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**PRIORITIES IN PROTECTION OF LIBRARY GOODS IN NUL "ST. CLEMENT OF
OHRID" - SKOPJE**

Abstract: This paper will cover the specific priorities regarding the protection of library goods of NI NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" – Skopje. The paper is based on the information gathered by permanent research, processing and handling of cultural goods for realization of librarian activity as a primary function of the institution

Key words: library goods, education, priorities.

NUL "St. Clement of Ohrid" in Skopje is one of the first institutions established with a decision by ASNOM on 23 November 1944. Its basic goal was to collect, process, keep and protect the cultural heritage for the future generations. Through building and development of the national library – information system, digitalization of the cultural heritage from its collections and production of national bibliography, a access in situ and distance access are provided, mainly for the ones who are dealing with scientific and research work, but also for the ones who are striving to enrich their knowledge and for diverse personal development. Article 17 of the Law on Changes and Additions to the Law on Libraries (Official Gazette of RM no. 88/2015) prescribes the function of the National Library as follows:

3. For the purposes of development of library activity, culture, science and education, as well as in order to meet the information needs in the Republic of Macedonia, NI NUL "Clement of Ohrid" – Skopje shall be assigned to be a national library of the Republic of Macedonia (hereinafter: National Library);
4. In order to promote and coordinate the work of the libraries on the territory of the Republic of Macedonia with this Law and the Law on

Cultural Heritage Protection, the National Library shall be assigned to be Main Library.

The following values of operation of the libraries are based on the core values of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA):

- the endorsement of the principles of freedom of access to information, ideas and works of imagination and freedom of expression embodied in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- the belief that people, communities and organizations need universal and equitable access to information, ideas and works of imagination for their social, educational, cultural, democratic and economic well-being (<http://www.ifla.org/about/more>).

The above presents the main function of the National Library (as well as of any library) to enable access to its funds, thus to the cultural heritage it possesses or keeps.

The Law on Cultural Heritage Protection (Official Gazette of RM) defines the library goods in article 21, as follows:

3. The library goods shall include the old handwritings (mediaeval and Slavic or handwritings of other languages) which refer to Macedonia made up to the end of the XIX century, incunabula and post-incunabula printed not later than 1530, the first issues of books of the renaissance authors, printers or printing facilities in Macedonia, old maps and atlases of Macedonia up to 1913, special library entireties which originate from educational, cultural, scientific, religious, and other institutions in the Republic of Macedonia up to the end of 1946, or which were published up to that period and refer to significant historical events in Macedonia, rare books and other rare library material specified by Law, as well as family and personal libraries of scientific or cultural significance.
4. As library goods shall be considered as well, the mandatory copies of publications submitted to the competent library institution, including the note, plotters, philatelic and other material with a status of publication, as well as the mandatory copy of completed masters' and doctors' works.

The National Library collects the mandatory copies since 18 January 1945, based on a Decision by ASNOM for submission of mandatory copy from the Macedonian publishing production as well as Decision by the National Committee for Liberation of Yugoslavia dated 8 February 1945 for submission of mandatory copy from the Yugoslav publishing production. Until 1991, NUL is a depository library for the complete Yugoslav publishing production and since 1991 only for the Macedonian publishing production. The laws applying to

mandatory copy of publications until 1991 (Law on Submission of Printed Issues to Certain Institutions (Official Gazette of SRM no. 34/72 and 51/88, the Rulebook on Mandatory Submission of Audio and Visual Media (Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia no. 29/91) and the Law on Mandatory Copy (Official Gazette of RM no. 11/94) were joined in 2014 and became an integral part of the Law on Publishing Activity (Official Gazette of RM no. 14/2014). Based on this Law, in addition to the mandatory copies of publications, mandatory copies of so called semi-publications i.e. master theses and doctoral theses defended at the universities in the country are also submitted.

Regarding the rare library material, it is defined for the first time in the Rulebook on Identification of Library Material That shall be Deemed as Cultural Monument and Rare Library Material and on the Conditions and Method on its Professional Processing, Protection, Keeping and Use (Official Gazette of SRM no. 8/78). The article 4, paragraph 2 defines the rare library material as:

- The books and other library material regarding the educational, cultural, economic and political history of Macedonia published by the end of 1946;
- Printed or any other multiplied library material produced during NLW and revolution of the Macedonian people and national minorities;
- Books and periodical publications published on the territory of Macedonia by the end of 1918, Serbia by 1847, Croatia by 1860, Slovenia by 1847, Bosnia and Herzegovina by 1880, Bulgaria by 1878, Turkey by 1861, Greece by 1863, Romania by 1930 and other European countries by 1800;
- The first issues of the works of prominent Yugoslav writers until the final years of the old printing techniques;
- The first issues of the works of the classics of the world literature;
- Issues of books published in circulation up to 200 copies;
- Books and periodic publications which have been banned or confiscated;
- Books that have characteristic aesthetic and technical shape (bookplates, engravings, special equipment etc.);
- Books with hand written author's remarks, dedications and signatures.

Defining the types of library assets is complicated by the existence the Rulebook on Identification of Library Material That shall be deemed as Cultural Monument and Rare Library Material and the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection because some of the types of library goods which are defined as such in the Law are part of the rare library material.

A decision from August 2015, published in Official Gazette of RM revoked the Rulebook on Identification of Library Material that shall be deemed as Cultural Monument and Rare Library Material and on the Conditions and Method on its Professional Processing, Protection, Keeping and Use. The revocation of this Rulebook is revocation of the definition of a rare library which is not defined in the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection.

