which will be accessible at www.monasteria-abolita.cz.

In 2025, these research efforts were immediately followed by the opening of the exhibition *The Legacies of Women's Monasteries* at the Klementinum Gallery. This exhibit focused on the dissolved women's monasteries in Bohemia. Preparing the exhibition was the main project activity that year and involved extensive research into manuscript, printed, and archival sources. Additionally, the project included the creation of a critical catalogue titled *The Legacies of Women's Monasteries in the Klementinum*, which features selected women's religious communities that disappeared during the Josephine reforms, based on available sources (see Publishing Activities).

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 / Ing. Jindra Tumová
- Project period: 2023–2027

This is a joint project of the KNAV, Moravian Library in Brno, BUT 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 2025, the project proceeded as scheduled. The primary focus was on preparing data and source materials for upcoming applications and developing methodological resources. During this period, data sets and technical documentation were created for the Exposea tools – designed for automatic source document alignment – and for Metakat, which aims to automate the creation of structural metadata. Additionally, staff from the NL CR worked on developing and validating a methodology to stitch together partially scanned

originals, along with a quality-control process for the digitisation line.

The goals for 2025 have been achieved, and the results align with the project's expected outcomes. More detailed information is available on the project website.

Orbis Pictus – Reviving Books for Cultural and Creative Sectors

- Grant recipient: Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- Project leader: Ing. Martin Lhoták
- Responsible researcher from the NL CR: Mgr. Václav Jiroušek
- Project period: 2023–2027

The project is conducted in partnership with the Library of the CAS, Moravian Library, the NL CR, and Brno University of Technology. Its aim is to enhance access to non-textual (graphic) content in digitised documents within Czech digital libraries – such as photographs, drawings, maps, diagrams, charts, and other visual items that are essential to cultural heritage but are currently hard to search or access systematically for further use. To accomplish this, machine learning techniques will be employed to detect graphic elements in digitised materials, classify them by type, add contextual data to aid retrieval, and develop a search system for these graphic elements as part of expanded digital library services. A key deliverable of the project will be a tool for finding different images of the same individuals through facial recognition, allowing users to query with a facial image and search within a database of identified people.

In 2025, based on the methodology for processing image documents (prepared and certified during the previous year of the project), the *AnnoPage* system for

the automatic annotation of objects on the pages of digitised documents was completed. The NL CR staff contributed not only on the methodological side but also by creating an annotated dataset for individual categories of graphic objects. As part of the project, staff at the NL CR also continued to oversee the project's metadata aspect, particularly the entry of information about graphic objects into the ALTO XML scheme, including preparing necessary modifications to the NDL Standard. Testing and optimisation of tools for the automatic description of previously detected objects continued, thereby facilitating their searchability. Work also began on training the *PeopleGator* tool for detecting depictions of the same individuals, with completion scheduled for 2026. The goals set for 2025 were achieved.

Project of the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic:

Customised Learning Platform to Enhance Digital Skills of Librarians:

- Grant recipient: Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences
- Project leader: Mgr. Tomáš Javorčík, Ph.D., University of Ostrava, Faculty of Education
- Responsible researcher from the NL CR: Mgr. Michaela Mrázová
- Project period: 2025–2029

The goal of the project (TQ23000252) is to design and develop an online tool that will enable librarians to effectively and intuitively develop their digital skills – ranging from working with technology and digital communication to online safety and data management – through short interactive lessons and adaptive learning that tailors itself to individual styles and needs of users. This approach reflects the fact that librarians today

often serve as the public's first point of contact for navigating the digital world, yet they themselves need targeted support in deepening their advanced digital competencies. The NL CR is a key application partner in the project, helping to define real-world practical needs and validate the proposed solution in library settings.

C. Involvement in Large Research Infrastructures

LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ

- Grant recipient: 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: 2023–2026

In 2025, the NL CR continued its involvement in the large-scale research infrastructure LINDAT/CLARIAH-CZ, coordinated primarily by the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics of Charles University. As part of this infrastructure, data is transferred from the Czech Digital Library, which is being developed by the NL CR in collaboration with the Moravian Library and the Library of the CAS. This digital library underwent significant development in 2025, with changes made to both the backend and frontend. Members of the research team participated in the testing alongside other testers. In addition, library staff were actively involved in integrating other digital libraries into the Czech Digital Library. In addition to administrative matters, they were also responsible for curatorial reviews prior to integration to ensure compliance with copyright law and special licenses. This work also included methodological and consulting activities, as well as presentations at professional forums (such

as seminars for regional libraries, a national seminar for museum and gallery librarians, and the Regional Functions of Libraries conference).

In addition to presenting the Czech Digital Library, the research team introduced a new system for receiving and processing electronic publications. Fully developed in 2025, it was launched in pilot mode. The system was demonstrated at the ILIDE conference in Slovakia, the Archives, Libraries, and Museums in the Digital World conference in Prague, and during a publisher seminar at the NL CR. It was also showcased at the Book World Prague. Throughout the year, peer-reviewed articles were written, with plans for publication in 2026.

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 National Digital Library Complex Validator

Responsible officer: Mgr. Filip Pavčík, Ph.D.

The project's 2025 aim was to optimise the Complex Validator tool. This tool is used by many memory institutions that digitise documents in accordance with the NDL Standard. Its use helps improve the quality of the digital data accepted by the NL CR for long-term archiving. Its main benefit is verifying that the created data complies with the specifications of the NDL Standard, and thus with the requirements for digital archiving.

To enhance the tool's functionality, user-reported issues from the Complex Validator on the public GitHub portal have been resolved. Along with the new open-source desktop application, the web and command-line versions of the Complex Validator have also been upgraded.

The Register of Czech Books

Responsible officer: Mgr. Lenka Maixnerová

The project aimed to create a centralised registry for book metadata in the Czech Republic to provide services to libraries, publishers, distributors, booksellers, ISBN/ISMN and ISSN agencies, the Association of Czech Booksellers and Publishers, and the Ministry of Culture of CR. After a competitive bidding process,

Tritius was chosen to develop the registry. In 2025, the Agency module was completed, and work on the Legal Deposit module was ongoing, with some development done. Additionally, a revision of the Czech translation of the Thema subject classification was in progress.

VISK 2

Retraining Courses in Accordance with the National Qualifications Framework

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

URL: https://ipk.nkp.cz/akce/o3_OV_Akce/o4_OVrekv.htm

The goal of the project was to secure funding to remunerate instructors teaching library courses, thereby minimising the cost of course participation. The courses are based on the National Qualifications Framework and are taught by accredited experts from the NL CR and external institutions. The courses are attended by people currently employed in libraries, as well as those preparing to work in libraries. In 2025, due to demand, we offered only the Librarian in Direct Services and Cataloguing Librarian courses. A total of 27 participants enrolled in the courses. Thanks to financial support from the Ministry of Culture of CR, interested individuals from all types of libraries were able to complete these courses, subsequently obtaining a certificate of professional competence in accordance with the National Qualifications Framework, as amended by Act No. 179/2006 Coll., on the verification and recognition of continuing education results and on amendments to certain acts (the Act on the Recognition of Further Education Results, as amended). The aim of the courses is to provide participants with a comprehensive overview of current developments in librarianship in the Czech Republic, relevant legislation, and library processes and activities. The courses are designed to

impart both theoretical and practical knowledge and to help participants acquire basic skills in library and information services.

In 2025, preparations also began to expand the retraining courses to include the Independent Librarian-Methodologist position (code: 72-020-R). The pilot year for this retraining course will run in the first half of 2026.

VISK 4

Protection of Physical Modern Library Collections of the NL CR II

Responsible officer: Mgr. Vojtěch Halama

URL: <http://kramerius-info.nkp.cz/>

URL: <http://visk.nkp.cz/visk-4>

In 2025, the NL CR received a grant for activities related to the physical preservation of its collections, offered by the VISK 4 programme. Thanks to this funding, archival-quality cardboard was purchased from which protective covers were created for digitised, deacidified, and at-risk documents. Additionally, materials used in the physical survey of the collection were purchased (filter papers, buffers, preservation solutions, cellulose wadding). Funds obtained for services were used for both the development and administration of two core tools for the management and protection of library collections (the Application for the Survey of Modern Collections and the Deacidification Register) and the bulk deacidification of library collections. In 2025, 715 documents totalling 465.60 kg were deacidified. In addition to these activities, funds were also used for other personnel costs for temporary workers who focused on loosening book bindings and performing minor repairs before and after digitisation (thanks to these repairs, the periodical *Právo lidu*, which is in poor physical condition, has been gradually digitised for

the third year now), preparatory work before and after deacidification, the production of protective covers, and a survey of the physical condition of modern collections, the results of which will serve as one of the indicators for strategic planning regarding the preservation of these collections.

In November, a Meet and Greet took place for VISK 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 10 (online via Zoom). This event enabled project leaders to discuss specific issues with the main coordinators of each grant programme. Additionally, a regular seminar on the VISK 4 and VISK 7 programmes was conducted in a hybrid format at the CDH and via Zoom.

The Collection of Belarusian, Russian, and Ukrainian Émigré Periodicals from 1918–1945, maintained by the Slavonic Library and Inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register

Responsible officer: PhDr. Lukáš Babka

URL: <http://visk.nkp.cz/visk-4>

The project's main objective is to ensure the long-term physical preservation and proper storage of a collection of newspapers and journals published mainly between 1918 and 1945 by Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian émigrés from the former Russian Empire. This collection, which has been protected by UNESCO since 2007, includes approximately 2,400 newspaper titles.

In the first year, the focus was on surveying the initial batch of newspapers, measuring the pH levels, recording these values in the Survey of Modern Collections Application, and preparing materials for subsequent phases. A total of 1,150 volumes were examined and documented.

VISK 5

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

Responsible officer: Mgr. Nataša Mikšová

The objective of the project was to pre-select and prepare about 14,000 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 3,424 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 MARCI–MEDID. Selected elements of the material description were added to 3,150 records previously processed by retrospective conversion.

VISK 8/A

Multi-Licence Access to Electronic Information Sources

Responsible officer: Mgr. Barbora Korandová

URL: <http://visk.nkp.cz/visk-8-a>

In 2025, public libraries that participated in the project continued providing access to Czech and international electronic resources. They had the option to choose from four databases containing both current and

archived scholarly and popular-science content across fields such as economics, politics, culture, and law.

Among these was the Czech media database NewtonOne, subscribed to by 49 libraries. Previously known as Anopress, it underwent a complete overhaul in 2025, with a new name and a redesigned user interface. Other options included the ASPI legal database, selected by 24 libraries; PressReader, offering foreign newspapers and science magazines, used by 31 libraries; and the CTK News Archive, providing news coverage from 2000 onward, subscribed to by 13 libraries.

Monthly usage statistics were distributed to the libraries. As in past years, online seminars on database usage took place in spring and autumn, drawing 260 attendees. A dedicated webinar on the NewtonOne interface was also held, with 124 registrations.

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 2025, the database contained 2,073,502 records. In 2025, a total of 46,084 records were added from 24 regional and departmental libraries.

A total of 16 libraries (12 regional libraries and 4 libraries of the CAS) contributed 18,608 records under the VISK 9/1 programme.

A total of 249,190 edits were made by the database administrator in 2025, targeting corrections and additions of name and subject authorities, linking of

full texts or substantive revision of records, including 870 new records.

A.2 Other Projects

The Library in Museums and Galleries

→ Responsible officer: PhDr. Marie Šedá

Preparation of the publication *The Library in Museums and Galleries* by Štěpánka Běhalová, Alena Petruželková, and Marie Šedá, which serves as a comprehensive practical guide for staff, management, and the governing bodies of these specialised institutions. Its main goal is to define the role of the museum library as an essential pillar of the institution's professional activities and to provide guidance for its effective day-to-day management. The publication will be released as an e-book in 2026.

Intercultural Services Provided at the Masaryk Public Library in Vsetín (Project of the Ministry of Culture supporting foreigners, with the Masaryk Public Library applying through the NL CR)

→ Responsible officer: Mgr. Michaela Mrázová

The project's main pillars were the development of a collection of foreign-language materials (fiction, textbooks, and teaching aids for Czech-language instruction), systematic cooperation with the Centre for the Integration of Foreigners in the Zlín Region, support for Czech-language courses for foreigners, and targeted information and awareness-raising activities. The project strengthened the library's role as an open community and integration centre and improved access to information and education for foreigners of all ages.

Hanwell System Add-On – Microclimate Monitoring

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

→ Funding: Ministry of Culture of CR

In 2025, the project aimed to expand the Hanwell radio system to monitor climatic conditions and adapt it for use at the NL CR, specifically at the Klementinum and CDH buildings.

