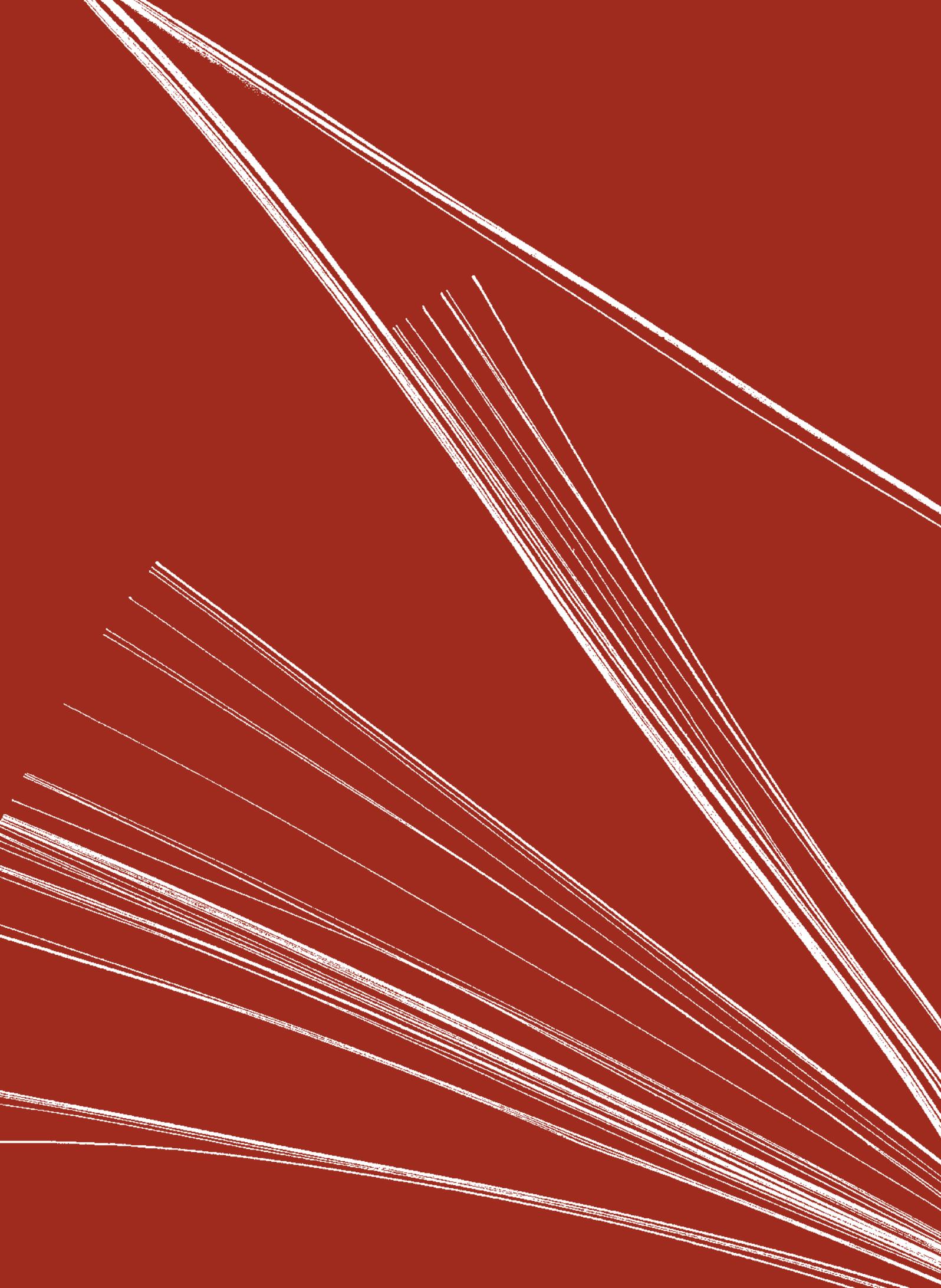


Annual Report for the Year 2003



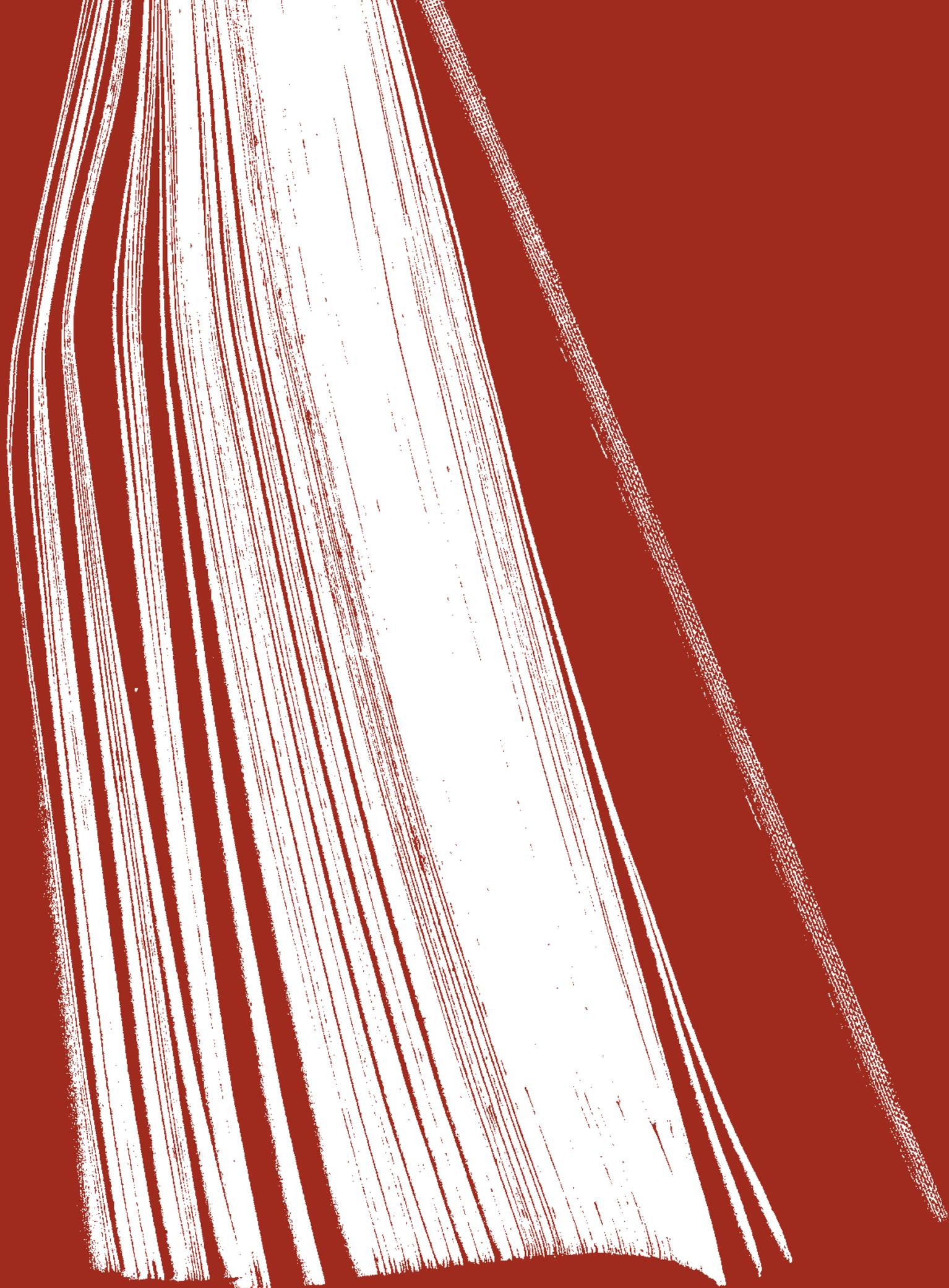
Municipal Library of Prague



” The future is born where
intelligent people meet
with the world’s wealth
of information and culture.

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Foreword by the Mayor

” People have used writing to record their experience and knowledge in books and other documents for no less than 5,000 years in order to maintain and disseminate the level of knowledge they had reached. Thus writing, books and book collections have to a certain extent become a guarantee of the continuity of the development of human society and the propagation of culture and humanity. It is no exaggeration to describe libraries as being as old as civilisation itself, standing by at the beginning of every nation's history.

We live in times of an information boom, and times when technological progress continually surprises us with its successful efforts to compress as much text as possible into ever shrinking media. Thus we are familiar with CD-ROM books, „palmtop books“ inside electronic diaries and pocket computers, and „mobile phone books“... yet there are still plenty who swear by the classic paper book in their hand. Beyond its aesthetic values and indescribable scent, it meets the supreme criterion of accessibility and mobility, irrespective of the technological equipment in the reader's household and their technical skill.

A library is not only composed of books: primarily, it is people. Those who look after the books and prepare them to be taken out, and those for whom the libraries are primarily intended, the readers. It is certainly pleasing to see that Prague's citizens are ever increasingly interested in the services of the Library regardless of the technological trends mentioned above.

The year 2003 was the 100th anniversary of the Library's permanent residence in its present-day building in Mariánské Square. The physical proximity of the Prague Metropolitan Authority buildings and the Municipal Library is no coincidence, but rather a reflection of the important role that the Library has had in validating and reinforcing the position of our city as a centre of culture and education. The funds invested in the development of the Library are a positive representation of a good investment in the quality of life for those living in Prague, the support of their lifelong education in line with the Capital City's strategic plan, and a generally humanistic orientation.

Pavel Bém — Mayor of the Capital City of Prague

The Year 2003 as Seen by the Director of Prague Municipal Library

By all means and standards, it was a successful year. It did not rain that much, fortunately. And so we were able to re-open the Mariánské Square Halls, which had been totally destroyed by the August 2002 flood. In the autumn, the public were first shown the restored Bible of Prague. Still, these are but the visible tips of the great endeavours made by my colleagues and our friends and supporters. Read more about them on the following pages of this annual report.

In spite of the effort and funds that we had to invest to deal with the flood damage, our „regular“ library work was record-breaking in all measurable indicators. The numbers of books taken out, readers, and their visits have again redefined the standard and have reached the highest point in history. And this wasn't just some tiny poke, the meter went up a fair bit! Looking back over the last ten years, we have raised the number of books taken out by more than one half. All that with almost identical staff numbers, mind you...

But we are not resting on our laurels. The world around us is changing, and top-end libraries are changing along with it. The library of tomorrow is not a large book-lending house. The library of tomorrow is a natural centre of culture in the broadest possible sense. It is a place for encounters between people and art and culture, as well as people themselves. That is why we have dedicated so much attention to looking for and renovating appropriate spaces for our services. That is, spaces that will not only meet our technical and organisational needs, but will inspire and truly foster culture. All the greater is our delight that we were able to offer two such places to the public. The entirely new Smíchov branch has enchanted not only professionals, but the broadest public as well. It is a true model showcase for a modern European library grown part of the architectural legacy of our ancestors: an example of how a shabby and dilapidated place can turn into the Andersenian swan that makes everybody sigh in wonder: „And this place has been here all along?“

The Smíchov Library has somewhat overshadowed her little Vinohrady sister. But wrongly, because the re-opened renovated Korunní Avenue Library is one of the best-managed small scale libraries left behind by the era of the First Republic. We have thoroughly tried and recovered its original character and „flair“. Drop in and sit on the terrace!

At the close of the year, we resolved to undergo a great change. You are holding one of its results in your hands. The Municipal Library of Prague is changing its visual style and logo after many years. It has its roots back in the turn of the 1950s and nowadays it does not convey enough meaning any more. Therefore we have chosen a new logo with the best professional help: one that is timeless and international. And we firmly believe that it shall become a generally recognised hallmark of the quality and culture of the services of a top European library in the Information Age.

It has become a habit to hurl insults at politicians. Perhaps it is because we weren't allowed to for fifty years, but I have to testify to the fact that the Municipal Library of Prague was lucky to see wise political decisions in 2003. Be it ministers, members of parliament or the metropolitan council, state administration or local government officials – it was also thanks to them that we succeeded in all the above and a lot more in the last year. It is a commitment for us to see that we are good stewards of the taxpayers' money; and many an inspection has proved that we are doing well in this respect.

