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The Municipal Library of Prague is a member of: CR Association of Library and Information Professionals, CR Library Association, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions – Metropolitan Libraries Section, IAML, SIBMAS

Foreign partners of the Municipal Library of Prague are: Maribor Library (Slovenia), Municipal Library in Helsinki (Finland), Central Universal Science Library of N. A. Někrasov in Moscow (Russia), Queens Library (New York, USA)

Participation in international projects: Windows of Shanghai Libraries for All Animaliter

DEJVICE BRANCH IN THE NATIONAL TECHNICAL LIBRARY



Occasionally people ask me, somewhat awkwardly: "What will you do then?"
 "Then when?" I respond, puzzled.
 "Well, when the libraries become redundant."
 "Why should they become redundant?"
 "You know...the people are giving up on reading."
 "Really? What gave you that idea?"
 "I...I just read about it."

It is true that a bubble surfaces in the media from time to time, giving the uninformed an impression that the days of readers, books and libraries are numbered. But let us compare the present situation with what it was ten years ago. More titles are being published today, the average time devoted to reading for the country as a whole is roughly the same (actually a little longer), more readers visited the Municipal Library of Prague and carried more books home with them. There is nothing to suggest that it will be any different any time soon. In a survey we did among adult patrons, over ninety percent of them expressed the intention to utilize the library in the future as much as they do now, or more.

There are changes, of course. In fact some changes are so profound that they may signify the end of an era in the history of libraries. At the same time, they mark the beginning of a new period, which is bound to be incredibly interesting and exciting. The inexorable advance of electronic books we are witnessing does not spell doom for the paper books, but rather opens a whole new territory, not yet fully mapped out, where libraries continue to give service while searching for new ways to fulfill their own, still perfectly valid mission.

So we will continue to guide readers through the world of information, literature, and – why not to embrace it – culture and education, in the broadest possible sense. We will align ourselves with the readers, who can be assured that our recommendations are inspired by conviction of relevance and quality.

The Municipal Library of Prague decided not to wait for future developments and started to build an electronic library right away. The prestigious "Library of the Year" title bestowed by the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic tells us that it was a step in the right direction. I am delighted by the fact that this project began as a spontaneous activity among a group of colleagues. Thanks!

My thanks to all co-workers who handled books, organized concerts and discussions, and carried out special assignments while working with a smaller budget. Thank you, thank you! I am likewise thankful to the cooperative public institutions and their employees, as well as to all our supporters, partners and friends.

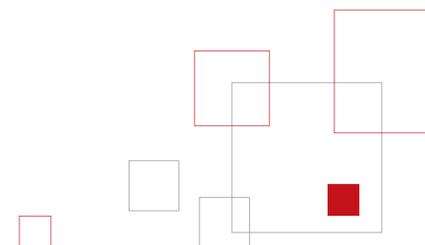
Equally deserving of our gratitude are the library patrons. More than half of them, when interviewed for the survey, indicated that the library was the most important cultural institution in the city for them.

We shall endeavor to be worthy of such commendation.