The results – climate monitoring – are now being utilised not only to protect, enhance, and streamline the care of library collections through 'preventive conservation', but also by collection and building managers. They can promptly detect deviations from normal environmental conditions, technical malfunctions, or natural disasters in real time and respond immediately. Sensor data is also accessible remotely.

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

→ Project period: 1 July 2019 – 31 December 2025

→ Responsible officer from the NL CR:

Ing. Daniela Bilnicová Blažková

→ Financial support: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic

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 2025, the project continued to expand its digitisation capabilities and improved methods for correcting visual material degradation. Special focus was given to processing colour originals affected by specific chemical deterioration. Building on last year's results, AI algorithms were enhanced to allow more efficient

automation and more precise reconstruction of original colours.

Analysis of the Age, Educational, and Salary Structure of Library Staff in the Czech Republic

→ Project period: 1 April 2025 – 30 July 2025

→ Responsible officers from the NL CR:

PhDr. Vít Richter, Mgr. Vladana Pillerová

→ Funding: Budget of the NL CR

In 2025, the Librarianship Institute repeated its nationwide survey titled Analysis of the Age, Educational, and Salary Structure of Library Staff in the Czech Republic. The survey analysed data from 312 libraries (221 public and 91 specialised) covering a total of 4,848 employees. This data enables tracking long-term trends since 1998. The full report can be accessed at: https://ipk.nkp.cz/docs/2025_Zprava_analyza.pdf.

B. International Projects

B.1 Erasmus+

Adult Education

→ Project: 2020-1-CZ01-KA120-ADU-000094191;

2023-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000129529

(project period ended 31 August 2025);

2024-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000225419

(ongoing project period until 31 May 2026);

2025-1-CZ01-KA121-ADU-000310710 (new project period until 31 August 2026)

→ Project leader: Czech National Agency for International Education and Research

→ Responsible officers from the NL CR:

Mgr. Roman Giebisch, Ph.D.,

Mgr. Dominika Pavčík Borbélyová, Ph.D.

→ Project period: 2021–2027

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. In the current programming period Erasmus+ 2021–2027, the supported applications focus on the themes of inclusion and diversity, sustainability, digitisation, and civic engagement.

In 2025, a total of 41 activities financed by the Erasmus+ project took place, including 23 shadowing trips to a foreign institution, and 18 educational activities/courses.

B.2 Interreg Slovenia – Austria, European Union – European Regional Development Fund

Ancient Book Craft (ABC)

- Project leaders: Dr Johannes Tintner-Olifiers, BOKU, Austria; Matija Strlič, Ph.D. 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 2025, the previous year's measurement results were reviewed, confirming the use of Near Infrared (NIR) and Attenuated Total Reflectance (ATR) Fourier-Transform Mid-Infrared (FTIR) technology on specimens from the collections of the NL CR. The project concluded on 31 October 2025. It produced dating models based on

multidimensional data analysis. The findings are now being processed and prepared for publication.

B.3 Media and Information Literacy

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 took place at the NL CR from 6 February to 29 March 2025 and was accessible to library visitors. Several guided tours were also organised for the NL CR staff and librarians from other libraries in and outside Prague. As part of the project, the Education Department of the Librarianship Institute hosted multiple workshops on the same topic for primary and secondary school students. In addition to the events at the NL CR, four additional sets of posters were printed and distributed to other libraries across the Czech Republic, with support for exhibition setup. This allowed the exhibitions to run simultaneously in five libraries nationwide, expanding their reach and impact. Student workshops in these libraries provided deeper insights into the exhibition's themes.

The project was completed successfully on time. V. Pillerová and M. Mrázová discussed their experiences with

the project, organising exhibitions, and its effects on library visitors in the Czech Republic at the IFLA World Library and Information Congress in Astana in August 2025, during a session focused on this project.

B.4 Partnership with Google

Mass Digitisation of Historical and Rare Documents

- Responsible officers: Mgr. Tomáš Klimek, Ph.D., PhDr. Lukáš Babka

The year 2025 marked the conclusion of the joint digitisation initiative between the NL CR and Google, which aimed to digitise historical and rare documents from the Historical and Musical Collection and Slavonic Library collections. After two document shipments in 2024, the final 45th shipment occurred in September 2025 and included 4,082 volumes. While this phase is complete, the cooperation agreement remains active, allowing digitisation efforts to proceed if needed.

B.5 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 officers from the NL CR: Mgr. Jeanne Janoušková, Mgr. Irena Burešová
- Financial support: Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic

The project is implemented based on the agreement between the Ministries of Culture of both countries. Within the project, the NL CR purchased 612 book titles for CZK 299,887.60 for the Bratislava University Library in 2025.

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 Slavonic Library, was used up to the amount of EUR 11, 998.95; a total of 635 publications was purchased. Slovak acquisitions received over the years of the project's duration are available on the NL CR website.

4

ECONOMIC INDICES,
STATISTICS, GRAPHS

The Basic Statistical Data of the National Library of the CR in 2025

Library items, total	7,858,933
· of which manuscripts	22,978
Number of incoming periodical copies	9,159
Number of library items on open shelves	54,985
New volumes	65,427
Lost volumes	2,445
Number of the NL's specialised databases (other than the Electronic Catalogue)	33
Number of licensed electronic information resources	431,027
Registered users	20,129
Visitors at the library (physical visits)	509,211
· of whom visitors to loan departments and reading rooms	156,556
· of whom using the internet in the library	5,354
· of whom visitors of cultural events	342,446
· of whom visitors of educational events	4,875
· of whom visitors to other events where the NL CR is not the main organiser	266,413
Visitors of online services from outside the library	22,082,875
Visitors of the library's website	3,896,676
Loans, total	203,513
· of which loans of periodicals	27,012
Requests for Interlibrary Loan Services, total	4,707
· of which ordered from abroad	1,665
Online information services (number of questions answered)	30,429
Meetings and consultations for librarians, booksellers and publishers	16,287
Educational events for librarians (seminars, courses, etc.)	1,276

Cultural events for the public (forums, exhibitions, tours, etc.)	296
Educational events for the public (seminars, courses, etc.)	266
Online seminars, workshops, lectures	57
· Participation	24,457
Other events where the library is not the main organiser	2,186
Number of titles of non-periodical publications issued pursuant to Act No. 37/1995 Coll. as amended	11
Number of copies (in pcs)	6,057
Number of titles of periodicals issued pursuant to Act No. 46/2000 Coll. as amended	1
· Number of copies (in pcs)	300
Number of titles of the electronic documents issued including the internet	6 e-publications, 3 e-periodicals
Number of places for studying	537
· equipped with a computer	30
· of which computers with an internet connection	19
· equipped with another technical device	20
Number of places in lecture halls and classrooms*	539
· of which equipped with a computer	19
Number of places 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)	450.9

Financial Management

The NL achieved an improved economic result as of the 31 December 2025.

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

Item	Main Activity
Total costs	731,199
Operating costs	724,844
of which: material costs	371,503
Personnel costs	353,341
Financial costs	200
Income tax	549
Total revenues	731,479
Activity revenue	59,06
Financial revenue	19
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers	672,4
Income from operations after tax	280

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	59,079
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers – MoC provider	667,57
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers – other providers	4,814
Total revenue	731,479

Chart of Transfers and Overview of the Use of Investment Resources (current as of 31 December 2025, in thousands of CZK)

Activity/Programme	Non-Investment Resources	Investment Resources	Source of Financing
Provided by the founding entity – MoC	667,586	277,419	MoC
Operating fund	613,075	0	MoC
Special-purpose subsidies (NEVISK)	8,964	0	MoC
Cultural activities	5,946	0	MoC
Library Public Information Services (VISK)	10,596	0	MoC
Total	629,617	0	MoC
Institutional research	21,757	1,45	MoC
Research projects funded by the MoC	6,929	0	MoC
Systematic and individual subsidies	3,449	433,508	MoC
EU-co-financed subsidies	12,763	31,665	MoC
Projects funded through other institutions	4,814	2,104	
Revenue of selected CGIs from transfers + other providers	672,4	278,586	

Other providers: The NL CR was actively involved in many projects funded from 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 2025

were used in compliance with the purpose for which they were granted. They were tracked separately in the accounts.

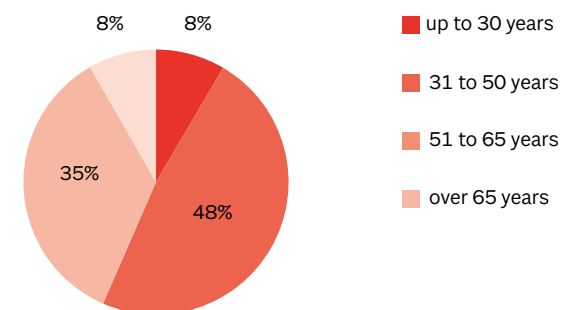
Levy on write-offs and buildings: As of 31 December 2025, the amount of CZK 41,590 was transferred to the income account of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic as a levy on depreciation of immovable property. The liability determined under the approved 2025 budget schedule of the NL CR was therefore settled on time.

Conditional indicator to use of the contribution to operating costs: The contribution to operating costs was allocated at an amount of CZK 10,648 thousand to cover the material costs for the performance of those statutory activities that were previously financed in the form of a special-purpose grant from the Ministry of Culture programme for the Library Public Information Service (VISK).

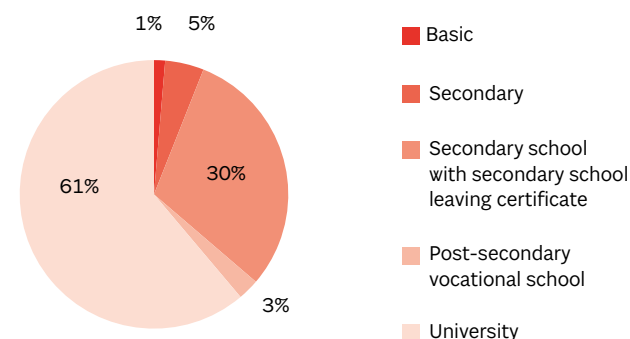
The limit for the number of converted full-time equivalents within the framework of employment regulation was set at 447.3 for the National Library of the Czech Republic for 2025. The total number of converted full-time equivalents, including full-time equivalents whose salary costs are covered by extra-budgetary sources, was 450.9 in 2025.

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 2025

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 2025.

Titles of Non-Periodical Publications by Subject (library items)

Subject Group		Total Number of Titles			First Edition Subtotals		
		Books	Pamphlets	Total	Books	Pamphlets	Total
a		2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Generalities	328	79	407	292	75	367
2	Philosophy, psychology	376	15	391	317	14	331
3	Religion, theology	391	54	445	327	48	375
4	Sociology, statistics	230	16	246	209	16	225
5	Politics, economics	333	18	351	259	15	274
6	Law, public, administration, social relief and welfare, insurance	493	15	508	370	12	382
7	Military art and science	184	20	204	162	18	180
8	Education, teacher-training, leisure	741	315	1,056	381	184	565
9	Trade, communication, transport, tourism	125	24	149	93	22	115
10	Ethnography, cultural anthropology (customs, folklore, mores, tradition)	75	6	81	63	6	69
11	Philology, languages, linguistics	183	11	194	136	9	145
12	Mathematics	64	9	73	47	8	55
13	Natural sciences	328	153	481	275	140	415
14	Medical sciences, public, health	362	95	457	299	87	386
15	Engineering, technology, industries, trades and crafts	213	44	257	196	41	237
16	Agriculture, forestry, stockbreeding, hunting and fisheries	224	99	323	193	92	285
17	Domestic science	148	9	157	138	9	147
18	Management, administration and organisation	82	2	84	72	2	74
19	Physical planning, town and country planning, architecture	210	63	273	193	59	252
20	Plastic and graphic arts, photography	467	116	583	458	116	574
21	Music, performing arts, theatre, film and cinema	224	19	243	206	19	225
22	Games and sports	233	32	265	203	29	232
23	a) History of literature and literary criticism	90	8	98	86	7	93
	b) Literary texts	4,997	813	5,81	4,164	750	4,914
24	Geography	312	41	353	252	35	287
25	History, biography	1,125	94	1,219	1,017	89	1,106
Total		12,538	2170	14,708	10,408	1,902	12310
of which	School textbooks	567	165	732	184	48	232
	Childrens textbooks	1,514	963	2,477	1,204	873	2,077
	University textbooks	200	2	202	120	2	122

