

# **Libraries in Kosova/Kosovo**

**A general assessment and  
a short and medium-term development plan**

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**Joint UNESCO, CoE and IFLA/FAIFE  
Kosova Library Mission**

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## 1. Abstract

The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) and the library professionals in Kosova face a major task to reconstruct library buildings and re-establish library services at all levels. This is the preliminary conclusion of an assessment of the situation concerning libraries performed by a joint expert mission of UNESCO, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IFLA.

The mission has been carried out during the period from February 25th to March 7th by Mr. Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy director of the IFLA / FAIFE Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mr. Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association. The mission has been generously supported by the librarians' organisations in Scandinavia.

The National and University Library and other special libraries are in decay, the preservation of cultural heritage in terms of printed materials endangered and the national systems to record and disseminate documents are practically out of function. Large parts of the valuable collections in the National and University Library have been removed and probably destroyed during the period 1990-1999.

Many public and school libraries, especially in the countryside, have been totally burned down, others have had their book collections removed or destroyed, and those who are still functioning suffer from the effects of almost 10 years of neglect in acquisitions. Equally many library books have been burned along with the homes of users. An estimated total of almost half the stocks of all the public libraries are lost. A great part of the remaining books are either outdated or irrelevant to local inhabitants due to their ideological, linguistic or ethnic character. Practically all equipment has been removed and most of the present staff needs training after a long period without professional practice and systematic education.

There is no co-operation, or even contact, between professionals of the ethnic Albanian majority and professionals in ethnic Serbian enclaves.

In general there is a heavy need for reading rooms, children's literature, current professional literature and access to new technology. International support in terms of funding and professional assistance is now needed to reconstruct libraries and a functioning library network.

Library services can be an important, and fairly easily applicable, tool in the promotion of reading, education and culture in a region with few or no other offerings and a population with a large share of children and youth. Libraries can, not least in an area like Kosova, provide local gateways to knowledge, reflect the plurality and diversity of society and support the process of democratisation.

The Kosova Library Mission proposes a three to four years action plan, Kosova Library Project 2000+, for the rehabilitation and enforcement of libraries in Kosova. The plan includes short-term projects and attempts to point out longer-term strategies.

The plan suggests the formation of a time-limited body, a Kosova Library Consortium, which should include both local doers, major international donors and international organisations

providing professional expertise and advise. A more elaborate and detailed action plan on Kosova libraries could be developed within this framework.

The action plan includes a proposed range of 11 special programmes to be established, each covering different needs and aspects of library activities:

1. Legislation and administration programme
2. Mobile library service programme
3. Reconstruction Programme
4. Book and Reading Programme
5. Information Technology Programme
6. Professional Training and Development Programme
7. Cultural Heritage Programme
8. Children and Youth Programme
9. Open access programme
10. Initiative Support Programme
11. Twinning Programme

The suggested programmes vary in nature and financial weight. An initial and very rough estimate of the funding needed for basic short-term measures amounts to around DM 14 millions.

The first programme lines out the structural basis on which the rehabilitation process can be founded. The five programmes requiring the most immediate initiative and a heavy part of external funding are the Mobile Library Programme, the Reconstruction Programme, The Professional Training and Development Programme, the Books and Reading Programme, and the Information Technology Programme. There are important correlations between these programmes: The reconstruction of buildings is a longer-term task, which may take some years. Therefore mobile library services are suggested as a fairly immediate compensatory initiative. The buildings themselves have no value without books, technology or qualified library professionals.

The Cultural Heritage Programme aims to provide practical solutions to urgent preservation and security needs. The Children and Youth programme and the Open Access Programme are of a more library political nature with the aim to reform and strenghten certain important aspects of the societal role of libraries. The last two programmes are suggesting the establishment of specific tools to ensure and promote local involvement and participation.

## 2. Introduction

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 entrusts the United Nations Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) with "performing basic civilian administrative functions" and "organising and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self governance" in Kosova.

In order to prepare an assessment of the situation concerning libraries and to establish rehabilitation guidelines UNESCO, the Council of Europe (CoE) and IFLA/FAIFE organised an expert mission to the main cities of Kosova. In the period from February 25th to March 7th Mr. Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy director of the IFLA/FAIFE Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mr. Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association, visited libraries in all major regions of Kosova.

IFLA (International Federation of Library Association and Institutions) is concerned with the role of libraries in building and sustaining democracy. FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) is an initiative within IFLA to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A prime priority within the work of FAIFE is to: "Promote freedom of access to information and freedom of expression as fundamental human rights, which are cornerstones vital to the mission of libraries and librarians in providing access to knowledge in support of human rights, peace, democracy and development".

The FAIFE Committee and Office furthers free access to information and freedom of expression in all aspects, directly or indirectly, related to libraries and librarianship. FAIFE monitors the state of intellectual freedom within the library community worldwide, supports IFLA policy development and co-operation with other international human rights organisations, and responds to violations of free access to information and freedom of expression.

Unesco, OSCE and CoE supported the mission both financially and in terms of logistics. UNESCO established a consultant contract with Mr. Frederiksen and helped organise the mission in Kosova, in close co-operation with the UNMIK Civil Administration in Prishtina. Likewise the CoE established a contract with Mr. Frederiksen and the Secretariat Office of CoE in Prishtina assisted the mission in practical matters.

Furthermore, the mission received practical assistance from the OSCE HQ in Prishtina and generous financial support from the librarians' organisations in Scandinavia: Bibliotekarforbundet / Union of Danish Librarians (BF), Bibliotekarforbundet / Norwegian Association of Librarians (BF) and Forskerforbundets Fagbibliotekarforening / Union of Special Librarians (FBF), Norway, and Bibliotekarieförbundet / Swedish Association of Librarians (BF), Sweden. These organisations provided the funding for translations, interpretation, local transportation, accommodation etc.

To prepare an assessment of the situation concerning archives UNESCO, the CoE and the International Council on Archives (ICA) in December 1999 organised a parallel expert mission to Kosova, carried out by Mr. Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, Lancashire Records Office, Preston, UK. The Libraries Mission, based on similar conditions and with similar terms of reference, will be relating to the experiences obtained by Mr. Jackson (see Annex).

The Kosova Libraries Mission aimed to cover all categories of libraries and had the following terms of reference:

1. Assess the present situation of libraries in Kosova, including an assessment of the destruction and damages of libraries;
2. Assess the situation in the area of library management in existing administrations;
3. Assess the legal situation related to library management;
4. Advise on short- and medium-term measures to be taken to ensure adequate legal coverage of library and intellectual freedom issues; taking into account the importance of libraries as local gateways to knowledge, promoting equal access and reflecting the plurality and diversity of society and as instruments to support the process of democratisation;
5. Advise on the inclusion of library management components in rehabilitation programmes;
6. Make recommendations on measures to be undertaken to safeguard endangered libraries and to reconstruct a functioning library system in Kosova.
7. Submit to UNESCO, not later than March 31, 2000 a report of the mission to Kosova including;
  - (a) a general assessment of the situation;
  - (b) a plan for immediate action including recommendations for action addressed to UNESCO and UNMIK;
  - (c) recommendations to UNMIK to adequately cover library issues in reconstruction projects;
  - (d) a list of several small projects for immediate improvement of the situation;
  - (e) a mid-term development plan for consolidation of the situation.

This report has employed a convention used by many international organisations operating in Kosova by citing both the Albanian and the Serbian language place names of municipalities and major cities in the first mention and subsequently wherever helpful. Albanian place names are used thereafter in the text. Furthermore, the Albanian names of villages are used in areas dominated by ethnic Albanians and Serb names are used in areas dominated by ethnic Serbs.

The decision to use Albanian names as a primary reference was made partly by the fact that the most detailed maps available to us was in Albanian (produced in Albania) and partly by the fact that those names are most widely used in the area today. This choice therefore implies no political position on the future status of Kosova, but reflects a more practical and pragmatic approach.

There are some general problems obtaining information in Kosova, which should be pointed out here, as they to some extent influence the findings of our mission. Communication in Kosova is very difficult. Though the area is quite small, transportation takes time, because roads are very bad and traffic often chaotic. The telephone system is often inefficient and there is no postal system. It is almost impossible to make appointments from outside Kosova to meet people and even when you are there it is difficult. Generally you have to show up and hope that you are in luck. There are very few photocopiers, which means that it is hard to obtain physical documentation.

The segregation of Albanians and Serbs makes it difficult to verify information, as they have little knowledge and interest of status outside their own area. The people, that could have contradicted or verified are no longer present. Furthermore there is limited tradition in handling statistics and numbers and the sense of time and dating events is often loosely related to clocks or calendars. E.g.

if we added up the number of inhabitants we were given in various cities and towns, the Kosovar population would be significantly above the actual size.

Collecting data as a foreigner you have to rely on interpretation and translation from local people. These are often not professional interpreters, but students, teachers or employees of the institutions visited with some knowledge of foreign language. Some times such interpreters answer the questions themselves, and some times long disputes concerning an answer are resulting in some consensus, which is then presented as the answer. Changing stories and facts during conversation is not uncommon. Answers some times reflect the desire to accommodate the values of you (and possible donors) as anticipated by the interviewed person or just simple politeness. Political correctness and local political agendas are to be accounted for.

The terms of reference for our mission were very ambitious and included an assessment of all categories of libraries in Kosova. But both practical circumstances – the limited time we had in Kosova and the fact that other professional experts have been investigating archives, academic libraries and religious libraries, made us focus primarily on libraries serving the general public. Thus the information in this report is based on both our own experiences and on information provided by others. The main sources are the following expert reports:

- *Libraries and Archives in Kosovo: a postwar Report*. By Andras Riedlmayer, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University)
- *Donated Books Needs Assessment: Focus on the National and University Library of Kosovo and the Pristina Municipal Library*. By Tania Vitvitsky, Project Director, Sabre Foundation. November 17, 1999.
- *General Assessment of the Situation of Archives in Kosovo*. By Bruce Jackson and Wladyslaw Stepniak Restricted Technical Report, UNESCO.



### 3. General assessment of present situation

In March 2000 the international humanitarian relief operations in Kosova are moving from emergency response to longer-term rehabilitation and development after nine months of one of the largest-ever international relief operation in dollars spent per capita. According to UNHCR, the focus of relief agencies is shifting to key areas such as the need to rebuild the rule of law and foster tolerance throughout Kosova. The Deputy Special Representative of the secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs, Dennis McNamara, has approved this transition to reconstruction and rehabilitation. At a briefing in the beginning of March he stated that the Secretary-General accepted a recommendation that the UNMIK humanitarian pillar be phased out by mid-2000, as there should not be a need for a prolonged, large-scale humanitarian role by then.

In the education sector the focus is on repairing and equipping of schools and providing textbooks. The Textbook Consortium, which includes UNICEF, the Soros Foundation and a local NGO, Libri Shkollar, is overseeing the printing of new books with funding from a number of international government and private sources. For example, Canada's CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), has committed \$1M (Canadian) to this effort.

At present, there does not appear to be any systematic effort at addressing the needs of Kosova's libraries, including the National and University Library, the departmental libraries at the University of Prishtina, as well as the network of municipal and provincial libraries, not to mention the school libraries. Projects and activities thus far have been sporadic and ad-hoc, though some more recent initiatives tend to stress some level of library networking and overall coordination.

- The Kosovo Internet Assistance Initiative (KIAI), administered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), links US government agencies, technology companies, foundations, and international relief organisations in a co-ordinated effort to use technology to help address the information and humanitarian needs of Kosovars in the aftermath of the recent conflict. The initiative has provided the National and University Library with an Internet Information Center and is working with government and private sector partners to co-ordinate the contribution and delivery of books and reference materials. One shipment of books was sent to Prishtina in November 1999, and more will be shipped in the future. Brothers Brother Foundation, Sabre Foundation, Inc., Scholastic Inc. and IDG Books World-wide, Inc. will continue to work together to provide the libraries in Kosova with a variety of books and educational materials. KIAI has begun a process wherein the Kosovars can continue to solicit book donations.
- The Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) has given a fairly high priority to libraries. Some months before the war KFOS suggested to the Rectorat to set up an Intranet at the University of Prishtina linking all faculties, higher schools, the National Library and other schools. The idea also included electronic storage of books and other relevant materials of the National Library and faculty libraries, making them accessible at various sites at the university and through the Internet. Another KFOS project, which has not yet been implemented, outlines a modern library network linking 5 municipal libraries to the National Library. The project would involve the municipalities of Gjilan, Podujeva, Peja, Ferizaj and Gjakova, and include training of 20-30 librarians in modern information technology.

- On March 2 2000, Prof. Michael Daxner of Germany took up his duties as the international administrator for the Prishtina University system, which consists of seven campuses and some 1,500 faculty and administrators. The Austrian Ministry of Science has assigned Mr. Robert Stumpf, a library professional, to a fact-finding mission in Kosova. Mr. Stumpf has been appointed deputy of the new UNMIK-administrator for the University of Prishtina, Mr. Michael Daxner, and will be responsible for all the matters concerning the reconstruction and reorganisation of the National and University Library of Kosova.

### 3.1 Libraries in Kosova before the war

Until the civil wars and the collapse of the Yugoslav Federation in 1992-1993 each of the six republics and the two autonomous provinces in Yugoslavia had their own national library, which build up its collection by legal deposits of all works published in the country. The National Library of Kosova, like the national libraries of each of the other republics or provinces took special responsibility for materials from its own area as well as materials referring to its area. The national libraries provided complete coverage of all library-information networks in their territory, assuming the function of central library promotion centres in the system and taking care of professional training. All the national libraries were involved in building a shared catalogue, available online since 1988.

The National Library of Kosova was also the university library of the University of Prishtina. The library co-ordinated the activities of the academic libraries in Kosova located at various faculties, research or educational institutions. Some special libraries were attached to industrial, social, scientific and cultural institutions, like the mining companies north-east of Mitrovice, e.g. the library of the Mining Faculty and the library of the Mining company in Zveçan/Trepça.

Public libraries provided basic library services in the local communities and provided institutional support for educational and cultural activities. Public libraries were funded by local authorities, but with support from the central authorities. Such support was granted for the purchase of library materials and equipment and when new libraries were established, this was usually done with the support of the Ministry of Culture. Public library collections normally comprised books and periodicals published in the country, while books in foreign languages were normally collected by academic, research and special libraries only. Most Kosova libraries had and still have closed stacks.

Many of the public libraries in bigger towns were allocated within the framework of the local House of Culture and in many villages the library was a combined library serving both the general public and as school library. School libraries were under the jurisdiction of educational authorities and each primary and secondary school was obliged to provide a library, but in the pre-war period a great number of schools did not have their own library. Official statistics shows that there were 967 elementary schools and 69 secondary schools in the Kosova region in 1989 and only 328 school libraries (Figure 1.) Far from all had established their own libraries and many pupils were directed to public libraries for their reading. A significant part of the public library budget had to be spent for purchasing schoolbooks.

In the former Yugoslavia each autonomous republic or province had its own library law. The Library Law of Kosova was approved on April 28 1978 (KK No. 630-2/77). There was no federal library law, but regulations, so-called minimum standards, for public libraries as well as for academic libraries, were adopted by the then Union of Yugoslav Library Associations. These standards determined the number of staff, the number of volumes, space and equipment, the bibliographic standards for processing of library materials etc. for a certain type of library. It seems that many libraries did not meet the standards, but were allowed to function anyway.

**Figure 1.**

<b>Libraries in Kosova before 1999: Numbers and volumes of books</b>			
	<b>1989</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1995</b>
Research and special libraries:	36	31	34
Volumes of books:	927.000	213.000	810.000
Public libraries:	176	78	59
Volumes of books:	1,927.000	1,859.000	1,080.000
School libraries:	328	146	144
Volumes of books:	1,224.000	639.000	578.000

**Source 1989:** Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia: 1989. Belgrade: Federal Institute for Statistics, 1991.  
**Source 1992 and 1995:** Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia: 1999. Belgrade: Federal Institute for Statistics, 1999.

Note that statistical data on libraries have been collected by the Federal Institute for Statistics every three years, thus the 3-year intervals. Data on library staff are not available.

**Figure 2.**

<b>University and Public Libraries in Kosova from 1975 to 1990: Numbers and ethnic belonging</b>		
	<b>1975-1990</b>	<b>1999 before the war</b>
Albanian:	107	37
Serbian:	20	37
Others:	17	6
Total:	144	80

**Source:** UNESCO: Rapport de Mission au Kosovo. Ros Borath, November 1 - November 30 1999.

The discrepancies in the number of libraries registered by figure 1 and figure 2 – and figure 3 on page 15 – indicates the general problems collecting data in Kosova. The confusion derives from several factors. Even practical information is coloured by national political or ethnic implications, and ambitions, which vary pending on time and power. The compilation of data is irregular and often careless. The actual status and existence of individual libraries unclear and the definitions of the different categories of libraries, whether school, public or academic are not distinct.

### **3.2 Library management and administration**

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 entrusts the United Nations Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) with "performing basic civilian administrative functions" and "organising and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self governance" in Kosova.

The features of the inheritance from the preceding administrative system is a model of state-directed activities, with cultural workers as state employees, a highly skewed privileging of Serbian heritage and institutions and a commensurate discrimination of against Kosovar Albanian Culture (Albanian cultural institutions lost state support). All these factors are combined with a considerable under-funding and neglect of the whole sector for the past ten years.

The Kosovo Transitional Council is the highest-level consultative body of Kosovars to the United Nations interim administration. The Interim Administrative Council (IAC) has decided that the 19 administrative departments shall be co-administered by UNMIK and Kosova political leaders, the so-called JIAS (Joint Interim Administrative Structure). On February 28 2000 IAC named Mrs. Edi Shukriu, head of the LDK Women's League, co-head of the department of Culture. Unfortunately we did not have the occasion to meet with Mrs. Shukriu, and the UNMIK co-head, Mr. Gonzalo Retemal Pouilly, had not yet arrived from Chile. Our contacts at the UNMIK central administration were Ms. Sarah Isakson, at present the only employee dedicated to culture, and Mr. Tom Koenigs, head of Pillar 2, civil administration.

The UNMIK budget of the year 2000 for public libraries and archives estimates the number of employees to be 335 and dedicates a sum of DM 1,061.280 for their wages and salaries, while other goods and services acquires DM 307.346. The total UNMIK budget for the public libraries and archives is DM 1,368.626. It must be noted that the budget will be re-visited, when a more accurate estimation of the staff number and the number of institutions is at hand. The totals budget for UNMIK culture amounts to DM 4,650.483 and includes besides libraries and archives, arts, museums, cultural institutions and sports (DM 1,000.000).

Library workers have not received salaries for at least 1 year, since the outbreak of the war. The payment of librarians and others publicly employed only began March 2000. The exact number of people employed is still uncertain, because UNMIK lacks information from some municipalities, but the actual figure must be somewhat higher than 335. The number of public libraries alone used to be around 180 before 1990 and today is estimated to be at least 118 of which many employ two or more persons. The average salary is between DM 250 and DM 350 a month. According to an estimate by Mr. Gerguri libraries used to employ around 600 librarians.

### 3.3 Legislation and regulations concerning libraries

The situation concerning legislation in Kosovo is still somewhat unclear and the UNMIK administration is still working its way through the various fields of society to clarify the legal status. According to UNMIK regulations 2000/24 and 25, laws applicable in Kosovo on March 1989, when Kosovo's Parliament was dissolved and its autonomy revoked, are still valid, until they are replaced or changed by new laws and regulations.

The National and University Library holds copies of all legislation valid or previously valid in Kosovo. The director, Mr. Gerguri, provided us with copies of the 3 legal texts relevant to libraries: The Law on libraries, the Decree on the National and University Library and the Decree on legal deposit. Naturally, these texts are in Albanian, so they have been forwarded to UNMIK Culture both to their information and for translation into English. The translations are found as Annex 6 to this report.

The current Library Law of Kosovo was adopted on April 28 1978 (KK No. 630-2/77). It defines library activity as a social activity the purpose of which is:

"... to increase the general educational level through the help of the book and other library material; To fulfil continuously the cultural needs of the working people and citizens and also to develop the scientific, professional work and to develop the economy, education, science, culture and other activities" (Article 1),

Books and other library materials are at "public disposal" and "working people and the ordinary citizens can use the books and other library material equally", but a strong emphasis is also given to the role of libraries in regard to preservation of cultural heritage.

The law includes all types of libraries, though it focuses on general or national libraries (public and scientific libraries, including the National and University Library). There are very few specific regulations concerning special libraries and school libraries. According to the law libraries can be established by political and social unions, unions of cultural interest (local cultural administrations), regional and other organisations if certain conditions are met in regard to funding, book collections, space and equipment, and professional workers.

