





***“Everybody is entitled to form their opinion
on the basis of unbiased information.
Everybody is entitled to their library.”***



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Contents

Foreword by the Mayor

05

A Few Steps from the Horizon?

06

Dear Readers!

09

Kaleidoscope

12

Presenting MLP in the media

20

MLP Activities in 2004

26

MLP in Figures

30

MLP Economic Report for 2004

34

What the Statistics Say

38

MLP branches in 2004

42

Lease of Multipurpose Rooms

46





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— In the beginning was the Word. This does not just mean the story of Creation. It also means the opinion we know as scientific and global, the one which confirms the essential nature of speech, and the writing that followed, in Man's development into Man, and the power of the Word behind the development of civilisation. Some imbue words with magical powers, yet all admit that a carefully chosen word can soothe the soul, ease our pains, banish our worries, breathe the new life into us, and can change history.

— The Word is a sociable thing. It mingles with other words to form legends and stories; it weaves the fates of those it tells of and brings together those that hear it, crossing generations and continents. The word is its own best friend; it inspires in people the desire to preserve something spoken or simply thought and to forge a link with times and places outside the physical limits of Man.

— The first books were seen as a minor miracle; they were very rare and a symbol of exceptional wealth. It was not just that they contained all the secrets uncovered by Man up to that time, but there was also the splendour of their design and the amount of time and work involved in each and every binding. It is no wonder that those who owned one did not want to share, and often thought so much of their precious treasure that they never actually read it.

— Luckily for us, the whole process has become cheaper and easier, so we now value a book by what it contains, by the power of the author's imagination and the beauty of the words themselves. The creation of a book, however, is no less of a marvel, just as the way in which it enriches our lives is by no means diminished. At certain ti-

mes it has been of vital importance, or has "at least" given us hope, such as during the national revival, under the rule of the past regime, or from August 1939, when the Municipal Library set up its bibliobus – a mobile library built from the shell of a Praga bus from whose collection, until May 1940 when the bus was commandeered by the German armed forces, the people of Prague borrowed more than sixty thousand volumes.

— Back in 1919, the builders of our state passed a law to set up a public library in every parish. It does not matter that they may have been inspired by Cardinal Federigo Borromeo, who opened his library to the public in the year 1609, or Julius Caesar himself, who said that it was the responsibility of every ruler to establish a library. Prague has had a public library since July 1891. The HMP Municipal Library was opened on the site on which it is currently situated, very close to the The Metropolitan Authority of Prague, to mark the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic. The physical proximity of these two buildings and the long-term financial support given them testify as to how the city administrators see the importance of a public library in confirming and strengthening the position of our metropolis as a centre of culture and learning. The ceaseless interest shown by the people of Prague in the library's services and its ever-increasing standards are witness to the fact that the Municipal Library is up to the task.

Pavel Bém — Capital City of Prague Mayor

Foreword by the Mayor

A Few Steps from the Horizon?

06



— One might expect that the director would make use of the introduction to the Annual Report to summarise and highlight the successes of the previous year, pointing out the efforts made to overcome rather more than slight obstacles, and expressing his optimism concerning the coming years. Well – I can say that last year was a successful one in all aspects. Once again we broke our own records in terms of book-lending and visitor numbers. We have almost completed the work to restore the library after the floods and have launched ourselves into a host of notable projects. We have strengthened our position as one of the leading cultural institutions in the Czech Republic. The entire annual report speaks convincingly of what a successful year it was, and so perhaps now it is time to move on to something else

— Something tells me that, as regards the number of books borrowed, the year 2004 was not only the most successful in our history up to now, but also probably in the years to come. This, of course, by no means goes to say that future years will not be less successful than previous ones! All it means is that success will have to come in a slightly different form.

— Libraries – and public libraries are no exception – are finding themselves at a turning point in their history. They stand a few steps from the visible horizon and the question arises as to what lies beyond. It is clear that fundamental and deep-rooted changes await the activities of public libraries. A time will come when loan statistics become a less important reflection of a library's performance. The service provided by a library is based on man's need to acquire information he does not possess. However, what does this phrase "possess information" actually mean? These days information retrieval is still fundamentally linked with the paper artifact on which this information is recorded. Yet what about the near future? The paper encyclopedia is under increasing attack from the electronic database. Newspaper and magazine publishers are placing ever greater emphasis on the electronic versions of their publications, meaning that periodicals are starting to assume an electronic mantle. The Internet and its full-text search engines are becoming more and more a respectable source of information.

— It is only the book that is holding out in its traditional paper form. Electronic books still make up a completely negligible proportion of the book market. Many are relieved, many disappointed. I am convinced that the electronic book phenomenon has not become an outlived concept, just that it is taking longer, meaning that when it finally does ex-



Městská knihovna v Praze

plode upon the scene, it will be all the more of a boom.

— What makes me so sure? Purely economic reasons. The requisite technology has long been available and has already moved into the commercial electronics sector; it will not be long before these goods break into the mass consumption market.

— What is actually holding this era back? Is it the lack of electronic texts? Surely not. Almost everything that has come out on paper over the last ten years has been electronically archived somewhere and there is a huge trend towards the mass digitalisation of older texts. Let's recall last year's Google initiative as an example. No, there are plenty of texts; it is just that they are locked up in the safes of publishing houses. Why? Because of copyright! Authors – somewhat understandably – are fighting against the release of the digital versions of their work until a time when they can be guaranteed some sort of protection. As to the fact that copyright is far from being a simple matter, we can see this wherever we look. Yet these copyright problems have not stopped the rise of the CD, they have not stopped the DVD, neither have they stopped the MP3 and other recent forms of technology, so one day we will come to a sensible arrangement which will protect the rights of authors to their electronic texts. Then see how it takes off!

— I have a number of friends and acquaintances who say that there really is no point in the e-book; that paper is paper, after all. You can open a paper book in bed of an evening and read a few pages before you nod off – no-one's going to take their computer to bed with them. They are mistaken, very much so. They simply cannot imagine the impact of the changes that are about to burst upon us. Let's imagine that if someone thirty years ago had told us about personal computers, or twenty years ago about the Internet, or about mobile phones ten years ago, and had then tried to get across to us how these things would revolutionise our lives yet become so commonplace, and that we wouldn't be able to get by without them – we would have laughed at them. An overactive imagination. And today? Pretty much all of us use these gadgets as a matter of course. Some like them, some don't, yet we can't do anything about it. It's here.

— The story of the e-book will run along very similar lines. The cost of a book these days is mainly due to the fact that it is on paper. This does not only include the cost of printing, it also covers transport, storage and handling. This is why the idea of an electronic book would appear to be too good to ignore from an economic point of view. Who is going

to prefer a paper detective story at three times the price when there is a comfortable means of reading the electronic version? And once the reader starts to favour the e-book, the cost of its paper counterpart will rise dramatically until it ceases to pay to print most titles at all. We will then face a decision – we either read the fifteenth episode of Harry Potter electronically, or not at all.

— Let's get this clear. I am not prophesying the death of the book or of the art of the written word as a vehicle for thought. Even an electronic book is still a book, after all. I also do not want to foretell the death of the paper book as a cultural artifact – it is too closely linked to our perception of the world, and this is why books will keep on coming out in paper form for a very long time yet. However, they will come to be exclusive goods, bought – to a limited extent – by those who want to fulfill a complex and deep-seated desire, rather than by those who just want to know “what happened between those two at the end”. The bulk of book production will, nevertheless, be electronic.

— What is a public library going to do in a world where a Network exists between author and reader, by which the reader will order a book, pay for it, download it and then read it? Paradoxically this is almost the keystone of the library's service! Now, the endless sifting through huge stores of paper books is a drain on the reserves of energy that the library could, in the future, be devoted to the librarian as an information specialist. The rapid development of information technology is bringing greater access to knowledge. Orientation in what is today a bewildering range of resources will become more and more difficult. The role of the library as a highly specialised information centre, as a point of call in an ever more complex world, will become increasingly irreplaceable. What is more, this role will take on more and more importance and prestige.

— We can get an idea of the library of the future by taking a close look at what we have today. What are they there for, except as a place to borrow books?

— Well, first and foremost the library is a seat of knowledge. The library is where I go when I don't know something, and I'm coming up against more and more situations where I am not sure about something. At first glance, it seems that the answers to all my questions can be found through my personal computer, which is connected to the Internet.

— The Internet contains a truly vast wealth of information, but it getting harder and harder to find what we need. Entering a few keywords in a

full-text search engine often returns such an overwhelming amount of page links that finding what we are searching for can be like looking for a needle in a haystack. Try searching the word ‘car’. Google returned 179 000 000 pages. One hundred and seventy-nine million!

If I spent just a single second looking at each of them (which doesn't give me time to see if this is the one I'm after), I'd be sitting here for about twenty years. This is just about as useful as no page at all... The ability to pose a question in such a way as to get a useful answer is the job for an information specialist.

— There is also the fact that the public library is an amazingly democratic institution. It offers a low access threshold to the most important commodity of the information society. It makes no difference if one is rich or poor, old or young, educated at university or at the school of life – when we require information, we can get it at the library and the librarian can help us to find it. We all know what it feels like to find our way around a field in which we are not “at home”, and it is not getting any easier. A library's strength lies in the speed, clarity, amount and variety of the resources at its disposal.

— A library is a meeting point. The library is the place where readers meet librarians, other readers, and the cultural wealth of times past and present. The library is the place where we meet not only works, but their authors. The library is the place where, in addition to literature, we also meet music, the creative arts, architecture, drama, and everything that goes to make up culture. The library is the place where we meet with the library itself, the genius loci in its purest form. Everybody who goes to the library knows what I'm talking about. Visiting a good library makes us feel something like we do when we visit the theatre. We come here to satisfy a hunger that is deep inside us, yet is very difficult to describe. Libraries are uplifting, inspiring, kind yet cruel, they encourage us to search, they offer us answers and – even more importantly – questions.

— I could go on writing for a long time yet. But these thoughts should do something to reveal the optimism I feel towards those years when book loans will no longer be the main reason behind the library's existence. Libraries will continue to change, and will play their part in the creation of the new information age.

— So, once more. The year 2004 was an exceptionally successful one for The Municipal Library of Prague. The next ones will be too.

Tomáš Řehák — Director, Municipal Library of Prague

A Few Steps from the Horizon?



