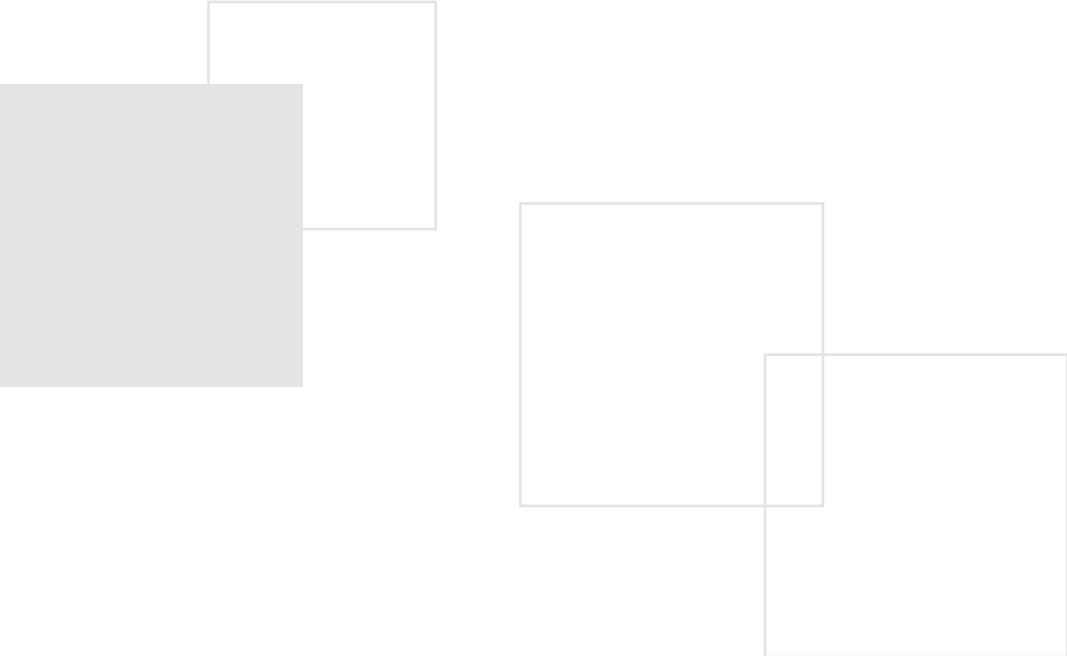


ANNUAL REPORT 2008



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MLP director's introduction

Not too long ago I witnessed a short scene where the Reader had to wait a five minute line. When his turn came, he gave my colleague an unpleasant look and gestured to her, "Unbelievable, a line at the library, never seen it in my life! Can't you get things in order here?" The librarian tried to explain the situation, however, the disgruntled reader was not interested and left. I did not manage to become involved in the dialog and since I do not know his address or name, I cannot write him a letter. And so I take this opportunity to hold our conversation in an imaginary coffee shop on the bank of the Vltava River...

Reader enters. A man in his early thirties, closely shaved, light-brown crew cut. He has a small scar above his left eye brow.

Director gets up from the table and greets him: "Hello, I am very glad you accepted my invitation. I wanted to explain why there was a line at the library that time when you became irritated. But if you don't mind, I am still expecting someone."

Reader: "You need minion to do the explaining for you? No wonder there's no one lending books at your library and the lines are long."

Director: "Why no, its not a ... Oh, here he comes!"

Tax payer comes to the table. A man in his early thirties, closely shaved, light-brown crew cut. He has a small scar above his right eye brow. (Yes, it is an exact mirror copy of the Reader). The two look at each other for a while in confusion and in unison give a nod and say: "Oh!" "I see..."

Director: "Thank you for coming. Now that we're all here, let's begin." He turns to the Reader: „You were disappointed recently because you had to wait a line to return books, is that right?"

Reader: "And you wouldn't be disappointed if you had to wait an hour just to return a couple of books and then wait a second line to borrow others?"

Director: "Well, it wasn't really an hour. More like five minutes."

Reader: "Alright, it wasn't an hour but it wasn't five minutes either. It was at least ten. And that is long enough for one to lose his nerves! Why can't there be more places to return books? Supermarkets don't only have three checkouts."

Director: "Well, most of the time, you don't have to wait a line at our library at all. Tuesday afternoons, however, can often be busy, especially after the holidays. This applies to our situation. We could add more places to return books. We thought about this option. However, this would call for some investment adjustments and also, we would have to pay an extra staff member."

Tax payer enters the conversation for the first time: "That's preposterous! I don't see any need in paying more money just because this man is neurotic and can't wait five minutes in a line. I, for one, do not want the library to cost that much money."

Reader: "You stay out of this. I pay my annual fee properly and expect to get proper services. I am a paying customer!"

Tax payer (sarcastically): "So you pay a fee, is that right? And how much do you pay each year? Sixty crowns! And how many books and people do you think this library can afford with this fee? Have you any idea, how much you would really pay if you had to pay all of this?"

Reader (rather uncertain): "I don't know the exact amount, but..."

Tax payer: „Well, I happen to know exactly. You would have to pay at least one thousand more. So you pay your sixty crowns and I will add the thousand from my wallet. I also chip in for the children and elderly. So you tell me, why I should also pay for you, a person who makes fairly good money, judging by your clothes?"

Reader: "Well this most likely because the library never wanted more from me. I would be willing to pay more. Even double that, or triple. Two hundred crowns would not make me go broke." Turning to the Director: "Why do I pay so little?"

Director: "Primarily because there is a law for it. Library services, at least the basic services, are simply free. By law. What you pay is only an administration fee, which covers reader registration costs. But the books and librarian, they are paid by this man here."

Tax payer: "And it is about time to make amends of this. Today, you can find everything on the internet, and fewer books are released, we can begin with the reduction."

Reader: "I didn't come to argue about what is on the internet. There is plenty of stuff on the internet. But I like reading paperbacks. And the majority of people are like me. And you think that a lower number of books are released. On the contrary: more and more books are being published. In fact, more than ever. Never in history have so many books been released here. Only fewer copies are distributed. Which is another reason why I need a library. If I miss a book, it's impossible to find it in a few weeks. And additional copies are not always made. The library is often the only place to get these books."

Tax payer: "Nevertheless, cutting costs is necessary - or do you not read the papers? The economic crisis, ever heard about it?"