Non-Periodical Publications by Language of Publication

Language of Publication	Number of Titles
Total	14,708
Czech	12,909
Czech and other languages	737
English	480
Slovak	243
German	39
Spanish	32
Polish	26
French	24
Russian	20
Italian	16
Ukrainian	14
Belarusian	8
Hungarian	8
Romanian	7
Turkish	4
Bulgarian	3
Portuguese	3
Dutch	2
Swedish	2
New Arabic	1
Esperanto	1
Modern Hebrew (Ivrit)	1
Croatian	1
Mongolian	1
Romani	1
Swahili	1
Multilingual (not including Czech)	124

Non-Periodical Publications – Translations from Other Languages

Source Language	Number of Titles
Translations – total	5,766
English	3,171
German	821
French	324
Slovak	266
Japanese	186
Italian	132
Spanish	118
Polish	115
Russian	71
Swedish	49
Ukrainian	42
Dutch	27
Modern and Medieval Latin	25
Korean	23
Norwegian	20
Chinese	18
Danish	15
Classical Latin	10
Finnish	9
Hungarian	9
Portuguese	9
Belarusian	8
Catalan	8
Romanian	7
Classical Greek	7
Bulgarian	6
Icelandic	6

Modern Greek	6
Old Hebrew	5
Lithuanian	5
Slovenian	5
other ancient languages	3
Modern Arabic	2
Esperanto	2
Estonian	2
New Hebrew (Ivrit)	2
Croatian	2
Latvian	2
Macedonian	2
Mongolian	2
Classical Persian	2
Albanian	1
Classical Arabic	1
Filipino	1
Indonesian	1
Yiddish	1
other European languages	1
Old Czech	1
Old Church Slavonic	1
Turkish	1
Flemish	1
Welsh	1
Multiple languages	211

Foreign Acquisitions in 2025

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

Total **6,564 library items**

Printed documents: 6,550 Non printed documents: 14

of which:

Exchange: 1,392 (21.25%) Audio recordings: 12 (85.72%)

Donations: 2,310 (35.27%) Video recordings: 1 (7.14%)

Purchase: 2,848 (43.48%) Electronic source: 1 (7.14%)

A. NON-PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS

Analysis of Total Acquisitions by Country

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-printed documents*	Total (library items)
1	Germany	167	503	518	4	1,192
2	USA	169	393	573	0	1,135
3	Great Britain	25	164	473	1	663
4	Slovakia	28	467	23	2	520
5	Switzerland	3	120	199	3	325
6	France	54	92	119	0	265
7	Italy	1	44	203	0	248
8	Poland	131	94	18	1	244
9	Spain	26	8	150	0	184
10	Austria	27	115	31	0	173
11	Romania	45	12	93	0	150
12	Ukraine	92	33	25	0	150
13	The Netherlands	3	20	119	0	142
14	Hungary	74	11	50	0	135
15	Serbia	116	12	0	0	128
16	Croatia	49	65	0	3	117
17	Belgium	1	14	78	0	93

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-printed documents*	Total (library items)
18	Russia	60	14	6	0	80
19	Portugal	0	0	76	0	76
20	South Korea	69	1	0	0	70
21	Moldova	48	0	1	0	49
22	Japan	41	5	0	0	46
23	Azerbaijan	37	0	0	0	37
24	Bulgaria	30	4	0	0	34
25	Belarus	32	1	0	0	33
26	China	0	29	2	0	31
27	Singapore	0	1	27	0	28
28	Finland	20	0	0	0	20
29	Sweden	8	7	4	0	19
30	Canada	1	12	4	0	17
31	Macedonia	11	0	0	0	11
32	Australia	0	8	1	0	9
	Latvia	8	0	1	0	9
33	Denmark	0	3	5	0	8
	Estonia	5	3	0	0	8
	Slovenia	3	4	1	0	8
34	Brazil	0	0	7	0	7
35	Unknown country	0	2	4	0	6
36	Bosnia and Herzegovina	1	4	0	0	5
37	Luxembourg	0	4	0	0	4
	New Zealand	0	4	0	0	4
38	Georgia	0	3	0	0	3
	Israel	2	1	0	0	3
	Oman	0	3	0	0	3
	Turkey	1	0	2	0	3
	Vietnam	2	1	0	0	3

	Country	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-printed documents*	Total (library items)
39	Armenia	0	2	0	0	2
	India	0	1	1	0	2
	Republic of South Africa	0	2	0	0	2
	Colombia	0	2	0	0	2
	Lebanon	0	1	1	0	2
	Mexico	0	2	0	0	2
	Norway	0	2	0	0	2
	Greece	0	1	1	0	2
	Taiwan	0	2	0	0	2
	Venezuela	0	1	1	0	2
40	Argentina	0	1	0	0	1
	Egypt	0	0	1	0	1
	Ghana	0	1	0	0	1
	Guam	0	1	0	0	1
	Indonesia	0	1	0	0	1
	Ireland	0	1	0	0	1
	Island	0	1	0	0	1
	North Korea	0	1	0	0	1
	Liechtenstein	0	1	0	0	1
	Latvia	0	1	0	0	1
	Nepal	0	1	0	0	1
	Pakistan	1	0	0	0	1
	San Marino	0	0	1	0	1
	United Arab Emirates	1	0	0	0	1
	Tanzania	0	1	0	0	1
Total		1,392	2,310	2,848	14	6,564
% of the total acquisitions		21.21%	35.19%	43.39%	0.21%	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 (library items)	
1	Generalities	110	117	221	0	436	6.70%
2	Philosophy, psychology	23	108	97	0	228	3.47%
3	Religion, theology	33	416	103	0	552	8.45%
4	Sociology, statistics	101	106	75	0	282	4.30%
5	Politics, economics	143	177	310	0	630	9.62%
6	Law, public administration, insurance	117	61	51	0	229	3.49%
7	Military art and science	34	21	47	0	102	1.55%
8	Education, teacher-training, leisure	16	39	13	0	68	1.04%
9	Trade, communication, transport, tourism	7	12	1	0	20	0.30%
10	Ethnography, cultural anthropology	51	52	26	0	129	1.97%
11	Philology, languages, linguistics	35	58	33	0	126	1.92%
12	Mathematics	3	10	56	0	69	1.05%
13	Natural sciences	35	96	136	1	268	4.12%
14	Medical sciences, public health	17	25	44	0	86	1.31%
15	Engineering, technology, industries, crafts	8	32	15	0	55	0.84%
16	Agriculture, forestry	2	9	2	0	13	0.20%
17	Domestic science	3	8	1	0	12	0.18%
18	Management, administration and organisation	1	9	8	0	18	0.27%
19	Town and country planning, architecture	17	42	106	0	165	2.51%
20	Plastic and graphic arts, photography	96	135	229	0	460	7.01%

	Subject Group	Exchange	Donations	Purchase	Non-printed documents*	Total (library items)	
21	Music, performing arts, theatre, film and cinema	62	172	180	12	426	6.49%
22	Games and sports	4	12	13	0	29	0.44%
23	Literary studies	136	55	151	0	342	5.21%
24	Geography	26	114	11	0	151	2.30%
25	History, biography	258	246	626	0	1,130	17.25%
26	Literary texts	54	178	293	1	526	8.01%
Total		1,392	2,310	2,848	14	6,564	100.00%

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

B. PERIODICALS

	Titles	%
Exchange	54	24.10%
Donations	9	4.00%
Purchase	161	71.90%
Total	224	100.00%

Commentary on Statistical Analyses of Foreign Literature Acquisitions

Acquisition activities primarily entail the selective acquisition of documents in the library's core subject areas (social sciences, natural sciences, culture, and the arts). Newly acquired publications are incorporated into the National Archival Collection (NAC) and the Universal Library Collection (ULC). In rare cases, some publications are transferred to the collections of the Slavonic Library or the Librarianship Institute.

A total of **6,564 items of non-periodical literature** were acquired for the collections of the NL CR, comprising 6,550 printed documents and 14 non-printed documents.

Within printed documents, 16 cartographic documents (6 NAC, 12 ULC), 5 prints (1 NAC, 3 ULC, 1 ORST = Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department), and 143 music items (15 NAC, 3 ULC, 125 Music Department) were acquired. During 2025, **3,781** orders for foreign books were verified and stored in the database.

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

In 2025, 1,249 volumes were sent abroad as part of the exchange, of which 714 volumes were sent to the EU. For this purpose, 1,088 publications were purchased, and the rest were donated.

In total, we handled 531 orders from abroad.

In 2025, foreign publications were purchased for approximately CZK 3,607,000. The share of foreign literature

purchases within the total budget of the Foreign Acquisition Department (FAD) was again higher than that of exchanges, reaffirming the trend of shifting from exchanges to purchases as the primary method for acquiring foreign literature. A total of **2,822** volumes were purchased, along with 26 volumes acquired through direct purchase. The average cost per foreign volume was CZK 1,202.65. About 37% of the titles purchased were specifically for the NL CR (21%) and for open-access selections in the reading rooms' reference collections.

In 2025, FAD staff worked diligently to acquire specialised publications for the NL CR's collections at minimal costs by leveraging larger promotional discounts from international suppliers and trade fairs. However, rising prices in the book market, higher shipping costs, and fluctuations in the Czech crown exchange rate impacted the procurement of foreign publications. To counteract these challenges, it remains advisable to prioritise direct purchases at book fairs.

FAD's participation in the Frankfurt Book Fair was highly successful. Book discounts typically reached 40%. Some Frankfurt-based publishers, with whom we have long-standing partnerships, sent us the ordered publications at the usual fair discount, despite not attending the event. Overall, we saved CZK 767,125.46 through discounts on foreign literature purchases.

In 2025, these discounts accounted for 21.25% of the total foreign literature acquired, totalling 1,392 volumes.

Exchange remains an essential component of acquiring foreign materials, especially from countries outside the EU, with periodical exchange being particularly important. It offers clear financial advantages to the NL CR. In 2025, the exchange's share in the acquisition of foreign printed periodicals slightly decreased to 24.10%, down

from 26.05% in 2024. Conversely, exchanges within Western Europe and the U.S. have either stagnated or declined over several years, with purchase being the predominant method of acquisition in these regions.

In 2025, 2,310 documents from 51 donors were registered, with a total estimated value of CZK 2,310,000.

The Statistical Indices of the Services

The NL CR provides library and information services as its fundamental statutory activity, in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the National Library. The range of core services remains stable. A significant development in the previous year was the introduction of self-service options based on RFID technology. We continued implementing RFID in 2025. As a result, since April 2025, users of the NL CR have been able to return their check-out items not only directly at the counter in the Main Hall, the Slavonic Library, or the Library of Library Science Literature, but also via a return machine located in the cloakroom. They can also pay their outstanding fees at the self-service check-out box in the cloakroom. Another 'technical' innovation is the acceptance of the e-Document for identity verification in the Main Hall. It is encouraging that the trend of gradually increasing interest in the library – including its physical space – continues. A comparison of physical attendance suggests that for many users, the space itself is a service they are interested in. An important part of the services comprises the collections available to users online, including digitised documents and licensed databases. The number of physical loans declined significantly year-over-year; however, in 2025, renewals were excluded from this figure for the first time, which naturally had a significant impact on the

recorded loan volume. When interpreting the number of loans in a year-over-year comparison, it is therefore necessary to keep this change in methodology in mind.

In-person visits to study areas increased slightly again in 2025, reaching 107% of the 2024 level (see the table Overview of Services Provided... and Charts 3 and 8). Although physical visits have declined in some areas, overall library attendance has been steadily increasing since 2022, indicating a positive trend. The Main Hall remains the most popular reading area, recording 78,891 visits and serving as the main point of contact for users. Since early 2025, the Main Hall has added a small open-shelf section with interesting titles for checkout, further enhancing its appeal as a space for studying or simply relaxing.

Visitor numbers at selected study rooms offering basic services increased compared to 2024. The General Reading Room has long been the most frequently used study room, although its visitation dropped to 93% of the 2024 level. This room has the most study spaces and, together with the Individual Study Zone and the Chill Out Zone, also the longest opening hours – 75 hours per week. The Chill Out Zone remains very popular among the Klementinum visitors (101% of 2024 attendance), and the increase in users in 2025 is also attributable to the Scholars' Reading Room (109% of 2024 attendance). Visitor numbers at the Hostivař Reading Room (125% of 2024 attendance) and the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Reading Room (113% of 2024 attendance) rose significantly compared to last year. At the opposite end of the spectrum are some specialised reading rooms, which were visited by noticeably fewer users in 2025 (Music Department Reading Room – 74% of 2024 attendance, and Library of Library Science Literature – 70% of 2024 attendance). Visitor numbers for other general or specialised reading rooms ranged between 93 and 99% compared to the previous year.