— Question and answer. This is the kernel of our work, extracted from the very core. If I don't know something, I go and ask at the library. About anything. The communication between the reader and the librarian tells more about the life of the library, and more faithfully, than a whole mass of statistics can. This is why this MLP Annual Report gives a cross-section of the topics that this communication covers. What we were most interested in were the questions concerning how the The Municipal Library of Prague actually works. We really do get a lot of them – curious ones, others full of praise, some inspiring, others critical. The questions themselves come from readers old and young, the experienced and the newcomers to the library, as well as those who only need a library – or at least so they think – “once in a lifetime”. They all have one thing in common: They ask, because they want to know the best and fastest route to information, they want to discover new opportunities and to have its most complex mechanisms explained. Most of them ask about

things that are of interest to the general public. This is why we think that it would be a pity if they were the only ones to read what the librarians have to say. Why, this collection of answers is really a pure insight into the fundamental workings of the life of the library and its readers, while in the background it quietly yet convincingly sketches out what we rather nobly call the “mission” of the library. These are generally questions that are frequently asked, by different people and in a variety of forms. It seemed a pity for us always to have to pick out just one person, so we have created a fictitious questioner as a mouthpiece for our questions – a mix of all the evergreens that probably crop up in the life of every information centre. The librarian, however, who speaks to several thousand customers, year in, year out, sees this imaginary reader as a figure of flesh and blood in front of him, and he fully understands his hunger for knowledge...
— So, we'll let the reader speak, and take a look at what it's like inside the most visited library in the Czech Republic...

Dear Readers!



— Hello, please help me!

I saw my favourite actress again yesterday - she was in Saturday's old movie and she played the girl on the third floor. She's played a few minor parts and I'd really like to know her name and the story of her life.

— Have a nice day!

On 20th February it is clear that you were watching television; there were a total of four films that fit the bill, and by a process of elimination we came to the conclusion that the film you are talking about was "Love on the Third Floor". Your favourite actress Maggie Morgan was the co-star (playing Irene, sister of the main character, Dean Martin). This film star, now fading from memory, was hugely popular at the end of the 1950s and was a frequently cast artiste. She came from a poor family; her mother was a librarian and her father was a secondary school teacher. When she left secondary school she enrolled on a drama course at the prestigious Actor's Studio school, run by Lee Strasberg. The studio taught the Stanislavsky Method, i.e. method acting. Before she had finished her studies she had signed a contract with Warner Brothers of Hollywood. She made a total of six films for this company, three under the guidance of the renowned director John Bilder. The most well-known of these is "The Girl from 5th Street", which was awarded an Oscar in 1956. This prize, the highest film award, was rightly given for her role as the ill student, Peggy. Her promising career would certainly have gone from strength to strength had it not been for a car accident which abruptly ended the young life of this aspiring actress. Maggie Morgan died as a result of a tragic car crash in St. Luke's Hospital in New York on 21st January 1961.

Dear readers, next time we would like to ask you to tell us the name of the film, or at least what time it was shown and on which channel. This will help us to answer your questions more quickly. If you would like more detailed information, please visit the film and theatre section on Mariánské náměstí; you can also find out some interesting facts about your favourite star or other famous people in other parts of the library, for example:

- a) at the Information Centre on Mariánské náměstí. Staff will search the publications database and print off any articles relating to your theme which have appeared in the major Czech magazines and newspapers.*
- b) in the internet study-room at several of our branches. Here you can find information on web pages from all around the world.*
- c) in the publications department in some of our larger branches. Here you can read the actual magazines you are interested in.*
- d) in the daily newspaper reading room on Mariánské náměstí. Here you have access to the latest editions of the Czech daily newspapers, as well as back issues from the last three months.*

All of these sources of information are available to you even if you are not a member of The Municipal Library of Prague, with the exception of the Internet. Our librarians will be happy to assist and advise you.

All hail to film buffs!

Prague 1 — In 2004 The Municipal Library of Prague (MLP) presented its **new logo**. This was designed by Libor Jelínek, student at the Graphic Design and Visual Communication Studio of the Academy of Arts, Architecture and Design Prague. Libor also put together a comprehensive graphical manual for MLP, as well as designing the Library's new website (www.mlp.cz) and preparing the visual layout of the 2004 Annual Report. He also designed how the new bibliobus would look, which went on to replace the branch in Karlín that was destroyed by the floodwaters. We firmly believe that the new MLP symbol will become a part of public awareness and a universally acknowledged mark of the quality and sophistication of the services offered by a good European library in the information age. **(Central Library – clubroom, Mariánské náměstí 1)** — MLP has joined forces with the music agency Taktika Muzika to put on a range of concerts from the new cycle of **Rebelující dámy české hudby (Rebel Women of Czech Music)**. The basic principal may be summed up as follows: to offer the public the chance to take a closer look at the quality and variety of genres created by leading figures from the current women's music scene. A series of concerts will gradually present the top Czech songwriters and exponents of a wide range of musical styles. One of the first interpreters was Ester Kočíčková, followed by a concert by Pavla Milcová, Dagmar Andrtová-Voňková, the group Marsyas... **Photo no. 1** (MLP Great Hall, Mariánské náměstí 1) — **VŘSČ** – Velké říjnové společné čtení (The Great October Group Reading Session – in MLP or the Gathering of All Who Like Reading and Listening, held on 4. 10. in the Small Hall of MLP. This was staged in conjunction with the Prague regional organisation the Association of Librarians and Information Staff to mark the introduction to Libraries Week. To round off the day the winner of the nationwide survey **My Book** was announced. **Photo no. 2** — The grand opening of the newly-built section of MLP to house rare and historical works was held on 2nd December 2004. This includes a restorers' workshop to handle dry and wet restoration work, a categorization department, and air-conditioned store-rooms. This site has been designed for drying out **rare and historical works** damaged by the flood waters, for restoring them, and for storing them in a stable and controlled environment. The building is secured against theft and natural disasters. We do not give the address for security reasons. **Photo no. 3** — As part of this year's Libraries Week, the

Central Library prepared a series of **Literary Rambles Around the Old Town** for its younger readers. Children walked around near the library and listened to stories about the history of the Old Town as well as legends about some of the streets and houses. The greatest attention was devoted to popular stories about some of the ghosts, such as the Mad Barber or the Green Man, who can be found and set free in certain of the local streets after nightfall. Before returning to the library we all measured the narrowest house in Prague in Seminářská Street, and saw that it really is only 3.28 m wide. Back in the library the children then answered questions in a short test and used a secret alphabet to write about what they thought of their outing. — **Where the Blue Fox Runs**. Children from Vojtěšská Primary School listened to Mr. Gjuríč's stories about the fairytale inhabitants of Malá Strana and revived four seasonal tales about floods, spirits of the spring and the Mist Horse. **Photo no. 4** — In June a meeting was held with representatives of the Czech committee for **UNICEF**, who told children something about the mission and duties of this international organisation. The children learnt how they themselves could help. — **Students of Hellichova Grammar School** came to hear a lecture by PhDr. H. Nosková on the life and work of the writer **Dominik Tatarka**. Actors from Prague's theatres held a dramatized reading session. **(Central Library, Mariánské náměstí 1)**

Prague 2 — In October 2004, younger readers from Dittrichova Library visited the Botanical Gardens of Charles University. The children were given a **literary-botanical test** to give them a chance to prove their knowledge. The whole competition was presented and humourously commented on by Botanical Gardens Director RNDr. Václav Větvíčka. Three winners took away large chrysanthemums in medal colours. **Photo no. 5** — **I Haven't Seen Any Butterflies Here** was an exhibition of the work of the pre-school children who in 1942 were transported to Terezín concentration camp. In the Terezín art workshop these children, sentenced to death, were led by the painter Friedel Dicker-Brandeis, who was herself later tortured to death in Osvětim. — **Anne Frank and Her Story**; this was the name of an exhibition of photographs and papers from the life of this Jewish girl and her family. — Both exhibitions were loaned by the Education and Cultural Centre, part of the Jewish Museum in Prague. — **Long Painting for International Day**; children played in the corridor leading to the children's section.

On a continuously shifting piece of paper appeared one wagon after the other, filled with the nicest things. By evening the entire festive train was there. Adults also joined in the fun. — Twenty-two children spent a fairytale **Night with Andersen** in the library. This time there was a water sprite waiting for them under the rocks in the lake at CU Botanical Gardens Na Slupi, with thanks due to Director RNDr. Václav Větvíčka, there was a nocturnal meeting with the Lord of the Night in the Emmaus monastery, and, of course, lots of competitions, games and reading. (Dittrichova Library, Dittrichova 2)

Prague 3 — Žižkov Library was once again involved in the literary competition for local schoolchildren held by the Prague 3 District. This time children had to write on the topic of “Warmth, Cosy Warmth”. A jury of specialists carefully judged 46 entries and awarded a total of 3 prizes to the best submissions. (Žižkov Library, Husitská 70)

Prague 4 — On 19th April and in the presence of the Mayor of the Prague 4 District, the Director of MLP and the Chairman of the Writer’s Association, **another automated branch, in Spořilov in Prague**, was opened with great ceremony after having been reconstructed. The library is situated nearby a notable settlement of houses which, during the First Republic, were occupied by writers, dramatists, filmmakers, sculptors and other cultural figures, including Václav Prokúpek, Josef Knap, Zdeňek Kalista, Jan Zahradníček, Jaroslav Havlíček, Zbyňek Havlíček, and the author Adolf Branald, who still writes today. Adolf Branald, who was a guest of honour at the first opening of the library, was the branch’s first registered reader. The library has attempted to commemorate these figures and their works with an exhibition entitled Literature. **Photo no. 6 — Indian Workshop or About India in English.** Students from the Postupická Grammar School had the opportunity to find out a little something about the food, religions, languages and geography of India in the library at Spořilov. The information came from a most reliable source, Kiren, English-born yet with Indian roots, who is now a trainee at the Prague Multicultural Centre. (Spořilov Library, Postupická 7) — **Singing at the Sue Ryder Day Centre.** It has become traditional that once in a while the social area of the Sue Ryder Home, which is where elderly men and women get together for activities during the day, is transformed into a music hall. This is when the children from

nearby primary schools come with their class teacher and the librarians and have a good time singing to one another. (Michle Library, Michelská 7) — It is known that the writer of books for young people, **Ivona Březinová**, is able to handle even the most grown-up of adolescents. Her talent for storytelling, which can transform a group of bored-looking teenagers into active and communicative youngsters, was on display at an informal discussion held at our library. (Vikova Library, Vikova 9) — In the competition **Crisscrossing Tanzania** children had the chance to see who knew the most about this African country. The event also included an information panel. All of this was made possible through the support of the Prague Multicultural Centre. (Novodvorská Library, Novodvorská 151) — **Author Readings and Discussion** – this was the name for a series of meetings between students and figures from the world of literature. This year, those accepting invitations to Na Veselí Library included, for example, **I. Binar, T. Boučková, E. Světlík and J. Janáčková. Photo no. 7** — Neither was there any interruption to the twenty-seven year tradition of **Evening of Young Authors** in 2004. Even in these pessimistic times, when young people seem to have little interest in literature, there are still plenty of writers just starting out who appreciate the chance of presenting their work to the public. — A series of traditional discussions on the theme of the Christian Christmas was made special by Wida Neuwirth presenting **Chanuka or the Festival of Light. — African Drumming.** In the run-up to Christmas, children from two primary school classes had the opportunity to enjoy the rhythms created by Papis Nyass from distant Gambia. As well as being captivated by the music, the children showed just as much fascination in his traditional hairstyle and hand-crafted drums. (Pankrác Library, Na Veselí 5)