Reader: "Of course I know about the economic crisis. What do you think people will do? Do you know how many children will stay in Prague instead of going on vacation to the beach in the summer? Do you know how many people will not have enough money to do their hobbies and will read instead? Do you know how many people will need to study in the evening to maintain their job or find a new one? Do you know how many people just want to forget about everything for a moment and run away to another world? With a book from the library, this is free and does not include a hangover the next morning."

Tax payer: “This is all nice but we do need to save money.” Turning to the Director: „I heard there was a human resources and organizational audit at the library last year and it was recommended to shutdown several branches. When will you start with this?“

Director (shrugging): „Hard to say. We already closed a line of branches before. We can close others, but it would hurt. The audit marked some branches as less efficient, neither as unnecessary.”

Tax payer: “I understand that people who had libraries inside their building and could go there wearing their slippers will not be happy with the decision. But I hope most people can take the tram or subway. Which branches are on that list? Can I see it?”

Director: “That’s not exactly public information, you know? It’s only a proposal and each branch closing is always the result of long debates. Experts, politicians, readers all have a say...Well, I will let you take a peak but this is only between us, ok?” Takes out a paper from his pocket and hands it to the Tax payer.

The Tax payer goes over the list and nods contentedly. All of a sudden he stops and frowns at the Director. He puts the list on the table and points to it: „Why this one?“

Reader (rather mockingly): “Well well, is that your building? Do you go there in your slippers?”

Tax payer: “I don’t go there but my father does.”

Reader (utterly sarcastic): “He can take the tram or subway, can’t he?”

Tax payer (furiously): “I don’t think so. He can’t move a muscle without his crutches.” A dead silence prevails for a few seconds. The three men look at each other. After a while, the Tax payer continues: „Can you not save money on anything else? It’s no necessary to purchase a hundred copies of the same book!”

Director (in astonishment): “Hardly Sir. For most titles, we don’t even buy as many copies as there are branches.”

Reader: “And that is one thing I am unsatisfied with at your library. Every now and then I come across a book I would like to borrow but is hopelessly unavailable.”

Director: “I’m sorry to hear that. But in that case, you can reserve the book and when it is returned, we will send you a message informing you that you can come pick the book up.”

Reader: “That’s a lot of theory. Now some practice: recently I tried entering a reservation an your Koniáš program informed me that there are 26 reservations before me. So even if everyone returns the book on time, it will be my turn to borrow it in about two years.”

Director (sadly): „Yes, you are right. We should provide more money for books.” The Director gives the Tax payer a questioning look.

Tax payer: “By all means, double the current amount you provide for books. But you have to save somewhere else. I don’t have anymore.”

Director: “I’m not aware of any way I can save money. And the human resources audit came to the same conclusion. The only way to save money instantly would be to lay off 13 staff members...”

Tax payer: “Fire them! Immediately!”

Director: “We did. Most of them we got through via retirements and therefore did not have to fire that many people, however, the thirteen people are gone. But this is less than two percent of our budget. There are no further reserves.”

Reader (addressed to the Tax payer): “Then look at it as an investment.”

Tax payer: “I’m not sure you understand the meaning of the word investment. An investment lies in spending money to receive more money in the end. What in your mind you think I would get back for a thousand crowns?”

Director: “Four thousand.” The Tax payer and Reader both look at the Director confused. The Director continues: „Really. It’s only a estimate but it will be somewhere around that amount.”

Tax payer: “And how on earth did you come up with that?”

Director: „A solid economic study was made on this topic in the USA, Great Britain and some other countries. It attempted to somehow acknowledge the activities of public libraries. No such study has been conducted here but it is safe to say the results will be similar. And the 4 to 1 ratio is about the average of the result elsewhere. So for each crown you give us, you get four in return. Not a bad investment, wouldn’t you say?”

The Tax payer looks astonished.

Reader (frowning): “I am not a fan of everything being about money. Culture is a value itself.”

Director: “No one is questioning that. I only supported your argument in which you said that money spent on the library can be seen as an economic investment.”

Reader: “Be that as it may, let’s go back to the start. Do you really think it is normal for me to stand so long in a line to return books?”

RNDr. Tomáš Řehák
director of the Municipal Library of Prague

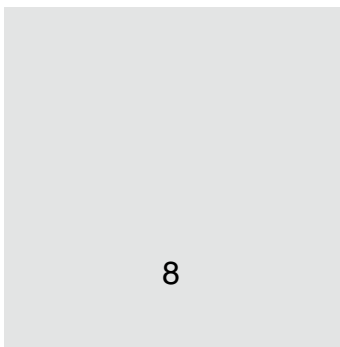
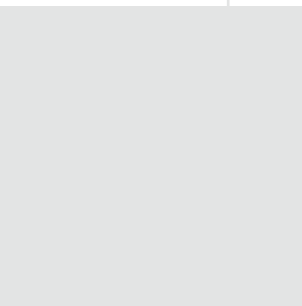
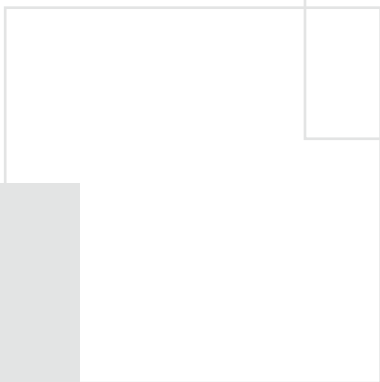
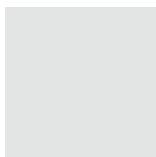
Speech by the major of Prague

What is a library? According to the inhabitants of Thebes it is medicine for the soul, according to the Capuchins in Budapest, it is a place, where the mute speak and the dead live, the Spanish in Murcia say that in libraries, the dead open the eyes of the living. German playwright Christian Dietrich Grabbe considered the library to be the tombs of those who cannot die.

I see books and libraries as an absolute treasure, a source of happiness and amazing experiences and last but not least, also as a tasteful accessory. I couldn't imagine my home, office or any civilized society without it. For it is the library that provides us with the most valuable testimony of our history, of our culture, but of ourselves as well. I am proud the Municipal Library of Prague is a reliable and rich witness, and most importantly, it is always willing to share its treasures.

