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IMPACT OF IATUL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE CENTRAL TECHNICAL LIBRARY IN THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA

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The paper presents the Central Technical Library of Slovenia which is situated in the capital Ljubljana. The Library was established in 1949, using as a model the Eidgenoessische Technische Hochschule, Zentralbibliothek in Zürich. At that time the Central Technical Library of Slovenia was the only contemporary profiled library amidst the prevailing old-fashioned libraries in the whole of former Yugoslavia. The paper emphasizes the influence and impact of the International Association of Technological University Libraries (IATUL) on the development and operation of the Central Technical Library of Slovenia after it had joined the IATUL in 1975. Further in the text, the paper describes the activities of the Central Technical Library of Slovenia in Ljubljana in the popularization of IATUL in Slovenia and former Yugoslavia. It concludes with a description of the present profile of the Central Technical Library after the Republic of Slovenia became independent in 1991.

Introduction

In 1970, after having worked for 16 years as a consultant for librarianship at the Ministry of Culture of the former Socialist Republic of Slovenia (Slovenia), I decided to take over the management of the Central Technical Library of the University in Ljubljana (Centralna tehniška knjižnica Univerze v Ljubljani - CTK). I was well acquainted with the situation in librarianship in the former Socialist Federative Republic of Yugoslavia (Yugoslavia). I realized that the founding of CTK in 1949 actually meant the long awaited move towards modern trends in Slovene university

librarianship. This is the reason I have been supporting the development of CTK since its founding. All the same I was fully aware that due to prevailing modern trends in technical librarianship in the developed world and still entirely classical ones in Yugoslavia, CTK was bound to cope with quite a task. Namely, at that time CTK had no library in Yugoslavia to look up to for guidance in the sense of how to organize a central technical university library to serve both the university and the industrial sphere in Slovenia, by providing library and information services. A library of such a profile could be established only by some world-travelled Slovene technical professors. The model was the famous Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule (ETH), Zentralbibliothek in Zürich, Switzerland¹.

Since CTK was the only central university technical library its services were used by numerous users from all six Yugoslav republics and two autonomous provinces. These users would often visit CTK to get acquainted with its management system. The system connected university (faculty) and special libraries by means of central catalogues, shared acquisition, interlibrary loans, all supported by CTK's consulting service². In Yugoslavia it was not possible to compare its management with a library of the same profile or to consult colleagues on professional issues. The opposite was the case! With its modern orientation CTK was an obstacle to the Slovene national library, which has - as most national libraries in Yugoslavia - combined two, utterly incomparable functions: the one of a national and a university library.

This short introduction is necessary to understand what, in such an isolated position, cooperation with IATUL meant to CTK. The precondition was to make contacts with developed librarianship. This was realized in 1970 by CTK becoming a member of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). It was in the Section for libraries from the field of technical and natural sciences, where I met some of the later colleagues from IATUL and experts from United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), like dr. B. Tell, dr. F. Kilgour, dr. D. Urquhart - to mention but a few. There were others, too, for whom in the early 70's CTK organized a stay and lectures in Slovenia. Nevertheless, it was the contacts

with IATUL which were the most vital matter, since IATUL's programme was for CTK tailor-made.

IATUL's impact on the modernization of CTK

The year 1975 marks an important turning point towards affirmation of CTK in international librarianship. Namely, CTK became a member of IATUL and the following year I was the first librarian from Yugoslavia to be elected to the IATUL Board. This coincided with IATUL's efforts to broaden membership among non-aligned countries and East European countries. At the time, the Board was represented by two distinguished chairmen, dr. G.A. Hamel, Director of the University of Twente Library, Enschede, The Netherlands, and dr. J. P. Sydler, Library Director of the already mentioned ETH, Zürich, Switzerland.