Prague 5 — As part of the **Variety for Libraries** project, a talk was held in Smíchov Library in collaboration with the Prague Multicultural Centre entitled **The Thousand Faces of India**. This was presented by a native Indian lady who lives in England and now over here in the Czech Republic too. The programme included information about the geography of India, its ethnic groups and different dialects. Children learnt how to say hello in a variety of dialects, they talked about the subcontinent’s religions, customs, culture and festival days. This was followed by the active part of the programme – a demonstration of Indian dancing which

Kaleidoscope

the children could join in with, a display of traditional tattoo symbols, tasting Indian national dishes and Masala tea. To round things off the children were treated to the decorative henna tattoos they had been looking forward to so much. The show also included a multicultural wall-hanging on the theme of India, the Indians and the Romans, as well as a fun quiz about India for the children. **Photo no. 8** — The long-running series of lectures entitled **Conversations about Prague**, for adults and held in collaboration with the Old Prague Club and the Library of the National Museum, offers listeners the chance to hear a variety of different lectures on interesting topics. In 2004 these were: The J. Anderle Collection of Pictures, Sketches and Graphics of African Art, Geraldine Muchová – The Musical Composer Remembers, Dalimil and Johanité (lecture by PhDr. T. Edel) — **The Good and Even Better František Nepil** or retrospective show for adults to mark what would have been the 75th birthday of F. Nepil. The author was remembered by his wife, Mrs. Zdena Nepilová, the illustrator Karel Franta and the photographer Karel Kestner. Visitors could also take a look around the accompanying exhibition of photographs by Karel Kestner from his Czech Writers series. — In the show entitled **The Best of the Ch. Doppler Grammar School**, students once again staged a programme of recitals and readings by authors. — In the **Slovak Lesson** children had an interactive class on how to understand the Slovak language, which was topped off by a puppet show. This was held in collaboration with the Slovak Institute in Prague, which also provided a display of the most beautiful Slovak publications of 2000–2002. — The multicultural show for children entitled **About Ghana**, held in collaboration with Humanitas Afrika, offered not only information about the geography of Africa, but also about the lives of its children, its music and culture. — **Foglar, Beavers and Prague 5** – this exhibition included several accompanying events held in collaboration with the Friends of Jaroslav Foglar Association. From these was can list the meeting with the author of adventure books for children, Svatopluk Hrnčíř. — **An exhibition on the Life and Work of Writer Astrid Lindgren** came to the travelling marquee. The grand opening of the exhibition was attended by the Swedish ambassador in Prague. The Children's Drama Studio held a performance of the Children of Noisy Village. As part of the exhibition there was a seminar held for the specialist public entitled **The Need for Play and Fantasy in Child Development**, which sketched out the

overall aim behind the event. — The multicultural children's show **What it is Like to Live in Vietnam** gave all participants the chance to look at photographs, listen to a Vietnamese fairytale in Vietnamese and Czech, learn to eat with chopsticks, try green tea, dried fruit and the tropical breadfruit. The show was sponsored by the Prague Multicultural Centre as part of its **Variety for Libraries project** and the Hanoi Club working together with the Vietnamese minority. (**Smíchov Library, náměstí 14. října 15**) — **The Outing with the Prague Information Service** was not just aimed at adult readers. The tour went around several places of interest in the old part of Smíchov, and supplemented the exhibition of photographs on show in the library, entitled "Smíchov, What Has Disappeared and What Has Remained". — In the **Children's Workshop** visitors were able to try their hand at printing traditional African motifs on cloth. The workshop was held by the Humanitas Afrika association. — **Origami Workshop** or paper-folding from Japan. Children learnt the art of folding paper under the guidance of a teacher from the Japanese Institute in Prague. (**Na Skalce Library, Na Skalce 29**)

Prague 6 — A talk with Edita Sipeka, author of the book **Vysoká škola Hubnutí (University of Slimming)**, about slimming and the lifestyle of women. The author, who has successfully promoted her ideas on the lifestyle of the modern woman not only in this country, but particularly in Slovakia, Hungary and Austria, told her fans about the book's follow-up, entitled *Moje báječné ženy* (My Amazing Women). — **The meeting with the leading Czech bellfounder, Mr. Manoušek** was accompanied by a video screening and a demonstration of bell-playing. The event closed with an autograph-signing by Pavla Jungmannová, author of the book *Pověsti o zvonech* (Legends about Bells). — **The first annual Christmas Scrabble Tournament** carried on from the last tournament in 2003. 24 players took part, playing the PLUS version of Scrabble. The winner was Martin Kuča, currently top of the rankings ladder for the Czech Scrabble Association. **Photo no. 9** — The inside of the library and its window displays were used for an exhibition staged in tandem with the Summer House citizens' association entitled **Pictures by Children from Children's Homes**. (**Břevnov Library, Bělohorská 56**)

Prague 7 — On 6th September 2004 the Holešovice branch held a **Thanksgiving to Volunteers**, sponsored by the Mayoress of Prague

7 as part of the traditional Twilight meetings at the library. This event was devoted to those who helped to clear up the aftermath of the disaster at the flooded library in 2002. The thanksgiving was held in the form of a garden party with a rich programme of events. The gathering was opened by the Mayoress, PhDr. Ivana Kučerová. A gift in the form of French poetry from the tenth century put to music was brought by Vesna Caceres and Nikol Koksteinová. The librarian, Ladislav Šinkmajer, then read his thoughts on the floods of the summer of 2002. Guests later looked through photographs showing the rescue work under way during the flooding of Holešovice and showed how rare printed materials had been restored. There were two themed exhibitions, one of which was about the Prague Bible and the other documenting the operation to dry out the rare papers. It was very nice to meet up again under more favourable circumstances in the attractive surroundings of the reconstructed and automated library, not to mention the recultivated garden. — The run-up to Christmas was made more pleasant for everybody thanks to **Muzika Špalíček**, who entertained us with his repertoire of Czech Christmas carols. (Holešovice Library, Ortenovo náměstí 37) — The MLP bibliobus is now a traditional feature of the international book fair **Svět knihy Praha**. As part of the accompanying program it was parked on the open space in front of the Palace of Industry. — The winner of the Magnesia Litera award for 2002, **Emil Hakl**, read from his book of stories entitled *O létajících objektech* ('About Flying Objects'). **Photo no. 10** — At the creative workshops **T-shirt painting and Glass painting**, children had the chance to try some of the less traditional creative techniques. — **Wandering Far Regions** was an exciting, round-based competition for children. In the different rounds, which took place over a two-week period, children had to answer questions about travelling. (Letná Library, Milady Horákové 56)

Prague 8 — Kobylisy Library prepared two meetings for residents of nursing homes. **The Martyr Prince – Patron of the Earth** informed listeners about the figure of St. Wenceslas and showed the importance of his cult to Czech statehood. — **Vltava – Prague: History, Monuments, Curiosities** took participants into old Prague, to the banks of the river Vltava. (Kobylisy Library, Klapkova 26) — In Bohnice Library the staff organised a literary competition for the children.

Literary quizzes were popular, of course; these were held several times during the year and gave children the chance to learn something about books and writers. Another successful competition was **What Has Stuck in our Heads about St. Wenceslas**, in giving children an insight into Czech history. (Bohnice Library, Těšínská 4) — 31. 8. 2004 saw the first run by the **Karlín mobile library**. This travelling library was funded from the state budget – state assistance to renew areas hit by the floods of 2002. The total cost of getting the bibliobus up and running amounted to almost 5 702 668 CZK. Three and a half thousand books fit into this mobile library, which has wheelchair access; there are also up-to-date newspapers, and the books are regularly exchanged for others from the collection. Readers and visitors can look through the electronic catalogue, and registered readers also have free Internet access. The book-lending services are not yet automated. The new mobile library replaced the fixed branch in Šaldová Street, destroyed by the flood waters. **Photo no. 11** (Mobile Library, Karlínské náměstí 10) — There was a puppet show entitled **About the Floods** at Bohnice and Prosek libraries, once again put on by staff for the youngest children and those fresh out of nursery school.

Prague 9 — In Vysočany Library the staff prepared a meeting for primary school to find out more about the area of Vysočany where they live. (Vysočany Library, Zbuzkova 34) — In Vysočany and Prosek libraries the staff entertained nursery and primary school children with a puppet theatre entitled **Tell Me, O Mirror**, a fairytale about a clever devil who foiled a princess in her trickery. (Vysočany Library, Zbuzkova 34, Prague 9, Prosek Library, Mimoňská 2) — Prosek Library held a series of meetings entitled **The Seasons of the Year**, telling children about folk customs and traditions throughout the year. (Prosek Library, Mimoňská 2)

Prague 10 — **Interview on the Terrace**. It was a beautiful morning on Wednesday 28th April when readers met the author Michal Ajvaz at Korunní Library. The sun tempted everyone outside, so people gathered on the terrace. It was a very interesting and inspiring chat. Michal Ajvaz is a great lover of Prague and its secrets, but also the Prague of today. His words were rounded off and given splashes of colour from the sounds filtering up from the street below, the rattling of passing

Kaleidoscope

trams, ambulance sirens and the swish of car wheels. — In the e-mail competition **Seaching for the Potterology Master** children showed off their knowledge of the Harry Potter books. They received a series of questions via e-mail, which they answered and sent back. — The general knowledge contest **I Know It All, I Know Everything, or No Learning Ever Fell From the Sky** went on all year round. The individual rounds of the competition were devoted to various different spheres of knowledge so that the questions corresponded to MLP classifications. — **The Easter Workshop** was opened for people to make Easter eggs and decorations. In the Autumn Book Workshop the library staff and parents helped children to make books, fold-out books, ex libris and bookmarks. The Christmas Workshop traditionally focused on making original Christmas decorations. — The library hosted a series of recitals by young poets, entitled **At the Beginning**, and was attended by the following authors: Vít Janota, Z. L. Gordon, Věra Dumková, Jan Žlábek, A. M. Kapustová and Pavla Šuranská. (*Korunní Library, Korunní 68*) — **The Most Beautiful Book Tree**, created by the library staff, was a place for children to choose and hang the names of their favourite books. — **The Questions and Answers Tree**, otherwise known as 'ask the librarian what you want to know and she'll tell you the answer'. Children were given the chance to ask questions about absolutely anything, and get an answer to each question. The funniest questions were then hung from the tree. (*Ruská Library, Ruská 192*) — **What You Want Skalka Library to Get for its 30th Birthday** – a creative competition ending with an exhibition. (*Skalka Library, Dürerova 2237*)

