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THE ROLE OF THE SAIDC SYSTEM IN ESTABLISHING THE AUTOMATED LIBRARY INFORMATION NETWORK IN SLOVENIA (YUGOSLAVIA)

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One of the most important purposes of introducing automation into libraries according to uniform principles and by using uniform formats is an easy exchange of information of library's documents on computer readable media. Introducing computers to documentation services has as its major purpose transmission of SDI and retrospective information to the users, especially through articles as a primary source of scientific and technical information.

In Yugoslavia there exists a plan to establish a cooperative library information system[1], which would interconnect each library with others, including those with documentation services, by terminal and computers. The aim of such a system is the exchange of information on library documents. For this purpose automation has gradually been introduced to libraries and documentation services. However, it has already become obvious that library automated networks are being formed at the level of republics. The visits and recommendations of two UNISIST experts, Mr. B. Tell and Mr. F. Kilgour, in the year of 1972 and 1975 respectively, were especially encouraging experiences for Yugoslavia. Prior to the visits of the UNISIST experts to Slovenia, one of Yugoslavia's six republics which is located in the north of the country, there existed a trend that was somewhat different than in many European countries. When initially introducing automation around the year of 1969 the documentalists demonstrated more understanding and initiative than librarians did – the majority of the latter wanted to preserve the traditional way of working, however, those librarians who took their postgraduate study in informatics at the University of Zagreb soon joined the documentalists. Since 1969 when the Republic Data Center was founded in Slovenia the first system for documentation data processing, named SAIDC, started developing.[2] SAIDC, that means System for Automation of Information/Documentation Centres.

SAIDC is based on the indexing of information with the help of a computer. The programs are developed for the processing of articles, books, patent texts and standards. For automatic processing it is necessary to fill in a uniform input document. The result of computer processing is a bulletin (which 4 reviews, i.e. indexes), SDI information and

retrospective information. Using the same programs it is possible to elaborate an author's and title's catalogue of monographs. (The SAIDC system also enables automatic translation of descriptors to other languages.) The programs were developed for CDC 3300 computer.

By processing all of the above mentioned documents and especially articles - as computers were first applied in connection with these - the broadest information basis for monographs, serials and standards in the form of union catalogues will be formed at the computer centers located at the university or at the republic research community in each of the 6 republics, where the entire information basis will be used as the source of SDI information and retrospective information. (At the same time, the libraries in this way also form their own data basis). We presume that as a consequence of this the automation in libraries was stopped at the point of the automated processing of monographs, serials and other documents and the computer software programs were not developed for the other working procedures in the library such as: access, lending, interlibrary lending etc. As large new libraries are being planned and constructed this problem in becoming more and more urgent.

Bibliographical descriptions for books (monographs) have 9 elements (author or authors, subject title, editor, place, institution /for collected work of papers and similar/, number of pages, inventory number, call number and language in which the work is written. Each element has a pre-existing limit to the number of signs. Bibliographical descriptions for articles have 13 elements, for patent texts 8, for standards 8. An ISBD/M has 23 elements. It should be mentioned that with the help of SAIDC it is possible to find each monograph; but the SAIDC in its present form is unsuitable as a computer entry system for a national bibliography because such important elements as book series, edition, supplements etc. are missing.

During the first years of SAIDC there was hope that it would also be used in the other republics of Yugoslavia as a computer software product package. This goal was never realized due to the delivery and installation of different computers. Nevertheless, it was agreed upon by all national libraries that all monographs, serials and other documents would be catalogued according to ISBD/M, ISBD/S, ISBD/G etc. in preparation for processing of national bibliographies; the agreement has already been put into practice. Taking into account the needs of the national bibliographies as well as library catalogues, the process of adjusting the SAIDC system[3] to the international communication formats of machinereadable bibliographical descriptions: UBC/UNIMARC and UNISIST/RM is already under way (Reference Manual for machine-readable bibliographical descriptions). Regarding the documents from the field of technical and natural sciences, it is absolutely necessary to frequently use foreign literature above all that written in world-

wide languages, as Yugoslavia is a community of smaller nations. Due to this fact a supply of important magnetic tapes such as COMPENDEX, CAC CHEMICAL ABSTRACTS, ISMEC, INIS, INPADOC, RB /Informationsverbundscentrum Raum und Bau/etc. was obtained for distribution of SDI information, which is now provided by the above mentioned computer centers. Information Center of the Research Community of Slovenia, for example, provides as a service SDI information on patents from the magnetic tape INPADOC on which also data about patent yugoslav texts are entered - for Yugoslavia.

In order to introduce order and planning into various attempts at automation in the republics, the Research Communities of the 6 republics passed an agreement about the processing of scientific and technical information. The signers of this agreement - republic research communities should, according to this agreement, secure the development of a system for scientific information processing with the help of corresponding specialized centers, which are as a rule composed of a documentation service, an electronic computer center and a library. Some of the centers are already active; e.g. for biomedicine, mechanics, civil engineering, chemistry, chemical technology and biotechnics. For information retrieval from various data bases the Republic Data Center in Ljubljana has developed the DORS system.

But in the libraries of the 4 republics the computer succeeded best at combining union catalogues, espacially serials. Dr. F.G. Kilgour has often stressed and also written that by means of the union catalogue the resources in all the nation's libraries are together becoming a national library. In Slovenia the drive for the publication of a union catalogue of serials has been led since 1972 by the Central Technical Library of the University Edvard Kardelj in Ljubljana. Due to the increasing amount of SDI information containing mainly cited articles the need for union catalogues of serials is also increasing. The preparatory work for the Central Technical Library edition of serials is also interesting because it was facilitated by the experience of the consulting service which the Central Technical Library has been providing for over a decade to university technical libraries and special libraries in Slovenia, and because it has had continous contact with the libraries and also offers them - among others - professional assistance with the arrangement of their documents. Consequently, the technical libraries which participated in arranging the union catalogue of serials from the field of technical and natural sciences in the libraries of Slovenia, are relatively well organized. Sixty-five libraries have participated in the development of the union catalogue which lists more than 13.000 serials (titles).

SAIDC has become obsolete in spite of the changes and improvements made to it. However, it has provided the first experiences with the automation of libraries and documentation centers to the interested librarians and documentalists. According to

described course of libraries automation, which followed the automation of documentation services, a close connection developed between libraries and documentation services, this in spite of initial friction between librarians and documentalists. Over 100.000 pieces of data have been transfered to magnetic tapes - 80% of it articles. The main hindrance to connecting of automated libraries and documentation centers into an automated network are staff and the insufficient equipment of libraries.

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