The law defines the different categories of libraries and outlines the general structure for a Kosovo library system. The National and University Library is the principal institution overall responsible for co-ordination of library activities, library co-operation, professional research and the main catalogue covering all libraries in Kosovo and the main bibliography, including material of "the nations and nationalities of Kosovo". This function as main central library involves both general libraries and special libraries.

On a second level it defines the tasks of regional main libraries (provincial libraries) to provide professional assistance within their territory, to supervise library activities, to harmonise and to encourage co-operation. The municipal and regional authorities in culture are responsible for the funding and governance of local and regional general libraries according to law, while the provincial authorities of culture, education and science provides the funding for the National and University Library. All general libraries are obliged to have a board and statutes. The law "in principle" provides for interlibrary loans and exchange of materials.

Much attention is given to the correct handling of library materials, conservation, preservation and limitations in use of valuable materials. The Council of the National and University library takes final decisions on weeding of materials of all libraries.

The law also defines the levels of education necessary for library workers distinguishing between 5 categories of employees: data entry clerk, senior data clerk, librarian, senior librarian and library advisor. To become librarian a university degree and the professional exam for librarian is needed. Diplomas were issued and exams performed at the University of Belgrade.

The Decree on the National and University Library specifies the tasks given by the law (articles 25 and 27) and adds an important responsibility for proposing and organising the education and professional training of library workers.

The Legal Deposit Decree provides 15 free samples of all publications from Kosovar publishing organisations or agencies to the National and University Library. From these copies the library has to send one copy to each of the central (national) libraries in the other FRY republics, leaving 8 copies for the N&U Library. Furthermore the decree states that all main libraries (provincial libraries) are obliged to provide at least one copy of books, magazines, brochures and other publications published in Kosova at their own expense.

Before the war the standard systems to register printed materials, ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) and ISBN (International Standard Book Number), promoted by the international organisation for standardisation, ISO was managed from a central FRY office in Belgrade. The first digits in these code numbers identify the country in which the publication is made. There is a strong wish to have a special Kosova code and to establish a separate Kosova office handling this registration. At the moment new Kosovar Albanian language books are not registered according to current international standards.

### **3.4 Destruction and damages**

In March 1989 the Serbian parliament adopted constitutional amendments which stripped Kosova of its virtual autonomy, which was granted by the Federal Constitution. This act was in many ways a turning point in both political and human rights developments in Kosova. During the 1990's Serbian authorities have increasingly infringed on fundamental rights of the ethnic Albanian majority of the Kosova population. The Serbian government imposed "emergency measures" and systematically tightened its grip on the region; it purged all sectors of Kosova public life and marginalised about 90% of the population.

On 26 June 1990 the Serbian authorities imposed a new wave of decrees, officially described as temporary measures. These measures, which remained permanent, included the dismissal of thousands of state employees. Approximately 6.000 schoolteachers were dismissed and more were to follow. Ethnic Albanian professors and students were expelled from or began boycotting both university and elementary and secondary schools in 1991, after instruction in the Albanian language was banned and a uniform Serbian curriculum imposed.

Albanian educators were dismissed because they refused to adhere to new Serbian curricula, others appear to have been dismissed from their jobs solely for reasons relating to their ethnicity or political beliefs. The ethnic Albanian population responded by developing a parallel society, which established its own government and its own institutions. Albanian teachers, doctors and other professionals provided their services either from home or in makeshift surgeries and offices. In 1994, for example, Albanian sources claimed that 335,000 pupils taught by more than 18,000 teachers attended their parallel education system.

Mr. Mehmet Gerguri, Director of the National and University Library in Kosova, was appointed to this position in June 1990. Less than four months later on September 27 1990 the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Serbia decided to implement "temporary coercive measures" in the National and University Library. The director was overruled and a directing board of five Serbs and Montenegrins and one Albanian was appointed. The Albanian refused to accept the nomination. All ethnic Albanians in the leadership were immediately dismissed from their positions and in the end 99 librarians and technical staff - 93 Albanians, 3 Bosnians, 2 Turks and a Croat - were deprived of their jobs.

Since then Mr. Gerguri has frequently attempted to draw the attention of the world society to the situation at his library. He has written several letters of appeal to UNESCO - in 1993, 1995, 1997 and finally after the war in 1999 - and other international organisations, including IFLA, but received practically no response.

Helsinki Watch has examined the dismissal papers of several ethnic Albanian employees of the National and University Library of Kosova. The reason for dismissal of such workers often is attributed - with no further explanation - to the workers' "failure to perform [his or her] duties and preventing other workers from attending to their responsibilities and doing their jobs." In several instances the dismissal is justified by the following clause:

"... in making statements to the press, the worker misrepresented the situation at the library, misinformed the public and gave a wrong impression of the work of the temporary bodies [i.e. the emergency management teams] and their actions, in that [s/]he accused and rudely attacked their work and the relevant measures of the Serbian Parliament as 'police methods'."

The dismissal notice cited is dated March 4 1991 and is signed by Dr. Slobodan Kostic of the temporary management team. Kostic was director of the N&U library from October 1 1990 until 1995-96. Helsinki Watch retains copies of such dismissal notices dating from 1990 and onwards (Ivana Nizich: Yugoslavia: Human Rights abuses in Kosovo 1990-1992, October 1992. Helsinki Watch).

In 1991 the Serbian government intensified its assimilation policies in Kosova. The Albanian language was banned as language of instruction at all levels of education. Very few ethnic Albanian students were allowed to enrol at Prishtina University and thousands of Albanian teachers and other Kosova Albanians lost their jobs due to their ethnicity. Many ethnic Albanian librarians lost their jobs. At the National and University Library of Kosova alone 99 librarians and other library workers, including the director, were dismissed and ethnic Albanian users were expelled from the reading rooms.

The general decrease in the number of libraries registered in the official Yugoslav statistics (Figure 1 on page 10) might well be a reflection of this political development - the attempt to perform an

ethnic cleansing of Kosova. To some extent it may reflect a result of Serbian wars with former members of the Yugoslav Federation: the closure of libraries because of the inadequate funding or the inability to collect the correct statistical data.

But the decrease in the number of both public and school libraries is significantly higher than in the number of research and special libraries. This indicates that Serb authorities have either officially closed or just administratively left out public or school libraries located in clearly ethnic Albanian towns and villages, while research and special libraries in major towns have been taken over by Serb officials. The fate of the academic libraries has naturally been closely connected with the fate of Kosovar educational institutions. The radical decrease in the number of book volumes in 1992 may well indicate the removal or destruction of books in the Albanian language, while the increase in 1995 may indicate new supplies of books in Serb. The reasons for the fluxes in the number of libraries and the number of volumes shown in statistical yearbooks for 1989 and 1992 and 1995 should be more closely investigated.

In the autumn of 1999 the National and University Library of Kosova, sponsored by the Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), undertook the task to take stock of the condition of public libraries throughout Kosova. The actual collection of data took place in September and October 1999 and the survey was completed in December. In January/February 2000 the FAIFE Office in Copenhagen had the text of this survey translated from Albanian into English (Annex 3: Overview of the Situation of the Public Libraries of Kosova). The translated text has been revised and approved by Mr. Mehmet Gerguri, director of the National and University Library.

**Figure 3.**

<b>Public libraries in Kosova before 1990 and after 1999: Numbers and volumes of books</b>			
	<b>Before 1990</b>	<b>After 1999</b>	<b>Annihilated</b>
Main libraries	25	22	3
Volumes of Books	843.123	581.431	261.692
Branch libraries	158	96	62
Volumes of Books	1.171.505	532.609	638.896
Public libraries in total	183	118	65
Volumes of Books	2.014.628	1.114.060	900.588

**Source:** Overview of the Situation of the Public Libraries of Kosova. Prishtina: The National and University Library of Kosova

The survey includes data for public libraries in 25 of Kosova's 29 municipalities. Figure 3. shows the main results of this survey. The municipalities not covered are Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok, Shterpcë/Strepce, Novo Brdo/Novoberdë and Obilic/Obiliq. 3 of these municipalities are areas, which at least before the war were populated with a majority of ethnic Serbs, and this may be the



reason, they are not included. The fourth, Obiliq, is a quite small municipality neighbouring Prishtina to the West, of which we were informed that Serbs had burned the main library.

According to the survey the total number of public libraries before the war was 205. 183 of these libraries are located in the areas now dominated by ethnic Albanians and 65 of those were destroyed during the period from 1990 to the end of the war in 1999.

The findings described in the survey were generally confirmed by the information collected by our mission, though there were some minor discrepancies. Most importantly the main library in Peja did indeed survive the war, but is now out of function, because the House of Culture of which it was part, is housing the UNMIK police station. The books are kept in a locked room on the 4th floor of the building. In a few other municipalities visited there were minor and insignificant differences in the number of volumes or in the number of branch libraries. The variation in the number of these libraries was caused by uncertainty regarding their status; that is, if they should be considered strictly school libraries or combined libraries.

### **3.5 Allegations and responsibility of destructions**

During the summer of 1999 IFLA/FAIFE received reports of the massive Serbian abolition and demolition of ethnic Albanian literature and libraries, which has taken place during the period of Yugoslav rule. FAIFE also received reports that the destruction of libraries and book collections was still going on in Kosova, but that the roles had changed and that Serb books and libraries were now being destroyed by ethnic Albanians. On June 9 1999 UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans, Carl Bildt, described Kosova as a "devastated wasteland that will have to be rebuilt from the bottom up". He stressed that this would include the reconstruction of archives and libraries and that there was evidence of massive destruction of the collective memory.

Kosovar Albanians claim that Serbs have systematically destroyed Albanian books in an attempt to eradicate Albanian cultural heritage in Kosova and to harass ethnic Albanians into leaving the area. At the National Library alone more than 100.000 books were destroyed in the period from July 1991 to 1995. In July 1991 six truckloads of periodicals, mainly newspapers, were sent to Cardboard factory. In January and February 1992 around 100.000 books, more than 8.000 magazines and more newspapers were taken out and transported to unknown destination by trucks with license plates from Nis in Serbia, and in 1995 a smaller amount of publications were shipped of.

This process of 'ethnic cleansing' is also reported from almost all other public libraries in Kosova. The extend of these measures seems to have depended on the dedication of the director of the individual library to perform the task. For instance the present director of the municipal library of Mitrovica, Hajrulla Mustafa, informed us that no such segregation had taken place under the former Serb director Olja Stevic, who left during or after the war.

Serbs have repeatedly claimed that at least four Serbian libraries have been destroyed and over two million Serbian books burned. The following message was delivered on September 28 by Glas Javnosti, a Serbian newspaper issued in Belgrade, and widely distributed by the official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, and the Serb Orthodox Monastery in Decane/Decani under the heading "Goethe, Shakespeare Burning... Albanian Terrorists burned more than two million Serb books in Kosovo":

"Since the arrival of KFOR Albanian terrorists in Kosovo destroyed in Kosovo local libraries more than two million books in Serbian, claim the representatives of the Historical Archive in Kosovska Mitrovica.

The very important archive material is also targeted. It has been destroyed by the terrorists in front of KFOR eyes and nothing has been done to protect the books in libraries and other cultural Serb institutions in Kosovo. It is a shame that the works of Shakespeare, Goethe and other famous writers are burned in front of soldiers who came from the countries of these writers.

In the worst position are the communal libraries in Prizren, Djakovica, Istok, Glogovac, Srbica, Podujevo and other cities, which are under control of the KLA members. This barbarism is not remembered from the time of Hitler and the Nazi burning of books in the Second World War."

The intentions are clearly to attach the actual destruction of libraries to the Albanians now controlling the areas mentioned, but when it comes to facts these statements lacks foundation.

First of all, there were never two million Serb books in the public libraries of Kosova, even according to official Yugoslav statistics (see Figure 1). Secondly, most of the libraries mentioned, Prizren/Prizren, Gjakova/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Glogovac/Glogovac and Skenderaj/Srbica are in the Western part of Kosova, where Serbs themselves were responsible for burning down both villages and towns. And most of the destruction of both books and library buildings took place in the countryside. The main libraries of Istog, Glogovac, Skenderaj and Podujevo/Podujeve, located in the Eastern part of Kosova, have been burned or otherwise destroyed, while this is not the case with the libraries of Prizren and Gjakova. In the surviving libraries of Prizren and Gjakova the collections are intact and books in Serbian are still to be found on the shelves. Finally, it is interesting to note that the Serbs themselves define public libraries in Kosova as 'cultural Serb institutions' and thus leaves out around 80-90% of the area's population.

A more detailed account of alleged Albanian destruction of Kosovar libraries and books were distributed under the heading: "Ethnic Albanian Extremists Burning Serbian Books" by Tanjug, the Decani e-group (<http://www.egroups.com/message/decani/23410?&start=22859>) and the newspaper "Borba daily" on 20. December 1999. It is mainly quoting the former ethnic Serb director of the National and University library, Mr. Jordan Ristic, who held this position from director from 1995/96 until June 16 1999:

"Since the arrival of the KFOR international forces in Serbia's Kosovo and Metohija province in June, all Serb employees have been sacked from the Ivo Andric National Library of the University of Prishtina, and Serbs are now even banned from entering this biggest book center in the province, library Manager Jordan Ristic told Tanjug on Saturday.

Expressing great concern for the fate of the entire book fund of the province, Ristic said eyewitnesses had reported that ethnic Albanian vandals had burned piles of books or otherwise destroyed them and threw them into garbage containers, in plain sight of KFOR members.

Ethnic Albanian extremists also set fire to the Prishtina City Library, which had been the biggest library in the province, with about 400,000 titles.

In addition to Serb books, the arson also destroyed Albanian and Turkish books, and others in the languages of other ethnic groups, Ristic said.

At present, it is not possible to get reliable information on what happened to about a million books of the national university library, and no communication is possible with those who entered its premises after the expulsion of Serbs, Ristic said.

At the time of the expulsion of Serbs, the library had also been host to two exhibitions - "Wooden churches in Serbia" and "Chelandari miniatures", said Ristic. Nothing is known about these exhibits, either, he said.

Within its rich scientific and cultural life, the library had been a specific cultural center in which over a hundred events were staged each year, from concerts and painting exhibitions, to book fairs and symposiums which were attended by prominent figures from the country and from all over the world.

The library also annually published about 30 books, the most prominent of them being a two-volume monograph on the Gracanica Monastery, the Book on Drenica, and three books by Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle.

Earlier, before Kosovo Albanians withdrew from public life in the province under pressure from their terrorist and extremist leaders the library had also hosted all important events in the Albanian language.

Nothing is known either about the book funds of the faculties of the University of Prishtina, Ristic said. Serbs banished from some places in the province told Ristic that they had seen Kosovo Albanians bring books out of Serb houses and apartments and burn them in public in the streets.

It has also been confirmed that the rampant ethnic Albanian terrorists also destroyed almost all private home libraries, in particular from the homes of prominent Serb writers who had lived in the province. Ristic himself had been the proud possessor of one of the most valuable private collections in Kosovo and Metohija - over 4,500 titles. All these books have been destroyed. Ristic was expelled from his apartment at gunpoint. The "third set of tenants" who subsequently moved into his apartment telephoned him to say that his private library "now contains only parquetry," he said.

Nothing at all is known about the fate of the books in libraries in the area of Prizren, southwestern Kosovo and Metohija, from where almost all Serbs have been expelled. This includes the library of the Prizren Faculty of Theology, with one of the richest spiritual archives in the area. Serbs who fled from Prizren said the faculty building had been plundered and partly burned, so that one can only suspect what happened to the books, Ristic said".

The timing of this release is remarkable. The 20th of December 1999 is just a few days after the announcement of the major finding of the National and University Library survey, accusing Serbs of destroying libraries. Furthermore the article in several phrases indicates that an overview of the situation is not yet accomplished. More than six months after the end of the war it is still only suspected what happened "to one of the richest spiritual archives in the area" at the Faculty of the Theology or rather the Seminary and theological library of Serb-Orthodox Church in Prizren. According to Andras Riedlmayer this building is intact and closely guarded by German KFOR soldiers. Since the end of the war in June 1999, the seminary has served as a shelter for Serb, Roma, ethnic Turk and Albanian refugees. We have found no Kosovar Serb sources claiming that damages has been done to this library.

The Prishtina City Library has not been burned, and again the numbers of library books are exaggerated and inexact. The Center for Peace and Tolerance in Belgrade provided reports from sources in Prishtina on attacks on and harassment of ethnic Serbs in Kosova from June 18 to

September 2 1999, including detailed accounts of thefts or occupied apartments (<http://www.cptkosovo.org.yu/English/default.htm>). This Serb source only has one mention of libraries during this period. On June 28th 1999 it states that: "The public library of Pristina is forcibly occupied, and the car, Skoda Felicia, registration plates: PR 104 11, dark blue metallic was stolen, Kralja Milutina St. No 10". There is no mention of libraries demolished or books destroyed in Prishtina or elsewhere in Kosova, though many violations of different nature are listed.

The article claims that all Serb employees have been dismissed from the National and University Library of Prishtina. Mr. Gerguri informed us that the ethnic Serb employees had been offered to return to their jobs, but that nobody accepted this invitation. Some libraries in the areas now dominated by ethnic Albanians informed us that they had offered the former Serb employees to return to their jobs, some of these employees had even showed up to do so, but none had actually resumed service. Fear of personal security seems to be the obvious reason for this.

The article clearly seems to be produced as a propaganda response to the allegations made by ethnic Albanians. The information revealed is inaccurate and even incorrect and the interview seems to be outdated reflecting the confusing days immediately after the war and with no knowledge of the situation at the time of publication (December 1999).

It is impossible to rule out that some libraries may have been destroyed by ethnic Albanians attacking 'Serb cultural institutions'. We saw no indications in the libraries visited, that Serb books had been systematically destroyed or demolished. Actually, in some of the most damaged areas like Rahovec/Orahovac, books in Serbian were the only ones left.

Representatives of almost all libraries visited by our mission stressed the fact that they still contained books in Serb and random checks of books on the shelves confirmed this. Mr. Hajrulla Mustafa, director of the Municipal Library in Mitrovice, stated: "We must keep all books, never mind the language". Though these books now are of very little or no use to the libraries and their users they are still kept and preserved.

### **3.6 Co-operation and reconciliation perspectives**

Today there is no co-operation, or even contact, between professionals of the ethnic Albanian majority and professionals in ethnic Serbian enclaves. We only encountered one example of any attempt to establish some co-operation. The director of the main public library in Prishtina, the "Hivzi Sulejman Library", Mr. Sulejman Pireva, told us that he had had a conversation with a Serb librarian in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje. Mr. Pireva had suggested some exchange of books - books in Serb for books in Albanian, and vice versa, but nothing had come out of it and there had been no further contacts.

We discussed the question of co-operation with several ethnic Albanian librarians. None of these rejected the idea, but all stated that it would be impossible, as they cannot, or rather dare not, go into the Serb enclaves. When we travelled to visit the largest Serb enclave, Mr. Jetish Kadishani, who is responsible for contacts with public libraries at the National and University Library, joined us. Mr. Kaishani didn't dare go with us into the Serb enclave, though we were driving in a UN vehicle, so he stayed in the main library of Mitrovice. Later we were informed that he had tried to pass a message to the librarians in Leposaviq through us. Mr. Kadishani does not speak any foreign

languages, so he had asked the UN-employed driver, an ethnic Serb who spoke English, to ask us, if we could offer some co-operation. The driver never mentioned this to us. The reason for this is likely to be that the offer was conditioned by an acceptance of the Republic of Kosova.

We also asked the library director of the public library in Leposaviq, Mr. Milomir Tanaskovic, if he would be interested in some co-operation with the main public library in Mitrovice, which is located on the South-side of the river Ibrit in the ethnic Albanian part of the town. He said that he would be interested in contacts with both Mitrovice and Prishtina, but that he didn't know the people in charge there and even doubted if they held their positions legitimately. On the other hand his library was quite isolated and there were no contacts with libraries in Serbia - though the library had all Serbian daily newspapers on the day of issue. He stated that: "If I enter into such co-operation, I will be the first in this area doing so - in any field"

The general impression during our mission was that the immediate possibilities of co-operation and reconciliation are very limited. It seems that the problems derive from the overall political climate in Kosova and not as much from personal or professional conflicts. Many of the people we talked to implied that co-operation might raise some problems with their own ethnic group. Mr. Sulejman, director of Prishtina Municipal Library, delivered a very characteristic remark on the relation between Kosovar Serb and Albanian library professionals: "If they show any interest, or contact us, it is ok".

#### 4. Specific assessment of institutions and sectors

In the course of the twelve days of our stay in Kosovo we were able to visit all regions all 5 districts of Kosovo, all major cities and 13 of 29 municipalities, including Leposavic in the major Serb enclave north of Mitrovice. We visited more than 20 libraries and other cultural institutions and had official meetings with UNMIK and 4 other important international organisations. We made professional interviews and had talks with more than 45 persons - and met hundreds of Kosovar library and cultural workers. The information provided in this part of our report is based on our own experiences and supplemented by other sources referred to in the text.