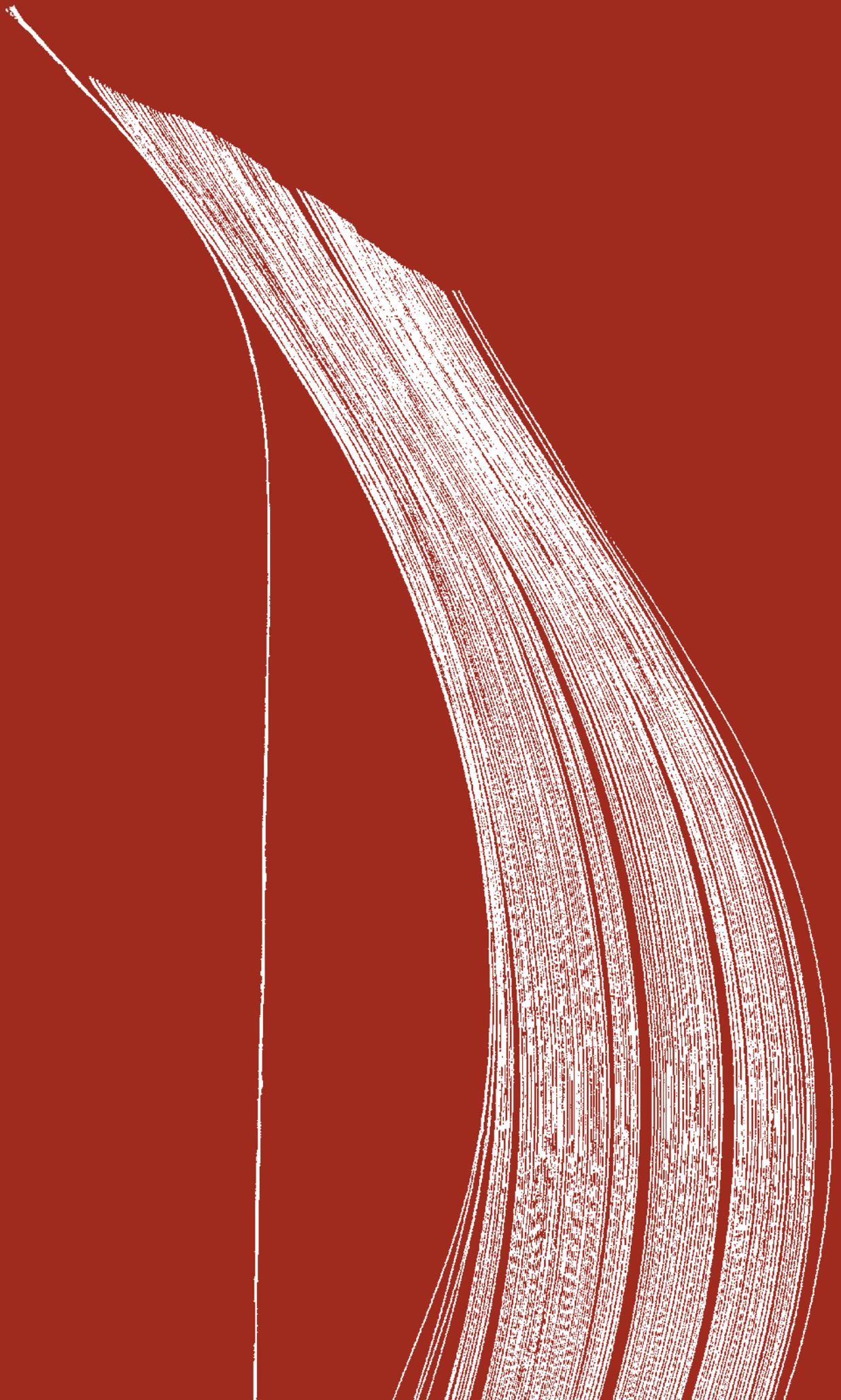
Let me reserve the last few lines for thanks. Naturally, they go out to all the supporters of our Library, individuals as well as institutions, for their donations, aid and co-operation. Also, thanks to all my colleagues, who had to stand great demands last year, and stood them very well indeed. Thank you all!

Tomáš Řehák — Director, Municipal Library of Prague

The Graphic Design and Visual Communication Studio of the Prague College of Applied Arts had extraordinary luck in the past year, specifically in its second half. We were asked by the Director of the MLP to create a new logo for this prestigious institution. We lived only for this task from September onwards. Each of our twelve students designed a logo and its basic application on letterheads, business cards and the exterior labelling, and the winning design was by Libor Jelínek. Our following assignment was also bound with up the Library in its theme: a treatment of three freely selected literary genres presented through graphic compositions in the final format of 100 x 70 cm. More than thirty posters were created, which can now be used to decorate the inside of the MLP. The newly established New Media section of the Prague 7 Branch has actually already made use of some of the works in their interior.

The factual details of the successful co-operation could end here. However, it was a splendid experience for me and an instructive moment for those students taking part to follow the large jury through their selection process in pursuit of the winning design. It was a pleasure for me to see the amount of professional grasp and personal responsibility that the jury members put into judging our work. They have chosen a logo that is factual, witty and up-to-date in both its form and content. I believe that not only will it represent our college well but, first of all, positively impress the readers and visitors at the MLP.

Rostislav Vaněk — Director, The Graphic Design and Visual Communication Studio of the Prague Academy of Art, Architecture and Design



The Kaleidoscope of Events



The world was turning before my eyes
like a kaleidoscopic image, forever
changing and ever more magnificent
in its colourful beauty.

J. J. Kolár

New and Anniversary Branches

- The sixteenth fully computerised branch was opened in the unique ambience of the Smíchov Market Hall. Ready for the readers in the impressive open plan space of the first floor of the Art Nouveau building are almost 70,000 volumes and a wide range of information services.
- The ceremonial opening of the Korunní Avenue Library was a grandiose event – as becomes a branch of its size and tradition – in the elegant 1920s style. The renovation emphasised the preservation and recurrence of the original architectonic elements.
- The Ostrčilovo Square Branch was also presented, in a modern decor and fully computerised.
- Ruská Street Library celebrated its 20th anniversary with a great literary competition.
- Opatov Library is also just 20 years old, along with the unique Opatov Artotheque.
- Barrandov Library, ten years younger, celebrated its anniversary with two full-day children's events called Library Adventures.

Exhibitions

- Dittrichova Street Library began working with the Jewish Museum of Prague on an exhibition of pupils' and students' artwork named Lost Neighbours.
- Modřany Library held an exhibition of Jiří Vítů's abstract oil paintings; the exhibition Secrets of Wood was put up together with the Artists Association – Karel Holub and Jiří Růcker's woodcuts and Jaroslav Šaman's sculptures; the exhibition Painting and Poem Writing was the work of Iva Hauserová.
- Visitors to Novodvorská Library had the chance to see an unusual exhibition: Things Left in Books.
- Opatov Library, in line with tradition, also acted as the MLP art gallery. To name but a few of the many exhibitions held here: Contemporary Czech Graphic Art; Silent Beauty, an exhibition of minerals; a presentation of Karel Oberthor's graphic works and paintings; an artistic presentation of a children's home, On the Way Home.
- The exhibition entitled The Bible of Prague, which was part of the exhibition Czech Bibles Through the Centuries at the Carolinum, publicly presented the unique first-ever printed Slavic bible restored after the flood, the most precious book from among the volumes at the MLP.
- Na Skalce Library pleased its visitors, among others, with Anna Šmídová's bobbin lace work, Ivo Hlásenský's photographs of the Altai Mountains, architect Zdeněk Veselý's collages, and an exhibition of children's artwork.
- The Central Library in Mariánské Square commemorated the following anniversaries with interesting exhibitions: the 130th anniversary of Russian composer Sergey Vasilievich Rachmaninov's birth and the 60th anniversary of his death; the 200th anniversary of the birth of French composer Hector Berlioz; the 190th jubilee of the birth of composer Richard Wagner and the 120th anniversary of his death; or the 80th anniversary of screenwriter, director and artist Ester Krumbachová's birth.
- Not only visitors but also passers-by are invited to the regular topical displays in the windows of the Letná and Břevnov Libraries.

Educational Programmes

- Smíchov Library ran an impressive programme with native American dances, costumes, and information about the customs and rituals of this culture.
- A number of branches organised events for their readers, both adults and children, to improve their mastery of information technology, from the basics of working on a computer to getting to know the library database or the internet.
- The largest MLP electronic database training session took place in the Central Library. The total of eight lessons were divided equally between beginners and advanced users.
- Thanks to regularly organised excursions for children and young people, over 3,500 young visitors saw the interior of our largest branch, the Central Library.
- Jírovcovo Square Library presented the life and culture of the ethnic minorities in our immediate surroundings; the event was aptly titled The World Meets in Prague 11.
- In the Vysočany Branch, young readers learned how to work with European Union materials.
- Na Skalce Library held a Slovak Lesson in collaboration with the Slovak Institute: the children got to know the specialities of the Slovak language through interactive games, the teachers being J. Satinský, M. Krén and V. Kučerová.

Discussions, Lectures and Reading

- The Smíchov and Vikova Branches invited Ivona Březinová to allow readers a peep into a writer's workshop.
- An inspiring discussion about contemporary literature with Eda Kriseová took place at Na Veselí; Magdalena Wagnerová spoke about children's literature there, Magdalena Platzová presented her first authored book along with some interesting opinions. Vítek Brukner spoke about the theatre and literature and showed puppet films.
- K. Sidonová related Jewish fairy tales; the German-writing Czech-German author Lenka Reinerová had a presentation here.
- The Authors' Soirée – a meeting of student writers – was held for the 26th time last year.
- Children's Books' Friends meetings and discussions about new books were held in the Braník Library every month.
- Literary soirées hosting the writers Jáchym Topol, Jiří Žáček, Vladimír Körner, Jiří Dědeček, Petr Šabach, Vlastimil Třešňák and Jan Burian took place in the Břevnov Library.
- A presentation on Vietnam, its inhabitants, customs, family relationships, religion, and attitudes to education and work, was organised in Jírovcovo Square Library.
- Na Skalce Library organised the fourth regular meeting entitled Humour in Czech Literature, hosting Jan Kantůrek (Terry Pratchett's translator) who read out excerpts from Czech humorist literature (Poláček, Rada, Žák, etc.). The artist, Radio HEY and TV Nova presenter Stanislav Berkovec presented his graphic art and puppets to both children and adults. The spokeswoman for Central Bohemian Police, Soňa Budská, gave a speech on How to Face Violence; the debate with Mrs. Ludmila Hobzová of the Albatros Publishing Co. was called How Books Come into Being.
- Pindralko's Talk on the Romany culture was held at the Opatov Library in co-operation with the Prague Multi-Cultural Centre.
- Novodvorská Library held a Fairytale Reading for the Little Ones and Big Ones under the Week of Libraries.
- School pupils had a forum with a fireman in Lužiny Library, and there was a demonstration of fire-fighting equipment and outfits.

- Smíchov Library witnessed a discussion forum on Czech traditions with Dr. Langhamerová, an ethnographer at the Ethnography Museum.
- Writer and illustrator Jan Bárta played with the children at Břevnov Library; the event included an art competition and subsequent exhibition.
- An unconventional meeting took place in Břevnov, where the children read out excerpts from their favourite books to their teachers and librarians.
- Special discussion forums for dyslectic and dysgraphic children were held in Břevnov Library.
- Skalka Library organised a discussion meeting with writer E. Bernardinová.
- Children met in the Central Library to attend the events called The Sun Day and The Tree Day, with reading, story-telling and gift-making.
- Novelist and playwright Ivan Klíma made a visit to the Central Library and took the Guest Seat to answer questions.
- Another of the Central Library's programmes was the very popular lecture series accompanied by video shows, The Golden Sixties, presenting the Czech film directors of the 1960s New Wave. Zdena Škapová lectured on Jiří Menzel; Jan Bernard presented Evald Schorm and Věra Chytilová; Ivan Klimeš lectured on Jan Němec; and Stanislava Přádná spoke about Miloš Forman.
- Lužiny Library organised a discussion meeting with Mr. Tomáš of the regional publishing company Avatar, active in Prague 13.

Competitions and Games

- Břevnov Library held an end-of-year Scrabble tournament where readers as well as non-readers matched their skill against the top Czech players.
- The Great German Robbery took place at Opatov Library, a colourful summer holiday game for children in co-operation with the Goethe Institut Prag.
- Jírovcovo Square Library invited all the children who had participated in the Most Studious Reader competition along with those who had responded to three competition questions weekly, to the King Reader ceremony.
- Na Skalce Library held an art competition entitled Tribute to J. R. R. Tolkien, the results of which were shown in an exhibition; the opening day welcomed the participants from the Hruška Artist Group along with academic painter Helena Hrušková-Slavíková; the events were sponsored by Michal Bronec of Straky na vrbě publishing house. Children could also have a go at a competition called Paint a Yellow Elephant, held under the auspices of the Prague Zoo and Minor Theatre, or the literary competition entitled On the Trail with Inspector Kalous, held in co-operation with the children's magazine Mateřídouška.
- Barrandov Library was turned into a Fairytale Library during the Children's Day afternoon programme.
- Also Prosek Library had a Fairytale Garden, offering a diverting afternoon for children. Children could hunt a treasure in the unconventional competition at Cibulka Library; on the contrary St. Wenceslas Afternoon is a traditional children readers' competition there, culminating in a ducat fair, competitions and other surprises.
- Lužiny Library hosted the well-known educational ceramics painting workshop, this time supplemented with a puppet making demonstration.
- The children of Barrandov competed to become the Cleverhead, helped Inspector Kalous in his investigations, and also hunted Bohemian and Moravian bogeys over the summer holidays.