Prague 11 — A Virtual Tour of the CR marked March of last year – Internet Month 2004. The Czech Tourist Club led readers from Opatov Library on a virtual tour of the Czech Republic. — At the request of nursery schools there began the **Afternoon of Fairytales**, the initiative being taken by the elderly folk from the Jižní Město Social Service Centre. — In **Quest of Treasure** was the title of this year's grand summer competition for those who found that the summer was dragging by surrounded by blocks of flats. In 2004 we swam across the ocean to South America to find the treasures left by the long-lost civilization of the Indians. Competitors had the chance to imagine what it must have been like back in those times during a visit to Náprstkova Museum, where Dr. Kláášťová showed us round with great willingness

and patience. (*Opatov Library, Opatovská 14*) — **Prague 11 Days – The World Comes Together in Prague 11: Bulgaria, Slovakia**. 2004 was the second year to present our neighbours from the southern part of the city, whom we might meet in the lift. This year the organisers focused on the Slovaks and Bulgarians in shows entitled "Slovakia – Our Closest Neighbour" and "Bulgaria – Land of Rose Tea". Held in collaboration with the Slovak and Bulgarian Institute and sponsored by the Municipal District of Prague 11. — During the holidays the 2nd annual competition to find the best child reader was held. October saw the coronation of **King of the Readers Jírovec II**, otherwise known as Petr Lukeš. (*Jírovcovo náměstí Library, Jírovcovo náměstí 1*)

Prague 12 — As part of **Libraries Week** there was an event called **The Illustrated Book**, attended by young readers of Modřany Library. Those with a creative streak were given paper so that they could design the library of their dreams. There was a small reward for those whose pictures turned out fairly well. (*Modřany Library, Vazovova 1*)

Prague 13 — To mark the occasion of **Libraries Week**, employees from the City Police Department came to talk to children about the work they do in Prague. — **The Month of Czech-Slovak Solidarity** featured the traditional puppet theatre show *Theatro animato*, accompanied by a demonstration of how to play some unusual Slovak folk instruments. (*Lužiny Library, Archeologická 1*) — Children and their parents gathered at Prague 13 Town Hall to attend a grand literary evening, which ended with a literary competition – "**Become a Writer**" and where children were given a compendium of their work entitled *The World Through the Eyes of the Children of Prague 13*. (*Stodůlky Library, Kovářova 4*)

Prague 14 — In Černý Most Library there was an event called **Giraffe Fairytales**. Over a period of two months groups of schoolchildren came to the library to listen to a recital of the book of the same name by Irena Ričlová. After the final visit the children painted pictures inspired by these stories, which were then exhibited in the library. All the visitors then had the opportunity of judging them and selecting the best drawing. Five works were chosen in the end, and the artists were awarded prizes. Photo no. 12 (*Černý Most Library, Generála Janouška 2*)



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— Dear colleague!

We are a small library in the Prague region. Our library's collection is getting rather outdated, and with regard to the size (or lack of size) of our district, we don't receive much money to buy new books. Understandably, this is reflected in the lower level of public interest in our library and the fact that readers often request new books. This creates a vicious circle, as the fewer readers we have, the less money we receive to purchase new books. Can you help us to break out of this cycle? We look forward to working with you.

— Dear colleague!

We know the problems experienced by libraries such as the one in XY, and we can suggest a solution. Most importantly, the library needs to be 'cleared' of all superfluous literature which is cluttering up the book collection and which in many cases just sits on the shelves for years without ever being taken out. Talk to the District Office and then clear out all the obsolete, damaged and unwanted books. This way the library improves the look and accessibility of its collection. At the same time, create a place to display what we have to offer – an exchangeable collection specially designed for libraries in the Prague region. This is easy to obtain. If you ask us we will send your library an Application for a Physical Entity (Institution) which is to be completed by your administrator (District Office representative), and yourself, as the institute member of staff commissioned to deal with MLP. Send the application back to our regional exchangeable collection centre, and after discussing the matter with the librarian in charge of these collections, she (or you yourself) will select the collection you want to borrow for your library. You can make your choice from a collection of more than two thousand titles published over the last two years. Our collection includes adult, teenage and children's fiction, popular educational literature, encyclopedias, etc. Books can be borrowed free of charge for around six months and may be delivered directly to your library in XY free of charge.

We look forward to working with you soon.

Have a nice day!

P. S. Exchangeable collections can also be loaned to larger local libraries wanting to enrich their range of books and attract new readers. We are grateful for any suggestions or comments concerning the content of the exchangeable collection stock or any other issues relating to the regional activities of MLP.

Presenting The Municipal Library of Prague in the media

20

— TELEVISION

— **Czech Television** — 05. 02. – CT 2 – Literary Revue – information about the new library at Smíchov. — 16. 02. – CT 1 – Good Morning – discussion about children's readership with the head of the children's and teenage section of MLP Central Library. — 02. 03. – CT2 – Literary Revue – about Smíchov Library. — 04. 04. – CT 2 – report on the grand announcement of the annual Magnesia Litera book awards at MLP. — 14. 06. – CT 1 – Cultural Events – as part of the series Rebel Ladies of the Czech Music Scene songwriter Dagmar Andrťová-Voňková gave her most extensive retrospective yet at MLP, entitled My Dears. — 14. 08. – CT 1 – Events – report on the issue of theft from libraries, cases experienced at MLP. — 04. 10. – CT 1 – Events – report from the announcement of the nationwide survey My Book at MLP as part of VŘSČ – Velké říjnové společné čtení (Grand October Group Reading) held as part of Libraries Week.

— **HBin – cable television** — December 04 – report on the Prague Bible exhibition, a rare copy from the MLP collection in Vysočiny Regional Library in Havlíčkov Brod.

— **TV Nova** — 16. 02. – Right Now – report on the opening of Holešovice Library. — 03. 04. – Television News – report from A Night with Andersen at the close of March-Month of the Internet at MLP Central Library. — 19. 04. – Right Now – report from the grand opening of the automated library at Spořilov. — 15. 08. – Television News – piece on electronic security of the book collection in an interview with staff from Smíchov Library. — 31. 08. – Right Now – footage of the new mobile library in Karlín. — 04. 10. – Right Now – report from the grand opening of the automated library at Vysočany. — 02. 12. – article about the new rare manuscripts site of MLP. — 13. 12. – Right Now – interview with the director of MLP as part of a report on the grand opening of the automated library at Barrandov.

— **TV Praha** — 16. 02. – Prague Diary – footage from the grand opening of Holešovice Library. — 10. 06. – Prague Diary – news about the completion of the reconstruction work on the former Smíchov marketplace, now a branch of MLP. — 01. 09. – Prague Diary – report on the new mobile library for Karlín. — 02. 12. – Prague Diary – information about the new rare manuscripts site of MLP. — 27. 12. – Prague Diary – report from the Scrabble Tournament held at Břevnov Library.

— **TV Prima** — 04. 10. – Regional Minutes – footage from the grand opening of the automated library at Vysočany. — 02. 12. – Regional Minutes – information about the new rare manuscripts site of MLP. — 11. 12. – Regional Minutes – report on the preparations for the 11th annual Febio Fest, including the presentations held at MLP. — 28. 12. – Regional Minutes – report from the Scrabble Tournament held at Břevnov Library.

— RADIO

— **CR 1 – Radiožurnál** — 16. 02. – news – information about Holešovice Library. — 17. 02. – discussion about the newly-opened automated library at Holešovice, taking the opportunity to look at the damage caused by the floods. — 02. 03. – MLP press spokesperson talks about the donation of a vacuum table to help MLP to protect its rare manuscripts. — 02. 04. – Join Us in The Municipal Library of Prague... on the grand announcement of the annual Magnesia Litera book awards at MLP. — 14. 04. – information from the director of MLP about the first concert in the new series of Rebel Ladies of the Czech Music Scene, in which MLP plays a part, and also details of the discount for MLP readers. — 01. 05. – Christian Magazine – the head of the MLP cataloguing department and the restorer of the Prague Bible discuss how this first edition from 1488 was saved. — 24. 05. – Question of the Day – information about the worldwide Romany festival, Khamoro, and the accompanying lectures held at The Municipal Library of Prague. — 06. 10. – Your Topic – the head of DL 10, 15 talks about the services offered by the new mobile library for Karlín; users say what they think.

— **CR 2 – Praha** — 10. 03. – Good Morning – interview with the head of the cataloguing department about rare manuscripts in the MLP collection, and with the MLP press spokesperson about MLP events for March-Month of the Internet.

— **CR 3 – Vltava** — 02. 02. – Mosaic – staff from the music department of MLP Central Library talk about the exhibition on Bedřich Smetana, the icon of Czech music in the 19th century, held at MLP Central Library.

— **CR 6** — 18. 01. – Opinions and Arguments – Programme about some of the institutes in western countries, events at MLP. — 19. 06. – End-of-week Discussion – Eugen Brikcius – poet and politician talks about the approaching cultural ecumen at The Municipal Library of

Prague on Mariánské náměstí.

— **CR 7** — 13. 08. – overseas broadcast, interview with the director of MLP about the consequences of the flooding in 2002.

— **CR – Regina Praha** — 16. 02. – daily news report – information about Holešovice Library. — 27. 02. – MLP press spokesperson talks about the donation from Chicago Sister's City to help The Municipal Library of Prague. — 02. 03. – MLP press spokesperson talks about the donation of a vacuum table to help MLP to protect its rare manuscripts. — 19. 04. – report by MLP press spokesperson on the opening of the automated library at Spořilov. — 01. 09. – MLP press spokesperson informs listeners about the new mobile library at Karlín. — 30. 09. – information about the announcement of the My Book survey in MLP to mark the start of Libraries Week. — 04. 10. – press spokesperson invites listeners to visit the newly-opened automated library at Vysočany and gives details of events at MLP as part of Libraries Week. — 05. 10. – report on the opening of Vysočany Library. — 06. 10. – news report – MLP Vysočany Library open again. — **Radio Classic** — 19. 04. – report on the opening of the automated library at Spořilov.

— **Radio Hey** — 31. 08. – MLP press spokesperson informs listeners about the new mobile library at Karlín.

— **Radio Kiss** — 31. 08. – details about the new mobile library for Karlín from the MLP press spokesperson.

— PRESS

— **Agora – student newspaper** — issue 4 – First Literary Evening, named “At the Beginning”

— **Alax magazine** — issue 1 – “Art Nouveau Reborn in Smíchov. New library in former marketplace.”

— **Avízo** — 18. 06. – “Jana Koubková: Jazz Without Sex – Just Can't Be Done!”

— **Babylon – students' November** — issue 5 – “When the Press is quiet, the Library comes to life.”

— **Blesk** — 30. 04. – “The Bible is Back” — 27. 05. – “Loaned CDs Sold” — 09. 06. – “Mayor's Question Time”.