Tomáš Řehák, RNDr.
 Director

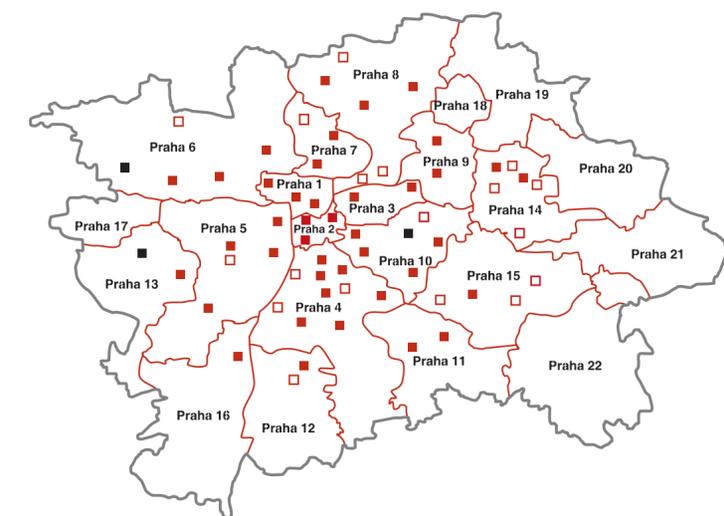


ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Activities in 2009

JANUARY	History of the Brave Czech Nation and a Couple of Insignificant World Events / Drugs and the Youth / Aerofilms Presents
FEBRUARY	Fairy Tales from a Sheep Pocket / Remembering František Nepil / The Third Age – the Third World / The Rainbow Tales of Daniela Fischerová / Prague 4 in the Passage of Time / Project 100 / Mene Tekel
MARCH	Knihovna4u – the opening of a new virtual branch / The Year of the Rooster by Tereza Boučková / The Four Seasons / One World / The Rebellious Ladies of Czech Music: Eva Pilarová / Clemens Kuby: En Route to a Neighboring Dimension
APRIL	One more automated - Garden City branch / Moments with Architecture / My Crazy Century by Ivan Klíma / A Night with Andersen / Animaliter: When Animals Can Talk / Prague Underground by Václav Cílek / The Rite of Spring
MAY	Bibliobus full of Čapek at the Book World / Karel Čapek on-line / Free wi-fi for readers at all branches / JFKcon / New Media Wiki Intranet of MLP or Everybody Talks About Everything / Libraries for Everybody
JUNE	Bibliobus at Bambiriáda / Prague Museum Night: To See and Capture Prague / Prague in the on-line library / How the First-Graders Grow with Books / I am a Reader Now / The Writers' Festival in Prague / MLP appears on Facebook
JULY-AUGUST	The Pavel Brothers' Kingdom / A walk through the Prague Zoo and Botanical Garden / ProART Festival 2009
SEPTEMBER	09/09/09 Opening of the Dejvice branch in the new building of the National Technical Library / CONiáš09: Prague under Prague / The Days of Prague 11 / Korean Film in Prague / Echoes of the 6th Year of Fresh Film Fest
OCTOBER	MLP received the 2009 Library of the Year Award / Braille Script Reading and Writing Competition / 10 years of the Michle branch / Jan Saudek, Photographer / Božena Němcová on-line / Prague Season of Drak Theater
NOVEMBER	The Poetry Days / We Are Helping You Read / The Travels of Pavla Jazairová / Sherlock Holmes on-line / The Lenka Dusilová Trio / Write, Kafka, Write! / Winter Playing
DECEMBER	Pick it up anywhere, drop it off where it's convenient / Fairy tales on-line / Theater of Marka Míková: Croak and Plop / Wild Men on Earth and Elsewhere: Jan Budař and Eliška's Band / International Festival of Outdoor Films



The 45 tiny squares on the map of Prague symbolize:

- 40 permanent branches opened for the readers
 - closed for reconstruction (Ruská, Dědina – temporarily replacing the bibliobus stops, Stodůlky)
 - 20 stations serviced by 3 bibliobuses
- www.mlp.cz/knihovny

MLP IN NUMBERS FOR 2009

2,333,963	the number of books, maps, CDs, DVDs, images, music scores, cassettes and electronic files in the MLP collections
127,582	documents enriched the MLP collections
19,9	million CZK - the amount spent by MLP to acquire new documents
11	information databases are accessible through www.mlp.cz/database
100	books are available for downloading from an e-library accessible through www.e-knihovna.cz
4,666,698	books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, maps and pictures were checked out by readers
19,526	books and other items were checked out in one day
1,934	books and other documents were checked out in one hour of operation
571,856	books were made available for in-house study
6,784,858	the number of all transacted loans (loans to patrons' homes, renewals of these loans, registered loans on library premises, loans to regional libraries established by the municipal districts of Prague), not including the unregistered loans from open displays (i.e. those books, newspapers and magazines that readers and unregistered visitors accessed on the premises)
167,520	people had a valid library card and used the library service at least once
36,759	people had a valid library card but did not use any of the available services
2,195,707	people visited one of the MLP branches to obtain a library service or information
3,471,422	virtual visitors took advantage of an on-line Internet service (e.g. searched for titles in an online catalogue, renewed their loans, reserved an item, accessed one of the databases, etc.)
5,020	cultural and educational events took place on the premises and at branch locations
133,948	people attended these events
455	the number of systemized work contracts within the MLP, having a total of 522 employees
181	educational functions were held for the employees of MLP and other libraries in the Prague region
39	public libraries in Prague that MLP services within the regional functions (38 local libraries and the Home Journey Library)

E-library: On-line reading for knowledge or fun

The MLP e-library may be accessed through www.e-knihovna.cz and currently holds approximately 1,200 titles which may be read on line or downloaded. The books are being offered in several formats suitable for reading on computer monitors, electronic book displays, or "smart" mobile phones. In 2009, the e-library consisted of the following parts:

Prague in the library offers more than 1,000 digitized titles about the city from the collection of Prague-oriented literature, compiled within the HISPRA project supported by the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Space & the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

Karel Čapek on-line offers a complete set of works by Karel Čapek for downloading, including those written jointly with his brother Josef. The participants in the project were: Czech National Corpus Institute of the Faculty of Arts of Charles University, The Čapek Brothers Society and The Karel Čapek Memorial at Strž. The project got the Library of the Year 2009 Award for significant initiative in the area of public library and information services, granted by the CR Ministry of Culture.