- Sixty-eight children from six nearby schools participated in the literary competition Become a Writer, run by Stodůlky Library; some of the results will be published in the Prague 13 regional newsletter.
- The second year of the event called Want to Become an Illustrator? took place in Krč Library as part of the Week of Libraries, where children created their own covers for re-bound or unattractive books.
- Children's Day was also celebrated in Braník with competitions and an art workshop.
- Children met with Standa Berkovec at Na Skalce and created a joint library painting; the library also held a Tomcat Day, based on Garfield the Cat's jubilee. A letter of congratulation was sent to another celebrity on this occasion, to President Václav Klaus, who shares his birthday with Garfield. The President thanked the children and gave them a few words of wisdom on the subject of life.
- The smaller children at Korunní enjoyed several fairytale games (The Fairytale Dragon or Hey, I Know This One), the older ones roamed the library with Mr. Koniáš, and all enjoyed the Christmas competitions.
- Three travellers' competitions took place at Charkovská: around the world, around Europe, and around Prague 10.
- There was a vote on the most beautiful kite at Skalka, and crossword masters matched their brains there.
- The Zahradní Město Library organised a Who's Who, matching illustrators and writers to book names.
- The Central Library celebrated Christmas and Easter with a series of programmes called Come and Play Along.

Trips

- Dittrichova Library made literary trips with their children readers to Hrusice, Mníšek pod Brdy and Karlštejn, and visited the Miniature Museum and Minor Theatre.
- Readers from Opatov followed the trail of the trilobite, and although the Palaeozoic fossil deposits in Prague are nearly depleted, the expedition still discovered a few of these ancient sea creatures.
- An expedition following the trail of J. Arbes's mystery tales with librarians and readers investigating in Hlubočepy, one of the places from J. Arbes's tales, started from the Skalka Library; its children readers also visited the Zoo with a Radio Hey presenter and tried their first live broadcast.
- Children's literary walks around the Old Town with commentaries on history and legends (mostly the scary ones) were held by the Central Library.

Concerts and Theatre Shows

- „Bridges“ were forged from the Michle Library between the children of the Ohradní Primary School and the seniors of the Sue Ryder Home; this musical event was repeated with great success as a Christmas Concert.
- The puppet play Cheeky Máňa thrilled the kindergarten children at Na Veselí.
- A play named Latin Quarter Witch based on the book by Pierre Gripari was shown at Na Skalce by the children of Santoška Primary School.
- Barrandov Library organised a programme dedicated to the development of the Baroque flute for classic music lovers: Jindra Černá played the music.
- The entertainment programme for primary school children held in Lužiny Library as part of the Month of Czech-Slovak Solidarity was entitled „Máte rádi čučoriedky?“ The Bratislava Teatro Carnevalo played there and Juraj Hamaj played traditional Slovak musical instruments.

- Smíchov Library held an interesting concert of medieval music and display of historical instruments by Krless; the Bořivoj theatre group invited the children to actively shape the story of their play, which was entitled How to Find a Princess; the Impudici presented Renaissance dance in period costumes to the library visitors. The library was imbued with a Christmas atmosphere with a concert by the Gabriel choir together with the Broučci, a children's choir show of Christmas carols and winter songs; many visitors were also attracted by a concert by the young songwriting band Succuba.
- A number of branches in Prague 8, 9, and 14 staged the puppet show Jezík the Water Sprite for their little visitors.

And a Few Extras ...

- H. C. Andersen Night was a magical night where courageous and inquisitive children were allowed to sleep over at the Dittrichova, Charkovská, Lužiny, Novodvorská, Opatov, and Central Libraries.
- Jírovcovo Square Library held the Ukraine Day in co-operation with the Ukrainian-Czech Society, where a Ukrainian children's dance group performed traditional songs and dances.
- The staff of District Library 10-15 adopted twelve-year-old Vincent Walimbwu in Uganda.
- The programme How You Do Radio was organised right in the recording studio of Radio Hey and introduced the children of Skalka Library to the basics of radio presentation.
- During the national Great October Group Reading, over 120 readers congregated in the Central Library as well other MLP branches to present their favourite writers. Jaroslav Seifert's daughter was present to read the opening excerpt from his works.
- Christmas and Easter saw the children in many libraries making gifts at the workshops. The ceramics workshops, as usual, were a great success.
- Box houses and paper trees, or Let's build a housing estate – the local high rises resemble nothing more than boxes, but that needn't always be true, as the children at Opatov playfully demonstrated.
- The Praguensia Section of the MLP published a CD-ROM with the digitised 1938 map of Prague supplemented with interactive indices.
- Saturday 21 June, just as in London, was the MLP premiere of the fifth Harry Potter book. While the book was first marketed in the UK, it was ready to be taken out at the MLP on the same day!
- The campaign on the MLP's 111th anniversary culminated in the publishing of a CD-ROM dedicated to the Triple One and offering plenty of new information and interesting facts about the MLP.
- During the international book fair Bookworld 2003, visitors were able to use the MLP bookmobile inside the Fair Centre, where information on the Library was presented and an informal discussion forum with the Director took place.
- The Karlín Library, destroyed by the floods, has been temporarily replaced by one of the MLP bookmobiles. The regular Wednesday visits by the library-on-wheels are appreciated by the local readers in this flood-hit area.



From the Bookseller to the Shelf

” One day, when you need to think clearly, speak or do something,
you shall not be pressed to search for something here
and there or turn on the lights, but you shall have
everything ready at hand.

J. A. Komenský

Thousands of readers come to the library to find and borrow a book or CD quickly and easily, and by far not every visitor has the precise information on the item they are looking for. Questions like this are quite common: „Once I read this little bluish book, it was published round 1968 I think, something about sailors, I recall it was illustrated by Gustav Krum.“ The librarian is not baffled at such a request, because the Koniáš library system can answer even a query as incomplete as this within seconds. This means, however, that the database must first have been fed with an enormous volume of data and information.

The process of purchasing and processing the library content runs continually backstage at the library. The volume sitting on its shelf is at its end, equipped with coloured identification labels, a class mark, barcode and several other requisites, and all the information on this volume is stored in the electronic catalogue.

The entire process starts with the purchase committee's expert opinion, which decides the number and branch allocation of books based on the reviews made by the MLP workers and according to the branches' capacities or topic orientation.

Over 15,000 books were catalogued in this way last year. Besides, the Koniáš was completed with almost thirty thousand new terminological and analytical specifications, shared by dozens of other libraries outside the MLP.

The MLP participates in the programme entitled Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica, aimed at the digital publishing and protection of the cultural heritage included in the historical documents preserved in the Czech Republic.

The MLP continues in the creation of nominal entries on outstanding historical personalities. This unique and universally usable personal database is emerging from the efficient co-operation taking place among a number of libraries and other institutions.

The Librarians, Readers, and Their Computers

When the computerisation of the Municipal Library of Prague was decided on in the nineteen nineties, a crucial question arose. One of the available library programs could have been chosen and applied to the specific needs of a broad library network with all the necessary compromise solutions. The other option was to create our own database, tailored to the needs of the MLP.

The second, more demanding option was taken. Time has proven this decision to be correct. The MLP's own library system, called Koniáš, is proving the flexibility with which it reacts to the growing demands of users, even in the year of its fifth birthday. The mighty influx of readers, the growing number of book volumes and the overall service turnover requires it to be continuously updated and many new functions added.

Koniáš accommodates forgetful readers by sending out automated e-mail notifications telling them that the end of their borrowing period is approaching and possibly that a penalty period has begun. The threat of misuse of stolen documents when registering as a reader has been eliminated with the introduction of on-line checking with the Ministry of Interior database. The non-stop internet reader conference service allows the users to obtain up-to-the-minute information and deal with all kinds of problems at any time and immediately.

Almost 70% of all borrowings were computerised in 2003, although by far not all the branches are using Koniáš yet. Development, however, is moving rapidly towards the full computerisation of the MLP network.

Our own computer network fully connecting the branches guarantees that the process of searching, borrowing and ordering is carried out with extraordinary speed and clarity, and is up-to-date. Since it is so large and multi-functional, there is a team of operatives at the MLP to thoroughly train the librarians. The workers at the three new branches opened in 2003 were also taken through the usual knot of training, short-term attachments and test operation so as to be able to enhance the MLP services efficiently from their first minute on the desk.



P. Koniáš sleeps very little, staying up late at night, often reviewing the heretic books until daybreak, and then preaches a sermon in the morning, and again during the day, maybe three or five times in a row. He has even fainted once from this weariness...

A. Jirásek

Preserving a Unique Heritage



In it they believed, it they fought for,
it they defended, and it they preserved!
A. Šrámek

The first-ever printed Slavic bible is the Bible of Prague, published in the Old Town of Prague by the burghers Jan Pytlík, Severýn the Grocer, Jan Bílý of the Čáps, and Matěj of the White Lion, in August 1488. It is the oldest print in the MLP collection, but unfortunately it was struck by the devastating flood of August 2002.

The Bible of Prague was given extraordinary individual care from the very beginning of the rescue action. After nearly one year of intensive labour by a number of experts, the restored original print of the Bible of Prague was ceremoniously presented in a separate exhibition entitled The Bible of Prague under the exhibition Czech Bibles Through the Centuries, held in the Carolinum in October 2003. Thanks to the unceasing interest and monitoring of the rescue of this important national cultural print heritage by the public and the media, The Bible of Prague will continue as a touring exhibition throughout 2004. MLP's restorers have made a replica of the bible for this event, because the original copy will be deposited in the new Precious Print Depository once the restoring work is completed. This unique object can now be viewed page by page in digital quality at www.memoria.cz.

It was not only the Bible of Prague that was struck by the flood waters, but also about twenty thousand other valuable books. Therefore, the year 2003 was devoted to restoring work. Eighty percent of the damaged precious print collection have been dried by now.

The mutual relations between the United States Embassy in the Czech Republic and the Municipal Library of Prague have been very friendly for a long time. We have been observing the process of the reconstruction of the main library building in Mariánské Square in the past few years, then we have taken pleasure in its beautiful inner spaces, and fallen in love with Kren's Tower of Books in the lobby – we have taken many American visitors there, mostly librarians, to boast a little of this particular beauty of Prague.

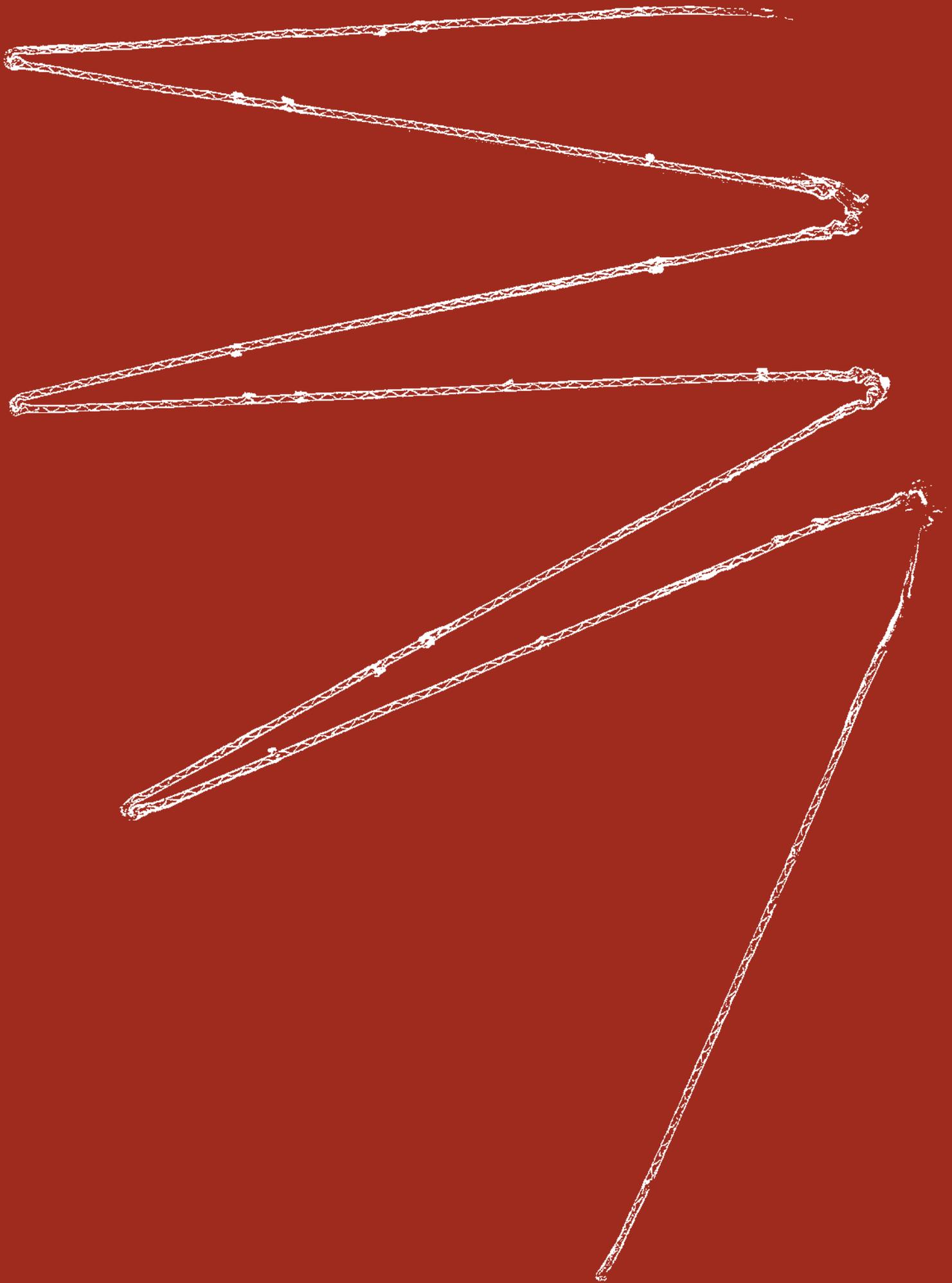
We understand, however, that the Municipal Library is not only the main building: we know about its branches in all corners of the city, and that is why we watched their battle with the flood two years ago with bated breath. We saw the librarians and other citizens fight the raving elements for every book, and already back then we had decided to do whatever we could to help to at least somewhat alleviate the damage suffered. We managed to do this, making it possible to ceremonially donate to the MLP 10,000 dollars to be used to equip the restorer workshop where the flood-stricken books would be doctored.