Figure 4. Map of Kosova including districts and municipalities. Place names in Serbian.



#### 4.1 National and University Library of Kosova

The National and University Library of Kosova has its origins as a Regional Library founded in 1944 in Prizren (1944-1963), and later, as a Provincial Library (1963-1970). When the University of Kosova was founded in 1970, the Library also took on the functions and name of National and University library.

The construction of the current building, located in Central Prishtina, began in 1974 and the new library was inaugurated on November 25 1982. Built in a style blending Byzantine and Islamic architectural forms, by 1983 the Library's holdings were comprised of 600,000 items. The seven-level building with 12,000 sq. meter of usable area, houses two reading rooms with respectively 300 and 100 seats, a periodicals reading room, rooms for special collections, cataloguing and research, a 150-seat amphitheatre and a 75-seat meeting hall. It has the capacity to accommodate two million volumes. The book stacks are located on two levels below grade and are closed to the public, as is a common practice in the region.

The N&U Library functions as a legal depository library for all materials published in Kosova. The library had by legal deposit law been receiving 8 copies of all works published in Kosova and one copy of all works published in the other Republics of Yugoslavia by exchange with their National libraries. Mr. Gerguri hopes to enlarge library holdings with Albanian-language publications published in the West "everything written in Albanian". This is the practice, for example, in Croatia, where the N&U Library collects "Croatica", and in Slovenia, where the National and University Library collects "Slovenica", by exchange with other libraries and/or purchase.

The National and University Library intends to reassume the task of producing a national bibliography. We discussed with Mr. Gerguri the question of a bibliography of Albanica versus one embracing all publications deriving from Kosova, including Serbian- and other language publications. The existing law on libraries clearly proscribes that the National and University Library: "Makes the updated and retrospective bibliography of the library material of the nations and nationalities of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova".

Up to 1990/91, the Library was linked via an on-line catalogue to all other national libraries in then Yugoslavia through a joint bibliographic database installed on a host computer in Maribor, Slovenia. At present, only a card catalogue is offered to the readers. The old 1980's computer, which was used to access the catalogue, is still found in the basement and it is not clear whether any back-up cataloguing tapes exist. The library director expects that the data contained in those computers could be converted to a new system.

Though severely neglected, the building is intact, except for some minor damages to the main entrance area. The library is equipped with an automated book ordering and delivery systems, but currently both the book conveyor belt and the building elevators are inoperable. The librarians hand-carries books from the stacks in the basement to the reading rooms. As everywhere else in Prishtina electricity is irregular and there is no heating.

There are major problems with water penetration in the lowest level. Water is standing on the floor, and some shelves are already rusting. The building is on a slope and appears to have been

constructed with a sump that required pumping out, but with the failure of the electricity and the removal of the back-up generator the situation has deteriorated rapidly. The book stack is at substantial risk, and failure to restore pumping will create a major problem due to the need to replace stack and equipment.

Though more than 100.000 books have been removed the main research collection of the National and University Library has survived essentially intact. But in ten years only 22,000 items were added to the collection, none of them in Albanian. Since the end of the war there has been no money to buy books to make up for the lost years, but the library often receives donations for the

According to Mr. Bruce Jackson the Oriental Manuscript and Albanian language printed collections has suffered particularly. Since documentation was not complete in 1990, it is not possible to be totally precise about the damage suffered. Manuscripts are now stored in a single room, and many are in poor condition.

Before 1991 the N&U Library carried out its activities through 11 professional and administrative sections, with 139 librarians and other technical staff. Today the library employs a staff of 70, around 50 librarians and 20-22 technical staff. During February/March 2000 further 10 people will be employed. We were informed that priority would be given to younger professionals. According to Mr. Gerguri the library used to have up to 10.000 registered users a year and approximately 1.000 daily users. Today the number is heavily reduced. Although the Library is open to students the lack of electricity is forcing early afternoon closure and the lack of heating equally causes limitations to use. This may be better when spring and summer arrives, but many students and teachers have left the university to work with international NGO's and UNMIK administration. A local cartoon pictured two people meeting in the street, one saying to the other: "Have you heard, they have closed the university?" - "No, why?" - "The are no students and teachers left. They all work with the internationals".

Around 150 canisters of Kosova Film material were found on the floor. It was not known whether they were still to be preserved, but we were informed that they would be shelved to reduce the risk of damage.

Some international initiatives have been taken to support the N&U Library. Tania Vitvitsky, Project Director at the Sabre Foundation, went to Prishtina in October 1999 for an assessment visit and is working with government agencies and publishers to set up a book donation program. The Soros Foundation has provided access for three years to an on-line database of EBSCO holding approximately 4,500 periodicals. As there is no International Mail service to Kosova, the mailing of journal subscriptions is not feasible at this time, but the electronic access and the possibility to make prints are major achievements in user service. IOM has sponsored the renovation of a smaller section of the N&U Library and set up an Internet Center accommodating computer terminals and workstations.

The library is now attempting to re-establish relations with library professionals outside Kosova. Mr. Gerguri informed us that 10 Kosovar librarians, 6 from the N&U library, one from Vushtrri, one from Mitrovice, one from Glllogovc and one from Skenderaj, were going to attend a conference in Croatia on the 26th And 27th of April this year. Furthermore the N&U library on the 16th of February signed an agreement with the National Library of Albania in Tirana on future co-



operation, including the exchange of two copies of all printed material in Albanian and of bibliographic data.

The most pressing problems facing the National and University library at this point are:

- Missing, damaged or outdated equipment:
  - Provision of generator to operate pump to prevent major problems with large cost implications
  - Restoration of electricity supply
  - Repairs to book delivery system and lifts
  - Provision of general office equipment
  - Restoration of telephone lines
- The need to make up for a decade of neglect of collection development:
  - Replacement of Albanian texts destroyed in the 1990s (possibly through contact with other copyright libraries in the former Yugoslavia)
  - Provision of modern student textbooks
  - Provision of new English-language books with these priorities: Medical, Engineering, Computer science, Reference (dictionaries and encyclopaedias), Business/economics, Law, Art/music, Mining (coal, gold, silver) and English language
- The need for conservation and preservation measures
  - Relocation of manuscripts to secure, controlled storage
  - Conservation programmes with refresher training possibly in Italy?
  - Provision of conservation materials and equipment in tandem with restart of conservation at Archives of Kosova
- The loss of on-line catalogue records and automated systems:
  - a new automated system
  - re-conversion of digital catalogue
- The need for professional training:
  - short courses and workshop for library staff workshops by visiting experts

#### **4.2 Academic and faculty libraries**

The University of Prishtina embraces 7 high schools (teachers and technical training colleges) and 13 faculties. A High School is a two-year university-level college. Such schools are commonly teachers training or engineering colleges.

The high schools are: 1) a Teachers Training College, Prishtina, 2) a Teachers Training College, Prizren, 3) a Teachers Training College, Gjakova, 4) a Teachers Training College, Gjilan, 5) a College of Economics, Peja, 6) a Engineering College, Ferizaj, and 7) a Engineering College, Mitrovica.

The faculties are: 1) the Faculty of Philosophy, Prishtina, 2) the Faculty of Philology, Prishtina, 3) the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Prishtina, 4) the Faculty of Law, Prishtina, 5) the Faculty of Economics, Prishtina, 6) the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Prishtina, 7) the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Prishtina, 8) the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Prishtina, 9) the Medical Faculty, Prishtina, 10) the Faculty of Arts, Prishtina, 11) the Faculty Mining and Metallurgy, Mitrovice, 12) the Faculty of Physical Training (Sports), Prishtina, and 13) the Faculty of Agriculture, Prishtina.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences includes 5 libraries or book collections allocated to different buildings and departments. All of these were looted and need new books, journals and computers providing access to databases and the Internet. The Faculty of Philology also reports that many books in Albanian and Foreign languages were looted. The Faculty of Economics reports that the library of more than 20.000 books in three languages was looted. There is a need of library equipment, professional literature and scientific magazines.

At the library of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture all but two dozen volumes are reported to have been removed. At the Faculty of Law a lot of technical instruments, water heaters, telephones, computers, etc. were stolen and some books and documents devastated. The fund of books and the entire library inventory has been removed. A 100,000-volume collection was subsequently discovered by KFOR stashed in various locations around Prishtina, boxed for shipping and marked with Cyrillic labels reading "Biblioteka". The Library of the Faculty of Law is in need of modern law literature as well as other common sciences; electronic equipment; computers and alike.

KFOS is involved in a project providing basic literature for the University faculties. The project aims to have 40 core titles within different specialities translated into Albanian. The titles have been selected on the basis of requests and suggestions from the University faculties.

We visited the library of the Teachers Training College or Higher Pedagogical School of Gjilan, which had not been damaged during the war. The library stocks are 50.000 books and the collections are intact, but suffer from the lack of acquisitions during the last decade. The facilities are fairly good including a reading room with around 30 seats.

### **4.3 Public libraries**

#### **4.3.1 Prishtina/Pristina district:**

Prishtina/Pristina, Podujevë/Podujeva, Glllogvc/Glogovac, Obiliq/Obilic, Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje, Lipjan/Lipljan, Shtime/Stimlje

*The region of Prishtina is the largest in both geographical extension and number of inhabitants and it contains the capital of Kosova. It is situated in the central eastern part of Kosova and borders the Federal Yugoslav Republic of Serbia in the northeast.*

#### **Prishtina/Pristina Municipal Libraries**

The municipality of Prishtina has 17 public libraries, the main library in Prishtina and 16 branch libraries in and around Prishtina: The Youth Palace, the library of "Përrallave"(Fairy tales), the

school boys literature library, Hade, Mramor, Kaçikollë, Jugoviq, Barilevë, Llukar, Koliq, Hajvali, Laple Sellë, Graçanicë, Çadlavicë, Slivovë and Viti of Mareci. The main library in the city had about 58.475 books and 16 branch libraries 108.541 books, a total of 167.016 books. The Serbian Black Hand burned the libraries in Hade, Koliq and Viti of Mareci. The number of books destroyed is about 23.000. Today there is no contact between the main municipal library and branches in Serb villages, e.g. Jugoviq.

The main municipal library in Prishtina, the "Hivzi Sulejmani Library", includes reading rooms for both children and adults. With the exception of the reading rooms, the facilities are in poor condition, damp and musty. Some windows were damaged by shocks from the bombing, but have been repaired, and the Serbs removed all technical equipment. Only one computer is available for the entire network. The main library including special branches in the city currently holds books in four languages and in the following quantities: 70,000 in Albanian, 37,000 in Serbian, 3,000 in Turkish and 1,100 in English.

Before the war the Prishtina library system had and a Serb director and 44 employees - 34 Serbs and 10 Albanians, 19 of which were working at the main library. Now there are 32 employees - all ethnic Albanians - and still 19 working in the main library. The present numbers do not include staff working in branches located in Serb-dominated areas.

From 1992 the former Serbian library director, Mr Dragolub Petrovic, no longer purchased Albanian-language books. In the shelves were fairly recently published books in Serbian, while the Albanian- and foreign language books were older. Serbian-language books are being maintained at the library.

According to Mr. Pireva, the most pressing needs are renewal of collections, reconstruction of damaged branch libraries, new premises for the main library, and more spacious reading rooms. The lack of Albanian-language books has had the result that library visits have dropped, especially among children. Before 1992, the region had 15,000 registered young readers, now only 4,000.

According to a report of Tania Vitvitsky, Sabre Foundation, the main Children's Library which is housed in a building donated to the city by a well-known Kosovar writer, is well equipped with children's furniture, but rather bare of both books and wall decorations (posters, etc.). Currently under-utilised, the Library cannot even afford a sign on the door.

In terms of acquisition, Albanian-language books for young readers are the priority according to the Director, but English-language materials, not only books but also other educational materials such as posters, puzzles, manipulatives, etc. suitable for pre-school to elementary and high school-age children, are of interest. For students and adults, the priorities for donated English-language books are science, business and economics, and fiction.

The Library has submitted a document describing the priority needs of the library network to IOM, which has resulted in co-operation with both IOM and KFOS in supplying children's books.

### **Gllgovc/Glogovac Municipal Library**

The municipal library system of Glllogoc was severely damaged during the war. The main library located in a wooden barrack on the grounds of a school was shelled and burned down, probably around the 20th of April 1999. The main library had 32.000 books of which only 380 remains. The municipality used to have 7 public libraries with a total of 73.000 books, including 6 branches in Tërstenik, Komoran, Arllat, Sankoc, Baicë and Gradicë. Three libraries, including the main library, burned down and three others badly damaged. A total of almost 66.500 books has been destroyed. Serb forces were reported to have killed the librarian Izet Elshani (48), father of four children, burned the library with 9.500 books, expelled his family by force and burned his house.

Today the municipality of Glllogoc has in fact only one library with around 6.500 books. According to the director of Theatre, Culture and Sports, Mr. Xhemë Binaku, there are now plans to reopen three libraries of which one is the main library, but still books are lacking and it is uncertain whether a suitable location and building is available. Furthermore there is the problem of salaries; the library system employs 6 library workers and only one librarian has so far received any payment. Until 1991 the library employed 8 librarians, but then ethnic Albanian librarians were dismissed.

There is a heavy need for funding to build a new main library or renovate facilities suitable, to acquire new books to replace losses, and to buy equipment and furniture

#### **4.3.2 Peja/Pec district**

Peja/Pec, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Decane/Decani, Gjakovë/Djakovica

*The Peja district constitutes the most western part of Kosova bordering Federal Yugoslav Republics of Serbia and Montenegro in the north and Albania in the south.*

#### **Peja/Pec Municipal Library**

The municipality of Peja, before Serbian coercive measure in 1990 had 6 public libraries with 87.212 books. Only the city library of Peja and the branch library in Gorazhdec, which is mostly stocked with books in Serbo-Croatian, have survived until after the war. Four branch libraries in the countryside, Vitomicë, Baran, Tërstenik, and Zahaq, were burned Serbs and 20.171 books were demolished.

The main public library in Peja, which had around 65.000 books, survived the war even though large parts of the city were destroyed. The library was situated in the House of Culture in the town center, but in the aftermath the building was required by the UNMIK and is now functioning as central UNMIK police station. The books of the library are secured and locked up in a room on the 4th floor of the building. We didn't have the time to gain access to the library, but we saw the poor remains of the instruments and books from the Music School in Peja. Though they were stocked in secure rooms, they have been handled and kept without care and will probably be of little or no use in future.

Mr. Marco Mayer, the UNMIK responsible of Culture in Peja, assured us that the reopening of the library has high priority within the UNMIK administration and that he was working to identify a suitable location for the library. A new location providing two smaller rooms were at hand, but were also suggested to house a new Youth center. The IRC (International Rescue Committee) had shown

interest in funding some cultural activity in Peja, but seemed to prefer the Youth center. In spite of this, the decision to reopen the library at the new location was taken, while we were in the city.

There is a heavy need for funds to build a new library or reconstruct a suitable building. The solution to reopen the main library in two rooms must be regarded as a temporary measure. The genuine reconstruction must include reading room(s), children's library, new books, user access to computers, and new equipment and furniture of all kinds.

Mr. Marco Mayer also confirmed the information concerning the libraries in Western Kosova (Decane, Kline, Istoq and Gjakova) provided by the survey of the National and University Library.

### **Gjakova/Djakovica Municipal Library**

Before Serbian coercive measure in 1989, the municipality of Gjakova had 7 public libraries with a total amount of 105.443 books. The main library had 42.193 books, while the branch libraries in Skivjan, Rogovë, Biztazhin, Ponoshec, Brekoc and Cërmjanë had 63.250 books.

The main library has suffered no damages, but two of six branches, Cërmjani and Brekoc, were burned down allegedly by the Serbian Black Hand in April or May 1999. One of these, Cërmjai, was located in a primary school. Today Gjakova therefore has only five libraries with a total amount of 83.061 books. A total of 22.382 books were destroyed. Today three branch libraries are in function.

The main Municipal Library of Gjakova is located in the first floor of the town's House of Culture and includes two rooms open to the public; a reading room with 20-30 seats and a room stocking the books. The library started working again on February 1 2000. In general all the books were saved, and the only damages to the facilities was disordering of the reading room, but for ten years no new books in Albanian were bought. The library held around 25.000 books in Albanian and 15.000 in Serbo-Croatian, but today only 5.000 books in Serbian remains, according to the director Mr. Masar Peja, the rest was removed by the Serbs.

Mr. Peja was assigned as director in 1989, but 1990 he was transferred to the position as guard and later dismissed and expelled. The main library now employs five people - all ethnic Albanians, but before the war two ethnic Serbs and two ethnic Albanians were working in shifts. The Serbs had left when KFOR entered Kosova on June 13 1999.

When asked about other libraries in the Gjakova area, Mr. Masar Peja told us that all primary school libraries had survived the war. He also informed us that a local textile enterprise has its own library, but he didn't know of its condition. Equally he had no information about the library at the Teachers Training College in town.

Mr. Peja indicated a special need for bookshelves, new books, also in foreign languages (English, French and German), computers and other equipment (the library has no telephone). There is a demand for books for students related to the studies of various sciences like chemistry, economics, technics and medicine. The students are very interested in books in foreign languages. Today most readers bring their own books, when using the library reading room. He said that they had received many visits from NGOs, but had so far received no support.

He also informed us that the library had plans to open a small bookshop at the entrance on the ground floor aiming to sell books at fair and low prices in order to make an income for the library.

#### **4.3.3 Mitrovica/Kosovska Mitrovica district**

Mitrovica/Kosovska Mitrovica, Leposaviq/Leposavic, Zvecan/Zvecan, Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok, Skenderaj/Srbica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

*The Mitrovica district is the most northernly region in Kosova bordering the Federal Yugoslav Republic of Serbia to the north-west, north and north-east. The district has become clearly divided between a northern ethnic Serb dominated part comprising the municipalities of Leposaviq, Zvecan and Zubin Potok and Mitrovica north of Ibar river and a southern ethnic Albanian part comprising Vushtrri, Skenderaj and southern Mitrovica.*

#### **Mitrovica/Kosovsko Mitrovica Municipal Library**

The Municipal Library of Mitrovica is located south of the river Ibrit in the part of the town now mainly inhabited by ethnic Albanians. From 1945 the main library has functioned both as Municipal and Regional library. The municipal library system consist of the main library and six district libraries or branches of which two were destroyed by Serbs during the war, Tunel te Pare and Trepcha. In December a plan to reconconstruct the library in Tunel was forwarded to UNMIK. Only three branches were actually in function in the period before the war.

Today the main library stocks 117.206 books; 62.995 in Albanian, 51.819 in Serbian and 2.392 in Turkish. The library survived the war without major damages to the 1.089 square meter building, though some older shelves in one room collapsed due to the blast and vibrations of a nearby explosion. The Serbs removed all technical equipment (telephones, fax etc) during the war.

The present director, Mr. Hajrulla Mustafa, is the first non-Serb director of the library. The director, Mr. Hajrulla Mustafa, characterised the library as the cultural center of the town, as it is now the only cultural institution functioning in Mitrovica - the UN now uses the building of the House of Culture. The library provides services for children and youth as well as professionals. Since the war the library has hosted 17 different meetings and cultural sessions. There is a growing interest for books and reading and the library today has more users than before the war. The supply of children's books is insufficient. They provide the daily newspapers and many people without jobs come regularly to read the papers.

The library is in need of new books in Albanian, Serbian, English and other European languages. People want to learn new languages. There is a special need of professional literature in foreign languages.

After the war a library project (DM 33.000) was established through the humanitarian organisation, American Friends Service Committee, which enabled the acquisition of 18.300 new books.

At a brief meeting in the Mitrovica UNMIK Regional HQ, Mr. Ahmad Shamsu Deen-Cole, Civil Affair Officer of Culture, in general confirmed the information from the N&U Library survey regarding libraries in the region. The libraries in Vushtri and especially Skenderaj needs

rehabilitation, the library of Mitrovice is fairly ok, and the library of Zubin Potok needs rehabilitation as it is victim of neglect.

### **Leposaviq/Leposavic Municipal Library**

The municipal libraries of Leposavic in the Northern Serb enclave are undamaged. Today the system consists of the main library in the town itself, two branches in Leshak and Socanice and a school library in Vraceve, serving an area inhabited by 15.000 people. 5.000 live in the town Leposavic itself. Today 98% of the population is Serb. There used to be three ethnic Albanian villages in the area. There used to be a branch library in Banja, but it is not functioning anymore. The main library stacks include 13.500 books, the branch library of Leshak 5.392 and the branch library of Socanice 6.702. They receive supplies of new books from the Yugoslav Ministry of Culture, but lack space. The library includes no technical equipment, like photocopier, fax, computer or television.