Distinction of library goods is made through the National Classification of Cultural Heritage (Official Gazette of RM no. 37/2006) which divides the library goods into several categories and 8 types of library goods: manuscripts, handwritten note material, printed books, printed note material, cartography material, philatelist goods, mandatory archive copies, library documentation and other library goods. This distinction is especially important in the case of mandatory copy i.e. the clear distinction that only the archive copy (as part of the mandatory copy) is cultural heritage.

However, the mandatory copy is only a part of the library goods fund of the NUL. The goal of the National Library is collecting, discovering, researching, protecting and keeping the authors' creativity in different fields. For that reason, the institution has a Department of Collections and special funds in which the following 8 specific collections function and working units:

- Collection of archive copies,
- Collection of master theses, doctoral dissertations, scientific and research projects and microfilms,
- Collection of fine arts,
- Cartography collection,
- Collection of small prints,
- Collection of music art,
- Collection of oriental manuscripts and rare publications,
- Collection of rare periodic, modern manuscripts and photographs, and
- Archaeographic collection, rare and old print books.

The operation of the collections is realized through bibliographic and field research in order to identify the specific types of material that are cultural heritage, material which should be included in the fund where they are being researched and kept. The activity of the "collections" results in establishing new funds which based on the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection and its implementation have been proclaimed as cultural heritage as collections of library goods and artifacts.

Unlike other types of movable cultural heritage, the library goods are permanently subjected to destruction because books, manuscripts, notes and other types of library goods are being read and are in the hands of the users.

They are not exhibited in vitrines because in that way it is not possible to anticipate their content.

Because this situation regarding the consumption of the cultural heritage, the priority in the protection of the library goods is the education not only of the users but also of the librarian staff and rising of the awareness for the cultural heritage, working protocols as well as the obligations that derive from the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection and the secondary legislation in this sphere.

The organization of operations in the National Library requires that the library good, in the phase of admission and processing, passes at least through six departments until it is deposited in the depot. Education of the staff from various profiles and competences is necessary from the first moment of engagement in the operations, through introduction of the publicly available standards and recommendations of the International Federation of Library Associations - IFLA.

Regarding the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection as well as the secondary legislation, it is most important to educate the entire staff in the institution, regardless of its competences, on the obligations that derive from the implementation of the Law. It should certainly include the departments that do not have primary library activity.

Since the library goods are permanently exposed to damage due to their use, the second priority regarding the availability is to continue the process of conservation and restoration. Some of the library goods are subject of direct protection through the activities of the conservators from the Laboratory for Conservation and Restoration of Library Material and this activity is permanent depending on the institution's material base.

In order to make the library goods more accessible to the public as well as protection regarding its use, in 2008, the National Library has prepared a Digitalization Strategy. The digitalization of the goods was performed according to the Strategy which was valid until 2011. The digitalization process continues according to the implemented standards and protocols as well as according to the Law on Copyright and Related Rights. This process is the third priority in the protection of the library goods. In 2010, the National Library through its portal Dlib.mk enables its visitors to access various contents. The [Dlib.mk](http://www.dlib.mk), portal's task is to keep, present and distribute various bibliographic contents in digital form as part of the Program for Protection of the Cultural Heritage and Public Promotion of the Macedonian Culture (<http://www.dlib.mk/page/about>).

In order to protect the library goods, the National Library works on establishment of measures for preventive protection of the goods owned by the library, but also of the goods that are kept in the institution. For that purpose, and since the library does not meet the ISO 11799:2003 standard regarding the conditions for storage of archive and library materials, one of the priorities is

creating relevant ambient conditions, readaptation of the depots and procurement of the necessary equipment in order to enable adequate storage of the cultural heritage. The preventive protection also applies to provision of relevant conditions for use of the library goods as well as of the other types of goods owned by NUL.

As we previously mentioned, the institution has a Department for Collections and Special Funds. The staffs in this department, depending on their number, prepare revaluation reports for the goods in NUL. Based on their activities, seven collections of library goods and one collection of artifacts have been proclaimed by now. The priority is given to the research and preparation of reports for several new collections of library goods such as: Collection of Manuscripts by Modern Authors including: Blazhe Koneski, Gane Todorovski, academician, Slavko Janevski, Chedo Jakimovski, Petre M. Andreevski, Kata Misirkova – Rumenova, Dimitar Solev, Ante Popovski, and from the foreign ones we would like to mention Desanka Maksimovic, the Collection of Original Maps and Atlases (1841 – 1913), the Collection of Note Manuscripts from Macedonian Composers – collection that includes compositions from four postwar generations of Macedonian composers; the Legate of the Composer Gligor P. Smokvarski; the Legate of the Composer, Conductor and Pedagogue Stefan Gajdov as well as the last and most voluminous Legate of the Composer, Mediavist and Pedagogue Prof. Sotir Golabovski, Ph.D.

In order to preserve the library goods in their original shape and without damages, last but not least is the priority regarding the introduction of new protocols for library processing of library goods in the context of technical processing. Technical processing of the entire library fund, not only of the library materials, is realized based on obsolete protocols. This processing cause physical damage to the goods in the processes of inventory, stamping and applying signature labels on the goods. Due to that and according to the IFLA directions, published in 1988 “IFLA Principles for the Care and Handling of Library”, as well as according to the Law on Cultural Heritage Protection it is necessary to introduce new protocols for technical processing of the library goods in the National Library in order to realize the function of cultural heritage protection.

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