I could speak of the encounters between the representatives of our embassy and the library on various occasions, but let me mention one entirely personal connection that I have with the Municipal Library, specifically the Korunní Avenue Library in Vinohrady. Before my family left Czechoslovakia, my mother took me to this library as a little boy who would soon become one of its most ardent child readers. And if there was one thing I missed in the United States later on, it was above all this, „my“ library.

I was all the happier last year to be allowed to take part in its ceremonial re-opening after the grand and successful renovation.

Wishing you success and many faithful readers,

Jan Krč — First Secretary, USA Embassy in the Czech Republic



A Little Reading about the Great Waters

The August 2002 flood hit the Municipal Library of Prague with devastating force. Several branches fell victim to the great waters, and thousands of books, including precious prints, were snatched from its jaws at the eleventh hour.

The library workers' efforts in the rescue during both the flood itself and the subsequent damage relief was enormous. No wonder that August 2002 became a nightmare for many of them, which is only one step away from creative inspiration.

In the following excerpt, taken from his larger work, an inspired colleague of ours has expressed all the participants' feelings directly and given an apt description of the rescue works:



It started raining in the end of the first week of August. The constant rain, reinforced in places with torrential bursts, hit the landscape of South Bohemia with a force so enormous that all the brooks, streams, rills and rivers in the area swelled up. For a while then, it seemed that the rain would give in after all, and no more disasters were to break out. But three days later, the merciless sorcerer Pestcloud attacked anew and turned from a fairytale character into a real horror monster. He bolted the soaked and super-saturated earth with monumental volumes of the life-bringing liquid which now brought but death, torment and tragedy. A giant lake was created, which started spilling out north with unrestrained aggression, destroying all in its path: houses and cottages, people's homes, churches, schools, shops, theatres, pubs, hospitals, museums, archives. Books and libraries too, among other things. Wave after wave, it rushed on to meet the gates of Prague like a monumental army. It was just before Prague that Bedřich Smetana's once melancholic Vltava joined forces with Ota Pavel's once tender Berounka. What at last it entered the capital, however, it had little to do with a symphonic poem or a fisherman's idyll. The metropolis was suddenly shaken by a devastating hurricane of water spray, sinking its talons into the streets and squares, passes and subways, yards and parks. And on rushed this whole watery world with unshrinking intensity, not for once stopping at the border crossings, playing the cards of destruction, ruination and downfall in its furious whirling dance.

Only afterwards did the devastated lands start to recover from the shock. The sums of damage and destruction grew into astronomical proportions, reaching the billion levels. The post-disaster recovery called in volunteers of all occupations. It was then that I was offered participation in the rescue of the precious prints in the Municipal Library collection, which had suffered especially serious injuries. My body was repeatedly vaccinated against mould and infection, and thus armed I passed the gates of the National Library Central Depository twice a week. Its underground spaces held a workplace with warning signs informing that you had entered a contaminated area. These unnerving notices, however, did nothing to change the fact that on every entry you had to put on a white gown and rubber gloves and felt for a while like a book surgeon, though the operations I carried out there were not very difficult. My new work mate, David, told me: „You don't do anything down here but cut and cut,“ meaning the tonnes of newspaper used to bleed the damaged books dry. It was also David who gave me a simplified explanation of how the whole „treatment“ of the prints went:

„Just imagine a library sunk in water. Once you manage to enter it, you have to pull the pieces apart, carry them out and rinse them clean. Then you wrap them in polythene bags and stash them in the plastic shopping bags you get at the Tesco check-out. Then you transport them to a freezer and wait.“

„Wait for what?“

„Wait for their turn. Some of the books are then taken to a lumber drying kiln, but those with leather, semi-leather or vellum covers come right here. They are stored in a freezer here and you'll see the next steps for yourself.“

And did I see them. Each volume, drawn from the freezer where it had rested at -25°C , was first wrapped in a thick cover of newspaper, then put into a polythene bag together with the unconventional layer of protection, inserted into a digester where it was compressed in vacuum and sealed, and stored away for about a week. This procedure was repeated several times, only filter paper was inserted instead, and the books were bound over in a nonwoven fabric. Only then was the newspaper cut (finally respecting the format) to sandwich them on either side in a thickness equal to that of the book. More polythene, digester and storage followed.

Each of the damaged volumes underwent this procedure about ten times, its total recuperation taking roughly two months. Each „cured“ book then passed through a disinfecting chamber and returned to the shelves to meet its readers.

The 19th century British critic John Ruskin observed that „books are to people what wings are to birds.“ I have seen books whose wings have been broken and battered, cut off and covered in mould. Among them was one of the most precious titles in the Municipal Library collection – the Bible of Prague. Two respectable aldermen had it printed under the reign of Wladislaw Jagiello, wishing for it to serve not only the praise of God, but also the well-being of all righteous Bohemians and Moravians. Even though I am not a fatalist, I was intrigued by one fact: The Bible was published in August 1488. Exactly 515 years later, in August, a flood was going to destroy it.

Now it was lying before me. It lay in a white freezer tomb and tightly bound bandage like a skintight funereal shroud. I wished it would come round to live again, to delight one with its hand painted initials, and inspire another with a lesson of its gospels or epistles.

I went back to the „cutter“ desk and David told me that we were out of newspaper. „But don't worry, they have just called from the archive they have got loads of old multiples they're sending to us for the drying.“

It took the crates of this material just a few minutes to arrive – and I couldn't have wondered more. Before me lay piled various periodicals of Hitler's Third Reich. Has this survived? I marvelled. Has this been kept?

And so I took a pair of scissors and started cutting with a strange sort of cruel and jolly vengefulness these yellowed newspapers with their tattered edges and I cut on and said to myself I'll chop you to pieces you barbarians, you deserve no better and I rammed the scissors into old Göring in his dress uniform and with his marshal's baton he was writhing and wriggling and I was cutting until I ran the first scissors blunt and I went on in my silent frenzy until Hitler's moustachioed face fell into halves before me like a chopped watermelon and Goebbels' monster hoof went multi-fractured in the scissors and I didn't care a bit and I cut on to a constant rabid rhythm until the second

Flooded Libraries Sonnet

**Hibernation on the books
is knocking with
a nightmarish lullaby
The wet hair of the pages
sinking in a sea of class
marks swept by.**

**Only a brief floating it took
to bottom them like
a frigates score
It is so easy to kill a book
there they were
and were no more.**

**As if a demon the ring
had stolen from a fairytale
water princess
The shelves like masts
now broken cut down
by the roaring tempests.
The cold death has turned
aglow knotting a noose
for each tome.**

Ladislav Šinkmajer

scissor snapped like a steel string so I unlocked a drawer and only found a pair of big gardener's shears they emitted a fresh odour of oil and petroleum smear I opened their huge killer jaws and cut on with a strong and fierce heartache and I bore my talons on the Wehrmacht regiments marching in victory through Europe and I was destroying their motorised convoys advancing over Czechoslovakia Poland Denmark and France and I tore up the tank runners and terminated Serbian gendarmes and Croatian Ustashists along with their leader Ante Pavelich and I tore him to pieces for bringing to a meeting with Hitler the bowl with the poked-out eyes of his enemies as evidence of his loyalty and I cut so fast that the scissors started whining and moving in jerky convulsions and newspaper cuttings started flying across the room and falling to the ground like autumn leaves and David said You don't have to cut the bastards so accurately! and I replied in a wiseman's tone Here you witness one of the rare occasions of even a totalitarian periodical serving a useful purpose and our mate Lucie said Just tidy up the mess when you've finished! and the other mate Eva said I'd better go have a smoke! and I cut on wishing my scissors could do at least twenty atmospheres like Mr. Hrabal's hydraulic press in the recycling yard in which he scrapped and ground trash paper and David drew my attention to the last book we had to wrap that day its fabric veil slipped off the cover by accident I couldn't resist and took a look inside it was a collection by the forgotten poet Maxmilian Bedřich Stýblo CRYING INTO THE VOID bound in leather and I said Sorry Stýblo I didn't know you were such a precious print! and slammed both his sides with the minister of armament and war production Albert Speer a philanthropist who once said he didn't care how many people would die working in the Third Reich and then the shift was over I swept up my mess and dashed through the gate like ball lightning and I went down from Hostivař to Masaryk Station and people on the public transport freed their seats for me because I looked down at them as fiercely as a serial killer so I travelled like a pasha the whole way then I went down the station hall to the ticket offices asked Where to? I snapped None of your business! and only when looked at like an idiot I corrected myself and said Frequenter to Lysá! I got on the electric sub-urban and this beautiful young female conductor turned up at one point with an ebony mane of hair wearing a short skirt high heels and a Czech Railways uniform and said in a musical alto Nice day to you all and your documents please! of course she should have said TRAVEL documents meaning our tickets but she didn't so I produced my Municipal Library Employee Card she chirped Thank you! snipped it through with her conductor's pliers and gazzelled on to the next car and when I reached my destination I met these footballers in the street whose championship matches I moderated every week they were just coming home from a training workout they only kicked the Central Bohemian IA class but sometimes had big mouths like some Nedvěds Beckhams and all the world's champions combined and they whooped at me merrily Hi Láďa so how's it been? and I said Boys I've been shredding Hitler all day! and they replied Don't worry about that we were working out and the lights in the gym went out and when they came back on we were sitting on a buck instead of the horse! and I just swept my hand down at them and said No point in talking to you! and they said Hey don't take it so hard and come along have a pint! and their eyes were alight like a troop of bugaboos' and I said a little sadly Not now later! – and I went home and wrote this:

A Trainful of Books

The Central Library, the largest and most frequented branch of the MLP, celebrated the fifth anniversary of its computerised operation inside the renovated building in Mariánské Square in 2003. In this splendid art-deco building, the Municipal Library offers an outstanding range of services which are unrivalled among Czech libraries.

On a very busy day, readers borrow over ten thousand volumes from the Municipal Library collection, returning another ten thousand copies. A simple calculation suffices to state that on each such day, the Central Library workers handle approximately two and a half tonnes of returned books and the readers carry the same amount home. Thus, about five tonnes of books are on intensive move every day. Let your imagination wander: Considering a common freight railway carriage has the capacity of 25 tonnes, one of these would be filled with books every week. Not every day makes a record, of course, but the fact remains that the Central Library has dispatched a pretty long freight train full of books in the past year, and another equally long one arrived at the other end.

Now try to imagine that each of the books on this train was handled by several librarians: when returned, registered in the electronic database, conveyed and stored in the storage room or the shelf, or processed in the reservation office. And there goes another reader, the book is looked up in Koniáš or the reservation store, or ordered and brought from the storage room, and borrowed again.

All this has to happen with no obvious grind, so as not to disrupt the traditionally high level of services, so that the library remains a place of calm intellectual contemplation despite its enormous strain, and welcomes the readers ready every morning, with books up in their places and the database loaded with the freshest information on every volume.

Doing all this, the librarians also had the repercussions of the devastating 2002 floods to deal with. During the repairs and adaptation of the interior, nearly fifty thousand books were temporarily stored in emergency spaces. The collection was moved back into their home library during the summer shutdown, and all the Central Library volumes have been fully accessible and available since August 2003.

My co-operation with the MLP, and why just MLP?

We share one square in Prague with the Municipal Library headquarters, and if we were not libraries, one might think we were in competition with one another. Non-competition, however, is a natural trait among libraries: it is somehow natural for them to co-operate, and they can even do that without standing literally side by side. The services that our libraries offer to the readers would be halved if we only shared the square and not the information and book collections, if we did not exchange knowledge and help one another. With the Municipal Library and no other is our co-operation the ripe fruit of a long tradition of „sharing“ the general, student, and even scholarly public with all its propensities and requirements as well as simple subjective interest. Put simply, we complement one another. I must admit a personal interest in this: it was this very building in Mariánské Square that gave me my first idea of a library long ago and has since given me library experience in the most friendly way.

Vojtěch Balík — Director, National Library of the Czech Republic

” Slip he did, passing just by, through the half-open door into the library like a mouse. Once in, he stood still all awe-struck and astounded, for he had never seen aught quite like that.
A. Jirásek

Have a Read on the Terrace

” Boldness of concept and a mighty lyrical stream,
accuracy, cogency of the diction, beauteous
and suave form – that is a true poem!
J. Vrchlický

On 16 September 2003, the citizens of Prague finally saw the re-opening of one of the largest MLP branches – the Korunní Avenue Library.