After the war three new educational institutions have moved to the town; a college of gymnastics and sports, a high school of economics and business and a teacher's high school. There is no cooperation with other library systems. Before the war interlibrary loans were part of a normal praxis, but not any more. The library system employs 10 people; the director, six librarians, two administrative clerks and one assistant. Two librarians are working in Socanice and one in Leshak. The libraries have around 1.000 registered users with a large proportion of children and youngsters (more than 50%). There has been a decrease in loans in 1999 - a good 15.000 compared to a normal of around 20.000.

### **Vushtrri/Vucitrn Municipal Library**

Until 1990 the municipality of Vushtrri had 9 public libraries with 77.284 books. The main library had 34.000 books, while the 8 branches in Maxhunaj, Dumnicë, Samadrexhë, Pantinë, Strofc, Duboc, Smrekonicë and Prelluzhë had a little more than 43.000 books.

Today the main library and five branches are functioning, though the main library has lost more than 16.000 books and the branch libraries in Strofc and Duboc has been burned down by local Serbs. The building of the library in Dumnicë was also destroyed, but some books survived and are kept in a classroom at the local school. The libraries of Smrekonica and Prelluzha were damaged. All in all around 38.000 books and many inventories were destroyed in the municipality. The library in Pantinë was only reopened at the end of February 2000.

Prelluzhë is an ethnic Serb dominated village, so the director, Mr. Izet Aliu, could give no exact information, as there was no contact: "We don't have the courage to go there". The librarians at the main library claimed that they had tried to talk with their colleagues in Prelluzhë, but that they were not willing to co-operate.

In 1992 the ethnic Albanians were expelled from the main library, but the continued working in a parallel library system based on branch libraries in the municipality. According to the director the library system of Vushtrri employs 11 library workers, four of these in the main library and 7 in the branches. The main library is located within the House of Culture, but was made an administrative

independent unit around the 1 of March 2000. The leadership of the House of Culture has approved this new status.

The libraries in this municipality need rehabilitation; better facilities, more space and a reading room, new books (almost half the books has been destroyed) and computers.

### **Skenderaj/Srbica Public Library**

Before 1990 the municipality of Skenderaj had 7 public libraries with a total of around 68.000 books. The main library had 20.000, while the branches in Likoc, Turizek, Runik, Klinë e Epërme and Prekaz i Epërme with 48.000 books. All the branches in the countryside were demolished to some degree by the Serbian Black Hand; only two library buildings survived – the others were burned - and all the books are gone.

The main municipal library of Skenderaj has except for some damages to the building survived, but is not functioning. The library is located in and administered by the House of Culture. The building is fairly modern and spacious, but suffers from years of neglect. The roof is leaking and all furniture and other equipment has been removed. Though formally intact book collection is in a very bad shape; some books has been damaged by water, some taken away and the remainder is maltreated. Some books were used as 'stepping stones' in the ponds on the floor. The IRC (International Rescue Committee) this summer plans to start rehabilitation of the building and has promised to assist in providing new furniture as well. The library system today employs four librarians.

### **4.3.4 Gjilan/Gnjilane district**

Gjilan/Gnjilane, Shterpcë/Strpce, Kaçanik/Kacnik, Viti/Vitina, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Novobërdë/Novo Brdo, Kamenicë/Kosovska Kamenica

*The Gjilan district is located in the south-eastern corner of Kosova. The district borders the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to the south and to the Federal Yugoslav Republic of Serbia to the east.*

### **Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipal Library**

Before 1990 the municipality of Gjilan had 14 public libraries with 167.562 books. The main library had almost 74.000 books (65% in Albanian), while the branch libraries in Zhegër, Pogradjë, Bresalc, Përlepticë, Pasjan, Koretisht, Partesh, Budrikë e Ulet, Dobërçan, Cërnice, Malishevë, Llashticë and Shurdhan had 95.546 books.

Today the municipality of Gjilani has 10 working municipal libraries with a total of 116.832 books. The main library was reopened after the war on June 21 1999. In this municipality the 4 libraries in Dobërçan, Cërnice, Malishevë and Shurdhan have been destroyed and closed since 1990. Three of these branches were burned down, while the fourth in Malishevë was closed 8 years ago and it has not yet been possible to reopen it. The library was a mixed Serb-Albanian library and all books in Serbian were sent to other branches. Four other branch libraries in Pasjan, Partesh, Budrikë e Ulet and Koretishtë are in Serb areas. According to the director of the municipal libraries, Mr. Shefki Osmani, they are ok and working, but there is no contact to the municipal library system.



Practically no destruction was done to the main library - only 2.000 titles were missing, but more than 64.000 books in Albanian were destroyed in the villages. The branch libraries have since the end of the war received 11.000 new books, but "not the books, the readers want", said Mr. Osmani. The main library still holds 74.000 books in Albanian (64%), Serbian, Turkish and English. Almost all titles in Albanian were published before 1990.

The municipality has 140.000 inhabitants out of which 64.000 live in the city of Gjilan itself. The libraries of this municipality are independent from the House of Culture and are working organisations of their own. The library system today employs a staff of 15 – 11 ethnic Albanians and four ethnic Serbs.

The libraries of Gjilan have received no assistance from international NGOs, but support from local enterprises, e.g. the local company Compact. The Gjilan municipal library system is one of the best functioning library systems in Kosova, despite the difficult situation it has even had the surplus to donate 1000 titles for the library of Gillogovc.

There is a lack of qualified staff and the present staff has not been paid since they started working again after the war. The library lacks a decent reading room and inventory. It does not have a computer, a fax or a photocopier at disposition.

#### **Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipal Library**

Before 1990 the municipality of Ferizaj had 7 public libraries with 60.565 books. The main library had 30.913 books, while branches in Gaçkë, Kamogllavë, Talinoc të Muhaxherëve, Nerodime, Babush and Shtërpcë had 29.252 books, but libraries, including buildings and inventory and book collections, were destroyed here as well. The municipality now has five libraries left with total amount of 34.213 books. The main library now holds 2.700 children's books (before 10.705 – almost 75% in Albanian) and 5.647 books for grown-ups (before 20.208). The branch libraries now only stock 16.652 books in total. The two branch libraries in Shtërpcë and Babush have been destroyed and in Nerodime the books have disappeared, and may have been destroyed.

The main library includes only a small reading room and lacks space for children. The director, Ms. Servete Krasniqi-Hajrullah, who was appointed director after the war, informed us that the branch library of Babush is now being rebuilt. The library system employs 10 to 11 people - three in the main library. None of the employees has had any salary since the end of the war, and since 1987 no acquisition of new books in Albanian has been made.

#### **4.3.5 Prizren/Prizren district**

Prizren/Prizren, Suharekë/Suva Reka, Rahovec/Orahovac, Malishevë/Malisevo, Dragash/Gora

*The Prizren district constitutes the southernmost part of Kosova and is bounded to the south-west by the mountainous border to Albania and to the south-east by the mountainous border to the Former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia.*

#### **Prizren/Prizren Municipal Library**

Before 1990 the municipality of Prizren had 8 public libraries with a total amount of 82.293 books. The main library in Prizren had 54.462 books, while 7 branches and combined libraries (school and public) in Zhur, Velezhë, Sredski, Lubizhdë, Pirana, Mamusha and Zym had 27.831 books. The libraries in general survived the war without major damages, though the library in Zhur, the biggest village of the municipality, collapsed as a consequence of Nato bombing. Books and furniture from the library were saved and are now stocked in the main library. The director of the House of Culture, Mr. Dashnor Xerxa, informed us that there are efforts made to find a new location and re-establish the branch library. Furthermore a total of around 24.000 library books have been destroyed or removed in the municipality

The main library of Prizren was established in 1944 and was reopened immediately after the war on June 15th 1999. The library stacks now include 39.945 books: 12.268 in Albanian, 22.216 in Serbian, 5.382 in Turkish and 79 in foreign languages. There has been no acquisitions made during the last ten years and even the books in stacks are in bad condition. The main library is located in and still administered by the House of Culture. The municipal council will decide if the library should be made an independent institution. In 1991 ethnic Albanians were dismissed from the libraries, though some still worked there. The library has been without director except for the last two years (1998-1999), when an ethnic Serb director was appointed. There are three library professionals employed at the main library and Mr. Xerxa would soon request for 2-3 more.

Today the branch libraries stock a total of around 18.000 books. The branches in Velezhë, Lubidzhde and Pirana are combined school and public libraries located in schools. The library of Zym was closed in 1988, but has been reopened in January 2000 and is now operated by a professional librarian. All other branches are managed by school teachers and are still not functioning. The library in Mamusha, which was a Turkish library, is now closed, but the books are stored in the main library. Sredski is an ethnic Serb village and the library is located in the House of Culture, but there is no contact with the other libraries in the municipality and Mr. Xerxa had no information on the conditions in the library.

Mr. Xerxa indicated needs for new locations for library branches, an overall need for new books and at least three computers. He had submitted a request for a generator to the UNMIK administration and had been promised DM 3.000, but still lacked DM 2.000.

Mr. Xerxa, who is also a professor at the Pedagogical High School, informed us that the faculty has a good library, including reading room, professional literature on physics, chemistry, mathematics, pedagogic and Albanian language and literature.

### **Malisheva/Malisevo Municipal Library**

Prior to 1990 the municipality of Malisheva had five public libraries with almost 41.000 books. The main library had 13.000 books, while the branch libraries in Kijevë, Bajë, Bellanicë and Lubizhdë had had 28.000 books. During the last 10 years, especially during the war of 1999, libraries were practically totally destroyed in this municipality. Today only 1.096 books remain in the branch library of Kijeva, while all the other libraries have been destroyed.

The main municipal library was burned down in July 1998 and the three branch libraries in July 1999. Serb special units were responsible for the burning of houses. They used various units for

different purposes. Not just random buildings were selected for burning, those that were suspected of housing offices were given priority. This municipality is one of the most damaged in regard to libraries and library books, both buildings and books or documents have been demolished.

Malisheva has 60.000 inhabitants and is considered one of the poorest areas in Kosova. There are no factories, no House of Culture and the municipality lacks even sewers. During 1998 the area was controlled by the KLA for 3 months and only three of 45 villages were intact after the war. All 21 schools including school libraries were burned down - the schools in town have been rebuilt, but in the villages the schools are still in tents. The High school including a library was burned as well. Local enterprises used to have their small professional libraries as well but everything is burned down. The mayor of Malisheva, Mr. Gani Krasniqi said; "The Serbs not only didn't invest, but they destroyed the small bits in existence".

The municipal authorities have found a location for a new main library, but need support from international NGOs and UNMIK to re-establish library services.

### **Rahovec/Orahovac Municipal Library**

Before 1990 the municipality of Rahovec had five public libraries with a total of about 49.000 books. The main library had 15.320 books, while branches in Ratkoc, Krushë të Madhe, Xërxë and Hoç të Madhe had 33.786 books. The main library in central Rahovec has not been burned, but the building is in a very bad condition (the roof is leaking) and almost all the books have been destroyed or taken away. The library is not functioning and the remaining small collection of 1.200 books in Serbo-Croatian is stocked in the House of Culture. Three branch libraries have been totally burned while the fourth in Krushë të Madhe is the only library of the municipality still working.

34 villages in the area have been burned down and according to the Mayor, Agim Thaci, the only one that survived was Serb village. 10.226 houses were burned. He plans to reopen 10 libraries all in all including some combined school and public libraries in Quifflak, Drenoc, Malsi e Vogel and Raposte. The municipal co-ordinator of culture, Mr. Fehmi Hoxha informed us that all school libraries have been destroyed, including a high school library with two branches, in Rahovec and Krushë të Madhe.

Mr. Hoxha also informed us that he has forwarded a DM 118.000 plan to rehabilitate the building and its services to a German NGO, THW, which has its Balkan HQ in Rahovec. The plan includes a museum, an art gallery and a small scale reconstruction of the library (DM 37,534) involving repairs of the facilities, a reading room, equipment and furniture, and the acquisition of 3.500 books for children, 3.000 books for adults and additional 100 scientific books. The House of Culture is housed in a building constructed in 1962, but maintenance has been severely neglected. There is no electricity - no generator. He has also asked the municipal authorities to provide a new building for the library. "Culture is experience, we have to invest in culture, but not everybody understand that", Mr. Hoxha concluded.

There is no professional staff employed at the libraries, except for the librarian in Krushë të Madhe, Mr. Bajram Nalli, who is also House of Culture co-ordinator. The library of Krushë used to have 12.000 books (some in Serbian), but 6.000 books or 2.500 titles are lost. Most books were destroyed while borrowed along with the homes of library users. Mr. Nalli had lost his two sons, two brothers

and five nephews in a massacre committed by Serbs in the village, but still intended to preserve the books in Serbian. Today the library services 400-600 readers. Mr. Nalli's library and the House of Culture have received some support from ISC (Italian Social Center). This only functioning library in the municipality will soon be removed or closed, because the UNMIK needs the facilities for the civil registration process preparing for the local elections in the autumn.

#### 4.4 School libraries

The large majority of the librarians we met during our stay in Kosova was rooted in either public or academic libraries. When asked about school libraries they frequently answered that each primary school had its own library, and that they were intact and had survived the war. These answers were contradicted by the fact that most public library branches destroyed were located in countryside villages and often served as both school and public libraries. Furthermore it is certain that not every school had a library even according to official FRY statistics. And taking into account the situation of the Kosova educational system since 1989 - an official Serb-dominated system and a parallel unofficial Albanian, it is more than unlikely. They seem to refer more to the intentions of the legal acts, than actual facts.

These statements might either reflect some anxiety that potential assistance efforts and donor contributions should be directed to the school sector instead of their own institutions or simply a lack of real knowledge concerning the issue. Either way it indicates a need for better communication and co-operation between the educational and the cultural sector.

UNICEF has assessed the situation of 1.058, out of a total of 1.200 primary and secondary schools in Kosova. 873 have been committed for repair - 132 schools are totally destroyed and need to be totally rebuilt. Along with these schools, school libraries were also devastated.

271 schools are in the process of repair, and 379 have been completed. UNICEF has funded the work on 35 of the completed schools, UNHCR 96, and ECHO 111. The Red Cross and bilateral donations through NGOs and international organisations have funded the rest.

Water supply and electricity are lacking in many schools; latrines are lacking or in poor condition. The communications around many of these schools also require reconstruction with many homes uninhabitable. After looting and destruction of furniture, schools have requested desks, chairs and blackboards and UNICEF is involved in a range of relief projects, including support to local authorities in the provision of textbooks.

A co-ordinated initiative, the DESK (Designing an Education System for Kosova/Kosovo) is ongoing in order to reconstruct and develop a modernised educational system. Due to the total destruction as consequence of the war there were no books available for more than half the million pupils of elementary and secondary school at the beginning of the school year 1999-2000.

Under the auspices of UNMIK a Consortium on Textbooks for Kosova was established. The Consortium included some major donors: The Austrian Government / Federal Chancellery, Canadian Government / CIDA, Danish Government / DANIDA, Department for International Development, DFID / UK, Kosova Foundation for Open Society / KFOS, Plataforma por Kosova / Spain, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation / SDC, UNICEF and US Department-

Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration / BPRM. The project has been co-ordinated by KFOS and OSI Budapest and the books were distributed through the network of Libri Shkollor, which covers every school in Kosovo.

The consortium has succeeded to collect funds (around 5 million DM) for printing 192 school textbooks in Albanian with a total circulation of 3.2 million copies as well as for textbook supplies in Serbian, Bosnian and Turkish. To date 131 titles, approximately two million individual copies, have been printed and distributed. UNICEF Prishtina is also supporting the publishing and shipment of Bosnian textbooks from Sarajevo to Kosovo for immediate distribution to Bosnian schoolchildren in Kosovo.

EU (Education International) helps with the rebuilding of education facilities in Kosovo. Education International has affiliates in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. SBASHK (Union of Education, Science and Culture of Kosovo), one of the affiliates, has set about ensuring educational services for Kosovar children and young people.

Like the librarians the Kosovo Albanian teachers have been without salaries since autumn 1998, that is prior to and including the period of and after NATO intervention. A programme implemented with the assistance of UNICEF provides teachers' kits.

Having established, in consultation with UNESCO, building standards for the rehabilitation and construction of schools, UNICEF will soon be seeking NGO partners to rebuild completely destroyed schools, with a US\$ 24.3 million donation from the Government of Japan ensured through the UN Human Security Fund for a two-year programme. A total of 73 schools will be constructed, including a number of new schools. Around 300 schools will be provided with basic water and sanitation, following UNICEF's July 1999 assessment that found that 22 per cent of schools are without water, most schools have only exterior toilets, and very few have separate facilities for boys and girls. The same donation will fund a network of 35 model schools in which advanced teaching methods and curricula will be introduced, including schools with Turkish, Bosnian, and Serbian pupils. Support for the education authorities in Kosovo will also be funded, while special training will be provided to the teachers of children with special needs.

The question of reconciliation and of cultural plurality is also attempted dealt with in the school sector. After lengthy negotiations, the school in Janjevo finally includes Croat and Roma children, in addition to Kosovar Albanian pupils. The Croat teachers are teaching at the same time as the Kosovar Albanians, in different classrooms. The school has a small library that includes Kosovar Albanian, Serb and Croat books.

On the 20th of March the OSCE started a distribution project delivering 10,000 children's books to schools across Kosovo. The idea was born a year ago, when thousands of people were housed in refugee camps in Macedonia and Albania having left everything in Kosovo and their children lost their literature. Texts were selected and funding was found from the NGO, Capanamor. But by the time the books were printed the camps had emptied. Those books are now boxed in sets of six with a play, poetry, short stories and two novels, going to the children for whom they were prepared. And instead of being handed out in the camps, the gifts are given in the classrooms of Kosovo.

#### 4.5 Religious libraries and book collections

Our mission did not perform a thorough analysis of the state of religious libraries and book collections. We visited shortly the Serb-Orthodox Patriarchat near Peja and the monastery of Ulpiana/Gracanice, but were not able to meet people, who could give extensive information on the situation of orthodox libraries and book collections. We tried unsuccessfully to arrange a meeting with Father Sava Janjic, the most prominent international representative of the Serb-Orthodox Church, but he was in the USA during the period of our mission.

A general description of the destruction of Serb-Orthodox churches was given. 82 churches, some of them including old books and manuscripts, have been completely or partly destroyed by ethnic Albanians during and after the war. The exact scale of the destruction of books and manuscripts is not known, but it is certain that many Serb-Orthodox churches and monasteries, have been looted, burned down or demolished by explosives. This information corresponds with information available from reporters and international media and we also saw e.g. the central Orthodox Church of Gjakova lying in ruins. To our knowledge all Serb-Orthodox religious building and monuments now have armed KFOR protection.

In October 1999 Andras Riedlmayer, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University, USA, spent three weeks in Kosova conducting a postwar survey of the state of cultural and religious heritage, including libraries. The survey, supported by a grant from the Packard Humanities Institute, was undertaken to assess wartime damage and to identify projects and institutions in need of assistance. His report provides fairly detailed information on the state of both Christian and Muslim religious libraries and book collections:

"The three most important Serbian Orthodox institutions, the Serbian Patriarchate in Pec and the monasteries at Visoki Decani and Gracanica, have notable collections of manuscripts and documents from the medieval and Ottoman periods. These monasteries and their collections survived the war without damage and are under the protection of KFOR troops; some of the most valuable material had reportedly been moved to Serbia before the outbreak of the war. The Orthodox Church also has a seminary and theological library in Prizren (Bogoslovija Sv. Kirila i Metodija, est. 1871). Since the end of the war in June 1999, the seminary has served as a shelter for Serb refugees; we found the building intact and closely guarded by German KFOR soldiers.

The manuscript libraries and historic archives of the Islamic Community of Kosovo (KBI), which held the written record of 600 years of Islamic culture in the region, suffered terrible destruction. The most serious loss of non-governmental archives in Kosova was the burning of the KBI's Central Archive in the center of Pristina, housed in a building adjoining the fifteenth-century Sultan Murad Mosque. The Islamic Community archive was torched by Serbian policemen on 13 June 1999".

The Serbian Forces also destroyed other major Islamic manuscript collections in Kosova in March-June 1999. Among the most serious losses are according to Riedlmayer:

- The burning on 24 March of the library of Hadum Suleiman Aga in Djakovica with holdings of ca. 200 manuscripts and 1,300 rare books in Ottoman Turkish, Arabic and Aljamiado (Albanian

in Arabic script), and the regional archives of the Islamic Community (KBI) with records going back to the 17th century.