The number of physical volume loans – another key monitored indicator – is challenging to compare with the previous period for 2025 due to changes in the calculation method. Traditionally, this figure included both loans and their renewals, but from 2025 onward, renewals are excluded. As a result, a more precise comparison will only be feasible starting from 2026. Considering the decline in order volume, it is reasonable to infer that physical loans have also decreased compared to the previous year.

In 2025, readers made 96,940 orders, roughly 13% less than in the previous period. The majority of orders were placed online. The fulfilment success rate stayed very high at 99.95% in 2025. Users benefit from reminders and notifications, with tens of thousands sent automatically by the lending system.

It is encouraging that interest in registering or renewing membership at the NL CR has remained stable. The number of registered users declined by only 0.4% from the previous year (see the Overview of Basic Services table and the Basic Services of the NL CR table in Figures... and Chart 2). The percentage of users renewing their registration online, i.e. contactlessly, is growing. In 2025, 41% of all renewal processes were completed this way. Additionally, 1,150 new users used all remote registration options, representing a 10% increase over 2024. This indicates new users are joining or maintaining interest in the library – whether for physical or online services. Since mid-October, a seamless registration process has been supported by a modernised design of online pre-registration and remote registration forms.

In the era of the internet, online subscription databases, and the growing importance of digital libraries, interlibrary loan services primarily handle highly specialised requests for loans and copies. These often involve

difficult-to-find documents that are expensive to acquire, especially those sourced from abroad. By 2025, requests for domestic and international interlibrary services decreased by just around 2% compared to the previous year (see the Overview of Services Provided... Chart 5).

Since 2022, printed outputs in reprographic services have steadily increased (see the Overview of Services Provided... Chart 6). By 2025, the number of copies reached 110% of the previous year's level. In 2025, the NL CR joined the INTOSH service operated by the National Technical Library and successfully processed 15 requests. This service allows academic library users to obtain PDFs of articles from e-journals unavailable at their home institutions. It now includes collections from libraries involved in the CzechElib project. Reprographic services also encompass the eBooks on Demand (EOD) service, which digitises public domain works upon request. Under EOD, the entire document is digitised, and after two months of delivery, the digital copy may be published. The National Library participated again in the international EOD Christmas event (24 November – 7 December 2025), offering digital copies at a discounted rate of CZK 250 (EUR 10). During this event, users requested digitisation of 7 titles. In 2025, 4,624 pages were scanned via EOD – 25% fewer than the previous year – but the number of completed orders increased by 42%, totalling 50. Most digitised titles were in Czech or German. EOD can now be ordered from the National Library's catalogues via the Aleph system, the new catalogue interface, and the Knihovny.cz portal. Collaboration with the Czech Blind United (SONS) continued, with the library digitising 19,463 pages for users who are blind or have severe visual impairments.

Visits to the selected websites and online services of the NL CR have increased significantly. Compared to last year, traffic to www.nkp.cz grew by 61%. This rise is partly due to the launch of the library's new website in early March 2025. Interestingly, visits to the Information for Libraries page (<https://ipk.nkp.cz>) dropped by 44% because its materials on cataloguing and interlibrary services were migrated to the new site during the website's redesign. Traffic to <https://authority.nkp.cz> increased by 68%, likely due to the development of a new technical solution for creating the national authority database. Usage of digital libraries, especially the NDL, continues to grow, with visits more than doubling. Traffic to the Union Catalogue of the Czech Republic increased by 20%, while visits to individual catalogues and databases in the Aleph system decreased by about 15%. This decline partly reflects fewer requests for the physical collections. Since late May 2025, a new interface for the library's catalogue (<https://katalog.nkp.cz>) has been operational alongside the existing system. Built in collaboration with the Moravian Library and based on data and tools from the Knihovny.cz portal, it allows users to search various databases (NKC, SLK, KKL, STT, ANL) via a single interface. The Foreign E-Resources tab provides access to licensed databases through the central Summon index. The new catalogue is more user-friendly, intuitive, and consistent with the Knihovny.cz portal, with records enriched through links to digital libraries both inside and outside the NDL. Registered users can access a reader account with standard features. The reservation tools for group study rooms and computers have been redesigned for ease of use, and a new feature includes a summary of requests for ZÍSKEJ services. The updated catalogue interface is publicly accessible, alongside options to access databases through the Aleph system.

Electronic information resources (EIR) have long been a major influence on how users and the public assess a library's online services. A key service is borrowing e-books from digital libraries, especially ProQuest Ebook Central and EBSCO eBook Collection, for use on personal devices. By 2025, registered users gained expanded access to full texts in specific JSTOR collections and could try various databases, including ProQuest One Academic, LibBase, Britannica Library, and the Web of Science Research Assistant. The new interface of the NL CR's catalogue also includes the central Summon index. In 2025, EBSCO databases were particularly popular, with 32,666 connections and 53,117 searches. Other widely used resources comprised ProQuest Central with 36,195 searches and the Czech database NewtonOne (formerly Anopress), which recorded 36,843 searches and an 8% rise in full-text views.

Overview of Services Provided by Loan Departments and Reading Rooms

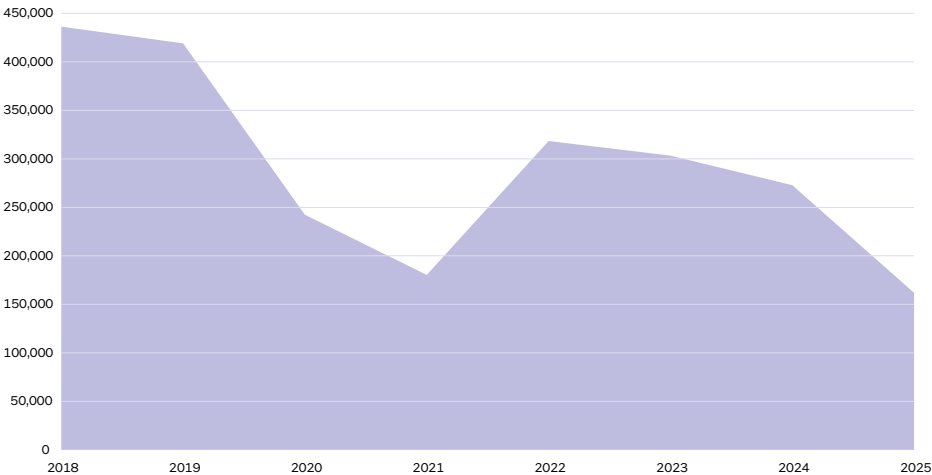
Items Monitored	Main Hall	General Reading Room	Social and Natural Sciences Reading Room	Scholars' Reading Room	Study and Chill Out Zone	Reference Centre	Periodical Reading Room	Manu- scripts and Early Printed Books Reading Room	Music Department Reading Room	Reading Room in the NL CR in Hostivař	Library and Information Science Library	Slavonic Library	Archives of the NL CR
Registered loans	43,342	65,138	323	34,160		2,070	16,923	959	1,278	2,472	383	36,044	328
of which: home loans	39,832	0	0	0		1,541	376	0	36	0	167	15,674	11
in-house use of documents	3,510	65,138	323	34,160		529	16,547	959	1,242	2,472	216	10,258	317
Registered users	18,335					1,794						1,325	15
of which new library cards	5,220											201	
Library usage	78,891	37,460	7,233	4,751	11,403	5,942	3,443	428	564	410	516	5,495	20
Users requests	96,940												
of which fulfilled	96,894												
Interlibrary-service requests						4,414						293	
of which ordered abroad						1,657						8	
Overdue notices sent through the lawyer's office	26 users, 69 items											0	
Photocopying and printing services for users	7,001		23,553			41,280	2,204			40		1,270	

Basic NL CR Sevicees in Figures in 2021–2025

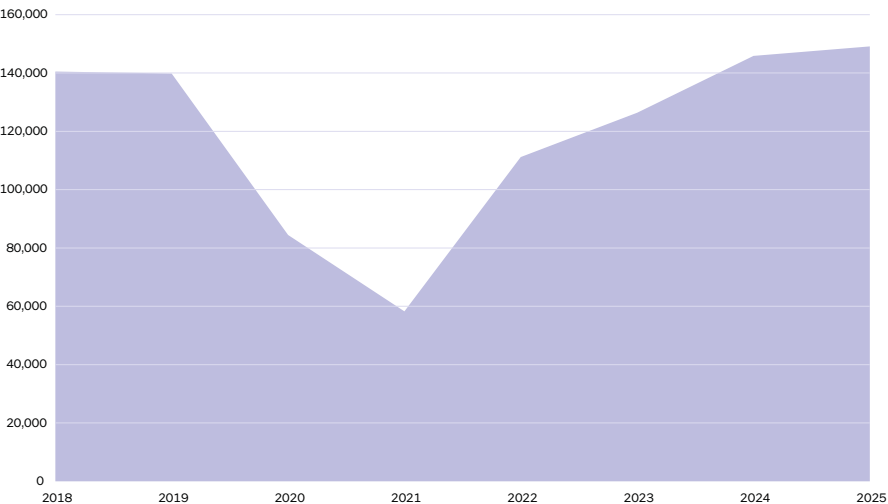
Items Monitored		Registered Loans	Registered Users	Library Visits (Visitors to the Main Hall and Main Reading Rooms)	Requests Submitted by Users	of which fulfilled	'Request Success Rate in Percentage'	'Interlibrary-Service Requests'	'of which ordered abroad'	'Photocopies and Print-Outs for Users'
2001–2017 average	number	573,890	28,424	320,169	293,195	289,596	98.77%	16,168	4,713	327,432
2018	number	436,287	21,013	140,505	205,886	205,103	99.62%	9,625	2,712	127,530
2019	number	419,067	20,021	139,854	173,721	173,174	99.69%	8,635	2,451	147,230
2020	number	242,473	17,386	84,427	102,124	101,783	99.67%	5,965	1,439	76,162
2021	number	180,259	15,827	58,281	77,675	77,502	99.78%	5,532	1,419	61,266
2022	number	318,376	16,086	111,159	113,166	112,746	99.63%	5,059	1,359	80,775
2023	number	303,393	19,371	126,369	131,043	130,663	99.71%	5,720	1,782	91,609
2024	number	272,947	20,207	145,873	111,703	111,401	99.70%	4,488	1,741	100,535
2025	number	161,956	20,129	149,123	96,940	96,894	99.95%	4,414	1,657	111,495

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

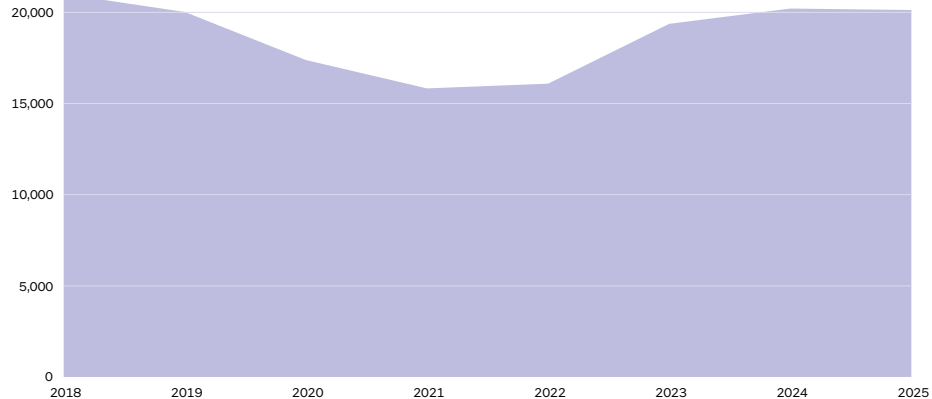
1 Loans



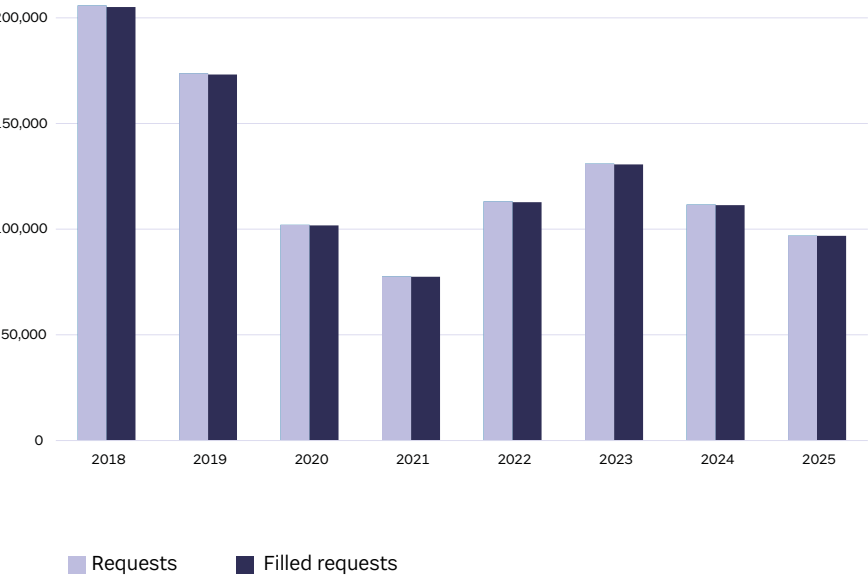
3 Attendance Rate at Loan Departments and Reading Rooms