Walt Whitman once said that having great poets requires great readers. According to Ralph Wald Emerson, there is a connection between people who read the same book. Therefore, I wish the Municipal Library of Prague more and more great readers connected by the invisible and beautiful link, the link of literature.

Sincerely
Pavel Bém



Prague and its library



The Municipal Library of Prague provides library and information services to all residents of Prague regardless of age, education or nationality. The equal approach towards library services rest in the Library Act and removing the barriers between the library and public by year 2015 is one of the important items of strategy the Municipal Library of Prague (MLP) is focusing on.

Inhabitants of Prague and the environs of Prague as well as visitors can visit any of 43 libraries belonging to the Municipal Library of Prague network. They are distributed nearly in all Prague precincts and districts – from Velká Chuchle, Jižní Město housing development, the calm neighborhood in Hostivař, busy Korunní Street, all the way to the direct center of Prague. The largest and busiest library is the Central Library on Mariánské Square, which is also the Municipal Library of Prague headquarters. In 2008, the building built in 1928 according to architect František Roith's design celebrated eighty years from its grand opening and ten years since undergoing complete reconstruction. Years of utilization showed the vision of the then director Jan Thon - a library not only as a place to borrow books but also a cultural area with multifunctional halls, galleries and a theater - the vision was spot on.

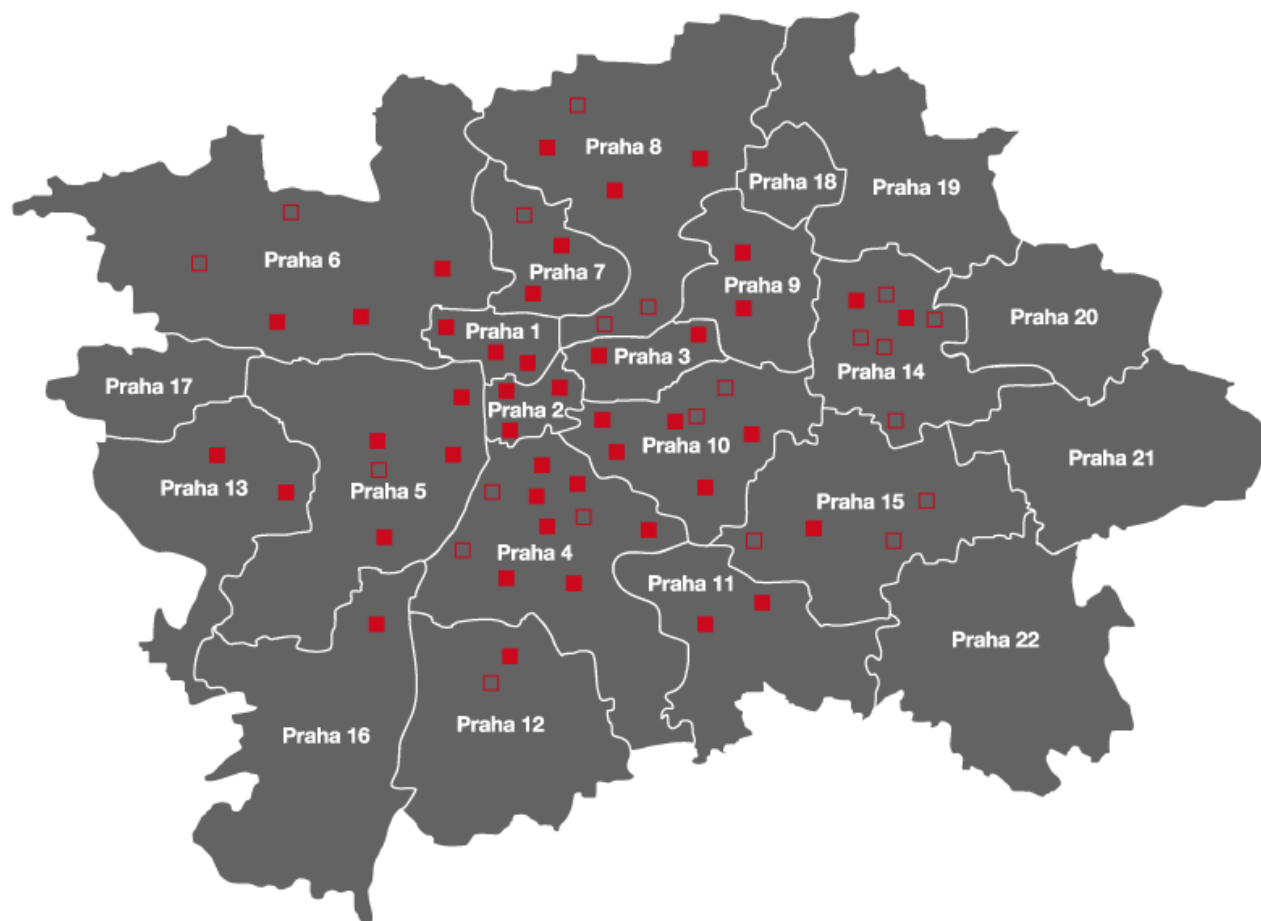
Each year brings some kind of change to the network of libraries. Branches move, transfer from the card catalog to the computer system, implement new services. In 2008, another three libraries, using a computer system for borrowing books, were added to the map: Ostrovského (Prague 5), Modřany (Prague 12), Hradčany (Prague 1) and all three mobile libraries (bibliobuses). The small branch in Malešice was closed. The readers, however, did not lose their chance to borrow books because the bibliobus began to visit their neck of the woods and the Skalka branch by the subway station holding the same name is also well accessible from this location.

The bibliobus fleet underwent a renewal process. The oldest vehicle, a Karosa bus made in 1990 was discarded and replaced with a long distance modified Irisbus. The bus was introduced to the public in the first week of October by the mayor of Prague, director of the Municipal Library of Prague, representatives of the Prague 14 and 15 city districts and by the manufacturer. The vehicle was purchased in terms of the Bibliobus to your neighborhood project financed from the JPD grant program, and the Prague city and national budget.