The building in the immediate vicinity of the Vinohrady Water Tower was raised more than 70 years ago for a branch of the MLP, and has undergone large-scale renovation and computerisation in the last few years.

The merging of the 1920s architecture with modern equipment and furnishings have created a library that captivates you not only with its services, but also its atmosphere.

The customer space has been expanded substantially, the summer terrace offering pleasant seating was renovated on the first floor. The children’s department now has its own Castle. The library is barrier-free for the disabled. Over fifty thousand volumes are there for the readers, internet access goes without saying, and the librarian services are plentiful.

The Art Nouveau Beauty

” Never had strength and gracefulness
more harmoniously come together
than in her.
J. Zeyer

The 24 October 2003, hosting the deputies of Prague 5 Municipal District and Prague Metropolitan Council along with the Prime Minister’s wife Mrs. V. Špidlová and the expert librarian public, was the ceremonial opening day of the sixteenth fully computerised MLP branch.

Smíchov Library acquired the original 1907 Art Nouveau market hall building as its home. Ideal conditions were created for the functioning of a large library, renovating a significant architectonic monument at the same time.

Readers of all ages find a rich supply of fiction, non-fiction, periodicals and sound media as well free-of-charge internet access, and other standard library and information services, including a wide range of cultural and educational programmes with which the library opens up for the non-reader public as well. Naturally, there is barrier-free access.

The Artotheque



Beautiful is that which gives satisfaction to our aesthetic sense.

J. Jungmann

When the Opatov branch was opened twenty years ago in 1983, one department was founded within it that has been quite unique in the Czech Republic ever since – the Artotheque. The services offered by the Artotheque are so unusual that the publishers of the Yellow Pages, for instance, cannot even conceive of anything like them, and keep on mislisting the Artotheque as a simple card index file (kartotéka in Czech – translator's note). The Artotheque, however, is precisely what the name suggests – simply speaking, it is an artwork library. Opatov Library does not simply lend you, say, a book on the painter Emil Filla, but you can also walk home with a duplicate of one of Filla's paintings. The librarians frame the picture for you and wrap it in special packaging. It is up to you, then, to put it up on your wall and enjoy it.

Thanks to the professionals who have built the Artotheque systemically as a reflection of the art development, artwork can be borrowed that truly represents the history of graphic art.

The Artotheque collection is put to many uses. People borrow the paintings for pleasure but also for visual lessons, teachers take duplicate sheets with them as teaching aids. Framed paintings and prints are also used in various lectures, discussion forums, and picture plays organised regularly by the Artotheque. The entrance hall of the library serves as an exhibition room where the work of interesting artists, painters and sculptors is shown monthly.

The Opatov book collection is also orientated primarily towards art, and the librarians are helpful when making a choice, along with giving consultations and expert advice.

Cultural and Educational Events



Education, as you know, consists
of refined manners, kind heart
and bright mind.

B. Němcová

The MLP organised nearly three thousand cultural and educational events in 2003, with approximately 70,000 participating visitors. The events took place in branches across the city, either directed by the local librarians or by means of the educational and cultural centre of the MLP – the People's University.

The Great and Small Halls of the Mariánské Square building traditionally belong among the centres of Prague's cultural life, hosting the largest events, including the Febiofest film festival or the One World global culture festival. The programmes were moved into substitute venues in 2003 due to the aftermath of the previous summer's flood, yet the audience was enormous as always.

To paint a better picture of the range of subjects that the MLP offers its guests to taste and study, let us name but a few of the events and programmes held:

Advanced Italian Course in Italy; Africa's Secrets and Mysteries; Architecture and Ecology; Architecture Walks; Art Nouveau Architecture; The Beauties of the Orient; The Celts; Communication Psychology; Computers without Scruple; Continuities; A Course in Journalism; A Day with Czech Astrology; Delight in Illusions; Educational programmes for children and youth; Ema Destinová; Energy Industries and the Future of the World's Societies; English Language Course; The Extinct Thalian Places of Prague; Film Director Dušan Hanák; Four Prague Get-Togethers; French Language Course; The Golden 1960s of Czech Film; Graphology; The Guest Seat; The Hand as Information; Historical Question Marks; How to Speak Properly; Humanism and Ecology; The Internet and its Services; Isles in the Midst of the Indian Ocean; Italian Language Club; Italian Language Course; Line and Colour – Silk Painting; Manipulation and Psychology; MLP Film Club; Mysteries of the Old Šumava Mountains; Non-verbal Communication; Notes from the Buddhist Countries; Paths to Health; Post-modern Music Adventures; Prague-Vienna Cultural Oecumenia; Pre-Christian Religions; The Referendum on the Accession of the Czech Republic to the EU – a discussion forum; The Religions of Wisdom; Ronald Reagan; Searching for Shapes, or Modelling through Play; Secrets of Astrology Unveiled; School of Emancipated Parenthood; The Secrets of Ayurveda; Social Environments and the Psyche; The Spiritual Essence of the Human Lifecourse; Talks without Frontiers; Tracking Secrets; Traditions and Attractions of the World's Cuisines; Travel Europe for Beauty and Knowledge; Travelling in Southwest France; Vivat Comenius; The Voice of Silence; Women's and Men's Stories Mirrored in Time.

Aid to Regional Libraries



He felt the need to consult somebody who would hear him kindly and give him wise advice.
A. Šmilovský

The Municipal Library of Prague is simultaneously the county library for Prague County. For the thirty-seven libraries established by the city districts, it prepares comprehensive information on new books including their cataloguing data, produces catalogue entries, and helps to revise their book collections. It is primary to the small-scale libraries that the MLP offers swap book batches aimed at enriching their collections with quality fiction and non-fiction (mainly encyclopaedias). The MLP also produces the county statistics on the local libraries' performance for the Ministry of Culture.

The MLP provides the local libraries with advisory and consultation services, runs professional training, especially courses in information and communication technology. It organises expert excursions to interesting Czech municipal libraries, and, among others, it has arranged a visit to the Municipal Library of Vienna for its staff.

The MLP has helped to upgrade the local libraries in the metropolitan districts of Dolní Chabry, Suchdol and Uhřetěves, which now also have internet access.

The MLP's region-wide work is financed by a special-purpose subsidy by the Czech Ministry of Culture.

I was quite young when I understood that I couldn't become a Renaissance person, seeing the endless shelves full of wise and beautiful books visiting the Klatovy Library. Everywhere I have lived, studied or worked later on, I have never been able to do without libraries. I am even one of those old-fashioned fellows to whom a good book in their hand is a must in their leisure time. I have been allowed to rely on public libraries, fair in being accessible to all regardless of age or wealth, as a boy seeking adventures, a pupil and student looking for „cribs“, a parent, a traffic engineer, a mayor, and now, a member of parliament.

I fell in love with the Municipal Library of Prague as soon as I moved to the hundred-spired mother of cities. As the Mayor of Prague 13, I successfully fought for the preservation and upgrade of the local branches. As a parliamentary deputy, it is now my duty to create good conditions for libraries and look around for funds to keep them growing for us all whom they serve so well. „When I knew the torment of thirst, I dug a well so that the others could drink from it too,“ said Ernest Thompson Seton. Therefore, let us protect the oases of calm amid the rush of our times, maintain their sources of knowledge and wisdom, and keep digging new wells.

Petr Bratský — MP, The House of Representatives

International Co-operation



Before his eyes rose strangely flat temples and palaces stretching over enormous expanses, and he heard the mooing of herds over the green flat of a spring savannah, he inhaled the heavy air of the tropics scented with jungle;

then he suddenly heard

parrots' shrieks,
the dry cracking
of ships' masts
and the flapping
of heaving sails.

E. Bass

The Municipal Library co-operates in many ways with information institutions throughout the world, maintaining intensive contacts especially with metropolitan and large city libraries.

The MLP is an active member of the International Association of Metropolitan Libraries (INTAMEL); our director participated in the INTAMEL annual conference in Rotterdam.

Further, the MLP is a member of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML). The employees of the Music Section are active members of both the sections of this organisation; the MLP was represented at the IAML conference in Tallinn, Estonia.

MLP staff have undertaken scholarships at the libraries of Bratislava, Helsinki, Copenhagen, Saint Petersburg, and Vienna. Colleagues from the partner libraries in these cities have come to do reciprocal fellowships at the Municipal Library of Prague. A three-week expert fellowship has been held at the Public and Information Library of Paris.

Besides this, the MLP has had visiting librarians from Belgium, France, Germany, Latvia, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, USA, and the United Kingdom.

Librarians of the local libraries established by Prague's district authorities as well as the MLP librarians have participated in the expert excursion to the new Am Gürtel building of the Vienna Main Library.

A large number of libraries along with other institutions and individuals abroad gave the MLP substantial help in cleaning up the flood damage. The MLP received a donation for the purchase of the restorers' workshop equipment through the US-based project Chicago Sister Cities.



Municipal Library of Prague Presented in the Media



He showed such awareness that he even knew the colours of the most famed horse teams of the district.

K. M. Čapek - Chod

Television

Česká televize

15 Jan ČT 1 – Colours of Life – interview with the MLP director about the anniversary of the library held last year, about the aftermath of the flood, and about the programming of the People's University of the MLP in detail.

11 Mar ČT 2 – Black and White – Who's Who – on a blind person's voluntary assistant's work.

26 Mar ČT 1 – Colours of Life – information on Opatov Library and the services of the Artotheque.

14 Aug ČT 2 – The Great Flood – five chapters on August 2002; Chapter Three – „The Czech Book Drowning“.

13 Oct ČT 2 – Culture Weekly – report from the MLP exposition The Bible of Prague in the Carolinum.

2 Dec ČT 1 – Evening News – report about the announcement of the results of the Our Common World literary competition at the MLP.

TV Nova

3 Feb TV News – the MLP director, among others, spoke about the borrowing of music CDs from public libraries only for regular fees.

3 Sep Just Now from the Regions – information on the regular MLP bookmobile service for the residents of the Karlín flood zone.

5 Sep TV News – report on bookmobile services.

18 Sep Just Now from the Regions – short report on the opening of the Korunní Library.

TV Praha

11 Mar Prague Daily – about the opening of the Prague 4 Ostrčilovo Square Library.

16 Apr Prague Daily – interview with the MLP director about the dispute between libraries and the Authors' Copyright Protection Association regarding fees for the borrowing of sound recordings.

21 Jul Prague Daily – report on the closure of the Central Library, where the books previously transported to the Michle First Heating Co. storehouses after the floods were being returned.

20 Aug Prague Daily – interview with the director of the Central Library about the preparations for the expected influx of readers after the summer closure, and with the director of the Catalogue Office about the flood damage.

4 Oct Prague Daily – report about the new Smíchov Library prior to its opening.

24 Oct Prague Daily – report from the grand opening of the most beautiful library in Prague, and maybe Europe, the largest MLP branch in the Smíchov Market Hall.

TV Prima

14 Apr Regional Minutes – report about the test operation following the reconstruction of the MLP great halls, flooded the previous summer, and the situation at the two other flooded branch libraries.

24 Oct Regional Minutes – short report on the new Smíchov Library.

11 Dec Regional Minutes – info about the preparations of the 11th Febiofest.

Radio Broadcast

BBC

8 Jul Morning Reflections – Good Morning with BBC – column on the so-called Kinsky suit.

Český rozhlas 1 – Radiožurnál

23 Jan Interview with Fero Fenič about the Febiofest again using the MLP rooms as well.

21 Jun The director of the MLP Purchase Office gave information about the fifth Harry Potter book ready to be taken out on the day of its release in the UK.

7 Sep Home Reporters' Diary – „Library on Wheels“, a Radiožurnál editor travelling around Karlín on a bookmobile.

9 Oct The director of the MLP Catalogue Office gave information about the exhibition of the Bible of Prague, a 1488 original print from the MLP collection, at the exhibition entitled Czech Bibles through the Centuries, held in the Carolinum.

Český rozhlas 2 – Praha

1 Jan Survey, Part Two – among the younger readers at the Letná Library.

10 Mar Live report from the grand opening of the Ostrčilovo Square branch.

12 Mar Good Morning – information about the opening of the Ostrčilovo Square branch.

17 Mar Four O'clock Coffee – this time about the book as a close friend; the MLP director among the guests.

4 Jun Tobogan – a Jírovcovo Square Library worker on the CD 111 as a competition prize on this programme and on Lady Radio.

8 Jul Home Guest – live report on the MLP's anniversary and a presentation of the CD 111 as the final product of the campaign.

27 Sep Home Guest – the MLP Chief Librarian on the Week of Libraries.

27 Oct Home Guest – interview with the director of District Library 5-13-16 about the new Smíchov Library.

2 Dec Four O'clock Coffee – interview with the director of the Children and Youth Section at the MLP Central Library on whether a book is a good Christmas present.