2 Registered Users



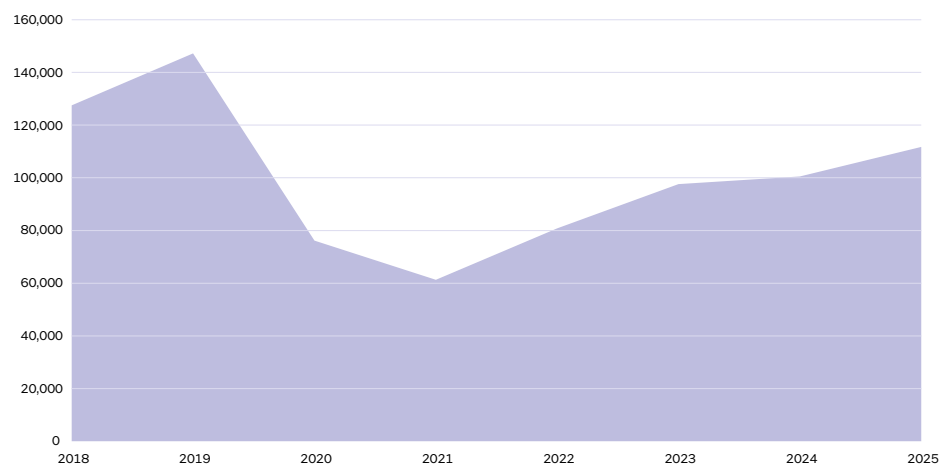
4 Requests



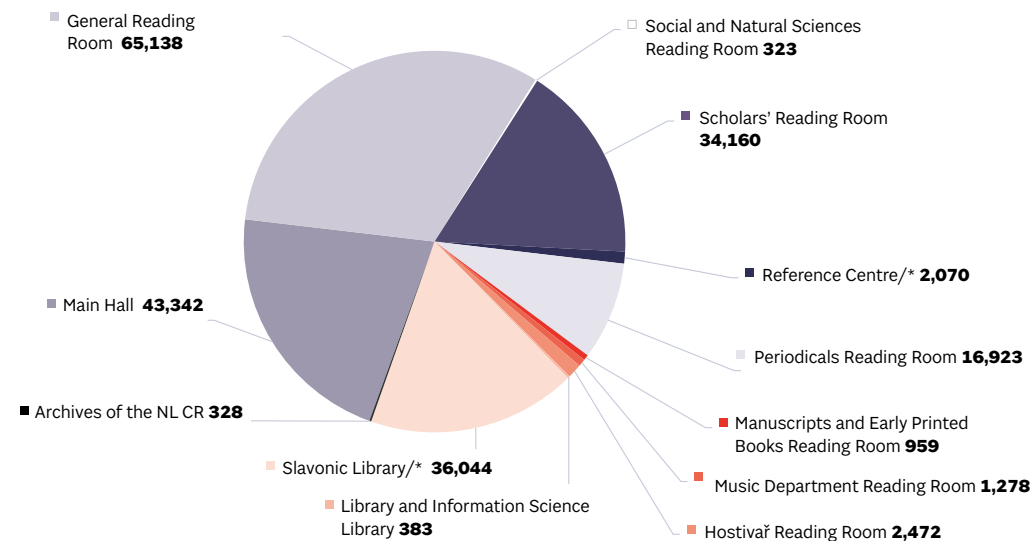
5 Interlibrary Services



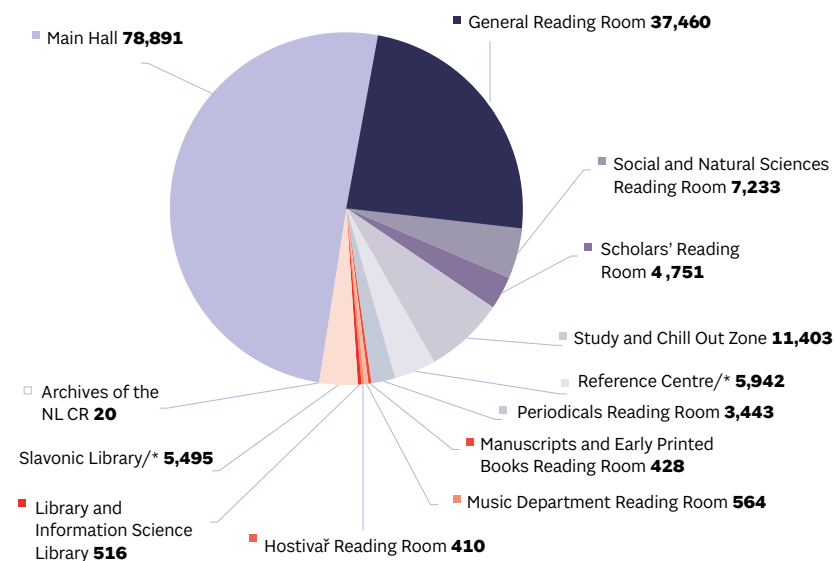
6 Photocopying and Printing



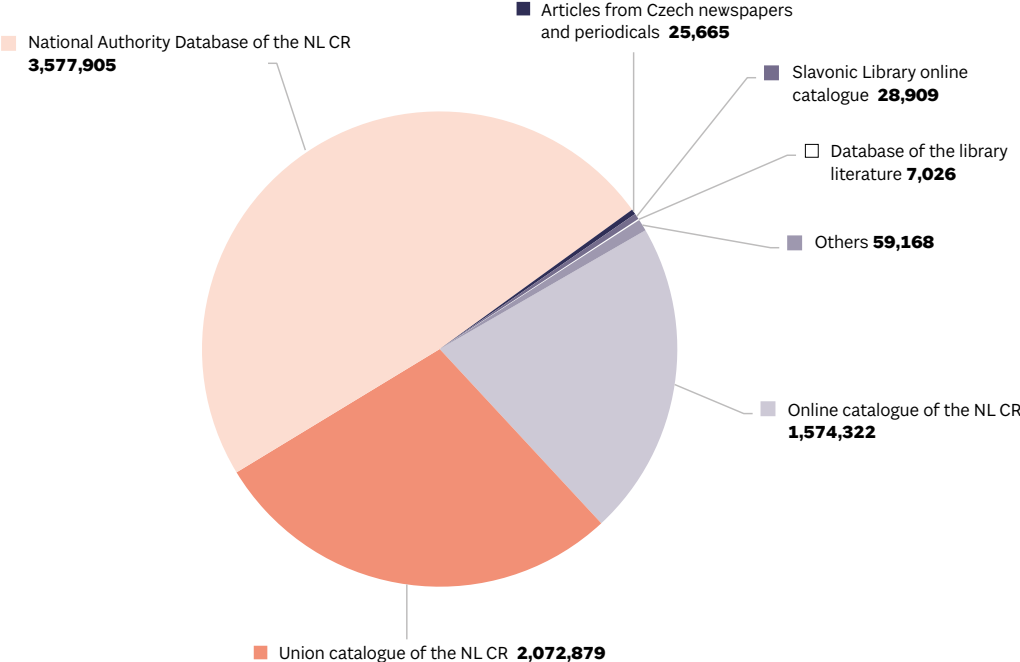
7 Registered Loans



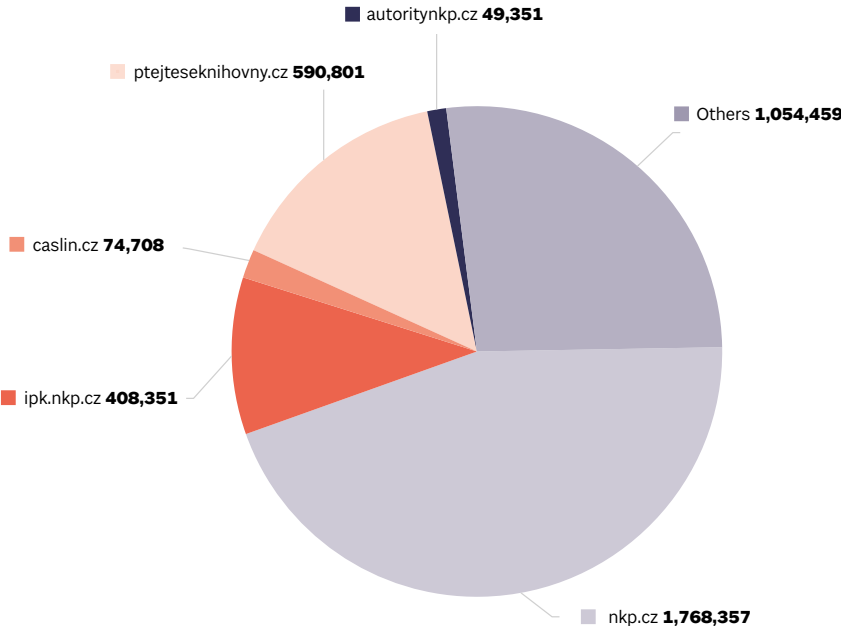
8 Library Usage



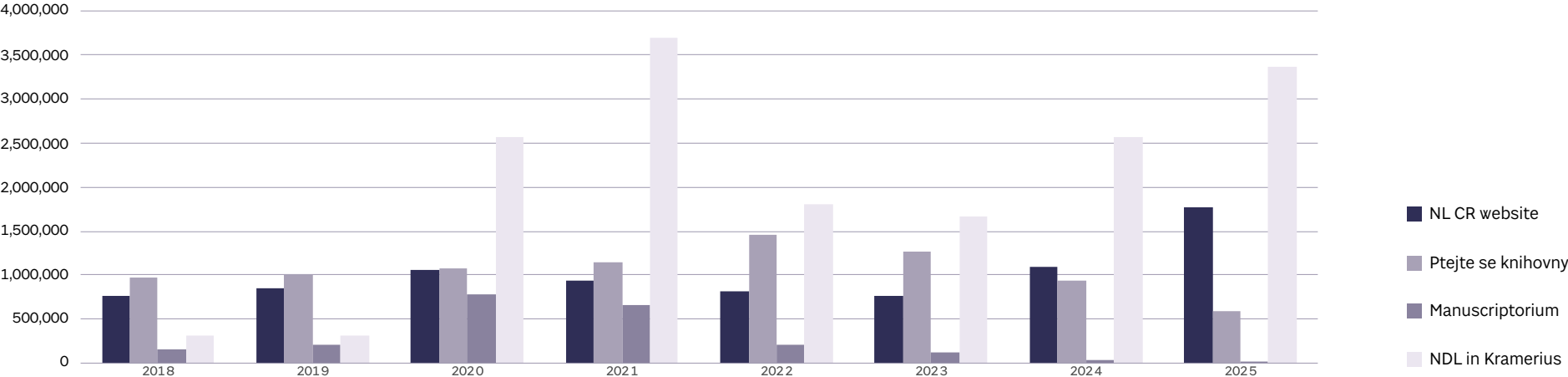
9 Usage of the NL CR Catalogues and Databases