All branches fulfill the function of so called „family“ libraries, where children, teenagers, their parents and even grandparents can find books to read, but the integral part of the Municipal Library of Prague is also the offer of specialized services. For example, the library in Opatov as an art room - a section devoted to fine arts. The Central Library is the home of specialized musical, theater, film and Pragensia sections. The Ďáblice branch offers a wide selection of material focusing on the English language. Smíchov is the place for the largest selection of sci-fi and fantast books. Experts on the given topics determine the right composition and orientation of information sources and also manage to help in choosing books or answering professional questions.

The Municipal Library of Prague branches are not the only public libraries offering services to the general public. There are another 39 libraries in Prague primarily the surrounding parts of the city. Thirty-eight local libraries are established by self-administration and one is a public library belonging to the „Cesta domů“ (way home) Civil Association. In compliance with the Library Act, it is the obligation of the MLP to support these libraries systematically for library fund revisions, processing statistics, implementing new borrowing systems or renewing computer technology. Exchangeable book sets, being developed by the MLP, signify the welcomed enrichment of book titles in smaller libraries in particular.

Map of libraries



List of libraries

PRAGUE 1

Ústřední knih., Mariánské nám.1, tel.: 222 113 555
Školská 30/1267, tel.: 222 231 350
Hradčany, Pohořelec 25/111, tel.: 220 516 532

PRAGUE 2

Dittrichova 2/1543, tel.: 224 916 521
Ostrčilovo nám. 1, tel.: 224 936 492
Záhřebská 20/158, tel.: 222 512 812

PRAGUE 3

Chmelnice, Koněvova 217, tel.: 284 824 939
Žižkov, Husitská 70/110, tel.: 222 783 203

PRAGUE 4

Krč, Štúrova 64/1282, tel.: 241 713 274
Michle, Michelská 7/1, tel.: 244 029 142
Novodvorská 151/1013, tel.: 241 493 592
Pankrác, 5. května 32, tel.: 241 403 631
Pankrác, Na Veselí 5, tel.: 241 403 975
Spořilov, Postupická 7/2932, tel.: 272 774 534
Vikova 9/1223, tel.: 241 442 797

PRAGUE 5

Barrandov, V remízku 16/926, tel.: 251 811 080
Cibulka, Musílkova 68 a 62, tel.: 257 217 138
Ostrovského, Na Skalce 29/972, tel.: 251 564 025
Smíchov, nám. 14. října 15/83, tel.: 222 315 600

PRAGUE 6

Břevnov, Bělohorská 56/1666, tel.: 233 355 147
Petřiny, Mahulenina 31, tel.: 235 358 670
Dejvice, Československé armády 29/963, tel. 233 344 591
Dědina, Vlastina 13/887 (uzavřena k 31. 1. 2008, rekonstrukce objektu)

PRAGUE 7

Holešovice, Ortenovo nám. 37/1505, tel.: 266 712 131
Letná, M. Horákové 56/387, tel.: 233 376 174

PRAGUE 8

Bohnice, Těšínská 4/600, tel.: 233 555 745
Ďáblice, Burešova 2/1661, tel.: 286 586 421
Kobylisy, Klapkova 26/3, tel.: 284 681 472

PRAGUE 9

Prosek, Mimoňská 2/645a, tel.: 286 881 064
Vysočany, Zbuzkova 34/285, tel.: 283 893 593

PRAGUE 10

Korunní 68/2160, tel.: 224 257 661
Skalka, Dürerova 2237, tel.: 274 810 707
Vršovice, Charkovská 18/441, tel.: 271 743 392
Zahradní Město, Jabloňová 296, tel.: 272 651 427
Ruská, Ruská 192/1455 (uzavřena, rekonstrukce objektu)
Malešice (k 31. 5. 2008 pobočka zrušena)

PRAGUE 11

Jírovcovo nám. 1/1782, tel.: 271 913 593
Opatov, Opatovská 14/1754, tel.: 272 918 759

PRAGUE 12

Modřany, Vazovova 1/3229, tel.: 241 761 258

PRAGUE 13

Lužiny, Archeologická 1/2256, tel.: 235 514 523
Stodůlky, Kovářova 4/1615 (uzavřena k 10. 11. 2008, rekonstrukce objektu)

PRAGUE 14

Černý Most, gen. Janouška 2/1060, tel.: 281 918 142
Hloubětín, Poděbradská 4/489, tel.: 281 869 082

PRAGUE 15

Hostivař, Herbenova 27, tel.: 274 862 784

PRAGUE 16

Velká Chuchle, Starochuchelská 7/20, tel.: 257 940 489


Mobile library: www.mlp.cz/bibus.htm



Reading and information for everyone



Juraj Krén age 10



Books, magazines, electronic information sources, music, films, paintings. These are the main type of documents added to the library collection each year. In 2008, we obtained 107 396 new material items, book units if you will, for which we paid 16.8 million crowns. Seventy-nine percent of this amount was used to purchase books and pieces of music, ten percent on newspapers and magazines, seven percent on music and spoken word and four percent on purchasing electronic databases. The average book price was 156 CZK which also significantly demonstrates the obligingness of book wholesales and publishing houses.

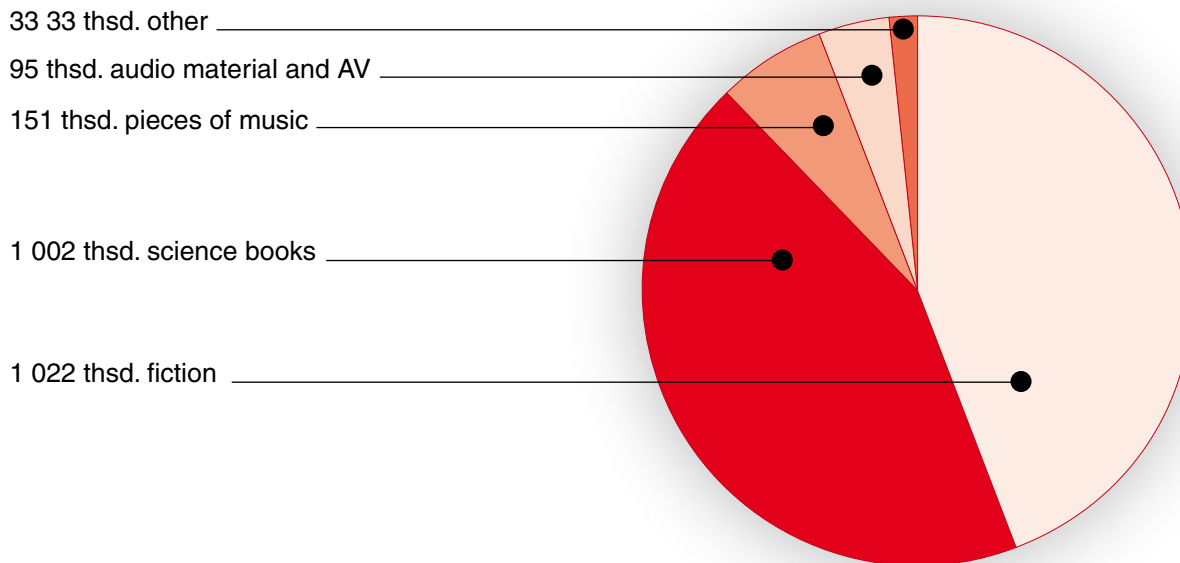
The orientation of purchased titles corresponds to our goal, which is to offer reading to everyone. Therefore at our library you can find books for children, award winning titles you can relax to, as well as professional publications focusing for example on anatomy or information technology. The collection of historical books, located in the Division of rare prints requires a completely special manner of treatment.