— **Living** — issue 8 – “Marketplace Library”

— **Reader** — issue 7–8 – “Conference on the Building of a Public Paradise”, “International Seminar Me and the Others. Intercultural Dialogue in Libraries.” — issue 10 – “The fifty books most popular with

Czech readers” Libraries in the Press – Prague 8 – Mobile Library... — issue 11 – “The District Institution and the Spiritual Condition. Public Libraries and Education of the Populace – Options and Inspirations” “Results of survey of the most popular books amongst Czech readers”. Libraries in the Press – Prague 9 – The Municipal Library of Prague opens...” “How we imagined Czech libraries and the Czech Delegation of French Librarians”.

— **DOLCE VITA** — issue 4 – “Library under marketplace roof”

— **Eurocampus** — May/June – “Libor Jelínek changes logo after fifty years”

— **Font** — issue 74 – “CID Ogilvy Prize” — issue 75 – “Municipal Library tunes into form”

— **Economic News** — 25. 05. – “Khamoro becomes a saint for Romany nation”.

— **Ikaros** — 09. 01. – “Municipal Library's People's University prepares...” — 11. 02. – “Will be open to the public after general reconstruction from 17th February 2004...” — **March** – “Current situation of English public libraries” — 02. 03. – “March-Month of the Internet: MLP Central Library... Night on the Internet at The Municipal Library of Prague”, “March-Month of the Internet: MLP Central Library... Virtual Tour of Prague's Ecclesiastical Monuments...” — 06. 03. – “March-Month of the Internet: MLP Central Library... exhibition from the series entitled “The Way Home” at Břevnov Library.” “March-Month of the Internet: Today at 9.00 in the morning A Night with Andersen ended, an event organised by MLP Central Library...” — 10. 05. – “Come and discover your Celtic roots at the tenth Book World fair” — 11. 05. – “Fast Event” — 14. 05. – “Exhibition entitled Welcome to the World of Astrid Lindgren to be held...” — 02. 06. – “Prague Bible returns to The Municipal Library of Prague”, “Digitalisation with Added Value” — 01. 09. – “Readers at The Municipal Library of Prague served by new bibliobus” — 04. 10. – “Stories and songs in the library: MLP Břevnov branch...” — 02. 11. – “Report from the Contemporary Library conference 2004”, “Harry Potter the most popular book in the CR”, “You'll always find something new here, or we are always setting up new activities”, “Library of the Year”

— **Katka** — issue 19 – What, When, Where – “Series of concerts entitled The Female Element in Czech Music to last until June at The Municipal Library of Prague”

Presenting The Municipal Library of Prague in the media

Presenting The Municipal Library of Prague in the media

22

— **Book News** — 09. 02. – “Third annual Magnesia Litera and thousands of books for readers”

— **Lidové noviny** — 10. 01. – “Cabbage Soup, Bread and Cheap Coffee of Minister Bratský” — 12. 01. – “Ticket sales for Febiofest start next week” — 20. 01. – “Febiofest offers film tour around the world” — 22. 01. – “Febiofest Cinema – Prague.” “Febiofest Program 2004”, “Foreigners in the library” — 26. 01. – “Reality exceeds my expectations” — 05. 04. – “‘Chronicle’ of the Velvet Revolution voted Book of the Year 2002”, “Book of the Year is history of the November Revolution” — 14. 04. – “Special screening – One World for Children” — 30. 04. – “Rare copy of Prague Bible from 1488 handed over...” — 04. 05. – “Book World – Exhibitions and accompanying events” — 09. 06. – “Worldwide Dagmar Andrtová-Voňková” — 05. 10. – “Harry Potter the most popular book in the CR. Bible comes third”.

— **Capital City of Prague Bulletin** — January – “Febio – film festival”, “This year Prague offers a host of cultural, sporting, educational and entertaining events” — February – “Smíchov – What Was Lost, what remains”, “Fairytale Wednesdays in the Library”, “Febiofest offers almost five thousand showings” — March – “Eurocities cultural committee in discussions in Prague” April – “Foglar, beavers and Prague 5”, “One World Documentary Festival” — November – “Where would Prague be without its culture” — December – “Christmas gathering of good souls”

— **Metro** — 06. 01. – “Eleventh Febiofest invites viewers...” — 12. 01. – “Tickets to Febiofest go on sale in a week” — 22. 01. – “Eleventh annual Febiofest festival of film and television starts in Prague” — 29. 01. – “Eleventh annual Febiofest slowly approaches its finale” — 17. 02. – “Library in Holešovice once again open to the public after the floods” — 04. 03. – “Smíchov marketplace receives a new mantle” — 08. 03. – “Pictures help abandoned children” — 30. 03. – “Tomorrow from 5.30 p.m. at the branch in Smíchov marketplace the Municipal Library is organising...” — 13. 04. – “One World held for the sixth time this year” — 21. 05. – “We asked Libor Jelínek” — 09. 06. – “Andrtová-Voňková releases double album called Milí moji (My Dears)” — 10. 06. – “Today from 4.30 p.m. in the Small Hall in the Municipal Library...” — 18. 06. – “Municipal Library rings to Irish rhythms” — 01. 09. – “New bibliobus arrives” — 07. 09. – “Thanks for the help” — 05. 10. – “Reconstructed branch of The Municipal Library

of Prague...” — 03. 11. – “Smíchov Library...” — 16. 11. – “Benefit concert to mark the 10th anniversary of the Animal Protection Trust...” — 09. 12. – “Good souls meet in Municipal Library”

— **Mladá fronta Dnes** — 07. 01. – “Febiofest also to be at...” — 09. 01. “Library commemorates composer’s birthday” — 10. 01. – “Library holds talks about EU” — 16. 01. – “Exhibition presents bygone Smíchov” — 22. 01. – “Febiofest 2004: great film festival begins today”, “With invalid ID card for other papers” — 26. 01. – “Magnesia Litera: readers choose the best original Czech title” — 10. 02. – “Readers to get their library back again” — 13. 02. – “Holešovice. Library reopens after floods” — 17. 02. – “Špidlová opens library”, “Readers return to library”, “Award-winning violinist appears at library” — 06. 03. – “Buy something to help children in children’s homes” — 02. 04. – “Library holds exhibition about Foglar” — 05. 04. – “Book of the Year about the 1989 revolution”, “Making good progress within the bounds of the law”, “A thousand children spend night in libraries” — 14. 04. – “Readers pay half-price for entry” — 16. 04. – “One World also screened for families” — 19. 04. – “Spořilov Library to be reopened” — 20. 04. – “Library opens branch after restoration work” — 12. 05. – “Discussion about France to be held in library” — 18. 05. – “Welcome to the World of Astrid Lindgren” — 22. 05. – “Municipal Library has new logo” — 27. 05. – “Woman sells CDs from library” — 05. 06. – “Mayor to hold talks with people of Prague” — 08. 06. – “Thief steals from library” — 11. 06. – “Andrtová christens album” — 19. 06. – “Former marketplace to become library” — 03. 07. – “People of Prague face hard life” — 09. 07. – “Reading-room also visited in summer” — 15. 07. – “Library announces king of readers” — 24. 07. – “They don’t like me, worries mayor” — 20. 08. – “Exhibition to mark anniversary of Werich and Voskovec” — 01. 09. – “Karlín has new mobile library. The library also offers readers Internet access” — 03. 09. – “Fruit market controlled by Karel Hašler” — 07. 09. – “Library thanks volunteers” — 09. 09. – “Rebels enter library” — 17. 09. – “Session of song to be held in library” — 25. 09. – “Great group reading to be held in library” — 04. 10. – “Library prepares its stories and songs”, “Readers find out which is their favourite book” — 05. 10. – “Czech libraries have nothing to be ashamed of”, “Harry Potter what Czechs like reading most” — 11. 11. – “Jana Kratochvílová performs in Prague” — 11. 12. – “Malostranská

meeting transformed" — 28. 12. — "Library to display old postcards", "Scrabble played in Břevnov Library"

— **Právo** — 14. 01. — "Tickets to Febiofest go on sale on January 19th" — 16. 01. — "Hector Berlioz at library" — 22. 01. — "Armin Mueller-Stahl begins Febiofest" — 23. 01. — "Magnesia Litera announces reader awards" — 03. 02. — "Febiofest attended by 81 197 people" — 17. 02. — "Library once again open to readers" — 10. 03. — "Market[place] gets new façade" — 05. 04. — "Labyrint revoluce named Book of the Year" — 14. 04. — "Rebels sing" — 20. 04. — "Spořilov Library open" — 21. 05. — "Municipal Library presents logo" — 09. 06. — "Andrtová-Voňková has new album" — 09. 09. — "Bus full of books in Karlín." — 05. 10. — "Vysočany has better library", "Harry Potter is favourite book" — 03. 11. — "Authors christen book about Patagonian Alps in the Saddle" — 03. 12. — "Rare manuscripts have new home" — 09. 12. — "Library at Barrandov" — 23. 12. — "Christmas Scrabble Tournament organised by The Municipal Library of Prague" — 28. 12. — "Brain cells taxed in Scrabble tournament"

— **Reflex** — 01. 07. — "Dagmar Andrtová-Voňková: Milí moji"

— **Týden** — 19. 01. — "Projekt 100 and Febiofest begin in cinemas" — 11. 10. — "Matej Kren: Pasáž"