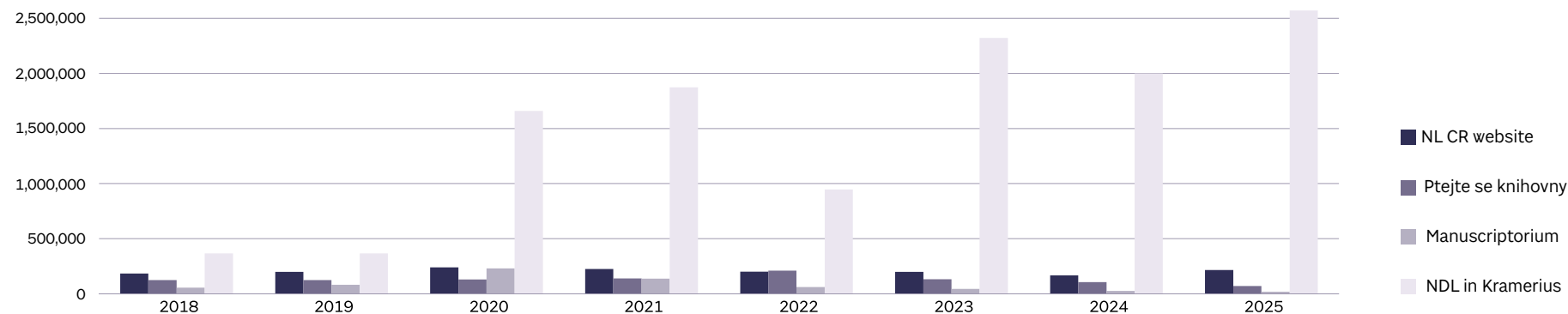
10 Website Access Rate



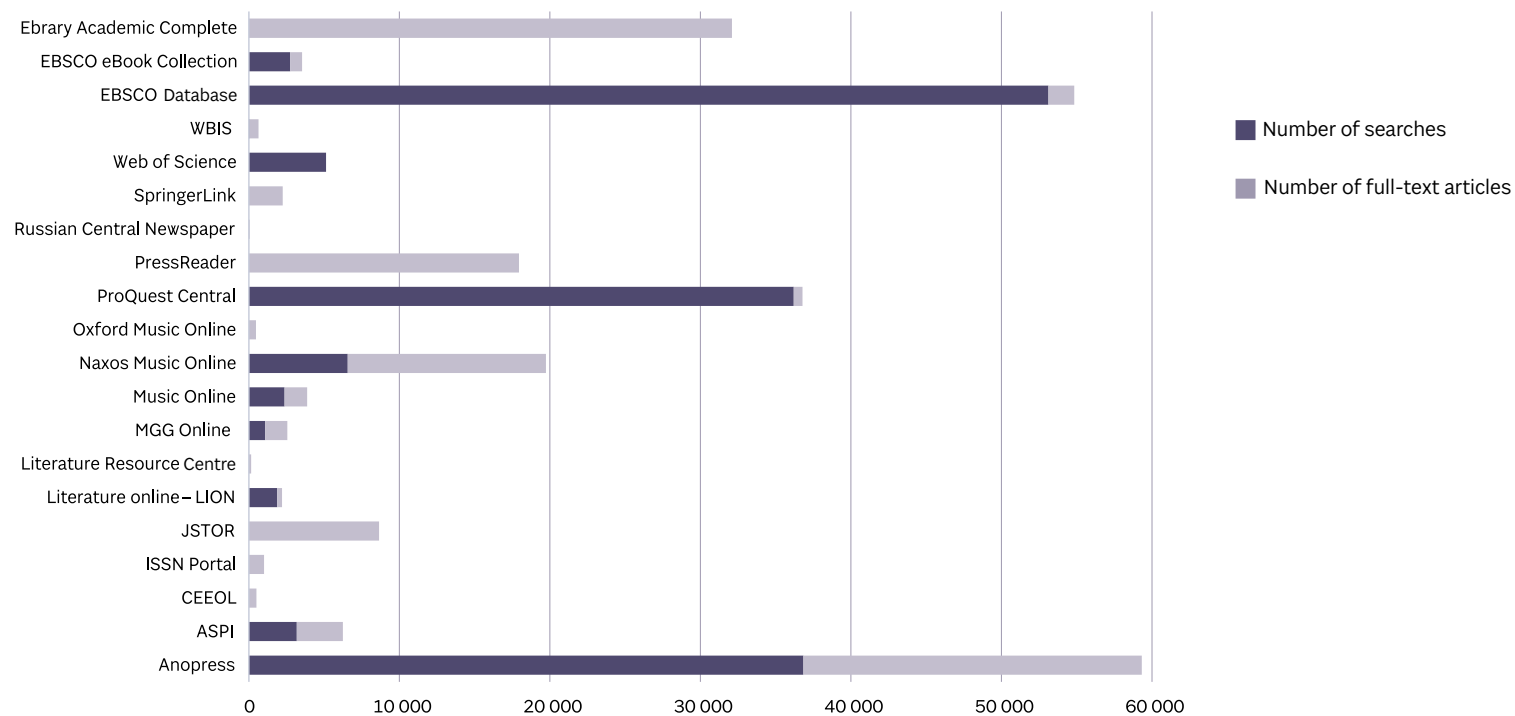
11 Visits to the NL CR Website and Digital Libraries



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



13 Use of Licensed Electronic Information Resources

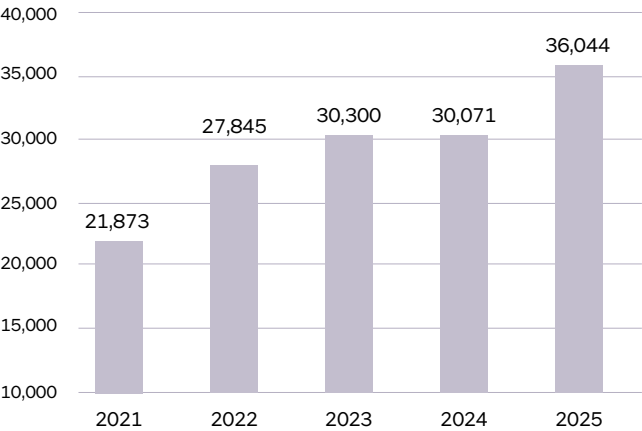


The Slavonic Library

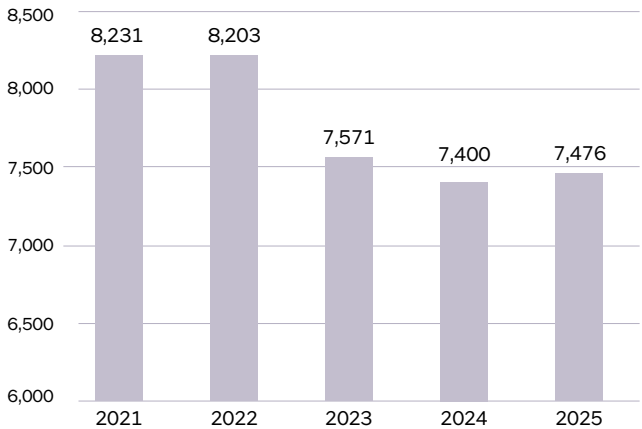
Services Provided

Registered users as of 31 December 2025	1,325
Library usage	5,495
Total number of loans	36,044

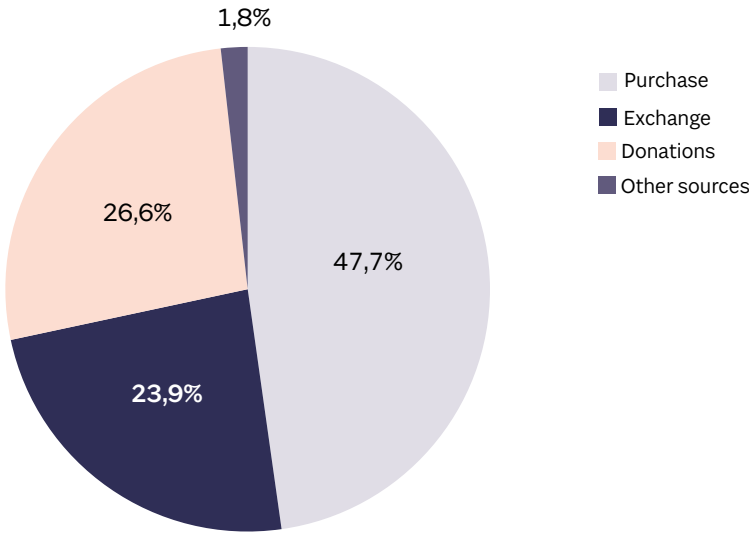
Number of Registered Loans (2021–2025)



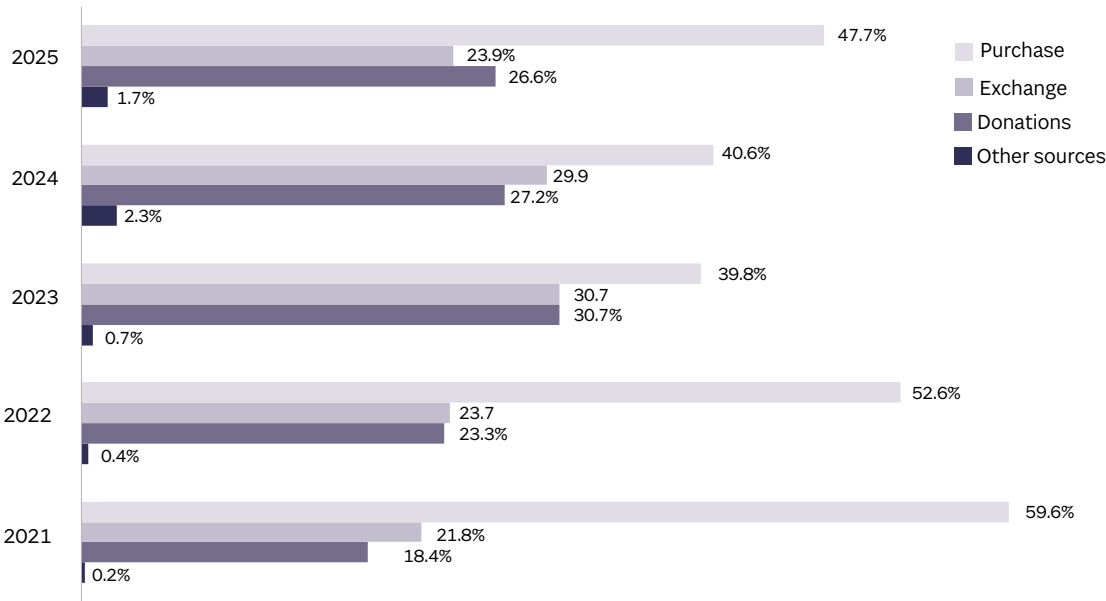
Collection Acquisitions



Proportion of Individual Acquisition Sources in the Total Acquisitions in 2025



Acquisition Structure During 2021–2025 (in %)