Gifts also help enrich the offer of titles. The most active in giving are the residents of Prague, who donate thousands of titles annually of different genres, orientation and languages. In 2008, we expanded the foreign language literature section thanks to international cooperation. The director of a library in Shanghai donated a complete collection of books in Chinese to the Municipal Library of Prague, in attempt to demonstrate the variety of Chinese culture via the „Window of Shanghai“ project. Part of the partnership between the city of Prague and the Russian metropolis included a donation of 500 books from the N. A. Někrasov General Science Library headquarters. Thanks to the financial donation from the British Council, books relating to the learning and training the English language could be added to our collection throughout the year.

A completely new type of book that has found its permanent place at the MLP is the e-book. Since the Czech market does not offer these commonly, we convert books into digital form “at home.” The digitalization division was opened in February 2008 with the participation of representatives from the city of Prague and the Norwegian Kingdom in Prague. Since then, about 1 500 unique historic titles focusing on Prague were digitalized in terms of the HISPRA project. The financial mechanisms of the European Economic Area and Norway provided financial support in establishing this division.

Digitalized books are not the only digital sources the library offers. Readers can also access an on-line encyclopedia (COTOJE—WHATISIT), database of articles from international periodicals (Proquest 5000, Ebsco) or sources oriented on fine arts, music and film (Grove Art Online, Grove

MLP library collection as of December 31, 2008



Music Online, Film Indexes Online...) all via the www.mlp.cz web page.

A book's route to the reader is not direct. It leads through content, identification and bookbinding processing. A catalog record must be created for each title containing information about the name, author, publisher, edition, number of pages, ISBN, as well as information about the content. These can make the reader's choice whether or not to borrow the book easier. The next stop is the bookbinding workshop, where the book is given a label (exlibris) containing unique information distinguishing the book from others, a bar code and then can go through expedition to individual branches into the hands of caring librarians and awaiting readers.

Each book has its reader as soon as he or she becomes aware of the book... Librarians play a significant role in offering books to readers. They are assisted by the Koniáš catalog containing information about all titles, offered by the MLP. The catalog can be viewed from the library directly or at katalog.mlp.cz. Up to the end of December 2008, the general card catalog was updated on a regular basis. The card catalog also contains cards from the initial years of the Municipal Library of Prague activity. The paper history was forever closed at the end of the year and from now on, only




To the library,
not only
for books





Alžběta Jechová age 12

An abstract painting on the left side of the page, featuring a large, bright yellow sun with orange and red rays, partially obscured by a blue and white wavy line representing water. The style is expressive and textured.

Cultural activities for children and adults are a tradition at the Municipal Library of Prague. Many schools hold topical discussions to liven up and supplement teaching lessons. We put great emphasis in working with first graders, which are declared readers in terms of ceremonies held at several libraries and the pilot year of the project titled **How first graders grow with books**, is currently running at seven libraries. The partner of this project is Albatros publishing house. Complete information regarding school programs can be found at www.mlp.cz/cz/skoly.

Besides focusing on schools, the libraries also concentrate on children and their leisure time outside of school by organizing various competitions, art workshops, playful afternoons, read-ins, meetings with interesting people, book authors, illustrators... And the adults are not left out either – computer training sessions for the computer illiterate are organized as well as meetings with authors, concerts, travelogs or meetings for joy. Providing space in the library is sufficient, exhibits are also held. The official exhibit area at the Municipal Library of Prague is the entrance vestibule in Opatov. To give a few examples, Nora B. Vlášková, Miloslav Kolář and Marie Zábranská all held exhibits in 2008.

The People's University – a specialized library division for cultural and education events – is responsible for the dramaturgy of programs hosted within the halls located in the basement of the Central Library. It had a very successful year 2008. New cooperation was established and the program was enriched with new types of programs, such as the **Screenings and Dialogs** film performance underway in cooperation with FAMU (Film and TV School of Academy of Performing Arts in Prague), **Rebelling ladies of the Czech Music Scene** concert organized in cooperation with the Taktika Muzika agency or the **Welcoming Spring** series in cooperation with Music Art Prague.

For the first time, the Municipal Library of Prague joined **Prague - Night at the Museum**. The course of this event really surprised us. Over 2 000 people arrived to look at the unique and most valuable article of our collection, the Prague bible published in 1488. Besides the treasures from the Division of rare prints depository, a theatrical presentation as well as children's activities were ready for visitors. On the other hand, we have long-term experience with organizing the night event for children - **A Night with Andersen**. The kids of Prague enjoyed a night filled with stories, adventures and entertainment for the eighth time.

Horrors were the sign of summer holidays. We prepared the **Terrifying Summer** quiz for children concentrating on horror books and also including an art contest „Boogie man, entrance granted.“ The main task for all participants was to draw their own fear. The pictures we received contained all sorts of things, from typical vampires to dentist...

For the second time, we organized the **CONiáš** rally (sci-fi and fantasy literature fan meeting). The majority of lectures followed up on the Terrifying summer and the fear in all forms imaginable became the thread of June. Petra Neomilnerová, author of “Vampirings,” psychologist Iva Kuglerová, warrior Leonid Křížek or the undead Zombie walk organizers were amongst the lecturers. The event was accompanied by an exhibit of fantastic means of transportation in pictures, in cooperation with the Prague Public Transportation Service and located in the vestibule of the Muzeum subway station.