- The destruction of the Bektashi tekke (dervish lodge) of Axhize Baba in Djakovica (Gjakova), which had one of the most valuable collections of Islamic manuscripts in the region. The fire consumed 250 manuscripts and more than 2,000 rare books; the computerized catalogue was burned along with the library. The tekke was burned to the ground at the beginning of May 1999 by Serbian troops using shoulder-launched incendiary grenades.
- The library of the Atik Medrese, in Peja, was burned to the ground, with only parts of the outer walls still standing and its collection of 2,000 printed books and ca. 100 manuscript codices a total loss.
- The Ottoman-era theological school, the Atik Medrese in Urosevac (Ferizaj) was also burned down and the remains levelled by bulldozer.

According to Riedlmayer 209 mosques, 1/3 of all Islamic houses of worship in Kosova, were burned down, blown up or severely damaged by Serb forces in the spring of 1999 and during the previous summer. This destruction included hundreds of old, hand-written Korans and other manuscripts and religious books in mosque libraries.

#### 4.6 Professional and library environment

Shoqata e Bibliotekarëve të Kosovës (Kosova Association of Librarians) has been reestablished in February 2000. KAL organises 300 library professionals and Jetish Kadashani of the National and University Library is elected president. The annual membership fee is DM 6, -. The organisation intended to relaunch a printed newsletter "Biblioteka" in March 2000. The first and so far only issue was published in 1984. The association has established relation with the library associations of Albania, Croatia, Slovenia, Macedonia, Bosnia and Italy.

Major newspapers of Kosova based in Prishtina are Rilindja, Bota Sot, Koha Ditore, Dardania, Zeri and Kosova Sot. Many Kosovar Albanian publishing houses are operating in Kosova after the war even if relevant statistics were unavailable. Translations of low quality novels dominate the market. There is an active Kosova writers association and we were informed that there are about 30 printing houses, three or four larger ones, and some of them also functioning as publishers.

According to Tania Vitvisky, Sabre Foundation, books in Albanian can be procured in both Albania and Kosova, at an estimated average cost of DM 4-5 per book, plus transport. The director of Mitrovica Municipal Library, Mr. Hajrulla Mustafa, showed us the list of books in print holding 654 titles from a Kosovar publishing house, Buzuku. To buy one copy of each book would amount to a price of DM 5.336, the equivalent of DM 8,16 per book.

According to Mr. Osmani, director of Gjilan Public Library, Gjilan is a centre for Kosovar intellectuals. The city hosts an annual book fair organised by the library. The UNMIK regional administration provided DM 4.400 for this book fair organised by the library in the autumn of 1999. 12 publishing houses participated: 10 from Kosova and 2 from Albania and Macedonia. The book fair, which normally takes place in May, also included a meeting of Kosovar writers.

In July 1999 the Kosova Internet Project (IPKO) was initiated by the International Rescue Committee (IRC). The idea was to create a self-financing Internet service provider that could sell

service to international organisations and provide free connections to civil society institutions. With the permission of UNMIK, IPKO installed a satellite dish and a fixed-wireless microwave network and went online on September 21 1999. On March 5 2000 IRC turned over control and IPKO officially became an independent local NGO. IPKO provides Internet services to 81 organisations in Kosova and the paying customers includes UNMIK, OSCE, UNDP, WHO, the World Bank, IOM several other international NGOs, local Internet cafes and businesses. With the proceeds from these customers free Internet connections are provided for 26 local organisations including the University of Prishtina, Prishtina Hospital, local media organisations, joint access centres for local NGOs, journalists and doctors.

Television Kosovo (RTK) started transmitting on Sunday 19 September 1999 marking an important step towards establishing an independent public broadcasting service in Kosova. The daily two-hour broadcasts contain news and programmes in both Albanian and Serbian languages. In the future, other minority languages will be added. The station also serves as a relay for UNMIK public information programmes.

On February 1 2000 the UNMIK administration issued a regulation against hate speech, regulation no. 2000/4, titled "On the Prohibition against inciting to National, Racial, Religious or Ethnic Hatred, Discord or Intolerance". Article 1.1 states that:

"Whoever publicly incites or publicly spreads hatred, discord or intolerance between national, racial, religious, ethnic or other such groups living in Kosovo which acts are likely to disturb public order shall be punished by a fine or by imprisonment not exceeding five years or both".

OSCE regards the regulation as a key element for a democratic society in which civil discussions and political debates must take place in a responsible and non-violent manner. The Regulation has been discussed with the Kosovo Joint Advisory Council of Legislative Matters and the Council of Europe, whose comments have been reflected in the law. The law is consistent with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights.

There will be prison terms of up to 10 years if someone commits these acts systematically or takes advantage of his or her position. This puts a special responsibility on people who have - by their position, office or function - the ability to reach large audiences. These include politicians, community leaders, journalists, publishers and teachers. The Regulation applies if the incitement to hatred is directed against any group. In cases of alleged incitement to hatred, an investigation has to be carried out by an investigating judge. It is then up to a prosecutor to file an indictment so that the case can be tried. Ultimately a court has to decide on the merits of the case.

In a speech the ambassador Daan Everts, OSCE Head of Mission, on 16 February 2000 said: "We cannot tolerate hate speech anywhere in society -- whether it is on the radio, in the classroom, in a newspaper or at a political rally. Which is why the issuing of the regulation on hate speech at the beginning of this month was so important. Most of all, the new regulation should work as a deterrent". He also stated that: "We have no plan to have a press law for printed media; in fact we are determined NOT to have such a law. It smacks of censorship... The regulation has limited applications. It is not censorship and has nothing against critical reporting".



Major international organisations dedicated to freedom of expression, like Article 19 and the Global Campaign for Free Expression, have expressed concerns that this measure goes beyond the scope of restrictions on freedom of expression permitted under international law. They deem it an inappropriate solution to the very complex problem of racism and intolerance in Kosova.

#### **4.7 General conclusions**

The National and University Library and other special libraries are in decay, the preservation of cultural heritage in terms of printed materials endangered and the national systems to record and disseminate documents are practically out of function. Large parts of the valuable collections in the National and University Library have been removed and probably destroyed during the period 1990-1999.

The major damages to library buildings are done in the rural areas of western and central Kosova. Libraries in the larger towns generally survived the war and the turbulent post-war period in better condition. The buildings of academic and special libraries situated in towns are mostly intact, but collections have often suffered from demolition, looting and neglect. Functioning academic and special libraries generally store outdated collections and lacks modern equipment and technology.

A large share of local public and school libraries need total reconstruction of buildings and collections. Many such libraries, especially in the countryside, have been totally burned down. Others have had their book collections removed or destroyed, and those who are still functioning suffer from the effects of almost 10 years of neglect in acquisitions. Equally many library books have been burned along with the homes of users. An estimated total of almost half the stocks of all the public libraries are lost. A great part of the remaining books are either outdated or irrelevant to local inhabitants due to their ideological, linguistic or ethnic character. Practically all equipment has been removed and most of the present staff needs training after a long period without professional practice and systematic education.

There is no co-operation, or even contact, between professionals of the ethnic Albanian majority and professionals in ethnic Serbian enclaves. The road to reconciliation or even just peaceful co-existence is dim and unclear and the prospects to large part depend on the overall political development in Kosova and the Balkans.

There is a strong need for co-ordinated initiatives and efficient communication within the library field. Definitions of "national" Kosovar obligations and commitments need to be made or reconfirmed concerning the overall preservation and registration of printed cultural heritage. In general there is a heavy need for reading rooms, children's literature, current professional literature and access to new technology. International support in terms of funding and professional assistance is essential to reconstruct libraries and a functioning library network.

## 5. Recommendations: Short- and medium-term development plan

### 5.1 Basic principles and assumptions

One might rightfully ask, why bother about libraries, in a situation when people lack even houses, heating, electricity and other truly basic commodities?

Library services can be an important, and fairly easily applicable, tool in the process of reconstruction. Libraries can, not least in an area like Kosova, provide local gateways to knowledge, reflect the plurality and diversity of society and support the process of democratisation. In doing so libraries promote reading, education and culture in a region with few or no other offerings and a large share of children and youth. In periods of transition or reformation such qualities are paramount.

The UNESCO Public Library Manifesto provides some important clues to the public interest in libraries, their role in society, democracy and transition processes:

"Freedom, Prosperity and the Development of society and individuals are fundamental human values. They will only be attained through the ability of well-informed citizens to exercise their democratic rights and to play an active role in society. Constructive participation and the development of democracy depend on satisfactory education as well as on free and unlimited access to knowledge, thought, culture and information. The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups".

The Manifesto proclaims UNESCO's belief in the public library as "a living force for education, culture and information, and as an essential agent for the fostering of peace and spiritual welfare through the minds of men and women". These basic values are equally valid in relation to academic and special libraries, which in addition promotes the development of sciences and research and thus the general spiritual, cultural, social and economic prosperity and progress of society.

The IFLA statement on Libraries and Intellectual Freedom stresses that "a commitment to intellectual freedom is a core responsibility for the library and information profession" and that libraries "help to safeguard basic democratic values and universal civil rights". It also states that libraries should be "reflecting the plurality and diversity of society" and that they "shall make materials, facilities and services equally accessible to all users" without discrimination due to race, creed, gender, age or for any other reason.

The UNESCO School Library Manifesto proclaim that "The school library provides information and ideas that are fundamental to functioning successfully in today's information and knowledge-based society. The school library equips students with life-long learning skills and develops the imagination, enabling them to live as responsible citizens".

The following proposed plan, Kosova Library Project 2000+, is based on the findings of our mission and on the documentation obtained from other sources mentioned in the previous parts of this report. But it is also based on assumptions and principles of both professional theoretical and practical nature deriving from the perceptions of library activities sketched out above:

1. *Access to information - prerequisite to democracy*

The basic human rights, the freedom of expression and the freedom of access to information, are prerequisites to democracy, and access to information is essential to reconstruction and transition processes.

2. *Libraries as offensive tools*

The ambitions of this plan is not just to re-establish the situation of libraries in Kosova as it was before decay and destruction began in 1989. It is also to point out and recommend the use of libraries as offensive tools promoting values such as human rights, democracy, societal participation and cultural diversity and to stimulate the general flow of information and thus raising level of knowledge.

3. *Libraries - efficient and cost-effective*

Libraries are efficient and relatively inexpensive means to promote and stimulate culture, education and research, to provide leisure and useful information, and to establish basic conditions for democracy, development and participation. In transition processes – as a means for change - these qualities are even more evident: as locally anchored gateways to knowledge with no obligations attached to use, libraries provide a range of opportunities to the individual and to society.

4. *Networks and local anchoring*

Networking is the most efficient tool to exploit existing resources and to release the power of synergy. Local anchoring or presence is essential to properly address actual and specific local needs.

5. *Collaboration and connectivity*

Joint measures within the administrative sectors of education and culture is the most rational way to use the existing limited resources in both sectors, to accommodate common needs and to benefit from assistance provided for.

6. *Structure and initiative*

An overall Kosovar approach and co-ordination is necessary to provide efficient and lasting solutions and effective international assistance, but room for local initiative and involvement is a condition to ensure Kosovar anchoring and to stimulate and engage all the best resources.

7. *Professional platforms and power of the example*

Building local professional capacity and decentralised resource centres in districts and municipalities provides a broadened professional environment and a platform to stimulate development, creativity and participation. It also establishes examples to inspire others.

8. *IT - a quick solution*

Information technology and the Internet are essential and efficient tools quickly providing access to large quantities of information and a means of communication to library users and professionals.

9. *Information furthers reconciliation*

Special initiatives are needed to promote acceptance of cultural diversity, integration or peaceful

co-existence. Libraries and increased access to information can be tools to enhance such values and to further a process of reconciliation in a longer-term perspective.

10. *Immediate solutions with perspective*

Initiatives of reconstruction and rehabilitation within the library field should both provide immediate and medium-term relief and interim-solutions but also building stones for a long-term development.

11. *Small administration and cost-effectiveness*

The plan aims to maximise the effects of financial support and professional assistance provided and therefore suggests the widest use of existing structures and organisations and a minimum of new administrative organs.

## 5.2 Kosova Library Project 2000+

The Kosova Library Mission proposes the following outline for the rehabilitation and enforcement of libraries in Kosova. The 3-4 years action plan both includes short-term projects and attempts to point out longer-term strategies for the recovery and development of library services.

The plan suggests the formation of a time-limited body, a Kosova Library Consortium, which should include both local doers, major international donors and international organisations providing professional expertise and advise. A more elaborate and detailed action plan on Kosova libraries could be developed within this framework.

The action plan includes a proposed range of 11 special programmes to be established, each covering different needs and aspects of library activities, but in total covering a fairly complete view of the library environment as a whole:

1. Legislation and administration programme
2. Mobile library service programme
3. Reconstruction Programme
4. Book and Reading Programme
5. Information Technology Programme
6. Professional Training and Development Programme
7. Cultural Heritage Programme
8. Children and Youth Programme
9. Open access programme
10. Initiative Support Programme
11. Twinning Programme

The suggested programmes vary in nature and financial weight. An initial and very rough estimate of the funding needed for basic short-term measures amounts to around DM 14 millions.

The first programme lines out the structural basis on which the rehabilitation process can be founded. The five programmes requiring the most immediate initiative and a heavy part of external funding are the Mobile Library Programme, the Reconstruction Programme, The Professional Training and Development Programme, the Books and Reading Programme, and the Information

Technology Programme. There are important correlations between these programmes: The reconstruction of buildings is a longer-term task, which may take some years. Therefore mobile library services are suggested as a fairly immediate compensatory initiative. The buildings themselves have no value without books, technology or qualified library professionals.

The Cultural Heritage Programme aims to provide practical solutions to urgent preservation and security needs. The Children and Youth programme and the Open Access Programme are of a more library political nature with the aim to reform and strengthen certain important aspects of the societal role of libraries. The last two programmes are suggesting the establishment of specific tools to ensure and promote local involvement and participation.

### **5.2.1 Kosova Library Consortium**

There is an overall need to co-ordinate both local and international initiatives addressing the needs of Kosovar libraries in general. A Kosova Library Consortium (KLC) should be the focal point linking international and local interests. It should propose, co-ordinate and supervise activities over a period of three to four years and:

- Take initiatives to make a more elaborate plan of action for Kosovar libraries
- Identify potential donors among aid agencies, governments and private foundations
- Establish collaborative partnerships with relevant concerned organisations
- Develop and carry out projects according to plans
- Secure that financial, technical and human resources are spent according to decisions
- Evaluate the overall activities in a systematic manner
- Collect and disseminate by publication or on request information on Kosova library developments

The KLC should be the formal decision-making body of the Kosova Library Project 2000+. It should include representatives of all relevant stakeholders, local doers, international donors and consultative organisations, either involved according to mandatory tasks or involved as major financing partners. The following stakeholders should take part in addition to others: UNMIK, relevant Kosova institutions and organisations, UNESCO, CoE and IFLA.

The Kosova Library Consortium should appoint an international expert to be its representative on location in Prishtina. This expert could either be employed directly by the UNMIK administration or by the consortium itself. If the expert position is provided for a three-year period the estimated costs would be around DM 450.000. The main responsibility for this part of the plan lies with UNESCO, CoE and IFLA.

## **5.3 Special programmes**

### **5.3.1 Legislation and administration programme**

This programme aims to establish or reinforce the basic conditions in terms of legislation or regulations and administrative structure of a contemporary Kosovar library system.

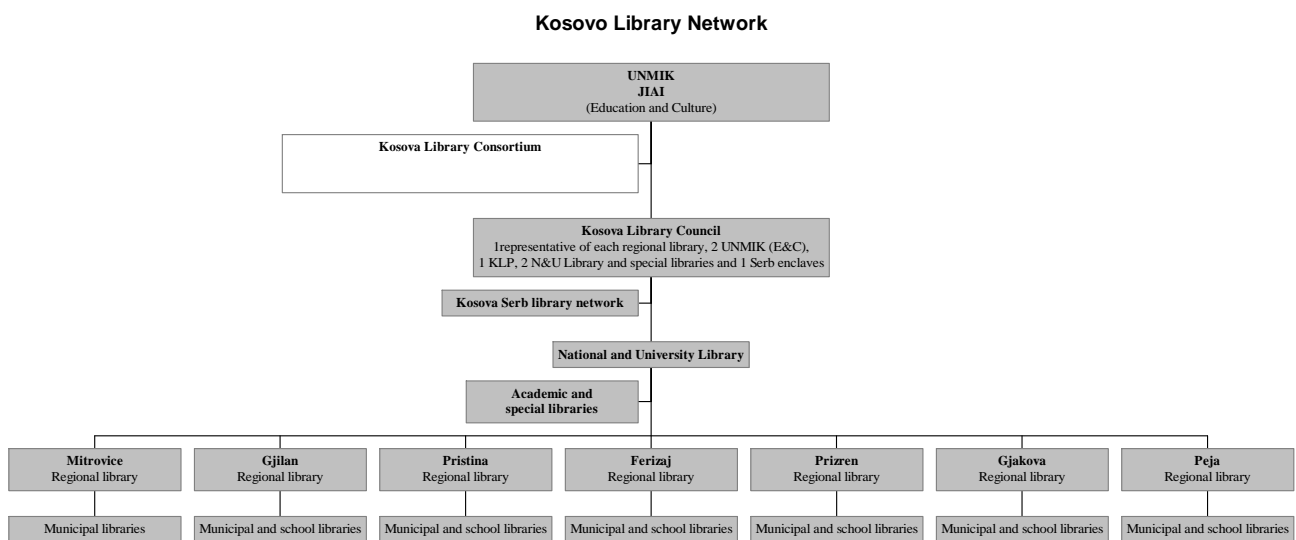
Relevant Kosovar legislation should either be revised, based on the former Yugoslav legislation, or established on the basis of present and future needs. The competence of Council of Europe

legislative experts should be used. It is suggested that the following actions be taken as soon as possible:

1. revision of the library law
2. revision of the copyright law
3. revision of the legal deposit law
4. inclusion of library minimum standards or formulations in educational legislation on all levels

Drafts should be elaborated, debated and approved within the administrative structure sketched out below before adoption.

**Figure 5. Kosova library network**



The administration of the future Kosova library infrastructure could be based on the following basic elements:

1. A Kosova Library Council is established with the following tasks:
  - give advise to government bodies on library and information matters
  - make recommendation to relevant bodies concerning projects and expenditure
2. The National and University library as the national resource centre providing:
  - central technical services like cataloguing and classification
  - central Internet services
  - a national back-up in book collections,
  - professional competence and training
  - copyright clearance centre
  - centre of the book
3. A number of regional resource centres, which should support all categories of libraries within their district with:
  - initiatives and inspiration concerning library development
  - support by providing books, library technical advise and assistance

- representation of local needs and local interest at the national level

The Kosova Library Council should include two representatives of the Joint Interim Administrative Structure departments of Culture and Education, two representatives of the National and University Library and other special or academic libraries, one representative of each regional library and one representative of the Kosova Library Consortium.

**Figure 6. Districts of Kosova**

<b>Current administrative districts:</b>		<b>Proposed library districts:</b>	
<b>Name of district</b>	<b>Municipalities included</b>	<b>Name of district</b>	<b>Municipalities included</b>
<b>Mitrovice</b>	Mitrovice/Mitrovica Skenderaj/Srbica Vushtrri/Vucitrn Leposaviq/Leposavic Zvecan/Zvecan Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok	<b>Mitrovice</b>	Mitrovice/Mitrovica Skenderaj/Srbica Vushtrri/Vucitrn
		<b>Leposaviq</b>	Leposaviq/Leposavic Zvecan/Zvecan Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok
<b>Peja</b>	Peja/Pec Istog/Istok Klinë/Klina Gjakova/Djakovica Decan/Decani	<b>Peja</b>	Peja/Pec Istog/Istok Klinë/Klina
		<b>Gjakova</b>	Gjakova/Djakovica Decan/Decani Rahovec/Orahovac Malisheva/Malisevo
<b>Prizren</b>	Rahovec/Orahovac Malisheva/Malisevo Prizren/Prizren Suhareka/Suva Reka Dragash/Gora	<b>Prizren</b>	Prizren/Prizren Suhareka/Suva Reka Dragash/Gora
<b>Prishtina</b>	Prishtina/Pristina Podujeva/Podujeva Gllgovc/Gllgovac Obiliq/Obilic Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje Lipjan/Lipljan Shtime/Stimlje	<b>Prishtina</b>	Prishtina/Pristina Podujeva/Podujeva Gllgovc/Gllgovac Obiliq/Obilic Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje Lipjan/Lipljan
		<b>Ferizaj</b>	Shtime/Stimlje Ferizaj/Urosvac Shterpcë/Strpce Kaçanik/Kacnik
<b>Gjilan</b>	Ferizaj/Urosvac Shterpcë/Strpce Kaçanik/Kacnik Gjilan/Gjilane Viti/Vitina Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Kamenicë/Kosovska Kamenica	<b>Gjilan</b>	Gjilan/Gjilane Viti/Vitina Novobërdë/Novo Brdo Kamenicë/Kosovska Kamenica

The traditional and commonly used administrative structure within Kosova embraces five major districts: Prishtina, Mitrovice, Gjilan, Prizren and Peja, but this plan suggests the use of two more districts. Based on library professional and geographical strategic considerations it is suggested to include two more districts around the towns of Gjakova and Ferizaj, which both have comparatively good library facilities and professional staff.