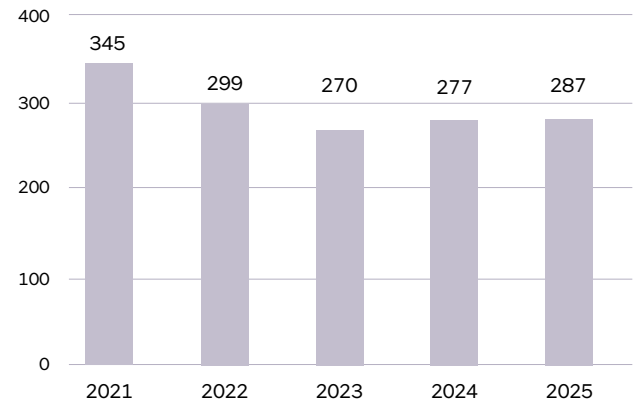


Library and Information Science Library

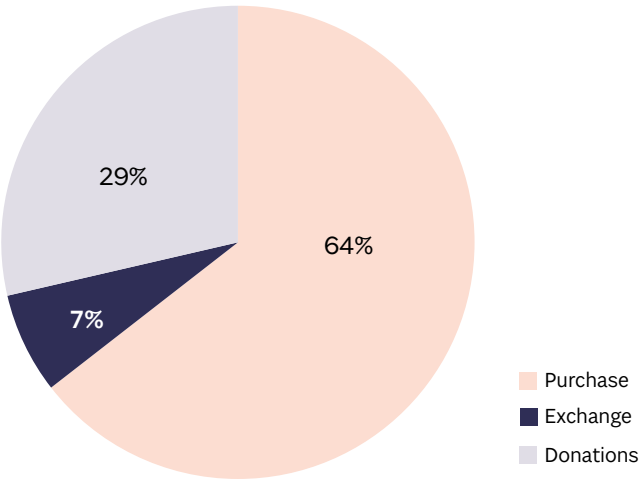
Services Provided

Library usage	336
Total number of loans	1,478

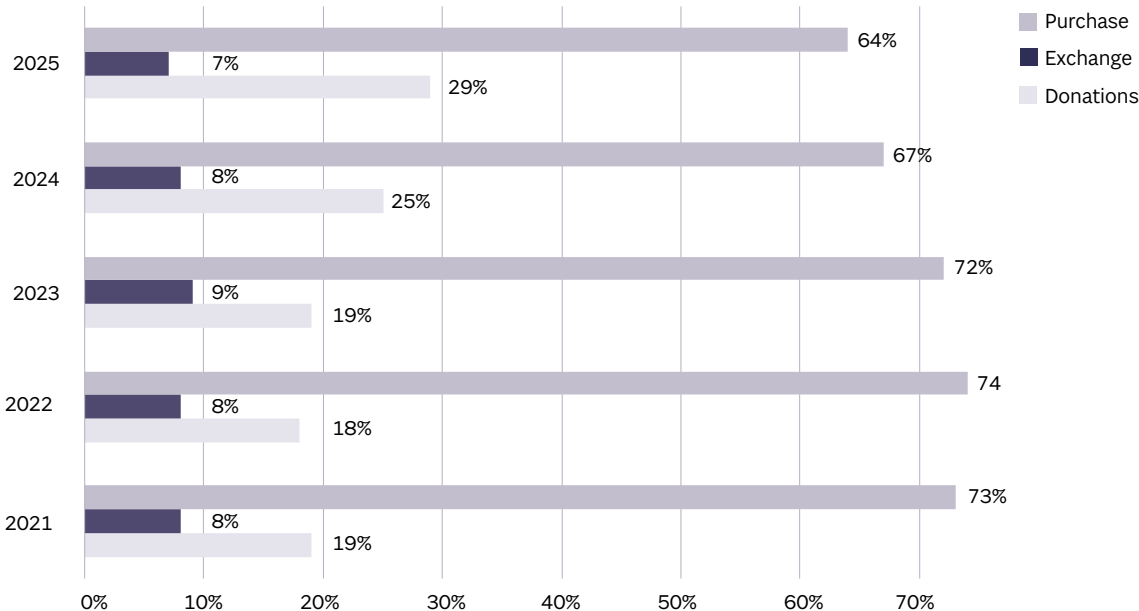
Collection Acquisitions (in library items)



Proportion of Individual Acquisition Sources in the Total Acquisitions in 2025



Acquisition Structure During 2021–2025 (in %)



5

THE LIBRARY'S CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND PUBLISHING ACTIVITIES

Important Events Throughout the Year

11 January

The **NL CR Gala Evening** in General Reading Room.

21 January

The literary evening **Women Without Freedom**, held in conjunction with the exhibition *Threads of Memories – Destinies of Women in the Gulag*. The guest was the writer and documentary filmmaker Kamila Hladká. Organised by the Slavonic Library and Gulag.cz.

27 January

Ceremonial handover of the mobile conservation workstation Ark I to the Yaroslav Mudryi National Library in Kyiv.

5 February

Literary evening **The Eternal Cycle of Words**, dedicated to the Bulgarian writer and journalist Alek Popov (1966–2024). Organised by the Slavonic Library and Bulgarian Cultural Institute.



26 March

A meeting with the writer Eitan Finkelstein (Munich) titled **What Is Our Life? A Play!**, held to mark the Czech publication of Finkelstein's collection of short stories. Organised by the Slavonic Library and Pavel Mervart Publishing House.

2 April

A visit by **Milan Vašina**, the President's Chief of Staff, which has led to further collaboration with the Publishing and Exhibitions Division as part of the preparations for the 250th anniversary of the library's founding.

8 April

Lecture by the Ukrainian researcher Tina Peresunko **Oleksandr Koshyts (1875–1944): The Father of Shschedryk / Carol of the Bells**. The event, which was part of the Visiting Professors Lecture Series, was organised by the Slavonic Library and the Department of East European Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University.

9 April

Opening of the exhibition **Four Notes from Ukraine**, organised by the Institute of Mykola Leontovych in Kyiv and the Slavonic Library.

23–25 April

The National Library of the CR participated in the global **Week 17** campaign. As part of this campaign, it organised the event Newspapers for Wildlife, an online discussion titled The National Library Against Domestic Violence featuring Klára Šimáčková and

Tomáš Foltýn, Director General of the National Library of the CR, and a lecture titled 'Clay – A Traditional Material in Contemporary Architecture'.

26 April

The **Echo Ljubimovky** Independent Festival of Russian-Language Drama. The programme featured readings of four plays written by Ksenia Osipova (Minsk), Natalia Lizorkina (Tbilisi), Irina Serebryakova (Kyiv), and Esther Bol [Asya Voloshina] (Paris). Organised by the Slavonic Library and the 'Budet Tolk' association.

5 May

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his wife, Olena Zelenska, visited the National Library of the CR, where they met with Director General Tomáš Foltýn and Minister of Culture Martin Baxa. During the visit, the First Lady presented the so-called Ukrainian book shelf; the gift consists of a total of 75 books and is available in the Main Hall.



15–18 May

The National Library at the Book World Prague 2025.

The booth's programme commemorated the 900th anniversary of the death of Cosmas and his *Chronicle of the Czechs*. The National Library of the CR also participated in the professional portion of the programme.



21 May

Opening of **Measured at the Klementinum**, an outdoor exhibition marking the 250th anniversary of the beginning of regular meteorological measurements at the Klementinum station in Prague. The exhibition has been organised by the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute in association with the National Library of the CR.

21–28 May

Summer School **Cultural Exchanges in the Middle Ages**. The Faculty of Humanities of Charles University, in collaboration with the National Library of the CR, organised a summer school at the Klementinum focused on the material culture of manuscripts, their contexts, and their presentation.

24 May

The event **Filtruji!**, featuring specialty coffee and books in the Vine Courtyard of the Klementinum, was held in collaboration with the Prague Coffee Festival and the National Library of the CR.

26–27 May

Czech Alzheimer's Society Awareness Days at the National Library of the CR.

4 June

An event marking the **111th anniversary of the Sarajevo assassination**. The event included the presentation of the two-volume encyclopedia by the Bosnian historian Volerijan Žuji, *Glosar Sarajevskog atentata* (Sarajevo, 2024). It was organised by the Slavonic Library and the ZM Art agency.



11 June

Pre-workshop GLOBSEC Forum Conference at the Klementinum.

30 June – 4 July

The Third Summer School on the History of the English Language (SSHOE 2025).

In collaboration with the National Library of the CR, the Faculty of Arts of Charles University organised a summer school at the Klementinum with the aim of promoting the study of the history of the English language through direct contact with medieval materials.

1 July

Proceedings of the Working Committee for the Assessment of the Physical Condition of Significant Cultural Monuments.

1–4 September

Visit by a delegation from the National Library of Latvia.

1–5 September

Prague International Summer School of Papyrology.

The National Library of the CR hosted an international workshop for experts in papyrology and related disciplines.

17 September

The author **Dan Brown's visit to the Baroque Library** at the Klementinum.

18 September

A press conference held by the author Dan Brown for journalists in the Mirror Chapel, where he presented his novel *The Secret of All Secrets*.



24 September

Opening ceremony for exhibitions **COSMAS goo: The Chronicle in Time** at the Klementinum Gallery and **COSMAS goo: The Oldest Manuscripts** in the Mirror Chapel.

30 September

The Rudolf Medek Prize Ceremony for 2025. The prize named after the Czech writer, soldier, legionary, and long-time director of the Resistance Monument was awarded to the historian Tomáš Jakl and the city of Moravská Třebová. The award is presented by the Slavonic Library and the Russian Tradition Association

with the support of the Czechoslovak Legionnaires' Association and Pavel Mervart Publishing House.



5 October

Architecture Day: Machoň's Renovation of the Klementinum.



7–8 October

A delegation from the National Library of Poland, led by Director General Tomasz Makowski, visited the specialised departments of the National Library of the CR.

11–19 October

The **Deskohraní** International Festival took place at the Klementinum.



14 October

Signing of a memorandum of cooperation between the National Library of the Czech Republic and Microsoft regarding a long-term partnership in the fields of culture, education, and the effective use of modern technologies.

15 October

The National Library of the CR, in collaboration with Czechdesign, has announced an open, two-phase competition for a new visual identity. Graphic designers interested in participating had to submit their designs by 27 January 2026.

16–19 October

As part of the **Signal Festival**, the installation Echoes of Motion by Mercedes-Benz was set up at the Klementinum.



21–23 October

Cosmas and Medieval Chronicling: Sources – Narratives – Reception. Conference Marking the 900th Anniversary of the Death of Cosmas, Dean of Saint Vitus Cathedral. With the participation of leading experts from various fields, a conference dedicated to Cosmas and medieval chronicling was held at the Klementinum. The event was organised in collaboration with the National Library of the CR, the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences



– Centre for Medieval Studies, the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Archaeology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and Masaryk University.

20 November

Opening of the exhibition **Polish Fantasy**, organised by the Slavonic Library and the Polish Institute in Prague to mark the 100th anniversary of the death of the writer and Nobel Prize in Literature laureate Władysław Reymont (1867–1925).

28 November

SHK 60th Musicological Colloquium Marking the 60th Anniversary of the Founding and the Future Direction of the Union Music Catalogue. To mark the anniversary of the SHK's founding, the Music Department organised an exhibition titled *60 Years of the Union Music Catalogue of the National Library of the Czech Republic* and hosted a scholarly colloquium with international participation.



6 December

A lecture by the anthropologist Aleksandra Archipova titled **The Origins of Christmas and New Year's**, organised by the Slavonic Library and the Echo Association.

Exhibition Activities

Exhibition Corridors – Ground Floor

27 November 2024 – 31 January 2025

Threads of Memories – Destinies of Women in the GULAG

The exhibition presented everyday life in the Soviet camps in an unconventional way, from arrest to return to freedom. The exhibition was prepared by the Memorial and Gulag.cz organisations in association with the Slavonic Library.

6 February – 30 March

Supercharged by AI

Content generated by AI tools is flooding the internet. Moreover, these tools are making online scams and

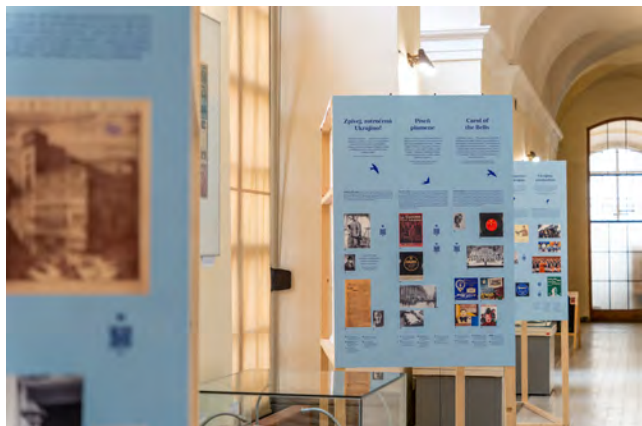


harassment faster and more effective. The exhibition demonstrated how AI tools actually work and how their outputs affect us.

10 April – 23 May

Four Notes from Ukraine

The exhibition was organised by the Institute of Mykola Leontovych (Kyiv) and the National Library of the CR – the Slavonic Library on the occasion of the 150th birthday anniversary of the choir leader, Ukrainian conductor, and cultural diplomat Oleksandr Koshyts (1875–1944). It was held with the support of the Embassy of Ukraine in the Czech Republic.



9 June – 24 October

COSMAS goo: Text Changes

The panel exhibition, marking the 900th death anniversary of our first Czech chronicler Cosmas, was dedicated to his legacy. The exhibition was part of the unique exhibition project COSMAS goo.



21 November 2025 – 29 January 2026

Polish Fantasy

Fantasy and Horror of the First Half of the 20th Century in Polish Literature

The exhibition on the occasion of the 100th death anniversary of the writer and Nobel Prize winner for literature Władysław Reymont presented a less-known but fascinating chapter of Polish literature – fantasy and horror of the first half of the 20th century.



The Klementinum Gallery

25 September – 23 October

COSMAS goo: The Chronicle in Time

The exhibition at the Klementinum Gallery offered a look at Cosmas's influence on Czech historiography and cultural memory. The exhibition was part of the unique exhibition project COSMAS goo.



1 November 2025 – 29 January 2026

The Legacies of Women's Monasteries in the Klementinum

The exhibition featured the fate of women's monastic communities in Bohemia abolished in 1782 by the reform of Joseph II. Although part of their buildings have disappeared, the spiritual and cultural heritage of many of them survive – in manuscripts, printed books, and documents that were then transported to the Klementinum.