Český rozhlas 6

3 Apr Discussion on Libraries and the internet, two librarians from District Library 4-11-12 participated.

4 May Week's End Dialogues – the MLP director as the guest.

1 Sep Opinions and Arguments – Jiří Ješ and his remembrance of Pavel Tigrid.

16 Sep Interview with the director of District Library 10-15 about the re-opening of the Korunní Library.

Český rozhlas – Regina Praha

28 Jan Interview with the director of the anniversary-holding Opatov Library, and a survey among the readers.

12 Feb The director of the Central Library spoke about the opening of the reading room.

24 Feb Between Us – discussion about the borrowing of CDs in libraries between the Board Chairwoman of the Authors' Copyright Protection Association and the MLP director.

10 Mar Interview with the director of District Library 1-2-3 and the director of the MLP Computerisation Office during the grand opening of Ostrčilovo Square Library.

28 Mar An employee of Opatov Library gave information about the H. C. Andersen Night.

14 Apr Interview with the director of the MLP Central Library following the press conference on the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the re-opening of the Central Library after its total reconstruction and computerisation.

12 May Interview with the director of District Library 10-15 about the anniversary of Ruská Library.

28 May Live report about the Children's Day events at the Central Library and the Barrandov and Lužiny branches.

2 Sep Short report about the bookmobile's first trip to Karlín, where the brick library had been destroyed in the floods of the previous summer.

15 Sep News report about the re-opening of the Korunní Library.

16 Sep Short report from the grand opening of the Korunní Library.

4 Oct Invitation to the Great October Group Reading at the MLP.

5. to 8 Oct Information on the MLP events during the Week of Libraries.

24 Oct, Live report with the director of District Library 5-13-16 on the opening and of Smíchov Library and the services on offer.

Radio Country

15 Oct Report about the opening of the new Smíchov Library.

Radio Express

6 Oct Information about the Great October Group Reading and the non-enforcement of the general amnesty on the slipshod readers at the MLP.

Radio Hey

9 Apr Interview about the Skalka Library's Easter event called Painting with S. Berkovec.

25 Apr Report from the encounter between the Skalka Library children and Radio Hey at Prague Zoo.

23 Oct Interview about the new MLP branch in Smíchov Market Hall.

3 Nov On younger readers at the Školská Library.

Radio Proglas

8. and 9 Oct Interview with the director of the MLP Precious Prints Office about the exhibition of the Bible of Prague in the Carolinum.

Press

Alax magazín

Issue 5 Introducing architect M. Houska – „I like soft shapes.“

Babský elán

6 Jul „One Stop in Prague.“

Blesk

23 Jan „Korunní, Smíchov and Ortenovo Square branches to open this year; The Library has lost patience: It's raising prices!“

31 Mar „Smíchov Market Hall to be insured too.“

20 Jun „Harry P. to borrow.“

23 Jul „Library restocking.“

2 Sep „Bookmobile headed for Karlín.“

4 Sep „Books borrowed from bookmobile.“

1 Oct „Library to buy books.“

31 Oct „Pedestrian precinct and modern library.“

ČTK

15 Oct „ČR – Prague – Library “ – interview with MLP director about the new Smíchov Library, the largest MLP branch inside the Art Nouveau Smíchov Market Hall.

Čtenář

Issue 1 „Five P's for the library.“

Issue 7-8 „Intercultural dialogue in libraries“; Libraries in the press – Praha 2 – about three MLP branches

Issue 9 „Another MLP branch opened“; „Acting“; Libraries in the press – Praha.

Issue 10 Libraries in the press – Praha 5, Praha 8.

Issue 11 „The present-day libraries 2003“; Libraries in the press – Praha.

Issue 12 „Central Library of the Municipal Library in Prague in the rear-view mirror.“

E - Architekt

30 Oct „Old market hall / New library.“

Gong

1 Dec „To know oneself – that is the order.“

I-Dnes.cz

3 Feb „Copyright Association want money for lending CDs.“

Ikaros

27 Jan „The largest branch of the Municipal Library of Prague, located in Opatov ...“

February „Having such great employees, we can battle anything, not just the August flood damage.“

May „3 + 1 stops at the Municipal Library of Prague, or a Little picture walk ...“

20 Jun „Discussion on professional education...“

September „The informative and promotional CD-ROM entitled „111 Years of the Municipal Library of Prague“ has reached out to the users with a flood-related delay.“

1 Sep „Starting 3 September, MLP to offer bookmobile services to Karlín readers...“

October „The present-day libraries 2003“; „Bookmobiles and other mobile libraries.“

3 Oct „Week of Libraries – overview of MLP events.“

1 Nov „Czech Bibles through the Centuries.“

IT – lib

Issue 4 „Looking back at the MLP anniversary and its presentation“ (in Slovak)

Katka

Issue 14 „What, Where & When – the Municipal Library in Prague offers ...“

Lidové noviny

28 Feb „Books destroyed in flood going from freezer to drying kiln.“

7 Mar LN Friday – „What has become of Granny?“

11 Mar „Ostrčilovo Square has a computerised library.“

3 Apr „Magnesia Litera has announced the literary award nominations.“

15 Apr „Karlín could get bookmobile instead of library.“

23 Apr „Bookworld 2003 – exhibitions and accompanying events – Municipal Library of Prague bookmobile.“

9 May „Litera Awards to be won tomorrow.“

12 May „The Book of the Year is on architecture.“

22 May „Magnesia Litera literary awards & the writer of one book.“

24 May „The Bible of Prague in a block of ice – The restoration of the oldest Czech printed bible destroyed in last year’s flood to finish in September“; „A book veiled in secrets.“

9 Oct „Retrospective of Dušan Hanák’s films.“

10 Oct „Czech Bibles through the Centuries.“

7 Nov „The Library is our second home.“

24 Nov „Eugen Brikcius to make collage entitled Prague – Vienna.“

11 Dec „Actor Armin Miller Stahl to visit Febiofest.“

Listy hl. M. Prahy

May „Five years of Koniáš.“

June Correction of incorrect information on the Záhřebská and Ostrčilovo Square Libraries published in the last issue

September „Prague has retained the reputation of a culture centre.“

November „Smíchov Library has opened its gates.“

Literární noviny

14 Apr „Public libraries at a crossroads“; „Czech dispute over a European directive.“

22 Apr „The word is weighty.“

Malé noviny

12 Mar „March, Books, Internet.“

16 Mar „Invitation to the Library.“

30 Mar „Sleeping in a library.“

Metro

22 Jan „Opatov library celebrating birthday.“

25 Jan „Opatov library turns twenty.“

11 Feb „Newspaper reading room finally back in operation.“
12 Feb „Municipal Library reading room.“
4 Mar Question for Ľubica Krénová, director of the Slovak Institute of Prague.
25 Mar „Children to stay night in libraries.“
9 Apr „Libraries inviting children to play.“
15 Apr „Library renewed flooded Great Halls“; „New Municipal Library branches“; „Bookmobile to serve Karlín.“
30 Apr „A Koniáš that likes books.“
22 Aug „New library to open together with pedestrian precinct.“
2 Sep „Bookmobile to replace library.“
6 Oct „Great Reading all day today.“
10 Oct „The changes of Pankrác plateau finally begin.“
21 Oct „Library in Fair Centre beginning next week.“
27 Oct „Anděl pedestrian area to expand.“
19 Nov „Education in public administration.“
12 Dec Question for Fero Fenič, director of Febiofest.

Mladá fronta Dnes

13 Jan „Book market has survived a very hard year.“
24 Jan „Library lends paintings home.“
30 Jan „Library holds discussion forum on earthquakes.“
12 Feb „Library invites to the world of magic“; „Six months after the floods – Water brought into book collection.“
13 Feb „People’s Library teaches sorcery.“
25 Feb „Flooded libraries and institutes get more financial aid from abroad.“
28 Feb „Library opens internet competition“; „Magnesia Litera competition – Book of the Year to get 200,000 CZK.“
1 Mar „Library drying up precious Bible of Prague.“
4 Mar „Library lures to internet“; „Precious prints drying up in Kralupy.“
8 Mar „Libraries invite people to use internet.“

11 Mar „Prague has a new library.“
13 Mar „You can borrow books again.“
18 Mar „Libraries tempting for internet courses.“
25 Mar Capital Notes – „Children to sleep over in libraries Friday.“
29 Mar „Little readers spent all night among books“; „Waved away his mum and went off to sleep in the library. All for a fairytale.“
3 Apr „Second year of Magnesia Litera competition short-listing.“
9 Apr „Libraries hold children’s events.“
15 Apr „Municipal Library Great Halls to re-open.“
25 Apr „Bookworld on Africa this year – introducing Municipal Library.“
30 Apr „Witches offering colourful day.“
7 May „Ruská Street Library to celebrate twentieth anniversary.“
12 May „Magnesia Litera – Stories about architecture are the Book of the Year.“
13 May „Magnesia Litera: hit the limits of what is possible.“
22 May „Talks with Jan Burian in the Library.“
19 Jun „Tomcat Day in the library for your children.“
3 Jul „Readers competing for the Royal Crown.“
19 Jul „Municipal Library to shut down for five weeks.“
22 Jul „Unpleasant side to summer: Closed.“
24 Jul „Library closed: moving books home.“
25 Jul „Korunní Avenue Library to open in September.“
31 Jul „Library out of funds to combat damage.“
5 Aug „Precious Bible to be seen soon.“
21 Aug „Precious Bible saved.“
26 Aug „Most of the books frozen after floods saved.“
3 Sep „A busful of books to enter Karlín.“
4 Sep „Book day – Library returning to readers after one-year break – Books bussed to Karlín.“
18 Sep „Children to paint pavements.“

26 Sep „Talks without frontiers to echo in the Library.“
4 Oct „New books to be bought.“
7 Oct „Library to buy new books.“
9 Oct „Children to build housing quarter inside library.“
15 Oct „Fire brigade expo in library.“
17 Oct „New library branch to open in Market Hall.“
21 Oct „Municipal Library to open new branch.“
23 Oct „Africa to be discussed in library.“
25 Oct „Library opening – Smíchov gets largest Municipal Library branch“;
„Calendar – Mariánské Square in 1928...“
28 Nov „Jaroslav Hutka to sing and talk.“
10 Dec Old Town - „Christmas Customs in Municipal Library.“
19 Dec „Talks without frontiers continuing in library.“
27 Dec „Library to hold Scrabble tournament.“

Právo

6 Jan „Choirmaster Pavel Kühn dies.“
24 Jan „Late book return fees increased.“
13 Feb „Magic in library.“
14 Feb „Reading room re-opened.“
28 Feb „Frozen historical collections...“
11 Mar „Municipal Library in Ostrčilovo Square working again.“
15 Apr „Reading nominees for Magnesia Litera.“
16 Apr „Bookmobile to visit Karlín temporarily.“
22 Apr „Hůlová and Nikl read on Tuesdays.“
25 Apr „Municipal Library of Prague to introduce itself at Bookworld...“
6 May „Hakl, Cílek and Hejkalová reading.“
12 May „Magnesia Litera 2003 Awards given out on Saturday.“
13 May „Ruská Street Library celebrated its twentieth year“; „Librarians bring books to little patients.“

28 May „Children’s Day to be celebrated.“
18 Jun „Books coming back to shelf“;
„The best little reader to become King.“
20 Jun „ Harry Potter: book five.“
25 Jul „Mariánské Square Library shut down.“
29 Jul „Books arrive home safe.“
2 Sep „Bookmobile to visit Karlín.“
4 Sep „Visiting bookmobile with wheeled bags.“
16 Sep „Library looking forward to readers.“
3 Oct „Loyal to his library for 75 years.“
7 Oct „Drowned Bible to be exhibited.“
27 Oct „She used to go buy geese there, now she’ll borrow books in the Market Hall.“
4 Dec „Municipal Library not to renew Karlín branch.“

Respekt

Issue 4 „Go and burn no more.“
Issue 5 „Hitler’s war, please.“

Slovenské dotyky

Issue 11 „Slovak Lesson “

Slovanská vzájemnost

Issue 6 „Ukraine Day for Czech Children.“

Top víkend magazín

8 Feb „Talent is a must, hard work is the rest.“

Týden

7 Apr „Hope for small publishers – Magnesia Litera 2003 award nominations“
22 Apr „ Magnesia Litera“
12 May „Best book from Moravia “

Večerník Praha

7 Jan „Galileo Musical from Municipal Library“
13 Jan „Of books resting and moving.“
25 Jan „Library celebrating twenty.“
30 Jan „Market Hall to be insured.“