People can come across the library even beyond its walls several times a year. The bibliobus has made a traditional name for itself and assumed its position in front of the Industrial Palace during the Prague Book Holliday – part of the **World of Books** international book fair. We also established another exceptional stop at the **Bambiriáda 2008**, held on two Prague islands - Dětský and Střelecký.

In 2008, the Municipal Library of Prague held a total of 5 160 events for more than 130 000 participants.

Successful events that already took place:

Central library	Fairytales through Europe with the book fairy
Prague 1	
Hradčany	Journey through the Highlands and Old Brno Remembering Eliška Junková
Školská	Reading for nurseries What the library can offer to future nursery school teachers
Prague 2	
Ostrčilovo nám.	Advent concert of violinist Alexander Shonerta and students Cheerful summer suns
Záhřebská	Knight tales
Dittrichova	Knight dubbing, read by poet Jirí Žáček
Prague 4	
Michle	November poetry marathon in terms of the nationwide Poetry Day
Víkova	Babka Ťapka on the edge of the world
Pankrác	Daniela Fischer and her Rainbow tales
Krč	Chapters from the history of Prague 4
Spořilov	Land behind the school, a.k.a. Changes to Spořilov
Novodvorská	Dogs for life – how dogs help the handicapped
Prague 5	
Smíchov	The masters of letters, apprentices of words Discussion with the translator of Harry Potter, Pavel Medek MaTaDe – games for moms, dads and children
Ostrovského	We love each other more than ever – poetry for teenagers by Pavel Cmíral
Barrandov	From rhymes to ballads – presentation of literature contributions by readers
Cibulka	Wenceslaus market
Prague 6	
Břevnov	Scenic reading of ballads from the collection Poklad by K. J. Erben Meeting with artist and writer Iva Hüttnerová Zdeněk Mahler anniversary celebration





Dejvice	iNoc – information night, discussion and entertainment in cooperation with the Prague 6 district
Prague 7 Letná Holešovice	Reading for children by author Daniela Krolupper Rosénka dances and sings
Prague 8 Bohnice	Dogs for life – how dogs help the handicapped We are not afraid of horrors Just as Sherlock Holmes
Ďáblice	
Prague 9 Hloubětín	A train is going – the little engine supporting children reading Legends of Czech saints
Vysočany Prosek	Chapters from the history of Vysočany A trip to prehistoric times with mammoth hunters
Prague 10 Korunní Vršovice Zahradní Město	Mongolian banks – photograph exhibition by Stanislav Toman 70 years of Rychlé Šípy Meeting with the authors of A Thousand Scars
Prague 11 Jírovcovo nám. Opatov	American fragments – 6th world meeting in Prague 11 Drugs and teenagers
Prague 12 Modřany	Meeting with writer Irena Dousková
Prague 13 Lužiny Stodůlky	Do people help one another? – literature competition for children Become a writer
Prague 14 Černý Most	Prague courtyard signs
Prague 15 Hostivař	Evenings with literature – hosts: J. H. Krchovský, R. Fučíková, I. Dousková...
Prague 16 Velká Chuchle	Seven keys to the mysterious Chuchle – year round stage competition for children

The library offers much more than cultural programs. For example, helping purblind people read. We realize the Helping you read project in cooperation with the Spektra producers cooperative and the United Organization for the Blind and Purblind in the Czech Republic. The goal of the project is to make it easier for the seeing impaired to access books, using camera magnifiers and special enlarging computer programs. The operation of compensational aids was presented to media representatives at a press conference, which was also attended by Prague councilman for medicine Milan Pešák, library director, Tomáš Řehák, Spektra cooperative representative Břetislav Verner and SONS vice president Václav Polášek.

Thirteen branches, including the Central Library, became collection and issuing points for opencards. The opencard is a sophisticated card that its user can use as a tram pass, reader's card to the Municipal Library in Prague or as a parking card. The card is issued by the Prague Municipal Authority. Therefore typical library and information services are supplemented by a service that closely connects library life with city life.

The beginnings with the opencard at libraries were not easy. Particularly when the Public Transportation Service issued bonuses, there were hour long lines being formed. We managed to get through the toughest period thanks to professionalism and personal effort by librarians. Today, the opencard agenda is a common part of services provided at the Municipal Library of Prague and over 20 thousand people use the card as a reader's card.






The library and people inside



Ladislav Řehoř age 12



The Municipal Library of Prague is comprised of 48 divisions with about four hundred employees. The largest organization unit is the Public Service Division, where over 300 people work. The smallest organization unit is the Main Librarian Division with two jobs.

Based on the decision by the Prague city council, an organization and human resources audit was performed at the MLP in the first third of year 2008. The concluding report provided by auditing company BNV Consulting stated the Municipal Library of Prague provides „high quality library and information services capable of competing with other regional libraries and same quality international libraries .“ The “Proposal for the Rationalization of Municipal Library of Prague activities“ document recommended making changes to the organization structure and immediate resource savings by dismissing 13.3 jobs. In the long run, the audit recommended closing 15 branches whose operations are inefficient. The Prague Committee accepted these recommendations. In 2008, the library changed its organization structure and jobs were cut. As of December 31, 2008, the library registered 496 employees and 455 jobs.