Implementation of new functions/services into CTK

The cooperation with IATUL encouraged me to broaden, before retiring in 1983, the management of CTK with additional functions:

1. Following IATUL's encouragement for each country to set up a referral center for technical and natural sciences, CTK obtained the function of a referral center. CTK began to offer referral information about locations of documents and scientific information, about professors, researchers, publications in print, ongoing research, and the like, and therefore adapting its acquisition policy accordingly. For this purpose CTK also published some publications. The most important was the Union Catalogue of Serials in Slovene Libraries (1975-1984) in four volumes, published in printed and computerized version³.
2. According to the PGI (General Information Programme) of UNESCO the new function was to develop the theory of education of users of scientific information and to implement it into practice. In the mid 70's there was a great deal of interest in IATUL on this subject. It gave CTK the encouragement to support user education both in theory and practice. Mr. A. J. Evans, a Board Member, was one of the authors of a UNESCO manual on this subject⁴. Encouraged by the Yugoslav UNESCO centre CTK organized a 3-day seminar to test the manual

before publishing. A contribution of CTK is also the translation of an International Federation for Documentation (FID) manual for the field of informatics/documentation, mainly for professors of informatics⁵. The sources for this field were enriched by a Board member, dr. Nancy Fjällbrant, as a co-author of an interesting publication⁶. These publications were often cited in Yugoslavia and had a great effect on the education of users of scientific information. User education was also the theme of my first article at the IATUL conference in 1977⁷.

3. Function of interlibrary document supply center. CTK became the largest document supply center in Yugoslavia. The precondition was to gain reputability with foreign supply centers to trust CTK with their documents. This trust was achieved also by becoming a member of IFLA and IATUL, so that CTK was able to be included in established university library guides and was able to borrow documents from nearly every technical university library in the world.
4. Function of a developmental center for introducing computer and communication technology into CTK's management and into technical libraries in Slovenia. On the occasion of attending biennial conferences, Board meetings and the like, I also visited several European technical libraries. Their achievements were adopted and used for implementing computer and communication technology in our libraries. The position of CTK and other libraries at that time may best be presented by the fact that CTK was the first library in Slovenia to purchase technical equipment such as electrical typing machines, a xerox, and a telex; further steps were the magnetic tapes of Compendex Engineering Index for engineering, and RSWB (Raumordnung, Staedtebau, Wohnungswesen, Bauwesen) for civil engineering which were processed for SDI (Selective Dissemination of Scientific Information) and retrospective searches; CTK started to create local databases; it offered on-line retrospective searches; it published the already mentioned computer-based Union Catalogue of Serials for the fields of technical and natural sciences in Slovenia, and the like. In spite of all the efforts at that time CTK failed to carry out automation due to official restrictive regulations relating to computer technology purchase. The next director, prof.

Nada Cucnik-Majcen, managed to accomplish this when computer technology regulations were changed. CTK was the first library in Yugoslavia to join the Yugoslav telecommunication network, Yupak (Sipak network in Slovenia since Slovenia's independence), to have on-line access to some world databases, to purchase a CD-ROM drive, etc. In recent years CTK has even more automated library management due to the present director, dr. Matjaz Zaucer.

5. CTK received IATUL's help in preparing technical documentation for a new building on a location amidst technical faculties and institutes. This action, which lasted over 30 years, had the uttermost support of libraries, members of IATUL, especially in Dortmund and Essen, Germany, so that the planned technical university library in Ljubljana possessed all the elements of a functional and most up-to-date technical library on a technical university campus, together with the availability of librarians to work in the library. Regretfully, after several versions of a complete documentation to build a new building according to these plans, the action was not fulfilled. As for me, from all the technical libraries I have been privileged to visit, undoubtedly the greatest esthetic impression on me, made in 1970, was by the Twente University Library, The Netherlands.

Promoting IATUL's meaning and importance in Slovenia and Yugoslavia

1. As a result of attending IATUL Board meetings and conferences, CTK organized regular meetings for librarians and documentalists from Slovene faculty and special libraries, introducing them to novelties from theory and practice concerning university technical libraries, with special emphasis on automated management. For the period 1975 - 1981 CTK was the host for the Committee for Special Libraries of the Yugoslav Association of Libraries and in this period also colleagues from other Yugoslav republics were kept up-to-date.
2. From 1974 on contacts with IATUL were given special attention in each CTK Annual Report, which was sent to our users and various institutions in Yugoslavia and abroad. Contacts with IATUL were mentioned, among others,

also in the Proceedings CTK published at its 40th anniversary and also in occasional articles published in *Knjiznica*, the Slovene librarians' professional journal, and in Section for Special Libraries Proceedings.