11 Feb „Reading room open“;
 „Town Hall to insure Market Hall.“
28 Feb „Precious Bible of Prague
 drying up already.“
11 Mar „New library in Ostrčilovo
 Square is...“
25 Mar „Children to sleep over in libraries.“
1 Apr „Oil on canvas.“
7 Apr „Library with music“; „Library on line!“;
 „Local libraries need help.“
30 Apr „Encounter in library.“
6 May „Seeking little readers.“
7 May „Library to celebrate.“
12 May „Kadlec thankworthy for literature.“
28 May „Library to open fairytale garden.“
3 Jun „Children enjoyed afternoon
 in library“; „Library to go on holiday.“
9 Jun „Sun on the pavement.“
20 Jun „Garfield rules library.“
27 Jun „Pavements decorated.“
28 Jun „Library to take a break.“
2 Jul „Who’s going to be King?“
8 Jul „Silent beauty of stones.“
24 Jul „Books on wheels again
 in September.“
1 Aug „Books comes home after a year.“
18 Aug „Libraries take turns.“
23 Aug „Library to get fake rivets.“
2 Sep „Library to come to Karlín.“
4 Sep „Get your books from a bus.“
6 Sep „Coronation in library.“
16 Sep „Librarians celebrate
 wearing costumes.“
20 Sep „Win prizes in Library
 Crossword Competition.“
24 Sep „Matinéés to be held.“
27 Sep „Children to compete against library.“
1 Oct „New library opened.“
4 Oct „Come and compete in a library.“
6 Oct „Library getting ready to open“;
 „Library to lend CDs and paintings.“
9 Oct „Ice cube to turn back into heritage.“
15 Oct „Library to open“;
 „Libraries in figures.“

24 Oct „Town Hall supporting library.“
25 Oct „Market Hall welcomes book lovers.“
15 Nov „Ferdinand Havlík, who...“
26 Nov „Eugen and Zuzana Brikcius
 holding...“
27 Nov „Folk singer to visit library.“
4 Dec „Devils in library.“
5 Dec „Devil arrives...“
11 Dec „Library to remind of customs.“
17 Dec „Workshops in library.“
19 Dec „Introducing stars“;
 „Talks without frontiers.“
27 Dec „Christmas Scrabble.“
30 Dec „Foglar to stay till February.“

Veřejná správa

9 May „Central Library of the MLP
 – Eight months after the flood.“

Vysočina

9 Oct „Books hibernated after
 the flood shiny again.“

Moreover, the MLP presented itself in 2003 with contributions in the SKIP Bulletin and co-operated with local press too. A number of articles and information updates were published regularly in Tučňák, Klíč, Pražská Pětka, Hobuleť, Praha 10, Šestka, Břevnovan and Noviny Prahy 2. The public could also read about the Municipal Library of Prague in Zpravodaj občanů Prahy 13, Listy Prahy 14 and Noviny Prahy 16. Information on the MLP was also spread by Život Běchovic, Hlasatel, Chuchelský zpravodaj etc.



Quoting Some of the Borrowing Statistics

” However, be careful when choosing your reading,
and read mainly while you are still young,
when you have the most time,
the brightest perception
and the best memory.
Later on, your daily work
will not allow you,
and your memory will
not be as durable
as to preserve the read.
J. S. Guth-Jarkovský

The MLP rewrote the borrowing records in 2003: The number of borrowings reached 7.2 million (the first year to have over 7 million, and 8 % more than in 2002); the number of visits was 2.3 million (first time over 2 million, and 10 % more than in 2002).

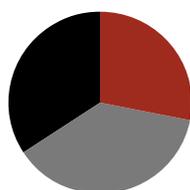
Also, the number of registered readers went up by 5.5 %, to 190 thousand (with 59.4 % being women and 40.6 men). The shrinking network of non-computerised libraries registered 58 thousand readers (i.e., 14.4 % fewer), the computerised network had 128 thousand readers (a 17.8 % increase).

The expected performance migration from the non-computerised to computerised libraries thus continued. The computerised libraries, which register 69 % of the readers, lent 66 % of the books taken out and saw 67 % of readers' visits; the non-computerised branches with 31 % of the registered readers lent 34 % of the books taken out and welcomed 25 % of the visits; the remaining 8 % of the MLP visitors were internet users. The computerised network grew by three branches to sixteen in total, its number of books taken out grew by 22 %, and the number of visitors by 16% from 2002. The diminishing non-computerised network (33 mostly small-scale branches and two bookmobiles) achieved 89 % in borrowings and 91 % in visitors compared to 2002; its total performance of 2.5 million books taken out and 573 readers' visits is still very important for the MLP.

The increase in internet users is remarkable – up by 47 % to 178 thousand. As of 31 December 2002, eighty-five internet workstations were available for MLP users in twenty branches (one customised for use by people with impaired vision); the average number of internet users in the entire computerised network is 706 per day.

The average age of our readers in the computerised network is 29.1 years (12.4 in the children's libraries, and 31.8 among the over-fifteens); it is 31 years in the non-computerised libraries (12.1 for children, and 43.8 among the over-fifteens). The previously significant average age discrepancies are being blurred with the advancing computerisation of the branches.

A 28 % share of all MLP borrowings are recorded in the Central Library; this figure is 43 % if we count only the computerised network.



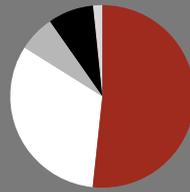
MLP borrowings

2 026 000	Central Library
2 715 000	other computerised libraries
2 468 000	non-computerised libraries



library collection as of 31 Dec 2003

1 060 000	fiction
927 000	non-fiction
150 000	sheet music
86 000	sound recordings
28 000	other materials



total borrowings from MLP network

3 726 000	fiction
2 329 000	non-fiction
458 000	newspapers and journals
579 000	sound recordings
118 000	other materials



borrowings from Central Library

736 000	fiction
891 000	non-fiction
297 000	sound recordings
77 000	sheet music
25 000	other materials (incl. periodicals)



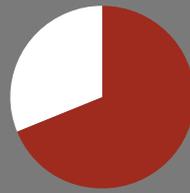
borrowings from branches

2 990 000	fiction
1 438 000	non-fiction
283 000	sound recordings
455 000	newspapers and journals
18 000	other materials



readers / comp. and non-comp. network

128 000	comp. network
58 000	non-comp. network



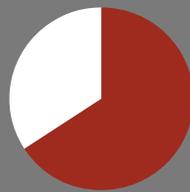
readers' age

146 000	over 15
39 000	under 15



borrowings / comp. and non-comp. network

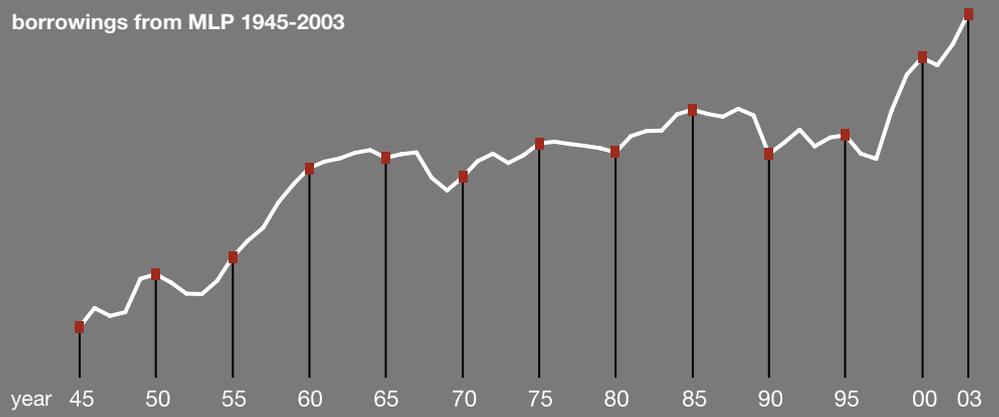
4 741 000	comp. network
2 468 000	non-comp. network



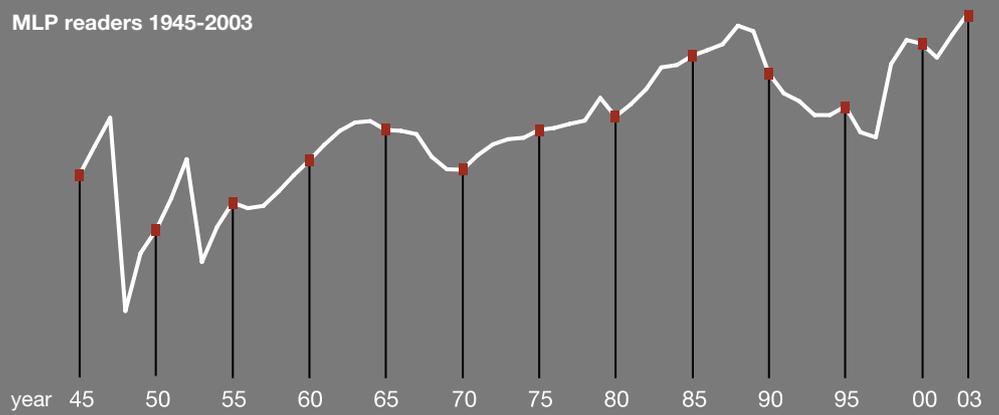
borrowings / age

5 956 000	over 15
1 253 000	under 15

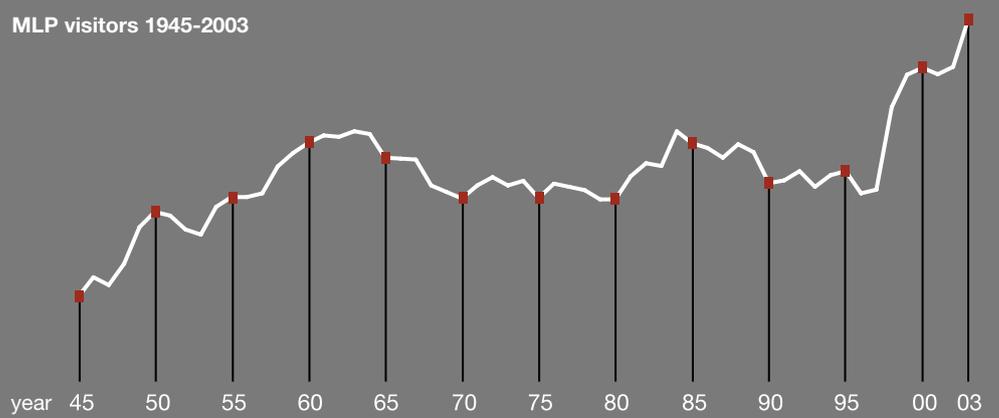
borrowings from MLP 1945-2003



MLP readers 1945-2003



MLP visitors 1945-2003



The Municipal Library of Prague in Figures

Number of branches (as of 31 Dec 2003):	48	
of that computerised	Central Library and 15 branches	
Number of employees (converted to full-time jobs):	454	
Total library collection (as of 31 Dec 2003):	2,264,772	
of that: non-fiction	940,084	
fiction	1,056,002	
maps	19,719	
sound recordings (CD, MC, LP)	88,912	
electronic documents (CD ROM)	383	
sheet music	150,570	
prints and duplicates		
in Opatov Library Artotheque	9,102	
Collection acquisitions in 2003	188,143	
Average price of purchased books (fiction)	173 CZK	
Average price of purchased books (non-fiction)	218 CZK	
Total borrowings	7,209,000	
of that, non-fiction	2,317,008	
fiction	3,726,103	
maps	46,730	
newspapers and journals	457,532	
sound recordings (CD, MC, LP)	579,117	
electronic documents (CD ROM) *)	248	
sheet music	79,319	
prints and duplicates		
in Opatov Library Artotheque	2,943	
*) The borrowings of most of the electronic documents (CD-ROM) are attendance-only and are not registered, they total roughly 24,000 annually.		
Number of registered readers	185,693	
of that, under 15 years of age	39,413	
Number of visitors	2,255,799	
Electronic catalogues and internet		
Number of personal computer users	238	
Number of libraries with user internet access	20	
Number of user workstations for internet access	85	
Number of internet users	177,797	
Relative indicators		
Reader to inhabitant ratio	16.0%	
Number of volumes per inhabitant	1.9	
Number of books borrowed per inhabitant	5.6	
Number of volumes per reader	12.2	
Number of books borrowed per reader	38.8	
Number of visits per reader	12.1	
Library collection turnover (number of borrowings per volume)	3.2	
Cultural and educational events		
	events	participants
for adults	507	15,110
for youth	119	4,923
for children	2,266	47,957

Analysis of economic activity for the year 2003 – chief activities

(sums quoted in thousands of CZK)	state as of 31 Dec 2003	state as of 31 Dec 2002	index 2003/2002
Total turnover	19 928	15 175	1,31
of that: Library activities	16 920	13 212	1,28
Total costs	216 791	178 747	1,21
Consumed purchases	43 659	33 160	1,31
of that: Office supplies	29 854	22 055	1,35
Long-term material assets	9 204	6 557	1,40
Energy consumption	4 601	4 548	1,01
Services	38 864	34 476	1,13
of that: Communications	4 574	3 969	1,15
Rent and utilities	16 223	16 670	0,97
Cleaning	4 284	4 158	1,03
Repairs and maintenance	4 642	4 464	1,04
Travel allowances	395	357	1,11
Personnel costs	123 296	102 574	1,20
of that: Wage costs	89 070	73 977	1,20
Taxes and fees	30	119	0,25
Other costs	911	1 070	0,85
of that: Damages (primarily from floods)	0	524	
Deductions	10 031	7 348	1,37
Non-investment contribution from the City of Prague	198 396	162 393	1,22
Economic balance (costs – revenues)	196 863	163 572	1,20
Use of reserve endowment	1 153	155	7,44
Number of employees	454	450	1,01
1/12 of employees' average annual income	16 349	13 699	1,19