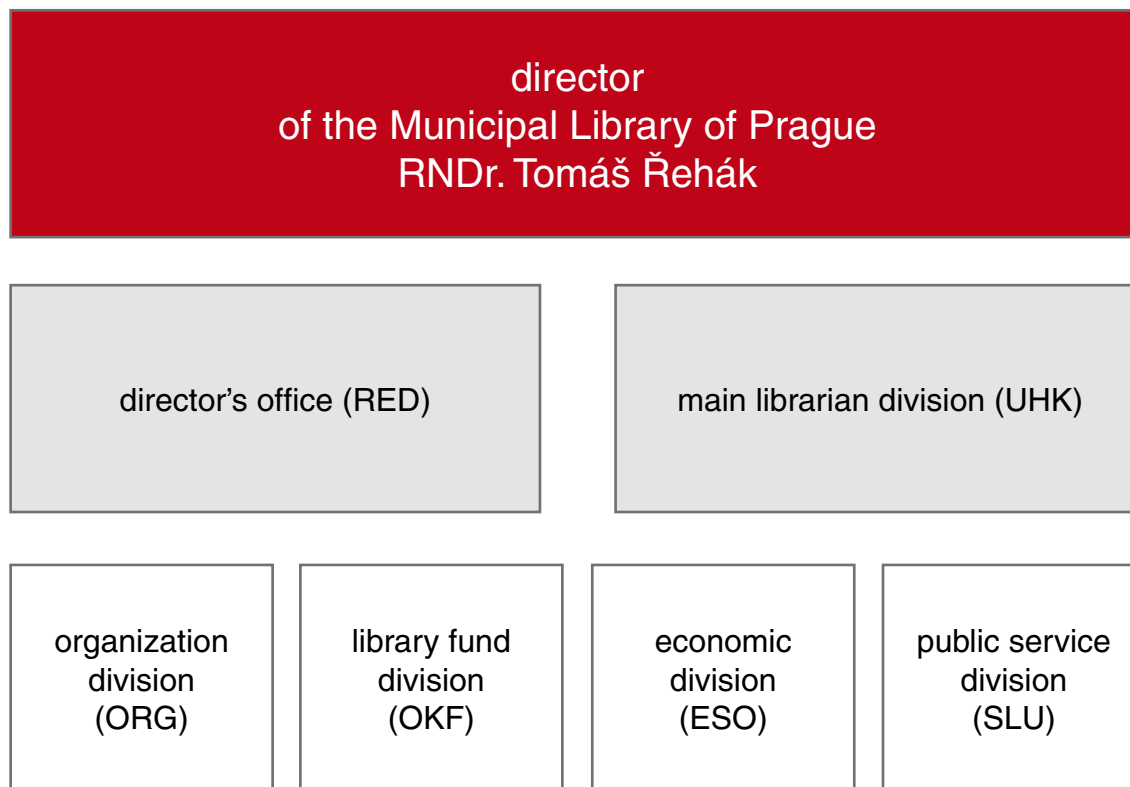
The second part of the auditors’ “Rationalization Proposal” – lower the number of branches by 15 – was put on hold by the Committee’s decision primarily due to requests submitted by the representatives of cit districts, who totally disagreed with closing libraries which would lead to lowering the quality of life in these locations.

New services place new demands on the expertise of workers, therefore the library organizes a number of events regarding internal methods each year (Koniáš, Reader and Checkout programs) as well as education needs coming from the outside. Last year, employees had the chance to participate in 159 training events focusing on the utilization of information and communications technology, languages, literature, managing skills and tours of Czech libraries (Hradec Králové City Library, Academic and Research Library in Hradec Králové, Municipal Library of Kutná Hora, Municipal Library of Nymburk, Prague-Stalice Local Library and the Zličín Library) as well as world libraries (business trips to Munich, Copenhagen and Vienna). Fourteen training sessions were financed from the VISK 2 - Extracurricular librarian training program.

Achieved education by employees:

College degree:	25 %
Vocational college:	2,6 %
High school:	66,7 %
Non-graduate:	5,6 %

Fundamental organization scheme of the MLP





Economic activity in 2008



Monika Singerová age 9

The Municipal Library of Prague is an allowance organization of Prague. The city itself finances library operations from public funds, meaning each of us contribute through our tax transfers. The contribution depends on the decision made by politicians and the demand for library services. a non-investment contribution of 203 292 thsd. CZK was approved for the MLP in 2008 and adjusted to 213 277.4 thsd. CZK as of December 31, 2008.

Increasing library operation costs makes it necessary to seek additional resources elsewhere. This mainly concerns contributions from city districts, which partially subsidizes the operation of some branches – e.g. Ostrovského in Prague 5 and Pohorelec in Prague 1. Furthermore, special-purpose contributions from the Prague city budget, European Union funds – JPD 2 (Bibliobus to your neighborhood), financial mechanisms of the EHP and Norway (HISPRA project) and the national budget – VISK 2 (Increasing librarian and information worker qualifications), Library of the 21st century (Protecting rare prints from the Municipal Library of Prague fund and Supplementing the literature collection in the Russian language).

Municipal Library of Prague costs in 2008 were covered by the following sources:

Non-investment contribution by the Prague Municipal Authority	88,7 %
Non-investment contribution by the Prague city district	0,4 %
Government subsidy	0,1 %
EU grant	0,7 %
Own resources (receipts, gifts, funds)	10,1 %

Economic activity overview – main operation

Receipts:

library operation	20 629 thsd. CZK
other operations – organized events	1 534 thsd. CZK
other revenue	2 403 thsd. CZK
Total:	24 566 thsd. CZK

Expenses:

consumed purchases	33 442.4 thsd. CZK
services	41 344.8 thsd. CZK
personal expenses	148 166.7 thsd. CZK
taxes and fees	63.0 thsd. CZK
other expenses	1 151.0 thsd. CZK
depreciations	8 924.0 thsd. CZK
Total:	233 092.0 thsd. CZK

Capital expenses:

Capital expenses were approved at 32 000 thsd. CZK and were then adjusted to 19 642.7 thsd. CZK during the course of the year and funding came from both the Prague city budget and the national budget.

Event:	Consumption:
Revitalizing the halls of the Central Library	2 000 thsd. CZK
Incorporating the Dejvice branch into the S. T. L.	131 thsd. CZK
JPD 2 – Bibliobus to your neighborhood	6 648 thsd. CZK

Investment fund

Equipment for 7 287 thsd. CZK was purchased from the investment fund with the consent of the founder.

Event:	Cost:
HISPRÁ	241 thsd. CZK
Piano for the Central Library musical division	81 thsd. CZK
Compact shelves for the Division of rare prints	234 thsd. CZK
Transfer for the renewal of computer technology	1 748 thsd. CZK
Central Library reconstruction and modernization	3 892 thsd. CZK
Bibliobus to your neighborhood	1 005 thsd. CZK

Additional operations

The library's additional operations include letting non-residential areas for operating a buffet inside the Central Library building on Mariánské Square and also short-term hall letting including equipment and services.