As an interim solution it is also suggested that libraries within the ethnic Serb areas form a separate library network, based in Leposaviq, including all Serb dominated municipalities and linked to Serb libraries in villages all over Kosova. This network should also be represented in the Kosova Library Council.

The main responsibility for initiatives within this programme lies with the Minister of culture and the central UNMIK/JIAS administration.

### **5.3.2 Mobile library service programme**

A mobile book service programme should be established including the two central elements:

- Itinerant libraries (transportable book collections) in all municipalities
- 8 book buses with HQ in the following cities: Prishtina, Peja, Mitrovice, Gjilan, Prizren, Ferisaj, Gjakova and Leposaviq.

The itinerant libraries should consist of a minimum of 10 transportable book collections in each municipality (29 municipalities x 10 depots x 50 books in each depot = 14.500 books). With an estimated price per book of DM 30,00 the costs for the collections will be around DM 435.000. This sum does not include investments in equipment like boxes for transportation etc.

According to local plans box libraries should be circulating among local schools, branch libraries, kindergartens, factories and other relevant institutions in order to increase book reading, access to ethnic language and culture and providing both leisure, reading and relevant knowledge. A committee of authors, librarians and scholars should make decisions concerning the content of the depots.

The book buses will be allocated in the regional central libraries, which also correspond with the regional structure and administration of the library network. Each bus will have the capacity of approximately 2000 books and other material and will be a main tool for a rapid and decentralised library service all over Kosova. One bus costs approximately DM 400.000 (8 buses x 400.000 DM is DM 3.200.000). The costs for books will be around DM 480.000 (8 x 2000 x 30). The total investments for 8 book buses will be around DM 3.680.000, excluding additional equipment.

With a normal working capacity of the personnel each bus will be able to serve approximately 100 local communities each month and the bus will be able to serve these destinations approximately 10-11 times a year. There is a need for a driver, two librarians and some administrative help for each bus.



The bus located in Leposaviq should have a special responsibility in serving Serb-language local communities and should divide its resources between the Serb enclave in the north and Serb-language local communities all over Kosova.

The main responsibility for the implementation of this programme lies with UNMIK/JIAI and Kosova Library Consortium, while the National library of Kosova in co-operation with the regional centres would have the responsibility for the practical operation.

### **5.3.3 Reconstruction Programme**

A programme aiming to provide the funding needed to rehabilitate destroyed or damaged libraries throughout Kosova should be established. The programme should focus on the basic library facilities like buildings, furniture and other equipment. It should also include the possibility to provide immediate relief or funding, e.g. for generators or heating.

The programme should be initiated in co-operation with some major international aid agencies and relay on the experiences obtained by UNICEF in the reconstruction of Kosovar primary and secondary schools.

65 public library buildings need to be totally reconstructed and many others have rehabilitation needs due to damages or neglect. It is initially proposed that a sum of DM 4 millions is allocated to reconstruction and rehabilitation measures.

At the initial state the programme should:

- Identify possible partners and donors.
- Compile information and provide a detailed assessment of the destruction of and damages to Kosovar libraries, and draft an overall action plan.
- Take responsibility for the rehabilitation of Kosovar libraries, including the construction of new buildings, the repairs and renovations of existing facilities and the provision of furniture and technical equipment.
- Give priority to the regional central libraries

The main responsibility for this programme lies with the Kosova Library Consortium and UNMIK.

### **5.3.4 Book and Reading Programme**

One of the reasons for the high level of conflict in Kosova society between ethnic groups is the lack of knowledge about the culture and history of others groups. With a general increase in the overall level of knowledge in society, the possibilities of understanding and reconciliation may grow. It takes a long-term approach to change reading habits in a society. In Portugal such an approach has been used to change reading habits since 1980 with a systematic investment in public libraries, books and reading.

A programme aiming to stimulate book production and book distribution in Kosova should be initiated, including activities to:

- Stimulate book production in the Albanian, Serb and Turkish language. The programme should include activities in the following fields: authorship, publishing, book shops,

marketing of literature in media (TV, newspapers, radio, internet), literary journals, seminars and workshops for relevant groups.

- Represent an organised and systematic book donation programme with a main focus on English-language books.
- Represent a systematic translation into Albanian of especially children's books and educational books from renowned foreign authors and publishing houses.
- Establish a Centre for the Book in the National library with the task of organising activities as mentioned above and also book fairs, exhibitions and activities on Internet that can stimulate reading and the general framework in Kosova for book production.
- Organise young writers' workshops in order to inspire young talents to become authors and support the annual book fair of Gjilan.

In the initial state the ambition should be to provide at least 50.000 new books in both local and foreign languages for the National and University Library. If the average price of one book is estimated to be DM 30,00 (50.000 x DM 30) the acquisition itself will amount to DM 1,5 millions.

Furthermore a provision of 10.000 new books for each the 8 regional central libraries (8 x 10.000 x DM 30) would cost DM 2,4 millions.

A longer-term ambition could be to replace the estimated number of library books destroyed or otherwise lost in Kosova (900.000 x DM 30) which would amount to DM 27 millions.

Costs for transportation and library technical handling (cataloguing, classification and in some cases binding) has to be added to these simple costs of acquisition.

The main responsibility for initiatives within this programme lies with the National and University Library and the programme should include the Textbook Consortium and other interested parties, like the Sabre Foundation.

### **5.3.5 Information Technology Programme**

The Kosova library community is more or less without information technology in regard to hardware and software as well as competence, skills and experience. It can be anticipated that investments in IT will be exceptionally cost-effective and give distributed and decentralised services of high quality at access points all over the country.

A programme aiming in the longer term to provide integrated library systems and information technology based services in all Kosovar libraries, public as well as academic.

In the initial stages the programme through the public libraries should aim to offer the citizens:

- Free Internet access for all in the premises of the public library.
- A local administrative library IT-system handling catalogue, loans and other administrative tasks.
- An electronic library network system giving all libraries access to a system for a national union catalogue, an ordering system for inter-library lending and other networking facilities.

The programme could progress through two stages:

1. The National library and the regional central libraries should be involved and connected (2001-2002)
2. The remainder of the municipalities should be involved and connected (2003-2004)

At the initial stage the simple costs to provide Internet access by buying 10 to 15 computers for each of the 8 regional central libraries would amount to (8 x 10-15 x 4.000) DM 320.000 - 480.000. To these sums at least 50% for the costs of transportation, cabling, software, education etc. has to be added, raising the sum needed to DM 480.000 - 720.000.

If all Kosova public and some major combined libraries should have 5 computers each the costs would be at least (5 x DM 6.000 x 400) DM 12 millions plus 50%, equivalent of DM 18 millions.

To implement integrated library systems in Kosova libraries would require a much more elaborate investigation and it is not possible to estimate the costs of such a measure within the framework of this report.

The main responsibility for this programme lies with the National and University Library in close co-operation with a selected expert group from abroad. A major IT company in Western Europe or USA should if possible be involved in sponsoring the programme.

### **5.3.6 Professional Development and Training Programme**

The shortage of competent library professionals is one of the main and immediate hindrances for further development of libraries in Kosova. A special focus must be placed on education and professional training. Without this, the development of most of the other initiatives and programmes for Kosova libraries run the risk of being ineffective.

A systematic programme should be implemented to re-establish professional education and training in Kosova. The long-term goal of the programme should be to secure the education of new young librarians, who can become the working force in Kosova libraries in the coming 20-30 years. In short term the programme should:

- Identify training opportunities for staff both in Kosova and abroad
- Investigate the possibilities to establish formal professional education within Kosova
- Reopen Kosovar professional links to international professional communities, including memberships of international professional organisations
- Establish dialogue and co-operation between library professionals in Kosova and in neighbouring countries Encourage and support Kosovar staff attendance at international conferences
- Provide brush-up courses and continuing education for working professionals.

Courses and curriculum could be developed and executed through co-operation between local Kosovar experts, library and information science faculties or schools in neighbouring countries, e.g. Slovenia (Ljubljana) or Croatia (Zagreb), and EUCLID (European Association for Library and Information Education and Research). The main educational input should be given locally or in Ljubljana or Zagreb, including experts from Library and Information Science educational institutions in Europe.

The estimated Kosovar need of library professionals is approximately 200. The programme should aim at educating this number in the course of 10 years with 20 new librarians each year starting from 2003. The main responsibility for initiative should lie with Minister of culture and EUCLID.

### **5.3.7 Cultural Heritage Programme**

A dramatic consequence for a people hit by war and conflicts is the damage and destruction of documents and objects of cultural heritage. Kosova has been characterised by war and conflict for a long period of time. New conflicts may arise and it is urgent to secure that cultural heritage represented by books, documents and a large range of other objects are kept safely for the future. Political, cultural and religious activities are dependent on memory and documentation.

A programme aiming to preserve and secure Kosovar cultural heritage should be initiated in order to:

- Compile inventories of cultural property at institutional, regional and national level
- Identify short term projects for emergency protection of property at risk
- Establish links and partnerships with relevant institutions abroad holding collections relating to Kosova
- Begin digitisation of Kosovar printed or written cultural heritage
- Reassume the production of a Kosova national bibliography
- Establish emergency plans and training of staff in risk preparedness and recovery for relevant institutions

A digitisation project should be initiated in order to ensure a systematic preservation and documentation of the cultural heritage of Kosova and open access dissemination through the Internet. Special focus should be on a broad definition of cultural heritage including cultural, religious, historical and ethnic documents, items, images, sounds etc.

Albanian and Serb languages should both be represented and the project should aim at a complete coverage in all fields possible.

The far-reaching distribution of material on Internet will to some extent compensate for the damage done to important texts and documentation during repression and war. Material lacking in Kosova should be digitised outside Kosova in close co-operation with relevant museums, libraries and institutions in foreign countries.

The project should be done in close co-operation with the National Archive of Kosova and the National Museum of Kosova and a commission of Albanian and Serb experts should be established with the task of securing quality and authenticity of material digitised and distributed on Internet. The project should be run in close co-operation with international experts.

The main responsibility for this programme lies with the Minister of Culture of Kosova.

### **5.3.8 Children and Youth Programme**

A library programme dedicated to children and young people and providing educational, recreational and even psychosocial services should be established. Many Kosovar children are still

suffering from post-traumatic stress and anxiety due to experiences they were exposed to during the war. The percentage of those under 18 or 20 of the Kosovar population is fairly high compared to other European countries or regions. At the moment there are very few, if any, offerings to these age groups at a local level. Many local cultural institutions have been closed or destroyed during the war and are still not functioning

The programme should include various initiatives to create and strengthen reading habits in children at an early age and to stimulate the imagination and creativity of children and young people by:

- Developing adequate children's libraries or services in municipal libraries
- Encouraging the co-operation with local teachers of primary and secondary schools and lower high schools to address the needs of children and young people
- Providing children's books to such libraries both in foreign languages for immediate relief and by promoting translations into relevant languages
- Establishing smaller toy libraries, collections of toys available for loans, which could provide fairly cheap and efficient means for educational, psychosocial and recreational purposes in local Kosovar communities, supporting other initiatives of more formal and structured nature.
- Providing cultural events, which can be performed in local libraries, e.g. theatrical or musical performances, smaller exhibitions, film shows or storytelling.
- Providing books and magazines in both local and foreign languages directed at young people
- Providing the venue and facilities for the development of clubs or associations
- Providing free Internet access, including support, guidance and training

The main responsibility for initiatives within this programme lies with the Kosova Library Consortium and the Kosova Library Council.

### **5.3.9 Open access programme**

An open society characterised by an educated and well-informed general public with extensive access to public information is a prerequisite for a democratic society, as is the process of dialogue between different levels and segments in society. A special focus on the ethnic schism is needed in Kosova. Knowledge and open dialogue are tools to reduce violence in society. Kosovar libraries have special possibilities and responsibilities in this field.

The total accessibility of the public to library material in Kosova even before the war was too limited compared to the general international approach in the worldwide library community. There should in general be open access to library materials and services and this open access should if possible not be limited by the financial situation of the user or any physical hindrances within the library.

The Open Access programme should promote, as comprehensively as possible, universal access and world-wide reference to both written heritage and the information contained in the new media. The programme should therefore investigate and offer solutions to security issues deriving from the changes in services. Security measures must sometimes be taken in order to secure material and prevent theft or damages.

The following measures should be taken:

- Collections should be opened to the public in libraries, where they are closed.
- Opening hours should be increased where this is possible.
- Children's and adults departments should be organised close to each other and not in separate premises.
- Suitable and sufficient reading rooms should be established.
- Extensive access to public information and information from political, social, ethnic and religious organisations should be given in the library premises as part of the democratisation process.
- Multicultural services should be offered.
- Internet access-points should be available for children and adults free-of-charge within the premises of the library.

These measures must be taken at 3 levels:

- Change of attitudes through campaigns, workshops and discussions
- Promote the re-organisation of premises through grants and local counselling
- Secure that planning of new library premises takes into account the above-mentioned factors

The main responsibility for initiatives within this programme lies with the Kosova Library Consortium and the Kosova Library Council.

### **5.3.10 Initiative Support Programme**

A programme should be established to support local initiatives and participation. It should aim to establish bodies that could offer advice, guidance and consultancy, including international experience. Furthermore, it should both define, implement and run funds, that can provide financial support for local initiatives and initiatives serving common purposes. Grants should be given on the basis of applications and the outcome monitored and documented. The aims are both to stimulate and further local initiatives and to provide incentives for co-operation, co-ordination and local participation in library policy matters and professional development. The programme could include two funds:

- Library Initiative Fund supporting local / municipal initiatives to rebuild and develop local library services. Grants should be given to those who merit them through initiative, dedication and professional planning.
- Common Purpose Fund providing funds for developing projects, co-ordinating initiatives, participation in international professional co-operation and representation, courses and conferences, committee work and professional publications.

The main responsibility for this programme lies with the Kosova Library Council in co-operation with the Kosova Library Consortium.

### **5.3.11 Twinning Programme**

A programme should be established to provide direct links between individual Kosovar libraries and municipalities to foreign parallel institutions and administrative bodies in an organised manner. Such twinning could offer opportunities promote mutual cultural understanding and enhance co-operation and support at local level.

Through funding from the UNESCO PGI Programme, IFLA has developed an international database, which acts as a focal point for libraries seeking a potential twinning partner. The system acts as a kind of dating agency for libraries, by matching libraries as closely as possible, based on the benefits they are seeking from the partnership and the benefits they can offer to the partner.

Areas of professional interest on which partnerships may be based include:

- Exchange of information about libraries generally
- Improved access to published bibliographic information
- Exchange of information on management, technology and professional development
- Staff exchanges
- Exchange of library material
- Interlibrary loan and document supply services
- Staff training and development

A similar structure and database could be established to promote co-operation at the municipal level, including the local cultural institutions such as public libraries.

The main responsibility for this programme lies with the Kosova Library Consortium.

## Annex 1: Schedule of visits

26 February 2000	OSCE, Democratisation UNMIK, Culture National and University Library, Prishtina	IOM Internet
Service		
27 February 2000	National and University Library, Prishtina	
28 February 2000	UNMIK, Culture in Peja Peja Public Library (UNMIK Police station) Gjakove Public Library Patriakana Monestary	
29 February 2000	Council of Europe, Prishtina Office Gllgovc Public Library / Glogovc House of Culture Skenderaj Public Library / Skenderaj House of Culture	
1 March 2000	Leposavic Public Library Mitrivice Public Library UNMIC, Culture and Education in Mitrovica Vushtrri Public Library / Vushtrri House of Culture	
2 March 2000	Gracanice Monestary Gjilan Public Library Pedagogical Faculty Library of Gjilan Ferizaj Public Library OSCE, Democratisation	
3 March 2000	Malisheva House of Culture Ostrozub School Library Rahovec House of Culture Branch Library in Krushe e M. Prizren Public Library / Prizren House of Culture	
4 March 2000	Hivzi Sulejman Public Library, Prishtina National and University Library, Prishtina	
5 March 2000	Hivzi Sulejman Public Library, Prishtina UNMIK, Education	
6 March 2000	Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) Hivzi Sulejman Public Library, Prishtina OSCE, Democratization UNMIK, Civil Administration UNMIK, Culture	
7 March 2000	Kosova Sot (Daily Kosovar newspaper)	



## Annex 2: List of persons consulted

- Bjørg Hope Galtung, OSCE Democratisation
- Arne Pihl Christensen, Head, OSCE Democratisation
- Peter Haxtmeier, OSCE Democratisation
- Sarah Isakson, UNMIK Culture
- Mehmet Gerguri, Director, National and University Library
- Nehat Krasniqi, Keeper of Oriental Manuscripts, National and University Library
- Jetish Kadishani, Deputy director, National and University Library
- Muharrem Halili, Deputy director, National and University Library
- Marco Mayer, Civil Affair Officer, Culture, UNMIK Regional Administration, Peja
- Masar Peja, Director, Gjakove Public Library
- Alison Mawhiney, Human Rights Advisor, Council of Europe
- Lorna Samuels, Human Rights Advisor, Council of Europe
- Oonagh Tyrell, Council of Europe
- Hilmi Avduli, Chief librarian, Gllogovc Public Library
- Sokol Krasniqi, responsible for cultural affairs, Gllogovc
- Xheme Binaku, Director of theatre, culture and sport, Gllogovc
- Safer Sefera, Former director of House of Culture, Skenderaj
- Bali Behrami, Librarian, Skenderaj Public Library
- Tanaskovic Milomir, Director, Laposavic Public Library
- Tomaslav Radosavcevic, Professor, Belgrade University
- Daniell Paquette, Civil Affair Officer, Education, UNMIK Regional Administration, Mitrovice
- Ahmad Shamsu Deen-Cole, Civil Affair Officer, Culture, UNMIK Regional Administration, Mitrovice
- Hajrulla Mustafa, Director, Mitrovice Public Library
- Belinda Xhaka, Librarian, Mitrovice Public Library
- Izet Aliu, Director, Vushtrri Public Library
- Arlinda Gjaka, Actress and Director, Vushtrri House of Culture, Theatre
- Shefki Osmani, Director, Gjilan Public Library
- Ramize Veseli, Professor and librarian, Gjilan Faculty Library
- Faik Shkodra, Rector, Gjilan Faculty
- Servete Krasniqi-Hajrullahu, Director, Ferizaj Public Library
- Nune Avdiu, Chief of Culture Department, Malisheva
- Cen Desku, Advisor of Culture, Malisheva
- Gani Krasniqi, Mayor of Malisheva
- Agim Thaci, Mayor of Rahovec
- Fehmi Hoxha, Artist and House of Culture Coordinator, Rahovec
- Bajram Nalli, Librarian and House of Culture Coordinator, Krushe e M.
- Dashnor Xerxa, Director, House of Culture, and professor at Pedagogical Faculty, Prizren
- Muharrem Halili, Deputy director, National and University Library, Prishtina
- Petrit Selemi, Internet Project in Kosovo (IPKO)
- Tom Koenigs, Head of Pillar II, UNMIK

- Michael Daxner, Rector, University of Prishtina
- Lindita Tahiri, Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS)
- Seb Rodiqi, Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS)
- Terrice Bassler, Kosova representative, Open Society Institute, New York
- Sulejman Pireva, Director, Hivzi Sulejman Public Library, Prishtina
- Aleksandra Horvat, Assistant Professor, Institute for Information Studies, Faculty of philosophy, University of Zagreb, Croatia

## **Annex 3: Report from National and University Library**

**The National and University Library of Kosova  
The Section for Libraries of Kosova**

# **Overview of the Situation of the Public Libraries of Kosova**

**(The Situation before Serbian Coercive Measure (in 1990)  
and after the Serbian War June 9 1999)**

**September-October 1999  
Prishtina**

# Report on the Situation of Public Libraries in all Municipalities in the Republic of Kosova

## 1. THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRISHTINA

The municipality of Prishtina has 17 public libraries. The main library in City with about 58.475 books and 16 branch libraries: The Youth Palace, The commemorative library of the writer Hivzi Sulejmani, the library of "Përrallave" (Adventures), and in Llukar, Koliq, Hajvali, Lapsellë, Graçanicë, Çadlavicë, Slivovë and Viti of Mareci with 108.541 books, a total of 167.016 books.