Božena Němcová on-line offers the prosaic and poetic work of Božena Němcová, as well as her translations, for downloading, including a collection of Slovakian legends, fairy tales, folkloric vignettes, and her correspondence from the period of 1844-1861. Fascinating is the exile edition of Babička (Grandmother) by 68 Publishers illustrated by Jan Brychta and a gallery of "Grandmothers". The project is the result of a cooperation between www.digibooks.cz and The Museum of Božena Němcová in Česká Skalice.

Sherlock Holmes on-line offers a complete assemblage of the ingenious detective's cases from the pen of A. C. Doyle in competent Czech translations. The page even features a comic strip as it appeared in the Čtyřlístek Magazine (Four-Leaf Clover) in the 1980s. The project was made possible by the support from www.digibooks.cz, Czech Sherlock Holmes Society, and by a kind cooperation of Eva Kondrysová PhD, Zora Wolfová, Mgr. Eva Zábranová and Mgr. Eva Bátorová who hold the Czech translations' rights, as well as Rudolf Čechura and Marcel Stecker who produced the comic strip version.

Fairy tales on-line site offers traditional Czech fairy tales interpreted by Božena Němcová and Jaroslav Seifert.

Thematic Databases

In addition to the e-library, the readers with a valid library card may search for other sources of information on line, for example Encyclopedia COTOJE or specialized databases such as Oxford Art On-line, Film Indexes International, Oxford Music On-line, Proquest Central, etc. A complete list of the available databases is on www.mlp.cz/database.

On-line Communication with the Reader

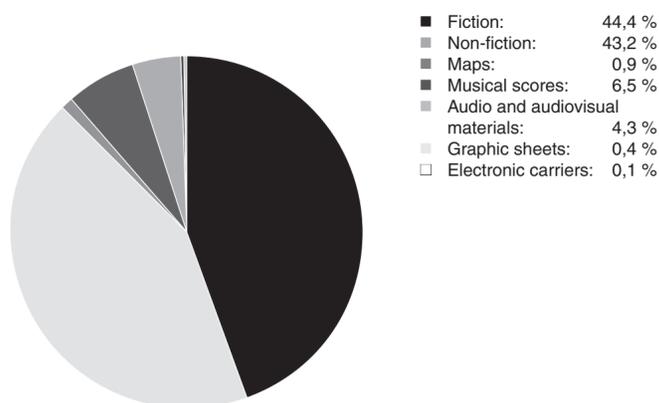
K4U = Knihovna4u = Library for you

Since March, the virtual branch is accessible via www.k4u.cz. The web utilizes the elements of 2.0, thus allowing the users to discuss books, films, music or a variety of social topics. There is even a possibility of compiling own lists of favorite books, keep an electronic reader's journal or confront the librarians present with difficult questions.

www.facebook.com/knihovna

The library created its page on the Facebook social network in June. By the end of the year, more than 2,000 people clicked the "I like it" button.

STRUCTURE OF THE LIBRARY HOLDINGS



The Municipal Library of Prague is an organization partly financed by the Capital City of Prague. For 2009, the city administration approved a non-investment contribution for MLP in the amount of 215,000 thousand CZK, which was adjusted to 223,251.4 thousand CZK as of Jan. 31, 2009. Additional sources supporting the MLP activities are project-specific grants from the budget of the City of Prague (HISPRA, Opencard, purchases of library materials, allocation for the Hradčany branch operation), financial mechanisms of EHP and Norway (HISPRA: Salvation of Prague-oriented documents and other rare documents from the MLP collections), government budget, i.e. grant-based projects within the VISK 2 programs (Continued Education of Librarians and Information Specialists), The 21st Century Library (protection of rare prints), contribution of municipal districts (Praha 1 – Hradčany branch operation, Praha 5 – Ostrovského branch operation, Praha 6 – Dejvice branch operation, Praha 16 – a contribution toward new books for the Velká Chuchle branch), as well as gifts and grant programs from various funds and private corporations.

In 2009, the MLP expenses were covered from the following sources:

Non-investment contribution of Prague City Hall:	88,55 %
Non-investment contribution of MČ HMP:	0,44 %
Government grant:	0,05 %
European Union grant:	0,80 %
Own sources (sales, gifts, funds):	11,16 %

Main Activities

Income

From the library operation:	21,085 thousand CZK
From other activities – own events:	1,899 thousand CZK
Other income:	5,221 thousand CZK
Total:	28,205 thousand CZK

Expense

Purchases consumed:	40,751.7 thousand CZK
Services:	44,070.6 thousand CZK
Personnel expense:	156,902.5 thousand CZK
Taxes and fees:	232.3 thousand CZK
Other expenses:	1,270.3 thousand CZK
Write-offs:	9,614.3 thousand CZK
Total:	252,841.7 thousand CZK

Capital Expenditures

Capital expenditures for 2009 were approved in the amount of 57,750 thousand CZK, which was adjusted in the course of the year to 18,504.8 thousand CZK. The funds were, or in 2010 will be, used for the projects of reconstruction and modernization of the library at Ruská and digitization of the library holdings as part of the HISPRA project. The investment-designated funds from 2008 were completely exhausted in 2009 for the projects of reconstruction and modernization of the library at Ruská, opening of the Dejvice branch in the National Technical Library building, as well as reconstruction and modernization of the MLP branch network.