Receipts	1 442 thsd. CZK
Expenses	905 thsd. CZK
Economic result before taxation	537 thsd. CZK



We are not
alone...







Cooperation is an important part of the Municipal Library of Prague. We are a collective member of the Czech Librarian and Information Worker Association and the Czech Library Association. We cooperate notably with the Czech National Library, regional libraries and libraries in large cities (Brno, Plzeň) as well as the State Technical Library. Our main partners outside of the Czech Republic include the Queens Borough Public Library in New York and the Municipal Libraries of Bratislava, Copenhagen, Moscow and Helsinki.

In June 2008, Prague hosted the annual IFLA (Metropolitan Libraries Section) conference attended by 45 delegates from 24 countries, mostly directors from significant metropolitan libraries in Europe, North America and Asia. The conference was sponsored by Prague mayor Pavel Bém and the Czech Minister of Culture Václav Jehlička. The motto of the conference was: "A library for everyone who is interested in understanding the world and himself." The comments made primarily concerned the library's role in society, significant library building projects and new technologies for making the library fund available to the public.

The Animaliter project, which the library is a partner of, ran throughout the entire year. Besides Prague, further cities participating in the project include Strasbourg, Warsaw, Debrecen, Brno, Košice, Arad and Ruse. International trips have been made, under this project, to Warsaw and Arad and an art competition was announced for artists ages 10 – 15. We received over 250 drawings, some of which were used as illustrations in this annual report. All pictures had the enchantment of children drawings and selecting the best drawings was a very hard task for the jury. The best of the best are can be seen at www.mlp.cz/animaliter. The Animaliter project is financed from the Culture EU program and will continue in 2009.

We promoted the Municipal Library of Prague in cooperation with nationwide, regional and expert – library – media. The Central Library in particular, but also the Smíchov branch or mobile libraries are the favorite areas for obtaining illustration shots, as well as a place where documentaries, journalist programs and children's series (for example the Mysteries of Tom Wizard) are shot. Libraries are also an inspirative environment for non-profit organizations. The Central Library areas contain information campaigns from the Okamžik (The Moment – www.okamzik.cz) or Romea (www.udelejneco.cz) associations.

Thank you

Many activities and services mentioned in this annual report would not be possible, or would have a different form, without our partners – national and municipal institutions, non-profit organizations, companies and individuals. They deserve credit for supporting some branches, the implementation of new services, partnerships for organizing cultural events, supplementing the library collection:

City districts, particularly Prague 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 12, 14 and 15

Pražská plynárenská, a. s.

Iveco Czech Republic

Elsyst Engineering

CDMA@wifi - Adam Kóppel

Kulturní portál - Lukáš Sýkora

INCAD spol. s r. o.

ADC Blackfire Entertainment

Albatros

Fragment

Kosmas

Triton

Straky na vrbě

Pevnost

Pressweb

Čitárny.cz

FLY UNITED, s.r.o.

Spektra, v. d.

K. Semelka

Adjust Art PRO

Nadace České spořitelny

Prague Public Transportation Service

Czech Children and Youth Council

Svět knihy – Czech Bookdealer and Publishing House Organization

Švandovo divadlo (Švanda Theater)

Starbucks Coffee

Tesco Stores ČR

Chironax Transport

British Council

Václav Dekanovský

Ludmila Millerová

and

publishers

book distribution companies

schools of all levels and types in Prague and outside of Prague.


Thank you for your support and we look forward to further cooperation in 2009.





Outlook for 2009





Life is full of changes. The Municipal Library of Prague lives, changes and in spite of this, it remains the way the people need it. We do not intend to fold our laps in 2009 either. A short-term plan for this period named Library+ contains about seventy items, representing individual tasks in the area of services, internal and external communication, changes to management, library fund availability...

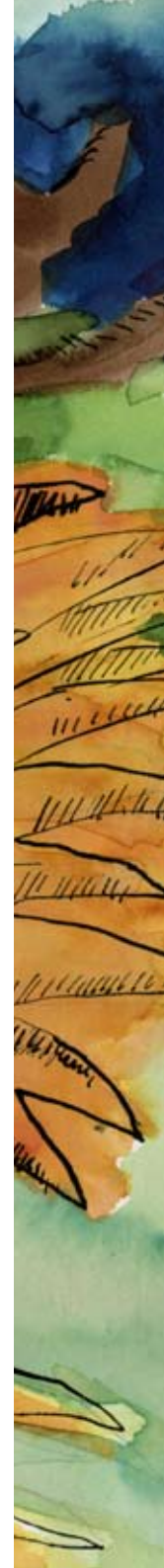
The most important being:

- opening two more libraries with computer operation – Zahradní Město and Dejvice branch,
- perform a survey amongst people asking them which libraries they stopped visiting and after analyzing the information, subsequently find the answer to the question “Why?”
- lower the number of readers who do not renew their library membership,
- perform a survey amongst readers asking them what the library could improve, what it could establish newly or otherwise,
- try the “borrow anywhere, return to the Central Library” service,
- run the new web intended primarily for teenagers using the 2.0 web elements and community networks – www.knihovna4u.cz,
- begin offering books in digital form,
- create a communications channel to better inform the reading public about library services and events,
- create and run a new MLP Intranet – internal communications channel,
- implement a unified channel for securing e-mail communication with the public.

We will inform you of our efforts and how successful we were in fulfilling this plan in the Municipal Library of Prague 2009 Annual Report.

2008 in numbers

Number of branches:	Central Library, 42 branches and 3 mobile libraries	
Number of employees:	455	
Library collection total:	2 303 467	
	- science literature	1 001 930
	- fiction	1 021 502
	- maps	21 106
	- audio material (CD, MC, LP)	95 112
	- audiovisual material (films on DVD)	202
	- e-books (CD-ROM)	1 360
	- pieces of music	151 493
	- graphic sheets and reproductions in the art room of the Opatov Library	10 762
New additions to the library collection in 2008:		107 762
Total number of loans:		6 814 641
Number of registered readers:		205 961
readers up to the age of 15		39 950
Number of visitors:		2 144 720
Number of internet users:		187 867
Cultural education events:	5160 events for 130 584 participants	





Municipal Library of Prague 2008 Annual Report

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Further cooperation: Dagmar Volencová, Martina Sidorová, Kristina Dobrozemská, Eva Měřínská

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