— **Večerník Praha** — 05. 01. — "Fast arrows in library" — 09. 01. — "Berlioz in library" — 12. 01. — "Not long now before the EU..." — 16. 01. — "What was lost, what has remained" — 19. 01. — "New Year's celebrations" — 22. 01. — "Táborský presents Magnesia Litera" — 27. 01. — "They have no library" — 28. 01. — "Foglar ends at end of week" — 31. 01. — "Last Foglar" — 09. 02. — "Library gets more expensive" — 11. 02. — "Grandmother to raise hell in library" — 14. 02. — "Library opens" — 17. 02. — "Library nowlending books" — 18. 02. — "Granny in library" — 21. 02. — "Up the cultural elevator" — 28. 02. — "Rare manuscripts slowly brought back to life. Municipal Library rescue fund helped by donation of vacuum table and microscope" — 04. 03. — "Nominations made in Magnesia Litera book awards" — 05. 03. — "What does Europe offer?" — 06. 03. — "Children on the way home" — 10. 03. — "Marketplace to be repaired" — 13. 03. — "Silver Surfers" — 16. 03. — "Library reopened" — 22. 03. — "Rare manuscripts get new home" — 02. 04. — "Foglar in library" — 03. 04. — "Animal Clinic" — "Literary sweat, shine and applause" — 09. 04. — "Rebels sing in library" — 10. 04. — "Beavers in library." — 14. 04. — "Help company

libraries...what was written on 14. 4. 1964" — 16. 04. — Library open on Tuesday", "Rebels begin series of concerts" — 20. 04. — "Restored library open" — 30. 04. — "Bible survives floods. Municipal Library once again proud of book from 1488. Restorers have excelled themselves." — 06. 05. — "Jana Koubková performs as part of Rebel Ladies of the Czech Music Scene...", "Pipi in library" — 12. 05. — "Running of library changed", "From sweet France to library" — 15. 05. — "Africa comes to library" — 19. 05. — "Library to travel in holidays" — 21. 05. — "Municipal Library has new logo" — 22. 05. — "Library to be closed" — 27. 05. — "Twins steal book" — 31. 05. — "Brikcius reveals Max Brod" — 10. 06. — "Millions visit library" — 12. 06. — "People of Prague talk with mayor" — 22. 06. — "Holiday reading king" — 28. 06. — "Eugen and Zuzana Brikcius present..." — 07. 07. — "They want something to read" — 17. 07. — "Through the eyes of senior citizens", "Lacework in library" — 21. 07. — "Library to have holiday" — 22. 07. — "Exhibition of the 3rd Age" — 26. 07. — "Library on holiday" — 31. 07. — "Who will be king?" — 10. 08. — "Take your books back" — 24. 08. — "Female Element in Czech Music" — 31. 08. — "Karlín has library again" — 01. 09. — "Library comes to Karlín" — 03. 09. — "To the library to see Hašler" — 13. 09. — "Library opens" — 15. 09. — "From the edge of the Municipal centre", "Library in historic marketplace" — 30. 09. — "Captivated by Books", "Library open" — 04. 10. — "Librarians know, but aren't telling" — 15. 10. — "Women in film" — 27. 10. — "Mobile library adequate replacement" — 23. 11. — "Give us your paw", "Soda given to Transport Company" — 26. 11. — "Benefit concert..." — 02. 12. — "New library planned" — 03. 12. — "Rare manuscripts in secret library" — 13. 12. — "They will become good souls"

— In 2004 MLP was also represented in the SKIP Bulletin and developed its relations with the local press. There were regular articles and information in Tučňák, Klíče, Pražské pětce magazines but also in Hobuleť, Prague 10, Břevnovan and Šestce. The public also had the chance to learn something about The Municipal Library of Prague in Chuchelský News, the Prague 1 Bulletin, Town Hall News for Prague 3, Prague 12 News, the Prague 14 Bulletin, and Prague 13 Citizens' News.

Presenting The Municipal Library of Prague in the media



— *I am a student in my 1st year at the Faculty of Law at Charles University. I used to go to the library near my home in Horní Cerekev. I was able to take any book home with me; I didn't have to stay in the library with a book and study it only when the library was open, sitting at the table surrounded by other readers. The librarian there let me borrow anything I needed. Why are there some books in your library that I can't take home?*

— *Dear reader,*

I am sure that in the library you have heard the words 'absence' and 'presence'. It is important to know what these words mean in relation to manuscripts: absence works, which are a part of the library's collection – these are not only books, but also include cassettes and CDs – may be taken home by a reader with a valid library card. There are some documents that are only accessible via what we call presence access, after expert assessment by a librarian. Yes, it is these books that can only be used in the library and not taken home. These rules apply to reference-type books from various specialist fields of educational literature, dictionaries and encyclopedias, chronological summaries and, of course, multi-volume universal encyclopedias.

Why do we 'limit' you like this? Why is it that you can't take a book purchased by the library for its readers and read it early in the morning or late at night, when the library is closed, in a meadow or in the park, on a train, at the swimming-pool or in the bath? The fact is that these reference books are usually only needed for a very short time, to check some facts, to find out a date from history, to look up biographical details about a variety of important figures...

Each absence loan has a fixed loan period. It is highly likely that while you have borrowed a document (reference book, dictionary, encyclopedia...) to take home for a few weeks, it could be used for the same purpose (i.e. to quickly check or look up some information) by many other people.

Sometimes the reason why a manuscript has to permanently remain in the library, i.e. cannot be taken home, is because it is very valuable or difficult to get hold of another copy. If we make a book like this available to readers and visitors in our library, it is highly likely that it will be used by a number of different people while the library is open. Presence works in our library can also include audio material, such as cassettes or CDs. In these cases this is due to contractual commitments with unions of artistes and authors. These items can only be taken home 9 months after they are released.

Dear reader, I send my regards and I hope that you now understand why some books and other items have to be kept in the library.

MLP Activities in 2004

26

- great success as regards loans throughout the whole network – record number of visitors (2 435 382) and loans (7 591 021), meaning an inter-yearly increase in visitor numbers of 8 % and 5 % for loans;
- growing interest from readers in automated library services (76 % of readers, 79 % of visitors and 73 % of loans);
- other automated branches have been opened (Vršovice, Holešovice, Spořilov, Vysočany, Barrandov), connected to the network; linked up with the ongoing optimisation of the library network and meeting the automation time schedule (reconstruction started on 2 more branches); by the end of the year MLP should have 21 automated and 29 non-automated libraries;
- new bibliobus, funded by “state assistance to renew areas hit by the floods of 2002”, replaced the brach in Šaldová St. in Karlín, which was completely destroyed in the floods – this is a quality new vehicle with wheelchair access and connection to the Internet;
- development of new services, e.g. in the Central Library Information Centre the CTK database is now available (Countries of the World, the Czech Republic, Biography), as are the LexData and ASPI databases, the Newton I.T. database, TamTam–Anopress, EBSCO and ProQuest 5000, the Oxford Reference Online encyclopedic database and the Memoriam archive database (historical book and archive collection of the CR); this also incorporates a PC with preset links to websites for news and the state administration, the European Union and non-profit sector servers;
- further development of the Koniáš system and increased Internet access for visitors (on 112 workstations in 26 libraries); an Internet wireless connection is being set up for readers at the Central Library;
- a new worksite was opened for rare and historical manuscripts with a restorer’s workshop and temperature-controlled store; the worksite will primarily be used for work on the parts of the collection hit by the floods in 2002;

- educational events at Central Library and other branches (particularly focused on children) and an extensive range of cultural and educational events organised by the Open University;
- higher MLP profile among the Prague public, as well as the entire CR, frequent presence through communications channels;
- a new library logo was adopted (in use since May 2004), which also relates to the new overall visual style of MLP as seen in the new MLP Manual and other aids and materials;
- the MLP website has been revamped (www.mlp.cz) and many changes made to online reader services, also relating to the new MLP image;
- new “Organisational Rules of Procedure” have been drawn up and the organisational layout of the library was altered, with changes coming into effect on 1. 1. 2005;
- work continued on the concept of the “MLP Strategy” (anticipated implementation horizon 10 years);
- new MLP Library Rules were drawn up, which fully reflect the legislative changes of recent years, ensuring the consequent protection of reader data, and which should become an effective contractual interface between the reader and the library; becomes effective in early 2005;
- several specialised teams of experts continued in their work, handling a variety of service and library-related specialised tasks (e.g. the Services Committee dealt with the issue of blocking library units, interlibrary loans services, summer opening hours, self-service operation, etc.);
- development of specialised training courses for librarians (for MLP employees as well as for the staff of other Prague libraries);
- of the 455 MLP employees (converted to full-time) 37 have library-related university education (7 %), 66 have other university education (13 %), 139 have secondary library-related education (27%), 221 have an other form of secondary education (42 %), while the remaining 42 have a basic level of education (8 %);

— regional collaboration and specialist assistance continued for other Prague libraries within the framework of the regional sphere of authority exerted by PC as a regional library in accordance with law no. 257 (Libraries Act);

— MLP is a collective member of the “Association of Librarians and Information Staff of the CR”, and member of the “Libraries Association of the CR”; it works together with other major Czech libraries, particularly with the National Library of the CR, with regional libraries, with large municipal libraries (Brno, Plzeň); it participates in several joint Czech library projects, such as some VISK programs (Veřejné informační služby knihoven - Public Library Information Services) in the field of specialised training for librarians, in the creation of collections of national authorities and the digitalization of book collections;

— specialised collaboration with libraries in major cities abroad (particularly in Europe).

MLP Activities in 2004



— Dear Sir,

I received your letter of 14. 3. 2005 concerning the payment of a debt of 970 crowns. I would like to say a few words on this matter. I admit that I borrowed two books for too long and was very late in returning them. This delay was caused by the fact that I had spent almost a year abroad and when I returned from time to time, unfortunately I had more pressing things on my mind than returning two books. This debt is not due to any damage to the books or failure to return them; it is simply a case of delay. For this reason I expect that the MLP management could be a little more understanding in this matter and forget about this sum, or at least reduce it to the costs incurred by trying to recover the debt.

I have great appreciation for the Municipal Library as it is now, and I think that it has made several well-considered changes for the better over the last few years. At the same time, I assume that this institution does not need to go about recovering its debts in this fashion. I think that it is worth considering whether it pays to go to such lengths (e.g. through repossession or a court order, as you mentioned in your letter) to pursue such a negligible amount.

Naturally, I am sorry for the delay and I believe that my sincere apologies will be worth more to you than 900 Czech crowns.

Thank you in advance for your reply, and I wish you a pleasant day.

— Dear Sir,

Thank you for your e-mail, and please allow me to give my reaction. Your debt of 970 crowns is not due to the fact that you had two books at home for longer than you should have done, as you claim. Your debt is made up of other considerations, such as reservation charges and delays with other books. You brought back a total of nine books late, while it is true that two of these were for a particularly long time, and that the bulk of the debt is from these two volumes (2 x 324 CZK). You wrote that you had spent a year abroad and that when you occasionally returned to the CR you had other things to think about than returning the books you had borrowed. I do not understand this claim of yours. At the end of March and the beginning of April 2004 you had time to come and take out nine books, as already mentioned. The two books with the longest delay should have been returned by 27. 4. 2004, although you failed to do this on May 6th and May 21st, when you returned seven of the nine books. Therefore it is not true that this delay is no fault of yours; on the contrary, this is caused by your negligence alone. The fines are here to protect the rights of other readers, so that they can borrow the books after you should have finished with them without having to wait. This is not, therefore, a negligible debt as you say, but is an existent debt. You ask us to be understanding and forget about your fine. The Municipal Library of Prague is a public institution and its accounts are subject to public supervision. We manage the tax-payers' money and so we have to pursue debts like any good manager. The munificence you call for is out of place, as it would be munificence against the rule of law. As to whether it is worth our recovering your debt, we have already covered that. If we were to resign ourselves to the loss of your money, we would simply save the costs of having to remind you about it.

I therefore request that you honour your commitments and pay your debt without delay.