Investment Fund

With the administrator's consent, the investment fund was used to acquire property in the amount of 8,538 thousand CZK.

Projects and Expenditures:

Integration of the Dejvice branch into National Technical Library building:	1,685 thousand CZK
Renovation of ÚK MLP:	497.7 thousand CZK
Compact shelves and movable grills for Opatov:	819.6 thousand CZK
Air-conditioning unit for Rare Print Department:	54 thousand CZK
Shredding machine for the head office:	52.5 thousand CZK
Acquisition of computing technology:	1,750 thousand CZK
Purchase of a new software:	2,351.9 thousand CZK
Expansion of economy software and MLP web site:	1,278.9 thousand CZK
Purchase of a sitting set for ÚK:	48.4 thousand CZK

Other Activities

(rental of non-residential premises)	
Income:	1,805 thousand CZK
Expense:	1,312 thousand CZK
Net economic effect before taxes:	493 thousand CZK

In 2009, the Municipal Library of Prague decided to find out what kinds of services the patrons expect, including both the active patrons and those who have not used any of the services for some time. The survey results were very interesting, particularly for the active patrons. The interview was done by means of questionnaires posted on the website. A total of **9,000** randomly selected patrons from the library database were contacted, of whom **5,666** filled the questionnaire. This resulted in a relatively high response rate of **63%**. A total of **92%** respondents expressed satisfaction with the library services. Good news is also the fact that the library is for most of them, subjectively, the most important cultural institution run by the City of Prague.

The responses did bring to light some issues that the library should take into account when contemplating enhancement of services. Ten most desired services are listed below:

1. An information newsletter via e-mail (83.72% respondents)
2. The possibility of returning any item at any branch (65.88% respondents)
3. More new books (57.83% respondents)
4. To be open on Mondays (55.32% respondents)
5. More copies of popular titles (55.1% respondents)
6. Book delivery within the MLP network at reader's request (52.73% respondents)
7. SMS service, like sending notifications (44.52% respondents)
8. To be open on Saturdays and Sundays (41.95% respondents)
9. To offer e-books on the Internet (41.73% respondents)
10. A greater textbook selection (41.58% respondents).

A detailed commentary on the "**top ten**" issues and replies to questions the patrons asked the library in the survey may be seen on www.mlp.cz/vyzkumy.

And what did the patrons tell us?

"I wish to respond positively. I appreciate the services of the library and its workers very much, I see that the services are getting better every year, I like the fact that the libraries offer a diverse cultural program, that there are even many events for children. I like to go to the educational programs in the Central Library and have not been disappointed by any of the concerts or discussions with well-known personalities. I work as a teacher and the admission is acceptable for my wallet. I want to thank you all. You can be proud of your work and what you do for the public. I am convinced that the money allocated to your institution is one of the best investments and the state gets a good return. Of the recent library offers, I was thrilled to see the set of Čapek's Works on-line and the Dášenska pictures with the quotations. Again, thanks for making the MLP pages tasteful and easily accessible."

"And the last comment regarding the Koniáš System is that it strikes me as somewhat confusing and non-intuitive. I think older people must have a problem working with it."

"I am happy with the services and the responsiveness of your librarians. I've always received good advice and assistance from them. Only the search computers are a little inflexible and worn out and there are lines front of them, so this kind of searching and ordering is not completely hassle-free. I miss certain information on CD content – e.g. a list of songs".

"I wish that other areas of public life would also employ such pleasant people as the libraries do..."

WHAT IS BEING PREPARED FOR 2010

The 2010 development plan of the Municipal Library of Prague contains a number (possibly dozens) of projects intended to significantly improve the quality of service. The most important are:

- Open a new version of the official MLP web page www.mlp.cz, re-organize the content, upgrade the graphics, modify the search function, which should result in much greater user comfort thanks to the enterprise search technology.
- Unify the search function in the on-line catalogue and on the patrons' computers with the library catalogue
- Expand the services that bring books and readers together, e.g. institute any-place returning service, provide a brand new mobile mini-library service.
- Open two newly equipped branch offices: at Ruská (remodeled House of Reading in Strašnice) and in Hostivař (move into the new quarters in Golfová Street).
- Publish updated Library Regulations to modify and streamline library registration and the extension of existing membership for the patrons. In addition to the printed version, the updated Library Regulations will be available in an electronic form on www.mlp.cz/radmkp.htm.
- Prepare and publish a library guide for the newly registered readers.
- Continue to build the e-library and broaden the offer of books in electronic form.