The Mirror Chapel

25 September – 23 October

COSMAS 900: The Oldest Manuscripts

The Chronicle of the Czechs featured for the first time in nine transcripts! Visitors had a chance to uncover the secrets of rare copies of the Cosmas's *Chronicle* that formed the medieval society.



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 Klementinum Treasures.



Main Hall, Ground Floor

5 August 2024 – 31 May 2026

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.



First Floor

6–29 May

Martinů Walks Through Prague

Touring exhibition exploring the life and work of Bohuslav Martinů as they relate to Prague, where the young composer studied and worked from 1906 to 1923. The exhibition was organised to mark the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Bohuslav Martinů Institute.



The Hallway Outside the Music Department's Study Room

27 November 2025 – 28 August 2026

60th Anniversary of the National Library of the Czech Republic's Union Music Catalogue. The exhibition of documents, photographs, published works, and three-dimensional objects commemorated the 60th anniversary of the launch of source research and the cataloguing of historical music collections for the Union Music Catalogue (UMC), a central registry of historical music sources held in Bohemia and Moravia.

Exteriors – Student Courtyard

21 May – 29 September

Measured at the Klementinum...

The outdoor exhibition on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the beginning of regular meteorological measurements at the Klementinum station in Prague offered a fascinating insight into the history of meteorology in Bohemia and around the world. Featured were important personalities who stood at



the beginnings of the measurements, the development of meteorological instruments, stories of the first organised networks, phenomena, and elements that were and still are measured as well as anomalous climate events. Special attention was paid to the famous uninterrupted temperature series that is one of the oldest in the world. The display also presents the current state of meteorological technology and the work of the Czech Hydrometeorological Institute.

Publishing Activities

I Professional Texts from the Areas of Library Science, Information Science and Book Culture

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



Kalifornský poloostrov na starých mapách [The California Peninsula on Old Maps]

Jakub Fryje

ISBN 978-80-7050-823-7 (paperback)

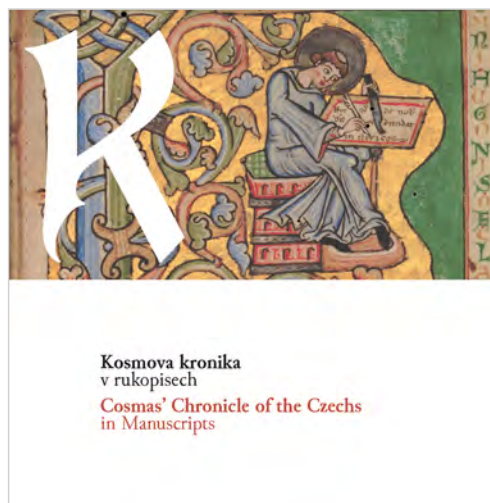
Knihovna roku 2025 a další knihovnická ocenění [Library of the Year 2025 and Other Library Awards]

ISBN 978-80-7050-833-6 (paperback); 978-80-7050-834-3 (online: pdf)



Kosmova kronika v rukopisech [Cosmas' Chronicle of the Czechs in Manuscripts]

ISBN 978-80-7050-831-2 (paperback)



Máme rádi knížky: scénáře podle nových autorských knih pro děti: Metodická příručka pro práci knihoven s rodiči a dětmi [We Love Books: Lesson Plans Based on New Children's Books: Methodological Guide for Libraries Working with Parents and Children: Bookstart Project]

Zlata Houšková, Barbora Čížinská et al.

ISBN 978-80-7050-836-7 (paperback); 978-80-7050-837-4 (online: pdf)

National Library of the Czech Republic: Annual Report 2025

ISBN 978-80-7050-822-0 (online: pdf), ISSN 1804-8625 (online: pdf)

Mirror of the Czechs: Cosmas' Chronicle and Czech History

Marek Fapšo, Lucie Heilandová, Tomáš Klimek, Pavel Kordík, Michael Lužný, Martin Wihoda
ISBN 978-80-7050-830-5 (paperback)

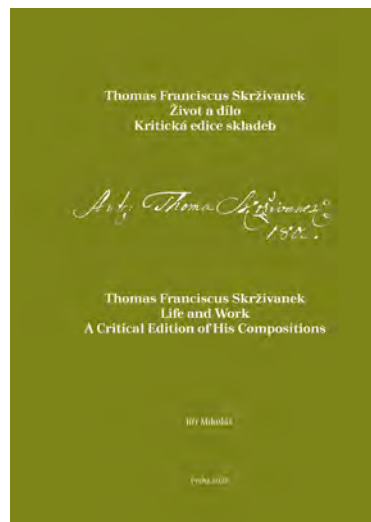


Odkazy ženských klášterů v Klementinu [References to Women's Monasteries in the Klementinum]

Lucie Heilandová, Renáta Modráková et al.
ISBN 978-80-7050-835-0 (paperback)

Regionální funkce knihoven: výroční zpráva o plnění regionálních funkcí krajských knihoven na území ČR za rok 2024 [Regional Functions of Libraries: Annual Report on the Regional Functions of Regional Libraries in the Czech Republic for 2024]

Lucie Macháčková, Marie Šedá
ISBN 978-80-7050-832-9 (online: pdf)



Thomas Franciscus Skržívanek: Život a dílo: kritická edice skladeb [Thomas Franciscus Skrzivaneck: Life and Work: A Critical Edition of His Compositions]

Jiří Mikuláš
ISBN 978-80-7050-827-5 (paperback)

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

Pavčina Mazáčová
ISBN 978-80-7050-825-1 (online: pdf)



Z domoviny. Dvě duetta pro housle a piano složil Bedřich Smetana: faksimile [From the Homeland: Two Duets for Violin and Piano by Bedřich Smetana: Facsimile]

ISBN 978-80-7050-839-8 (hardback)

Zrcadlo Čechů: Kosmova kronika a české dějiny [Mirror of the Czechs: Cosmas' Chronicle and Czech History]

Marek Fapšo, Lucie Heilandová, Tomáš Klimek, Pavel Kordík, Michael Lužný, Martin Wihoda
ISBN 978-80-7050-829-9 (paperback)



Živé příběhy zemřelých knížat. Kosmova kronika a ústní tradice [Living Stories of Deceased Princes: Cosmas' Chronicle and Oral Tradition]

Tomáš Klimek
ISBN 978-80-7050-824-4 (paperback)



b) Periodicals



Knihovna: knihovnická revue [Library: Library Review] Year 36, Nos. 1, 2 (2025)
ISSN 1801-3252, ISSN 1802-8772 (online)

Knihovna plus [Library Plus] Year 21, Nos. 1, 2 (2025)
ISSN 1801-5948 (online)

II Slavonic Library Publications

Institute v exilu: sto let od příchodu exilové vlády Běloruské lidové republiky do Prahy [Institutions in Exile: 100th Anniversary of the Arrival of the Government in Exile of the Belarusian People's Republic in Prague]
ISBN 978-80-7050-826-8 (paperback)

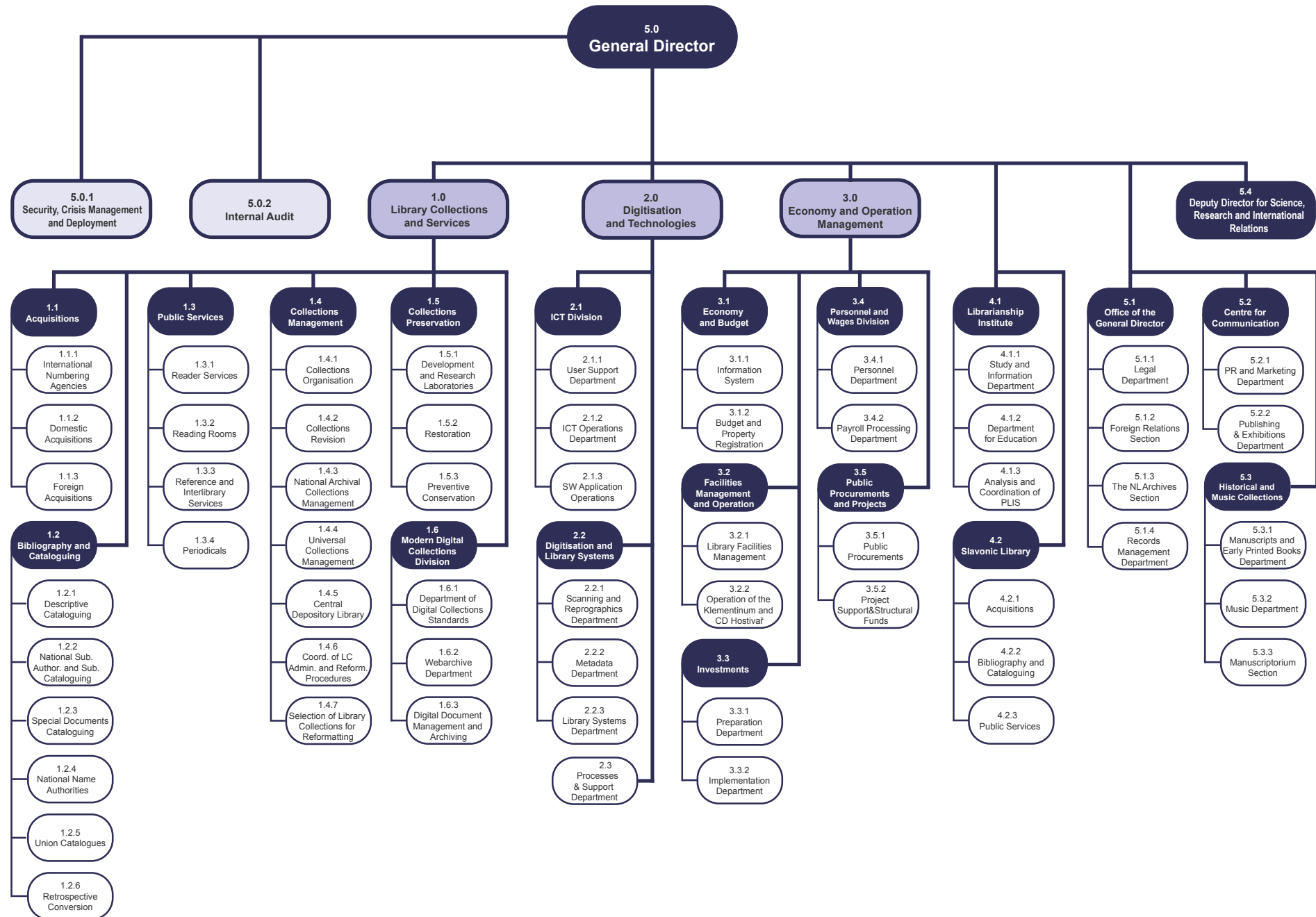


III Others

A Desk Calendar for 2026
Ilustrovaná příroda v České digitální knihovně [Illustrated Nature in the Czech Digital Library]



The Organisational Structure as of 31 December 2025



Contacts

The National Library of the CR, the Klementinum

Mariánské náměstí 190/5, 110 00, Prague 1

(+420) 221 663 111 (switchboard)

posta@nkp.cz (electronic filing room)

data case: 5qt8sy8

<https://www.nkp.cz/>

<https://www.facebook.com/narodni.knihovna>

**(+420) 221 663 262, (+420) 221 663 187,
sekretariat@nkp.cz (Office of Director General)**

(+420) 221 663 275, martina.kosanova@nkp.cz

(Director of the Centre for Communication)

(+420) 221 663 161, sluzby@nkp.cz

(Director of the Library Services Department)

(+420) 221 663 468, oms.ur@nkp.cz

(Foreign Relations Department)

The Librarianship Institute

(+420) 221 663 339, michaela.mrazova@nkp.cz

(Director)

(+420) 221 663 348, kkl@nkp.cz (Study Room)

(+420) 221 663 408,

dominika.pavcikborbelyova@nkp.cz

(Department for Education)

The Slavonic Library

(+420) 221 663 354 (Director)

(+420) 221 663 356 (Loan Department)

sluzby.sk@nkp.cz

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

The Reference Centre

Reference and Interlibrary Services

(+420) 221 663 239, reference@nkp.cz

(Research and Bibliographic Services)

(+420) 221 663 202, mvs@nkp.cz

(Interlibrary Loan Services)

The Main Hall

(+420) 221 663 244 (Loan Department)

(+420) 221 663 248 (Information Desk)

(+420) 221 663 131 (Reprographic Services)

hala.os@nkp.cz; pujcovna.os@nkp.cz

The National Library of the CR, Hostivař

Sodomkova 2/1146, 102 00, Prague 15

(+420) 221 663 377 (Switchboard)

(+420) 221 663 353 (Hostivař Study Room)

(+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)

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