MLP in Figures

30

Library network as of 31. 12. 2004	Central Library, 48 branches and mobile library with 3 bibliobuses
Number of employees (converted to full-time)	455
Book collection as of 31. 12. 2004	2 268 432
of which: — educational literature	944 109
— fiction	1 048 751
— maps	20 321
— audio materials (CD, MC, LP)	94 356
— electronic documents (CD-ROM)	424
— sheet music	150 840
— graphics and reproductions at the artothèque in Opatov Library	9 631
Average price of books purchased (fiction)	186 Kč
Average price of books purchased (educational literature)	210 Kč
Total loans	7 591 021
of which: — educational literature	2 528 536
— fiction	3 916 026
— maps	45 681
— newspaper and magazines	443 152
— audio materials (CD, MC, LP)	572 099
— sheet music	82 509
— graphics and reproductions at the artothèque in Opatov Library	2 860
— electronic documents (absence loans of CDs *)	158
*) Loans of the majority of electronic documents (CD-ROM) are presence loans and are not recorded. There are some 24 000 per year.	
Number of registered readers	195 098
— of which under 15 years of age	41 940
Number of visitors	2 435 382

Electronic catalogues and Internet

Number of personal computers set aside for users	247
Number of libraries with Internet access for users	26
Number of workstations with Internet access for users	112
Number of Internet users	232 429

Comparison statistics

Proportion of readers from population	16,8%
Number of library units per inhabitant	2,0
Number of loans per inhabitant	5,6
Number of library units per reader	11,6
Number of loans per reader	38,9
Number of visits per reader	12,5
Collection turnover (number of loans per library unit)	3,3

Cultural/educational events

	events	participants
— for adults	840	35 784
— for teenagers	183	4 832
— for children	2 220	50 185

MLP in Figures



— *At my friend's house I saw that he had some lovely pictures by Born hanging on the wall. He reckons anybody can borrow them from the library. Is this some kind of joke?*

— *No, it's not a joke, it's true. You see there's a special department of The Municipal Library of Prague – the artotheque, containing not only a collection of books about the creative arts but also a collection of pictures. This is made up of works by contemporary Czech painters and reproductions of works by world masters. Every MLP reader can borrow pictures or graphic works from the artotheque and enjoy them for at least six months, for up to a year, in fact. It is true that some people don't like borrowing pictures, they prefer to get their own, perhaps they don't like the change, or they have favourites they wouldn't like to return. Luckily, of course, there are also those who like to change their surroundings and relish new impressions. Perhaps they admire the pictures of Mr. Born, and thanks to the artotheque they can look around every year and enjoy some of the new jokes by one of the most well-known illustrators of the present day. There is a very rich and varied selection. Using the Koniáš program you can easily find which artists have work in the artotheque that can be taken out on loan. Prints are glazed in a mount or frame, the framed reproductions have a surface finish or are in frames under glass. The reader can take the works home in cardboard packing or in special bags, then nothing remains but to hang it at home. If you are interested, visit Opatov Library, home of the artotheque.*

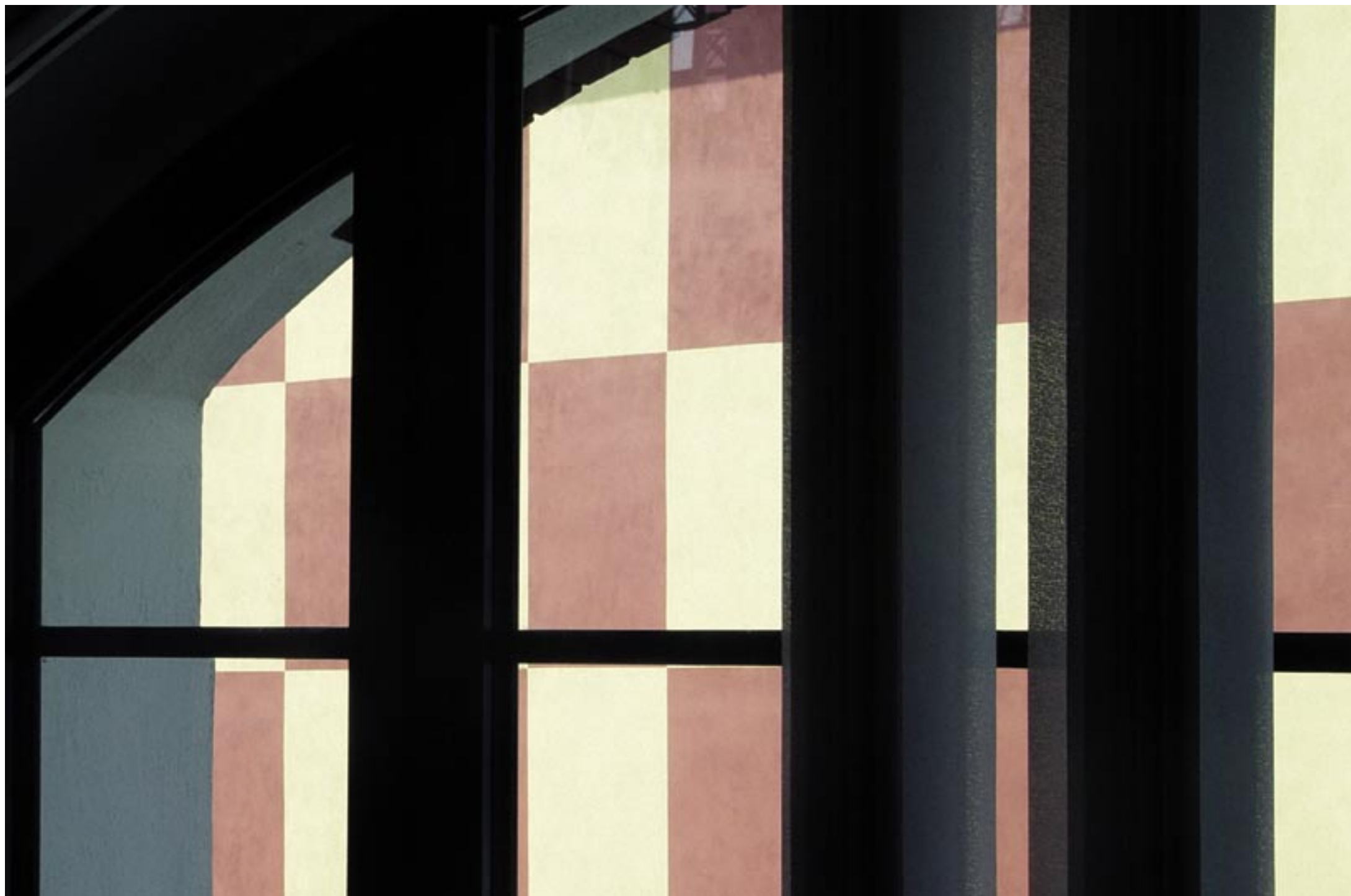
MLP Economic Report for 2004

34

Main activity (all amounts in thousands of CZK)	2004 figures	2003 figures	2004/03 Index
Total revenues	23 748	19 928	1,19
Total costs	219 152	216 791	1,01
Purchases	34 565	43 659	0,79
of which: — expentable property	23 246	29 854	0,78
— long-term movable assets	6 023	9 204	0,65
— energy consumption	5 296	4 601	1,15
Services	45 129	38 864	1,16
of which: — links provided	5 285	4 574	1,16
— hire and services (non-residential premises)	17 475	16 223	1,08
— cleaning	6 080	4 574	1,42
— leasing costs			
— repairs and maintenance	9 142	4 642	1,97
— travel costs	380	395	0,96
— costs on representation	58	43	1,35
— other	6 709	8 703	0,77
Personnel costs	128 666	123 296	1,04
of which: — other personnel costs	1 403	1 437	0,98
— wages	92 739	89 070	1,04
— compulsory social insurance	32 593	31 008	1,05
— compulsory social expenses (Cultural and Social Needs Fund)	1 856	1 781	1,04
— other social costs	21		
Taxes and surcharges (excluding income tax)	29	30	0,97
Other costs	850	911	0,93
of which: — interests			
— shortages and losses			
— remaining other costs	850	911	0,93
Depreciation	9 913	10 031	0,99
Non-investment contribution	197 417	198 396	1,00
Economic result (profit-loss)	2 013	1 533	1,31
Number of employees	455	454	1,00

MLP Economic Report for 2004

Supplementary activities (all amounts in thousands of CZK)	2004 figures	2003 figures	2004/03 Index
Total revenues	2 113	1 294	1,63
Total costs	1 017	609	1,67
Purchases	137	19	7,21
of which: — expentable property			
— long-term movable assets			
— energy consumption	137	19	7,21
Services	238	87	2,74
of which: — links provided	4	2	2,00
— hire and services (non-residential premises)	38	43	0,88
— cleaning	121		
— leasing costs			
— repairs and maintenance			
— travel costs			
— other	75	42	1,79
Personnel costs	636	495	1,28
of which: — other personnel costs	48	13	3,69
— wages	418	350	1,19
— compulsory social insurance	162	125	1,30
— compulsory social expenses	8	7	1,14
Taxes and surcharges (excluding income tax)		1	
Other costs	6	7	0,86
of which: — interests			
— shortages and losses			
— remaining other costs	6	7	0,86
Depreciation			
of which: — on buildings and constructions			
— facilities			
Economic result (profit-loss)	1 096	685	1,60
Number of employees	2,07	2,63	0,79



— Dear friends!

I am turning to you with a problem that has been weighing heavily on my mind recently, and I've come to the conclusion that I can't manage it without your help. My mother is a venerable 80 years old. She's still very active, enjoys reading and takes a great interest in the world around her. She has been a reader at your library for many years, but since your library became fully automated she refuses to visit it, saying that she doesn't understand computers and will never be able to learn. Do you think an automated library is suitable for older readers, and if so how can I persuade my mother that she has nothing to be afraid of? I can see how much she would like to go to the library... I suppose I could go with her, but with one child in a pushchair and another who's only six years old...?

— Dear Madam!

We are glad that you have entrusted us with this problem, as it is also one of our own. I can happily assure you that this "problem" disappears around 10 minutes after senior readers enter the library. Please bring your mother to see us and do not hesitate to ask a librarian for information. I really don't think it would be difficult to persuade your mother that having a computer in the library in no means that it will be more difficult to find information. On the contrary, the user environment makes it much simpler indeed, and one can look quickly and comfortably through the information about our collection, which is particularly ideal for the older generation. It is no harder to work with a computer than it is with a typewriter, and the information on our server is arranged in a logical manner to make it as clear and straightforward as possible to find what you need. What is more, if someone really does not want to come into contact with a computer for whatever reason, they can always ask a librarian, who will provide them with the information they need. Therefore it is clear that there is absolutely no need to feel worried about anything. The books are in the library, on their shelves as they always have been. To find out which books we have and which we don't is a matter of a few seconds, just as it is to take one out. You may be sure that after the first visit, your mum will be no less keen on the library than she ever was before.