The flame of the Serbian ethnic war of cleansing also hit the libraries of this municipality. The Serbian "Black Hand" burned the library in Hade, also annihilated a number of books in the main library of Obiliq, and burned the libraries in Koliq and Viti of Mareci. The number of books burned is about 23.000.

Besides rebuilding of burned and damaged libraries, the main library needs a computer (With printer, modem etc), because the libraries of Kosova will have an Internet connection in the new year (year 2000).

## 2. THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAÇANIK

The municipality of Kaçanik has 5 public libraries: The main library in Kaçanik with 20.461 books and the branch libraries in Degë Kaçanik, Stagovë, Doganaj and Gllboçicë with 30.694 books. In total the libraries of this municipality have 51.155 books. By coercive measure of Serbs, 530 books in the main library are damaged and exterminated, and the library in Gllboçica, which had 5.500 books, was thoroughly destroyed

Besides financing for rebuilding of the situation, this municipality also needs a computer with printer, modem etc for the main library in Kaçanik.

## 3. THE MUNICIPALITY OF MITROVICA

The municipality of Mitrovica has 7 public libraries with collections of 152.858 books. The main library of Mitrovica has collections of 111.546 books, while branch libraries have 41.312 books. The Serbian war also damaged the libraries of this municipality in Bare, Vllahi, Banjë and BL of Ibri with 27.061 books.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding of the situation, the main library in Mitrovica also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## 4. THE MUNICIPALITY OF PODUJEVA

The municipality of Podujeva had 14 public libraries with 143.067 books. The main library had 42.412 books, while 13 of it's branch libraries in the country had 100.655 books, but the fire of Serbian "Black Hand" burned 10 libraries of this municipality, including the main library, with

124.977 books. Therefore the municipality of Podujeva has now only three branches (very damaged) with 18.090 books.

Beside financial support (funds) for rebuilding these libraries, the main library of Podujeva also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## **5. THE MUNICIPALITY OF GLOGOCI**

Before Serbian coercive measure the municipality of Glogoci had 7 public libraries with 73.000 books. The main library had 12.000 books; while branches in Tërstenik, Komoran, Arllat, Sankoc Baicë and Gradicë had 61.000 books, but the war annihilated two libraries, the main library in Glogoci and the branch library in Baicë, and damaged other branches with 66.468 books. The Serb forces killed the librarian Izet Elshani (48), father of 4 children, burned the library with 9.500 books, expelled his family by force and burned his house. Therefore the municipality of Glogoci in fact only has one library with 6.532 books.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding of those libraries, the main library of Glogoci also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## **6. THE MUNICIPALITY OF VUSHTRRIA**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Vushtrria had 9 public libraries with 77.284 books. The main library had 34.049 books, while the branches in Maxhunaj, Dumnicë, Samadrexhë, Pantinë, Strofc, Duboc, Smrekonicë and Prelluzhë had 43.235 books. The Serbian war, which in this municipality was a fierce struggle, also hit the libraries of the municipality. Two libraries in Strofc and Duboc were burned by the flame of Serbian hand, while the libraries of Smrekonica and of Prelluzha were damaged. In this municipality 38.564 books and inventory were annihilated.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding of those libraries, the main library of Vushtrria also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## **7. THE MUNICIPALITY OF SKENDERAJ**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Skenderaj had 7 public libraries with 68.344 books. The main library had 20.253, while the branches in Likoc, Turizek, Runik, Klinë e Epërme and Prekaz i Epërme with 48.091 books. All the branches in the countryside were burned by the Serbian "Black Hand", but the main library in Skenderaj has except for some damage survived. As consequence all six branches with 48.091 books were burned in this municipality.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding libraries in country, the main library of Skenderaj also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## **8. THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEJA**

The municipality of Peja, before Serbian coercive measure (in 1990) had 6 public libraries with 87.212 books. The main library had 64.231, while 4 branch libraries in the countryside, Vitomicicë, Baran, Tërstenik, Zahaq and Gorazhdec had collections of 22.981 books.

Only the city library of Peja and that in Gorazhdec (which almost completely stocked Serbo-Croatian books) have survived.

In consequence 4 libraries with 20.171 books were annihilated.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding of the situation of those libraries, the main library of Peja also needs a computer with a printer, modem etc.

## **9. THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJILANI**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Gjilani, had 14 public libraries with 167.562 books. The main library had 73.016 books, while the branch libraries in Zhegër, Pogragjë, Bresalc, Përlepnicë, Pasjan, Koretisht, Partesh, Budrikë e Ulët, Dobërçan, Cërnicë, Malishevë, Llashticë and Shurdhan had 95.546 books.

Also in this municipality the war destroyed 5 libraries in Dobërçan, Cërnicë, Malishevë, Llashticë and Shurdhan. After the war the municipality of Gjilani has only 9 libraries with 116.832 books.

Beside financial needs for rebuilding of the situation for the libraries in the country, the main library needs a computer with a printer, modem etc to have Internet connection.

The libraries of this municipality are independent from the House of Culture and are working organisations of their own.

## **10. THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAMENICA (GURASHI)**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Kamenica (Gurashi) had 7 public libraries with about 56.769 books. The main library had 6.275 books, while the branch libraries in Strezoc, Tuxhec, Hogosh, Desivojcë, Karaçevë and Roganë had 56.769 books. It's interesting to mention, that in this municipality the consequences of the Serbian war were lesser, therefore as the only municipality in Kosova, the books were not damaged and it is the only municipality, where the same number of libraries and books in the collections remain.

## **11. THE MUNICIPALITY OF VITIA**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Vitia, had 4 public libraries with 34.528 books. The main library had 12.947 books, while the branch libraries in Pozharan, Radivojcë and Sllatinë had 21.581 books, but after the Serbian ethnic cleansing war all libraries in this municipality were damaged, both books, inventory and buildings. In consequence the libraries were damaged and 15.159 books destroyed, but they survived the total destruction, which occurred in many other municipalities of Kosova.

The main library of this municipality also needs a computer with modem, printer etc.

## **12. THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEÇANI**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Deçani had 4 public libraries with 106.800 books, but in the war the Serbian "Black Hand" annihilated the library of Juniku and damaged other libraries of this municipality. Including the annihilated library of Juniku, which had 26.850 books, and number of books in other libraries, totally 90.500 books in the municipality of Deçani were annihilated, more than 90% of the total amount of books.

For this municipality incinerated by the Serbian flame, financial means to rebuild the situation and a computer for the main library with modem, printer etc. to have Internet connection are needed.

### **13. THE MUNICIPALITY OF FERIZAJ**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Ferizaj had 7 public libraries with 60.565 books. The main library had 30.913 books, while branches in Gaçkë, Kamogllavë, Talinoc të Muhaxherëve, Nerodime, Babush and Shtërpçë had 29.252 books, but after the war libraries and book collections including buildings and inventory were destroyed also in this municipality. In consequence this municipality now has only 5 libraries left with total amount of 26.352 books. Two libraries in Nerodime and Babush and 34.213 books were destroyed.

Also in this municipality are needed financials for rebuilding of the situation and a computer (With printer, modem etc.).

### **14. THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALISHEVA**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Malisheva had 5 public libraries with 40.800 books. The main library had 13.000 books, while the branch libraries in Kijevë, Bajë, Bellanicë and Lubizhdë had had 27.800 books. After the war the books were totally destroyed in this municipality, and now there are only 1096 books in the branch library of Kijeva, while the other libraries do not exist at all. This municipality is one of the most damaged municipalities concerning books, and financial help to immediately rebuild the libraries of this small municipality of Llapusha is urgently needed. Here everything has to start from the beginning; therefore it's needed in the short time to intervene for rebuilding of the situation.

For the main library of this municipality in Malisheva is needed a computer with modem, printer etc.

### **15. THE MUNICIPALITY OF SHTIMJA**

The municipality of Shtimja before beginning of Serbian war had only the municipality library, which served as both main library and branch with 7106 books. The librarian was Serbian and the books were mostly in Serbo-Croatian. After the librarian had disappeared those books, which were left, were burned and totally destroyed. In consequence the municipality of Shtimja has no library at all.

The Municipality administration and the Society Helping Foundation should consider to reconstruct the main library and to open its branches in the countryside.

Also the main library of this municipality needs a computer with modem, printer etc.

## **16. THE MUNICIPALITY OF KLINA**

Before Serbian coercive measure on September 1992, the municipality of Klina had six libraries with 48.640 books. The main library had 17.980 books, while branches in Ujmirë, Jashanicë Drenoc, Zllakuqan and Jagodë had 30.760 books).

In the time of the Serbian coercive measure 5 libraries in the countryside were closed and all books with the inventory were moved to the main library of Klina, where the books were destroyed, the inventory sold and the employees fired. Some trucks with Albanian books were sent to the paper factory of Lipjan. In the countryside the books were annihilated, while the books in main library of Klina were very damaged. In this municipality 5 branch libraries were annihilated with total amount of 30.760 books while in the main library 2.980 books are damaged.

Financials are needed for this municipality to rebuild the situation and a computer with printer, modem etc. for its main library.

## **17. THE MUNICIPALITY OF ISTOG**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Istog had 5 public libraries with total amount of 48.070 books. The main library had 29.440 books, while branches in Vrellë, Banjë, Gurrakoc and Rakosh had 18.630 books. During the Serbian ethnic cleansing war, books of this municipality also suffered a lot of damages. The Serbian "Black Hand" annihilated two libraries in Rakosh and Vrellë and damaged books and inventory in other libraries. Totally 26.990 books were annihilated in this municipality.

Also in this municipality financials are needed to rebuild the situation and a computer with printer, modem etc. for the main library.

## **18. THE MUNICIPALITY OF PRIZREN**

Before the Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Prizren, had 7 public libraries with a total amount of 82.293 books. The main library in Prizren had 54.462 books, while branches in Velezhë, Zhur, Sredskë, Lubizhdë, Mamush and Zhur had 27.831 books. Despite that Prizren was in war, its libraries have fortunately survived from annihilation. But the bout the stockings of the libraries of Zhur, Zym and Mamush were moved to the main library and they are not yet working. For this matter a talk is needed with the leaders of the House of Culture and the main library in Prizren.

The main library of Prizren needs a computer with printer, modem etc.

## **19. THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJAKOVA**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Gjakova had 7 public libraries with a total amount of 105.443 books. The main library had 42.193 books, while departments in Skivjan, Rogovë, Biztazhin, Ponoshec, Brekoc and Cërmjanë had 63.250 books. The Serbian ethnic cleansing war made a lot of damages in this municipality including the books.



Today Gjakova has only 5 libraries with a total amount of 83.061 books. The Serbian "Black Hand" annihilated 2 branch libraries in Cërmjan and Brekoc and damaged books of other libraries in a quantity of 22.382 books.

In this municipality financials are needed to rebuild the situation as well as a computer with printer, modem etc. for the city library.

## **20. THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIPJAN**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Lipjan had 11 public libraries with a total amount of 82.971 books. The main library had 23.000 books, while branches in Janjevë, Magurë, Shalë, Gadime, Pjetërshticë, Dobrajë e Madhe, Ribar i Madh, Banullë, Gushtericë and Lepinë had 59.971 books. During the war also the stock of books in this municipality suffered a lot of destruction.

In the main library only 6.500 books are left, while in the branches 38.485 remain. 37.985 books were annihilated. Therefore funding is needed to buy books and to rebuild the situation in all. Also the main library of this municipality needs a computer with printer, modem etc.

## **21. THE MUNICIPALITY OF SUHAREKA**

Before Serbian coercive measure the municipality of Suhareka had 6 public libraries with a total amount of books 43.500. The main library had 15.000 books, while its branches in Bukosh, Mushtisht, Mohlan, Studençan and Nishor had 28.500 books.

During the war also the libraries of this municipality suffered a lot of damages. Two branch libraries in Bukosh and Studençan with 14.700 books were burned by the Serbian "Black Hand". During the war 31.100 books were annihilated in this municipality.

Besides funding for the rebuilding of the situation of the libraries in this municipality, a computer with modem, printer etc for the main library is needed.

## **22. THE MUNICIPALITY OF DRAGASH**

Before Serbian coercive measure, the municipality of Dragash had 7 public libraries with a total amount of 52.300 books. The main library had 14.600 books, while departments in Brod, Kurshevë, Brezne, Bellobrad, Bresanë and Blaqë had 37.700 books.

Fortunately during Serbian coercive measure the stock of books was not damaged, and is the only municipality where the stock of books is intact.

Therefore after the war the municipality of Dragash has 7 libraries with a total amount of 52.300 books.

Also for the main library of this municipality a computer with printer, modem etc. is needed.

## **23. THE MUNICIPALITY OF RAHOVEC**

Before Serbian coercive measure the municipality of Rahovec had 4 public libraries with a total amount of 49.106 books. The main library had 15.320 books, while branches in Ratkoc, Krushë të Madhe, Xërxë and Hoç të Madhe had 33.786 books, but the Serbian war of ethnic cleansing also annihilated the library net and the stocks of books of this municipality.

In consequence the main library of Rahovec today has only 1.200 books in Serbo-Croatian, while the branches are totally burned.

Therefore financials are needed for this municipality for rebuilding of the situation and for a computer to have Internet connection.

#### **24. THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEPOSAVIQ**

The municipality is managed by Serbs so the stocks of books are the same before and after the war. They have 3 libraries with 22.215 books. The main library has 11.366 books, while branches in Leshak, Vraçevë and Soçanicë have 10.849 books, that is in total the situation as before the war.

Now we don't have contact to this municipality, because it is in the other side of bridge of the river Ibri of Mitrovica, which is still under the Serbs. The KFOR forces still have not solved the problem.

Also in this municipality a computer is needed.

#### **25. THE MUNICIPALITY OF FUSHË-KOSOVA**

Before Serbian coercive measure the municipality of Fushë-Kosova had 4 public libraries with a total amount of 49.250 books. The main library had 19.500 books, while branch libraries in Bardh i Madh, Sllatinë ... held 29.750 books, but during the war the Serbian "Black Hand" annihilated 13.500 books, that is the library of Bardh i Madh doesn't exist at all. Also the libraries in Fushë-Kosovë and Sllatinë are damaged.

A computer for the main library of this municipality is also needed.

Prishtina  
9-10 November 1999

The members of commission:

1. Jetish Kadishani \_\_\_\_\_
2. Qazim Durmishi \_\_\_\_\_
3. Belkize Jaka \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bedri Gashi \_\_\_\_\_
5. Seb Rodiqi \_\_\_\_\_
6. Fadil Bajraj \_\_\_\_\_

**OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION OF THE PUBLIC LIBRARIES OF KOSOVA BEFORE SERBS COERCIVE MEASURE (1990)**

No.	Municipality	The main library	Books	Branches in the country	Books	Libraries totally	Books totally
1	Prishtina	1	119.363	17	129.664	18	249.027
2	Mitrovica	1	111.546	6	41.312	7	152.858
3	Prizren	1	54.462	6	27.831	7	82.293
4	Peja	1	64.231	5	22.981	6	87.212
5	Gjakova	1	42.193	6	63.250	7	105.443
6	Ferizaj	1	30.913	6	29.652	7	60.565
7	Gjilan	1	73.016	13	94.546	14	167.562
8	Klina	1	17.980	5	30.760	6	48.640
9	Istog	1	29.440	4	18.630	5	48.070
10	Deçan	1	32.690	3	74.110	4	106.800
11	Rahovec	1	15.320	3	33.786	4	49.106
12	Suhareka	1	15.000	5	28.500	6	43.500
13	Malisheva	1	13.000	4	27.800	5	40.800
14	Gllgovci	1	12.000	6	61.000	7	73.000
15	Skënderaj	1	20.253	6	48.091	7	68.344
16	Dragash	1	14.600	6	37.700	7	52.300
17	Lipjan	1	23.000	10	59.971	11	82.971
18	Kaçanik	1	20.461	4	30.694	5	51.155
19	Vitia	1	12.947	3	21.581	4	34.528
20	Gurash (Kamenica)	1	6.275	6	50.494	7	56.769
21	Shtimja	1	7.106	-	-	-	7.106
22	Podujeva	1	42.412	13	100.655	14	143.067
23	Fushë-Kosova	1	19.500	10	79.313	11	98.813
24	Vushtrria	1	34.049	8	43.235	9	77.284
25	Leposaviq	1	11.366	3	15.949	4	27.315
	<b>Totally</b>	25	843.123	158	171.505	183	2.014.628

**THE SITUATION OF THE LIBRARIES OF KOSOVA  
AFTER THE WAR**

No.	Municipality	The main library	Books	Branches in the country	Books	Libraries totally	Books totally
1	<b>Prishtina</b>	Damaged	58.475	16	88.599	17	149.074
2	<b>Mitrovica</b>	Survived	111.546	2	14.251	3	125.797
3	<b>Prizren</b>	Survived	54.462	3	17.270	4	71.732
4	<b>Peja</b>	Survived	64.231	1	2.810	2	67.041
5	<b>Gjakova</b>	Survived	42.193	4	40.868	5	83.061
6	<b>Ferizaj</b>	Damaged	7.990	4	18.362	5	26.352
7	<b>Gjilan</b>	Survived	73.016	8	43.816	9	116.832
8	<b>Klina</b>	Damaged	15.000	-	-	1	15.000
9	<b>Istog</b>	Damaged	19.100	2	1.980	3	21.080
10	<b>Deçan</b>	Damaged	10.000	2	6.300	3	16.300
11	<b>Rahovec</b>	Damaged	1.200	-	-	1	1.200
12	<b>Suhareka</b>	Survived	15.000	3	12.100	4	27.100
13	<b>Malisheva</b>	Burned	-	1	1.096	1	1.096
14	<b>Glllogovci</b>	Damaged	332	4	6.200	5	6.532
15	<b>Skënderaj</b>	Survived	20.253	-	-	1	20.253
16	<b>Dragash</b>	Survived	14.600	6	37.700	7	52.300
17	<b>Lipjan</b>	Damaged	6.500	8	38.485	9	44.985
18	<b>Kaçanik</b>	Damaged	20.313	3	30.000	4	50.461
19	<b>Vitia</b>	Damaged	7.435	3	11.934	4	19.369
20	<b>Gurash (Kamenica)</b>	Survived	6.275	6	50.494	7	56.769
21	<b>Shtimja</b>	Burned	-	-	-	-	-
22	<b>Podujeva</b>	Burned	-	3	18.090	3	18.090
23	<b>Fushë-Kosova</b>	Damaged	6.000	8	53.729	9	59.729
24	<b>Vushtrria</b>	Damaged	16.144	6	22.576	7	38.720
25	<b>Leposaviq</b>	Survived	11.366	3	15.949	4	27.315
	<b>Totally</b>	22	581.431	96	532.609	118	1.116.188

<b>THE SITUATION OF THE LIBRARIES BEFORE 1990</b>			<b>THE SITUATION OF THE LIBRARIES AFTER THE WAR 1999</b>		
	No.	Books		No.	Books
<b>Main libraries</b>	25	843.123	<b>Main libraries</b>	22	581.431
<b>Branch libraries</b>	158	1.171.505	<b>Branch libraries</b>	96	532.609
<b>Totally</b>	183	2.014.628	<b>Totally</b>	118	1.114.060

**THE CURRENT SITUATION OF THE LIBRARIES**

	No.	Books
<b>Main libraries annihilated</b>	3	261.692
<b>Branch libraries annihilated</b>	62	638.896
<b>Totally</b>	65	900.588

Prishtina  
 November 10 1999

The main service

## **Annex 4: Law on Library Activities and Libraries**

*Official Newsletter of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova: No 24, Pristine, May the 19th, 1978, Year XXXIII: On promulgation of the Law on Library Activities and Libraries*

The Council of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova has promulgated and approved the law on libraries and library activities in the meeting of Joint Labour Chamber held on April the 18th 1978 and in the meeting of the Council of the Provincial Self-governing Union of Cultural Interest (Bashkesia Veteqeverisese e Interesit te Kultures), held on April the 27th, 1978./further so called BVI of culture/

*Regional council number 630-2/77  
Pristine, April the 28th 1978*

*The president of the council  
Ilaz Kurteshi*

## **Law on Library Activities and Libraries**

### **I. General Dispositions**

#### Article 1

The library activity is a social activity the duty of which is to increase the general educational level through the help of the book and other library material; To fulfil continuously the cultural needs of the working people and citizens and also to develop the scientific, professional work and to develop the economy, education, science, culture and other activities.

#### Article 2

The library activity in accordance with this law includes the collection, saving, elaboration and utilisation of the books, brochures, magazines, newspapers articles, musical works, reproductions of the artistic photographs, drawings, geographical maps, atlases of all kinds, urban plans, gramophone disc, films and tapes, as well as handwritings, memorial subjects and other material that was created by man in the field of arts, literature and science.

#### Article 3

The library activity has a significant social interest.