A great contribution to even greater promotion of IATUL

A full IATUL Board meeting was held in Ljubljana on Oct 13-14, 1982. Beside current affairs the Chairman dr. J. P. Sydler and the Board members gave most of their attention to the preparation for the IATUL conference in Essen, Germany, where the main theme was "The future of serials: Publication, Automation and Management". On behalf of the Slovene government the IATUL members were given a reception by the Minister of Education, to whom dr. Sydler explained the importance of CTK's activities and he drew her attention also to the acute space conditions problem of CTK. The Ljubljana University and journalists considered this meeting a great event. Undoubtedly the most important action promoting IATUL in Yugoslavia and vice versa was the organization of the 13th Biennial International IATUL conference in Ljubljana, Slovenia, (then) Yugoslavia, from May 22-26, 1989. With it IATUL expressed its will to join in CTK's 40th anniversary activities and at the same time to do its best to help CTK solve its problems, especially the one regarding a new building. The main theme of the 13th IATUL conference was "International Co-operation of Technological University Libraries". It was preceded by an interesting pre-conference seminar with the topic "Importance of Timely Information for Professional Decision-making and Reshaping of Economy". The Ljubljana Mayoress received dr. D. Shaw and promised to help CTK get a new building. The conference was closed by the IATUL General Assembly meeting where the Board of Directors of IATUL elected me Honorary Member.

I may state that after 1989, and even before that, IATUL was known as a distinguished international organization in all former Yugoslavia. IATUL's publications grew more

and more interesting for librarians and documentalists, so IATUL authors began to be cited too.

The influence of IATUL on the development of technical librarianship in Slovenia and in former Yugoslavia is incontestable and it is my opinion that our cooperation with IATUL was to a certain extent useful also for IATUL's members. These members came from countries with different political systems so, at that time, Yugoslavia as a co-founder of the non-aligned movement was an interesting case. Through papers presented at conferences and Board meetings, IATUL members were kept updated with the system of university technical libraries and information centers in Yugoslavia; they could follow the progress of students' education as users of scientific information; they heard about experience gained by the CTK consulting service as a basis for forming the library-information system of CTK in cooperation with faculty and special libraries in Slovenia; they learnt about dilemmas arising from making domestic databases; information on CTK's experience in supplying documents and scientific information to users from industry was presented, and IATUL members were acquainted with CTK's contribution to universal availability of serials.

Present situation

After Slovenia gained its independence in 1991 the role of CTK was slightly changed. From former extensive cooperation with users from the whole former Yugoslavia, especially in the interlibrary document supply and supplying scientific information, CTK has concentrated its efforts mainly on the territory of Slovenia. In spite of the war raging in a great deal of former Yugoslavia, contacts with two former, now independent states - Croatia and Macedonia - still exist. At present CTK pays a great deal of attention to improving the quality of its activities by using technical support and other improvements as e.g. the use of Internet in interlibrary document supply and other departments, especially in information departments. The Slovene government has established the ARNES agency (Slovene academic and research network) through which all faculties, high schools, secondary schools, and libraries have free access to

Internet. Once the war in Yugoslavia is ended the cooperation with new states is expected to be somehow reestablished. In order to supply documents and information to users in the whole former Yugoslavia CTK had to have a somewhat large collection of documents in the past. The present loss of this market is not the cause of its collection reduction since CTK is bound to maintain a regular collection for university study and research, and has to be there to satisfy the demands of industry.

In pursuing this aim CTK is supported by the National Research Programme prepared by the Ministry for Science and Technology of the Republic of Slovenia. Included in it is also the research infrastructure. Its first priority is the determination of development carriers and functioning of the library information system and the system of scientific technical information in Slovenia. In addition, the emphasis is on acquisition of foreign scientific and professional literature, modernization of organizations, and shared cataloguing. The following priorities are to complete the classical academic network construction through ARNES, to start an academic optical fiber network, and to build a new University library of Ljubljana.

With this short article it has been my wish, on the occasion of celebrating the 40th anniversary of IATUL's existence and work, to emphasize and demonstrate using the actual case of Slovenia, how important IATUL has been for the development of technical university librarianship worldwide, and especially in countries with no developed university technical libraries as yet.

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