Analysis of economic activity for the year 2003 – supplementary activities

(sums quoted in thousands of CZK)	state as of 31 Dec 2003	state as of 31 Dec 2003	index 2003/2002
Income – total turnover	1 294	1 299	1,00
Total costs	609	656	0,93
Economic balance	685	643	1,07

Overview of capital expenditures	state in 2003	own sources	donations	subsidy from MC*	contribution from MA**
Reconstruction of branches	11 836	5 767			6 069
Removal of flood damage	10 368		594	9 669	105
Computer technology	1 295	1 295			
Other equipment	660	660			
Total	24 159	7 722	594	9 669	6 174

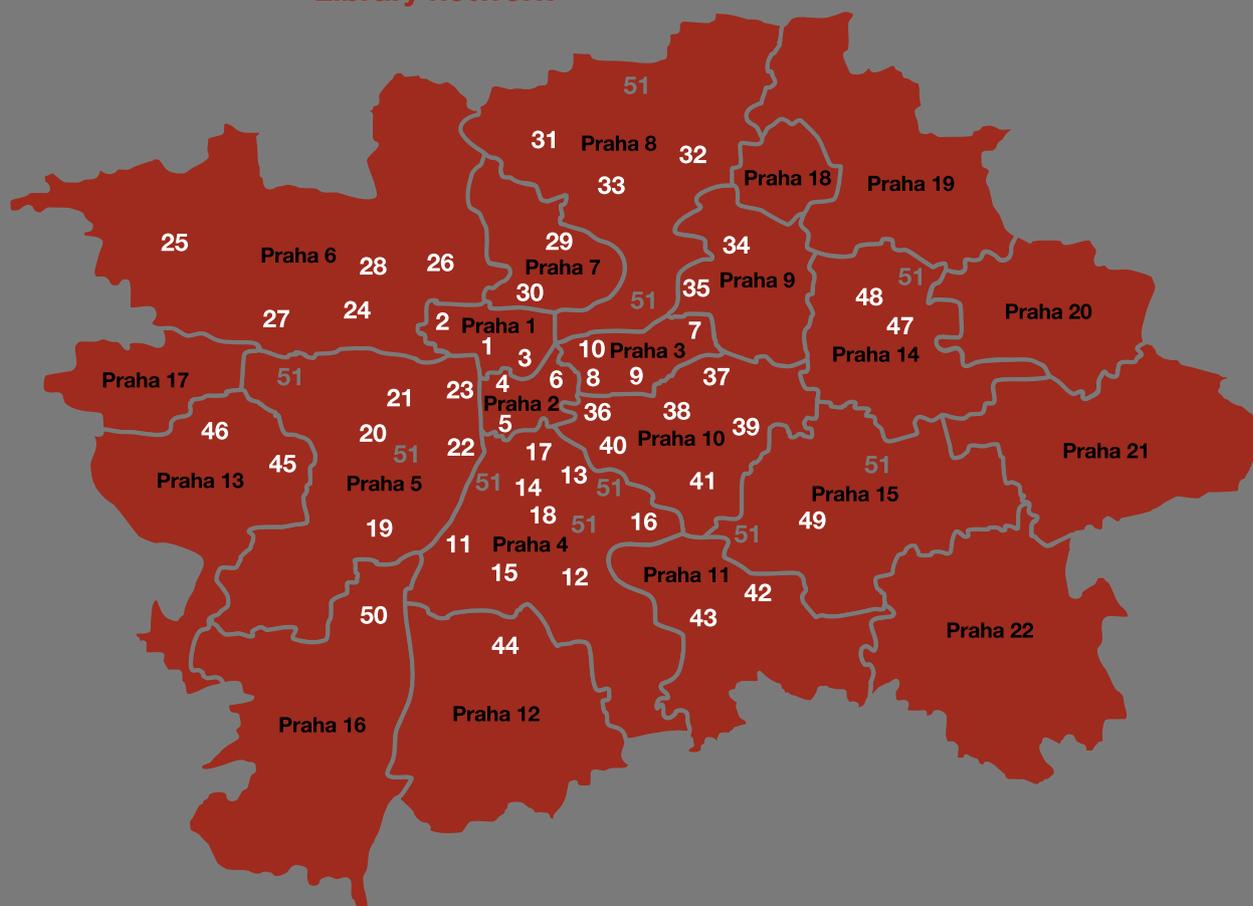
* Ministry of Culture; ** Metropolitan Authority

Municipal Library Branches in 2003

	branch	city	number	of that:	visits	number	non-	books
	[AK] comp. branch	district	of	children	per	of books	fiction	borrowed
			readers	(%)	reader	borrowed	share (%)	per reader
1	Ústřední knihovna [AK]	1	53 277	6	11	2 025 976	44	38
2	Hradčany	1	491	47	15	38 654	16	79
3	Školská [AK]	1	10 079	7	9	293 767	39	29
4	Dittrichova [AK]	2	2 345	17	9	72 070	26	31
5	Ostrčilovo nám. [AK]	2	1 133	23	9	39 943	26	35
6	Záhřebská [AK]	2	2 148	20	11	76 422	29	36
7	Chmelnice	3	1 576	46	9	62 256	14	40
8	Lucemburská	3	1 517	0	10	70 147	18	46
9	Vínohradská	3	601	100	7	19 101	27	32
10	Žižkov [AK]	3	2 353	17	12	88 719	31	38
11	Braník	4	975	34	9	39 637	12	41
12	Krč	4	2 136	39	9	74 316	21	35
13	Michle	4	1 182	37	9	49 497	22	42
14	Na Veselí	4	1 396	56	7	42 916	36	31
15	Novodvorská [AK]	4	3 705	24	10	141 539	30	38
16	Spořilov	4	1 160	37	6	26 658	23	23
17	ul. 5. května	4	1 413	0	12	104 151	22	74
18	Víkova	4	1 748	35	9	68 702	20	39
19	Barrandov	5	2 790	60	8	97 196	28	35
20	Cibulka	5	688	57	11	37 700	17	55
21	Košíře	5	1 070	44	13	66 079	16	62
22	Na Skalce	5	1 562	40	11	75 889	22	49
23	Smíchov [AK]	5	3 382	25	4	47 641	36	14
24	Břevnov [AK]	6	6 263	19	11	225 840	34	36
25	Dědina	6	816	39	11	41 398	21	51
26	Dejvice	6	5 041	20	11	213 487	25	42
27	Petřiny	6	1 879	42	10	92 786	28	49
28	Střešovice	6	341	40	5	9 183	19	27
29	Holešovice [AK]	7	5 502	24	10	189 241	32	34
30	Letná [AK]	7	6 107	21	13	285 444	28	47
31	Bohnice [AK]	8	2 445	32	10	118 889	28	49
32	Ďáblice	8	1 693	28	9	89 193	16	53
33	Kobylisy	8	3 544	23	11	164 324	31	46
34	Prosek [AK]	9	2 300	35	9	99 706	25	43
35	Vysočany	9	3 621	23	5	68 377	32	19
36	Korunní [AK]	10	1 046	39	10	33 940	17	32
37	Malešice	10	3 217	25	13	161 515	30	50
38	Ruská	10	1 931	39	10	70 952	21	37
39	Skalka	10	2 019	36	10	88 045	27	44
40	Vršovice	10	1 619	41	10	69 469	21	43
41	Zahradní Město	10	2 111	32	11	80 035	29	38
42	Jírovcovo nám. [AK]	11	13 848	17	11	631 222	31	46
43	Opatov [AK]	11	2 424	62	9	83 854	25	35

branch [AK] comp. branch	city district	number of readers	of that: children (%)	visits per reader	number of books borrowed	non- fiction share (%)	books borrowed per reader
44 Modřany	12	8 467	32	10	310 416	31	37
45 Lužiny [AK]	13	1 907	56	12	88 814	26	47
46 Stodůlky	13	2 330	59	10	89 798	25	39
47 Černý Most	14	1 957	31	9	85 188	21	44
48 Hloubětín	14	1 457	50	10	61 307	23	42
49 Hostivař	15	232	54	12	14 550	24	63
50 Velká Chuchle	16	1 324	45	9	43 037	21	33
51 pojízdná knihovna							

Library network



The Future Lies in People – the MLP Strategy



Positivism based on facts and documents intends to unveil the future.

Knowing what will happen tomorrow, I know what to do today.

T. G. Masaryk

The MLP Strategy valid until 2005 has helped the further development of the organisation thanks to the fact that its top management have been set a clear platform position. According to a 2001 analysis, however, this document does not deal with a number of currently pressing and important matters. That is why the work of the strategic committee with fourteen standing members, this time not only from the library management, was renewed in the year 2001.

The document currently under preparation entitled „The MLP Strategy until 2010“ does not only concern itself with service standards, MLP network structure and predicted performance, as did the previous version. Its scope and extent are much wider and, generally, debates the following six main areas:

- Human Resources
- Library Services
- Library Collections
- Organisation
- Economics and Finance
- External Relations

The new MLP Strategy places primary emphasis on the issue of human resources. The MLP management understands that its employees are an important component of the library, absolutely necessary for it to accomplish its mission. That is why the area of employee care has been set as a future top priority. In line with this intention, the following areas have been delineated as the main courses for human resources strategic planning:

- Employee qualification and education;
- Work economics, wages, material motivations;
- Immaterial motivation factors;
- Work organisation, career and promotion rules;
- Internal company culture, society;
- Social prestige of the MLP staff, image, external views.

Although the new strategy has not yet been finalised, some changes have already been initiated during the formulation stage.

One of the concrete steps taken was the adoption and gradual implementation of a new concept for the MLP staff further education system. Among other points, the general objectives of the education concept include:

- cultivating the qualifications of librarians and other expert staff;
- adjusting the educational programmes to meet not only the needs of the staff target groups but also the needs of individuals;
- motivating employees of all groups and categories towards further education and improving their professional qualifications;
- developing employees' awareness of their responsibility for the development of their own knowledge, skill, habits and attitudes;
- stimulating and supporting employees' active participation in the preparation of educational programmes;
- making educational programmes attractive for all participants.

Based on the objectives formulated in this way, in 2003 educational activities were prepared for the staff of the MLP and Prague region libraries totalling 640 hours and hosting 860 employees of these libraries.

The educational activities focused mainly on the following:

- work with information and communication technologies;
- reading and readership;
- social skills and communication;
- manager skills.

As external education, the MLP staff were able to participate in:

- professional training (services, management, expert workplaces...)
- librarian skill training;
- conferences and professional meetings;
- excursions to Czech and foreign libraries;
- reciprocal fellowships abroad.

For 2004, the Municipal Library of Prague plans to extend the area of further education for its staff with language learning, law and legislation, e-learning courses as well as exchange fellowships between the constituent workplaces within the MLP.

The MLP offers 530 seats in the heart of Prague

Rent the modern multi-functional theatres in the middle of Prague's historic centre, a two-minute walk away from Old Town Square, a minutes' walk from the Metro:

- attractive environment of the newly refurbished historical MLP building;
- banquets can be hosted in the adjacent corridors;
- bargain rent prices.

The places can only be rented outside of the MLP's own schedule of events.

The Great Hall – 390 seats. Technical conditions and uses:

film projection of 35 mm copies with DOLBY-A sound, five sound channels, large-screen projection from various sources – VHS, DVD, laptop, PC, internet connection available, high-quality high-output YAMAHA sound equipment, connection for standard and wireless microphones and microports for speech, singing and musical instruments, line-in connectors for guitars, piano, etc., multi-effect processor, stage listen-in, loudspeaker and portable intercom between the sound cabin, stage, dressing room and the organiser. Other sound sources – cassette tape, CD, Minidisk, DAT Tascam, studio tape; theatre stage lighting, panel control with memories, 24 independent lighting circuits up to 2.5 kW each, independent 220/380 V power outlets on stage with 16, 32, 63 A breakers; four autonomous theatre lifter rods up to 75 kg each, front theatre curtain. Other uses: slide projector, overhead projector, interpreting equipment connectable, high-quality PETROF upright piano, full air conditioning in the theatre, dressing rooms with sanitary facilities, barrier-free access, stage trapdoor.

Small Hall – 140 seats. Technical conditions and uses:

film projection of 35 mm and 16 mm copies, standard stereo sound, large-screen projection from various sources – VHS, DVD, laptop, PC, internet connection available, high-output YAMAHA sound equipment, limited connection for standard and wireless microphones for speech and music, digital sound processor, stage listen-in, loudspeaker intercom between the sound cabin, dressing room and the organiser. Other sound sources – cassette tape, CD, Minidisk, DAT Tascam; STRAND LIGHTING theatre stage lighting with manual panel control, 10 independent lighting circuits 100 W each, independent 220 V power outlet on stage with a 16 A breaker. Other uses: slide projector, overhead projector, interpreting equipment connectable. Full air conditioning in the theatre, dressing room, barrier-free access.

Hold your cultural programme, training session, social gathering or other event in this unique ambience in an exclusive part of Prague.

Should you have any further queries, contact our theatre technicians, tel.: 222 113 422

Theatre rental: Elena Doškářová, tel.: 222 113 420, fax: 222 323 416,

e-mail: doskaroe@mlp.cz

We offer and supply equipment, material, machines, and other supplies for libraries, restorers, archives, museums, and art galleries.

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