#### Article 4

The library activity includes especially: selection, insurance, collection, classification, documentation, elaboration with professional library methods, saving of the editions and giving for use the book and other library material.

#### Article 5

The book and the library material are on the public disposal for its use. Working people and the ordinary citizens can use the books and other library material equally. The usage of the book and other library material is more closely specified in general act in accordance with this Law.

#### Article 6

The books and other library material are protected in accordance with this law. For the unique books and other library material that have the importance of the monuments of culture, having special values are applied the dispositions for the protection of cultural monuments.

#### Article 7

For the realisation of the goals of the library activities, the library workers co-operate with each other, with the citizens, other organisations and users of library services, making accords and working together on projects for the development and progress of the library activity.

## **II. The Joint Labour Organisations that carry out Library Activities**

#### Article 8

Libraries are organisations of the labour union that carry out library activities. The joint labour organisation, government organisations, so called BVI and other organisations and unions can found special units for library activities.

#### Article 9

In the library activity are engaged regional labour organisations, government organisations and other organisations that fulfil the conditions in accordance with this law. The library activities from the paragraph of this article are realised by the library workers.

#### Article 10

A library can be founded from political-social unions, so called BVIs, regional organisations, and other organisations.

The library can be founded by more than one founder.

If two or more founders found a library, their rights and obligations are specified through special accords.

#### Article 11

The library or the constituent library can be established if this conditions are met:

- If the financial means for the beginning of its work are ensured,
- If the necessary book fund for the fulfilment of its duties exists or the financial means to by it exist,
- If the space and equipment for the placement and conservation of the books, and other library material needed for the library work is attained,
- If the professional workers for library activities are recruited.

#### Article 12

Newly founded library or that in ongoing founding process can start working when the regional organ of the competent administration for cultural matters confirms that the above mentioned libraries fulfil the conditions to perform the duties of library activity.

#### Article 13

The library is suppressed if the conditions established by this law are not met or there are no conditions to carry out its activity.

#### Article 14

If the library stops meeting the conditions to carry out its activity, the regional administration organ competent for cultural matters will give a date in which the library is obliged to meet these conditions and inform the main library and the regional council in the territory where it is located.

If the library does not achieve to meet these conditions, the organ from this paragraph stops its activity and proposes the founder to take the resolution on its suppression.

#### Article 15

Before the resolution is adopted the founder is obliged to take the opinion of the library which they propose to be suppressed, if the library is not the founder.

#### Article 16

The library has its statute.

With this statute are fixed: internal organisation/management, library work, basic relations, types of organs, containment and the field of the activity of these organs and other management matters for library activity.



The regional council gives the agreement for the statute dispositions.  
The regional council decides on the statute dispositions concerning the matters with a special social interest. For The Council of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova decides the statute dispositions in the third paragraph of this article decides

Article 17

For the development of the library and its collaboration with other organisations the library can be unified in library unions or other forms of unification.

Article 18

In order to offer the users the books, the library organises book expositions, lectures, publish professional publications, establishes reading rooms and help the users organising moving reading rooms.

Article 19

The library depending on their structure, aim and duties can be general, special and school libraries.

Article 20

General libraries are: National and scientific libraries.  
National libraries are dedicated to improve the general and professional educational level and to fulfil the needs of the citizens.  
Scientific libraries are dedicated to all or some fields of science.

Article 21

Special libraries are dedicated to the needs of some scientific branches or agencies like college organisations, scientific research organisations, and government organisations; And also to a special kind of readers like library for blind people.

Article 22

School libraries are dedicated to students and teachers of a certain school and are used to help the students to make their schoolwork, and improve the process of education.

Article 23

The library can change its activity in accordance with its founder.

Article 24

For fulltime organisation and systematic work in development and progress of the library activity, certain libraries make support service for the main library in the given territory/ region. (Further on Main library)

#### Article 25

The services of the main library are:

- General permanent studies and organisation of the issues of interest for the library activity.
- Evaluation of the matters of library interest in a certain territory or to certain type of libraries.
- To make professional proposals for the enlargement of the library network.
- To give professional help and instructions for the library work.
- To supervise the library activity.
- To conduct and harmonise the library work.
- To encourage co-operation between the libraries and improve the professional work of the employees.

#### Article 26

The National and University Library of Kosova carries out the duties of the main library in the territory of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova.

#### Article 27

The National and University library, except the duties described in the 25 article of this law carries out these duties:

- Makes the updated and retrospective bibliography of the library material of the nations and nationalities of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova.
- Supervises the main catalogue of the books, magazines and other library material of all libraries in the province.
- Supervises the elaboration of the annotation over library material of the libraries in the province.
- Has the main role in the documentation and bibliographic service in the province.
- Co-operates with other libraries in the world and does the book exchange and other library material.
- Gives the opinion over the library material that has the value of the monument and in co-ordination with the competent organ for the protection of the cultural monuments takes measures for the protection of the unique books cultural monuments.
- Encourages the co-operation between the libraries in the province.
- Harmonises and co-ordinates the work of the main libraries and influences in their main service activities.
- Perceives and encourages the library activity developments in the province and gives professional opinion and proposals.

- Make publications in the field of its activity like professional literature, library guidebooks, unpublished library material and the results of the scientific research of library material.
- Informs the public and offers to the workers, citizens and organisations information on library material.
- Carries out other activities established with this law.

#### Article 28

The libraries and their branches are obliged to send to the National University Library the bibliographical and other useful information for the management of the main bibliographical catalogue, and other information needed to carry out the activities from the article 25 and 27 of this law.

The national and University library determines the way this information is distributed from the libraries from this paragraph of this law.

#### Article 30

For the progress of the scientific work and the successful usage of the book the scientific library, college libraries, and libraries of other institutions co-operate with National University Library, co-ordinate the book buying, exchange of the scientific and professional literature and the borrowing of the foreign literature.

### **III. The Protection of the Book and other Library Materials**

#### Article 31

The libraries are obliged to save the books, book collections and other library material and take measures for their conservation.

The usage of the book and other library material can be limited in accordance with the library statute if they are amortised from the utilisation or other conditions.

The libraries the material of which has been amortised or destroyed can register them off if the council of the National University Library decides so.

#### Article 32

If the central labour union organisation, the government organ, BVI and the community decide to close a library, the books and other library material have to be delivered to the main library.

If the main library does not accept the offered books and library material, it has to inform the National University Library.

#### Article 32

The main libraries have the priority to buy the books and the other library material.

#### Article 34

The other labour union organisations that carry out publishing activity, organisations that deal with book distribution circulation, government organs and other organisations that want to sell or put out of use their books and other library material are obliged to offer them for sale first to the regional main library with the price they think to sell them.

If the main regional library does not accept the offer it is obliged without waste of time to inform the National University Library.

If the National University Library within the period of 30 days from the receiving of the notification from the regional main library does not declare itself if it accepts the offer or not, the one who offers this material can sell to the other person with the same price and conditions.

#### Article 35

The libraries in principle can give or borrow reciprocally and in solidarity their material and exchange the library material with other libraries and other organisations.

#### Article 36

The senior regional administrator competent for cultural matters adopts the more detailed dispositions on the saving and protection measures.

#### Article 37

The book and the other library material with cultural monument importance or special values for the cultural wellbeing according to the dispositions of this law are given a special protection.

The values according to this paragraph has the old, unique book or handwriting, handwritings and unique copies of the library material that represent the cultural heritage of the people in the socialist autonomous province of Kosova.

#### Article 38

The possessor of the library material, books, etc. from the article 37 of this law is obliged:

- To operate, to take care of it in a special manner.
- To allow it for scientific and professional studies, to conserve and restore the book and library material based on the competent organ's request to protect the cultural possessions with the permission of the competent administrative organ for cultural issues.
- To let the microfilms of the books and other library material, respectively the reproductions with the new technical equipment and organise expositions based on the accords on international cultural relations.

- Not to replace or sell the books or other library material without the permission of the National University library and the competent administration on cultural matters.

#### Article 39

The possessor of the books and library material with the values given in the article 37 of this law is obliged to inform the regional main library for its possession.

#### Article 40

The possessor or the user of the library material having the values given in the article 37 of this law is not allowed to use the library material for the needs, which do not correspond to its importance or in the way, which could affect in damaging and destroying their integrity.

#### Article 41

If the possessor of the library material with the values given in the article 37 of this law does not take the given measures or does not act in accordance with the article 38 of this law, the regional administration organ competent for cultural matters is obliged on the basis of the main library proposal to determine that this material will be given to the National University library with a reasonable compensation, with the exception when the possessor is confiscated the material which was intended to be destroyed, replaced/changed or to be sent outside the country.

### **IV. Professional Titles**

#### Article 42

The library workers that have necessary professional qualifications and meet the conditions determined by the law with the statute and other acts of the joint labour organisation carry out professional duties of the library activities.

#### Article 43

The persons having the titles data entry clerk, senior data clerk, librarian, senior librarian and library advisor carry out the professional work of the library activity.

#### Article 44

To do the job of the data entry clerk, senior data entry clerk and of the librarian, the workers are given the preparatory professional training for one year. The workers are obliged to enter the professional exam in three years.  
If the workers do not take the professional exam, according to this paragraph cannot do this job.

#### Article 45

The person who has a high school degree and the professional exam for data entry clerk has the title of the data entry clerk

The person who has a two-year college degree and the professional exam for senior data entry clerk has the title of the senior data entry clerk.

The person who has a university degree and the professional exam for librarian has the title of the librarian.

The person who after taking the professional exam has at least five-year experience as a librarian has the title of the senior librarian can take.

Library advisor can be the person who after taking the professional exam for librarian has at least ten years of experience as a librarian and that has published scientific and professional works in the field of library activities and that from his qualifications is considered the most appropriate person to do more sophisticated work of the library activity.

#### Article 46

A data entry clerk, senior data entry clerk and a librarian without a professional exam can be employed if within a period of three years after they get recruited they take the professional exam for the given title.

#### Article 47

The program, method of the professional exam is established by the executive officer of the provincial administration organ competent for cultural matters.

### **V. Finance**

#### Article 48

The BVI of culture provides the financial means for the library activity.

The Provincial BVI of culture provides the financial means for the National University Library.

The financial means from the paragraph 1 and 2 of this article are provided through special accords with institutions and organisations.

### **VI. Self Management**

#### Article 49

The representatives of so called BVI of culture, the founder and the municipality where the library is located supervises the issues of the special social interest in the library.

The library statute establishes the number of the representatives of the social unions.

## Article 50

The duties of special social interest according as given in the article 49 are:

- Library statute proposal approval,
- The library work plan and development establishment,
- Library work report reviewing,
- Decision-making on library statute changes,
- The naming and discharging of the work managing INOKOS organ,
- Other duties established by law and statute.

## Article 51

On the head of the work managing INOKOS organ can be named the person who has a university degree and is known as social, cultural and public personality.

The special conditions for naming the INOKOS organ are established by the library statute.

On the head of the INOKOS organ of the National University Library can be named the person who meets the conditions of this article paragraph and has published scientific and professional works.

The INOKOS organ is named on the basis of the public announcement by the recruitment commission.

The INOKOS organ's mandate is four years. When its mandate comes to an end, the INOKOS organ can be renamed for the same function.

## Article 52

The regional council where the library is situated decides for INOKOS organ.

The council of the socialist autonomous province of Kosova decides for the INOKOS organ of the National University library.

## VII. Supervision

## Article 53

The regional administrative organ competent for cultural issues supervises the legal work of libraries in a territory where are situated.

## VIII. Penal dispositions

## Article 54

If a library does not give the information to the National University Library as given in the article 28 of this law is given a 10.000 to 20.000 dinars fine.

The responsible person according to this paragraph is given a 1.000 dinars fine.

## Article 55

If the publishing organisations and those that deal with book selling and circulation do not offer to the regional library the unregistered books and other library material (article 34) is given a 10.000 to 50.000 dinar fine.

The responsible person from the paragraph of this article is given a 1000 to 5000 dinars fine.

#### Article 56

The possessor of the library material that does not act according to the article 38 of this law is given the fine of 1000 to 10000 dinars.

#### IX. Transitional and final dispositions

#### Article 57

General acts of the libraries, other joint labour organisations, BVIs, government organs and the unions where the libraries take part will be harmonised with the dispositions of this law within a one period from the moment when this law is adopted.

#### Article 58

The workers that do not have the professional exam are obliged to take the exam within a period of maximum 3 years from the moment when this law is adopted. The workers that do not take the professional exam within the period of three years according to this paragraph cannot work anymore in the library. The workers that have 10-year library working experience before this law is adopted are not obliged to take the professional exam.

#### Article 59

The workers that have taken the library professional exam the day this law is adopted, the exam is recognised as a professional exam according to the dispositions of this law.

#### Article 60

The day this law is adopted, the dispositions of the Law on Libraries ("official notebook of the Socialist Republic of Serbia" no 16/65 and 19/66) are ruled out and applied, according to the article 1 and 2 of the Law on disposition application of the republican law in the field of culture and science. The article 4 of the constitutional declaration for the application of the constitutional amendments from IX to XVI of the constitution of socialist republic of Serbia determines the ruling out on December 31 1972 (official notebook of socialist autonomous province of Kosova).

#### Article 61



This law is enforced the day it is promulgated in the official newsletter of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova.

## **Annex 5: Decree on National and University Library**

# **Decree on Promulgation of the Law on the National and University Library of the Socialist Autonomous Province Kosova**

The council of the socialist autonomous province of Kosova, in the meeting of the joint labour chamber held on May the 20th, 1980 and of the council of BVI of Culture held on April 18th, 1980, promulgated and approved the law on the National University library of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova.

*Provincial Council no 630-1/80*

*The president of the council  
Dushan Ristiq*

### Article 1

The National University Library of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova (further The library) established according to the Law on the National University Library establishment (official news letter of the SAP of Kosova, no 24/70) carries out its activities on the basis of the dispositions of this Law.

### Article 2

The library headquarters is in Prishtina.

### Article 3

The library activity has a significant social interest.

### Article 4

Except the activities determined by the article 25 and 27 of the law on the libraries and library activities (official newsletter the SAP of Kosova no 24/70) carries out duties:

- Professionally collects, elaborates, conserves and gives for use the library material,
- Takes care of providing the necessary literature from home and abroad from all branches of science to fulfil the needs of scientific research and university study.

- Unifies and co-ordinates the reference activities with reference bibliographical work and information-documentation services in the framework of its special centre in the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova.
- Is responsible for the protection of the museum exponents and the printed or copied library material with different technical equipment in general in the SAP of Kosova in the way determined by the library statute.
- Proposes the education and professional training of the library workers and organises different forms of the professional training.
- Does scientific research work on libraries,
- Does other works determined by the library statute.

#### Article 5

The library has its statute.

The duties and the working process of the library are determined in detail with the library statute.

The council of the SAP of Kosova decides of the statute dispositions that deal with issues of a special social interest.

#### Article 6

Provincial BVI of culture, BVI of education and BVI of science finance the library activity.

The financial means from the paragraph of this article are gained through the accords between the library and the BVIs of culture, education and science as well as with the other interested organisations according to the contracted project activities.

#### Article 7

The provincial organ competent for cultural matters supervises the legal process of the library activity.

#### Article 8

The library is obliged to harmonise its activities and management with this law disposition within 6 months after this law is enforced.

#### Article 9

When this law is enforced, the law on the National and University Library of Kosova establishment (official newsletter of SAP of Kosova no 24/70) is ruled out.

#### Article 10

This law is enforced 8 days after it is published in the official newsletter of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova.

## **Annex 5: Decree on legal deposit**

*On the basis of the article 335 of the constitution of the socialist autonomous province of Kosova I give the*

### **Decree on the Promulgation of the Law on Obligatory Deliverance and Insurance of Printed Work**

*The Council of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova, in the meeting of the joint labour chamber held on march the 24th 1978 and of the Council of the BVI of Culture held on March 24th, 1978, promulgated and approved the law on obligatory deliverance and insurance of the printed work.*

*Provincial Council no 651-2/78  
Prishtina, April the 13th, 1978*

*The president of the council  
Iljaz Kurteshi*

#### Article 1

To enable the usage of the all printed work for study purposes and usage and their saving as cultural values, every publishing organisation or agency is obliged to deliver to the Yugoslav Bibliographical Institute in Belgrade and to the National University Library in pristine 15 free sample editions with their expenses (obligatory editions) Military units and institutions that publish work have to deliver the obligatory editions conform to federative dispositions.  
The publisher is obliged to deliver the printed work although not edited by the publishing organisation or it is bought abroad.

#### Article 2

Printed work of reserving character do not follow the obligatory deliverance but the organ, self-governing joint labour organisation and other organisation that have given the order to publish are obliged to save at least two sample editions of this printed work.

#### Article 3

With printed work, according to this paragraph, is understood all publications, books, brochures, artistic reproductions, musical works, magazines, geographical maps, all kinds of atlases, program catalogues, post cars etc and other supplements like tables,

graphics, forms multiplied by all kinds of technical equipment, as well as gramophone disks.

#### Article 4

If in publishing take part many organisations, the obligatory editions are sent by the one marked I the publication. If in the publication are more publishers the obligatory edition is delivered by the one that had completed the edition.

#### Article 5

If the printed work is published in many languages or alphabets or republished the obligatory editions have to be delivered in every language, alphabet or every time it is reedited.

New edition is considered every old edition that is distributed with a different covering page, title or completed editions with new photographs or additional text.

#### Article 6

The obligatory editions of the printed work are delivered immediately after being published the first exemplars. They have to be in good condition for distributing.

#### Article 7

Official publication, in accordance with this law, is considered everything that is published by the government organ as its official publication.

#### Article 8

Except the obligation in the first article of this law, the editors of the official publications have to deliver with their own expenses to the Yugoslav Bibliographical Institute in Belgrade for international exchange purposes 15 exemplars of everything published and has a character of official publication. The Yugoslav Bibliographical Institute determines the number of the exemplars to be delivered.

The official publications with the reserving character are ruled out from the first paragraph of this article.

#### Article 9

The National University Library of Kosova from the number of the exemplars delivered to her is obliged to send one to each central libraries of Socialist Republics and one to central library of Socialist Autonomous Province of Vojvodina. It keeps the other exemplars for its own needs.

The National University library of Kosova can determine the number of the obligatory exemplars to be sent to other libraries abroad for exchange purposes.

#### Article 10

The publishing organisations in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova are obliged to send one exemplar of books, magazines, newspapers, brochures, and gramophone disks to the regional organ of the competent administration for cultural issues to follow the publishing activities and to supervise the legal procedures.

#### Article 11

The main libraries in the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova have to provide at least an exemplar of books, magazines, brochures and everything that is published in the territory of Kosova, if this law does not determine otherwise, with their own expenses.

#### Article 12

Two exemplars of official and trade forms, advertisements, announcements, placards and private communications should be delivered only to the National University library of Kosova

#### Article 13

The publishing agencies should send to the Yugoslav Bibliographical Institute a monthly report of everything they published every month. The copy of this monthly report is sent to National University Library and to the regional administration organ competent for cultural matters.

Military units and the institutions that publish their works send the monthly report according to the first paragraph of this article conform to federative dispositions. The head of the regional organ of the competent administration for cultural matters adopts the more detailed dispositions for the information that this report should contain.

#### Article 14

The regional administration organ competent for cultural matters supervises the legal procedure of the disposition appliance of this law.

#### Article 15

With 50000 dinars fine is sentenced the publishing organisation or the person who does not deliver the published works:

- If does not deliver 15 free exemplars of each published material (article 1, paragraph 1 & 3)
- If the published material is not sent in every language, alphabet or every new edition (article 5, paragraph 1),
- If the published material is not sent in time and in good conditions (article 6)
- If does not fulfil its obligation to the Yugoslav Bibliographical Institute in Belgrade (article 8, paragraph 1),

- If does not deliver one exemplar to each central library of the socialist republics and to the central library of the socialist autonomous province of Vojvodina (article 9, paragraph 1),
- If does not deliver one exemplar to the regional organ of the competent administration for cultural matters (article 10),
- If does not provide at least an exemplar of all published work in the territory of Kosova (article 11),
- If does not send in time the monthly report of all published work to the Yugoslav Bibliographical institute and the copies to the National University Library and the regional administration organ competent for cultural matters (article 13, paragraph 1),

According to the paragraph of this article, the responsible person of the particular publishing organisation is given a 5000 dinars fine.

#### Article 16

The head of the regional administration organ competent for cultural matters determines the number of copies and the way the gramophone disks are to be sent.

#### Article 17

The day this law is enforced the former law on deliverance of printed material to the certain institutions (official notebook of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova) is ruled out.

#### Article 18

This law is enforced 8 days after is promulgated in the official newsletter of the Socialist Autonomous Province of Kosova.