Your children can also become satisfied library users. Most MLP libraries have barrier-free access, so it is no problem to enter with a pushchair. You will certainly find something from our picture-book collection for the little ones. For pre-school children we also have a wide selection of fairytales, comic books and beautifully-illustrated First Readers, if you are planning to start reading together. You can borrow books to read to your children, as well as a variety of picture alphabets, spelling books and simple stories to help your children find their way around their first letters. You can also choose something from the rich assortment of educational literature for younger children, so if your little one is interested in nature, perhaps you have a pet at home or you want to find some ideas for games for your children to play, you will surely find what you need. We will naturally be glad to help you make your choice! The library usually has a play corner, where you can sit and read magazines for children or have a go at building something or playing a game.

We look forward to seeing you all!

What the Statistics Say

38

MLP book collection as of 31. 12. 2004

1,049,000 fiction 944,000 educational literature 151,000 sheet music 94,000 audio materials 30,000 other



Total loans in entire MLP network

3,916,000 fiction 2,529,000 educational literature 572,000 audio materials 443,000 newspapers and magazines 131,000 other



Loans from Central Library

797,000 fiction 975,000 educational literature 302,000 audio materials 80,000 sheet music 26,000 other



Loans from branches

2,990,000 fiction 1,436,000 educational literature 455,000 newspapers and magazines 283,000 audio materials 18,000 other



Readers — automated and non-automated network

148,000 automated network 47,000 non-automated network



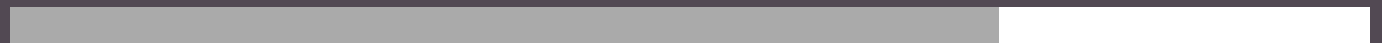
Readers — over and up to 15 years of age

153,000 over 15 years of age 42,000 up to 15 years of age



Loans from automated and non-automated network

5,530,000 automated network 2,061,000 non-automated network

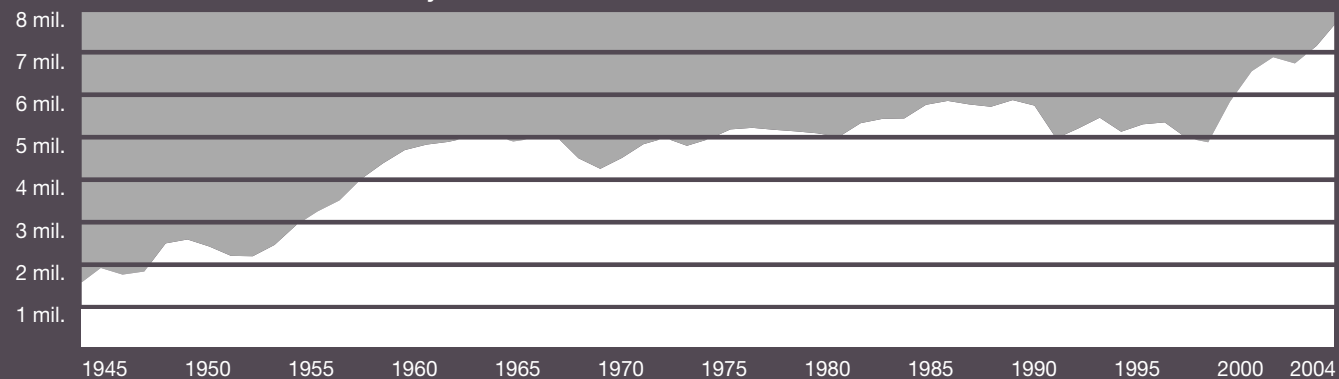


Loans by readers over and up to 15 years of age

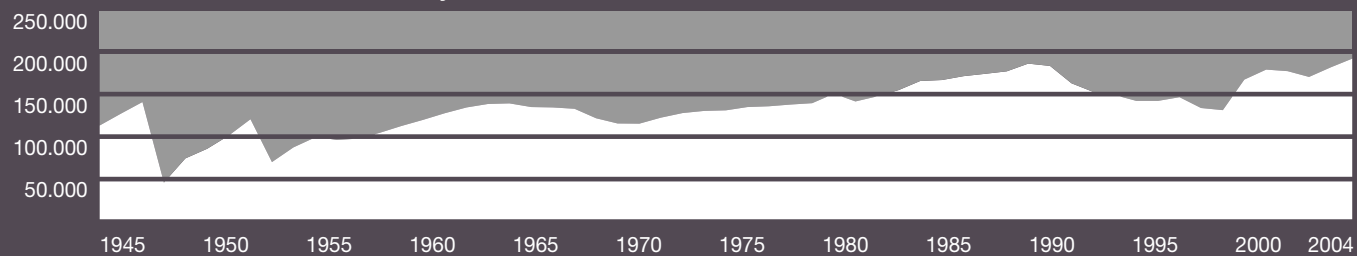
6,358,000 over 15 years of age 1,233,000 up to 15 years of age



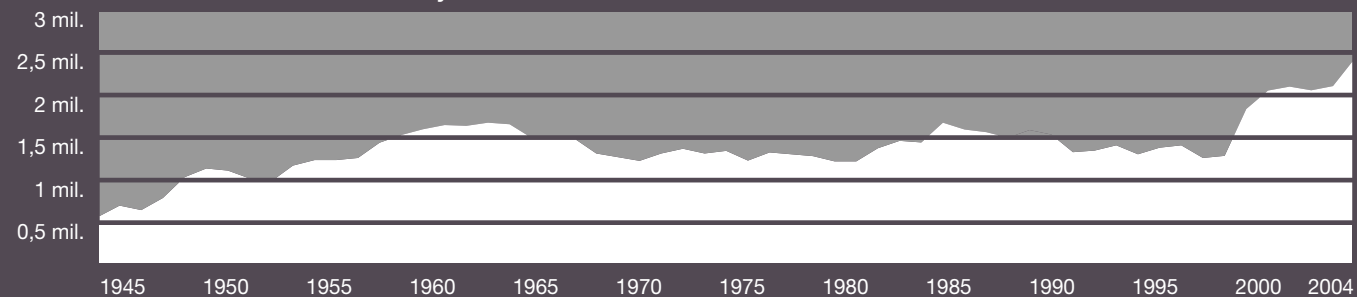
Number of loans from MLP in the years 1945 – 2004



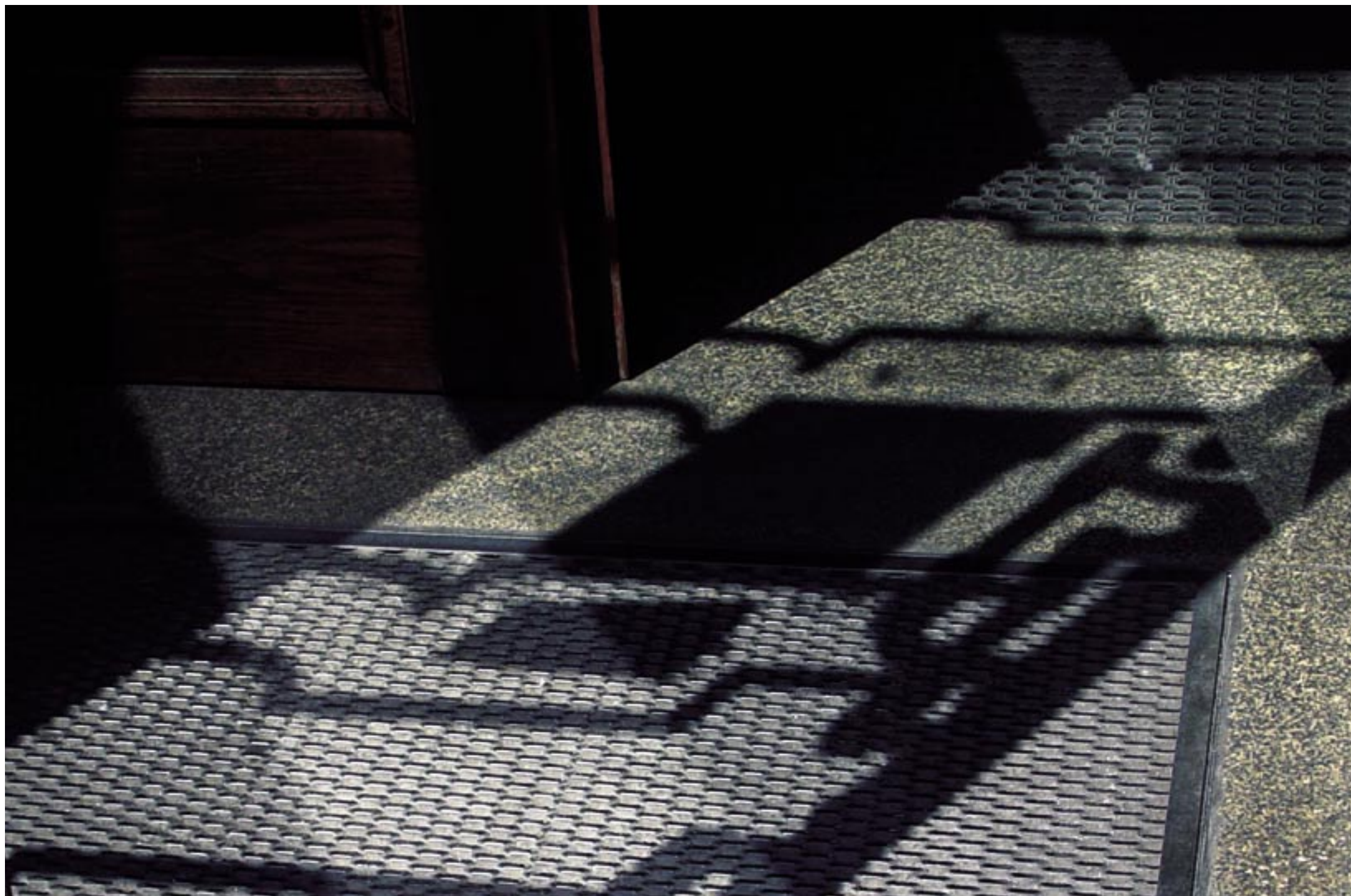
Number of readers at MLP in the years 1945 – 2004



Number of visitors to MLP in the years 1945 – 2004



What the Statistics Say



— Dear Sir or Madam!

I am long-time member of your library and at first I must say that as a reader I am extremely satisfied. However, today I had a bit of a shock! Just a few moments ago I was looking for a book on your website and whilst surfing I happened to notice that you have the Haji Umara's book World of the Crescent available for loan. By coincidence I have heard something about this book, and I know that it is a subjective and potentially dangerous orthodox Islamic work attacking the principles on which western civilization is founded. I would like to ask why you feel it necessary to make books like this available to the general public. Don't you think that you have gone a little far in the educational role you doubtless play as a major cultural institution?

— Dear Sir!

Thank you for your letter, and we appreciate your frankness. Allow me to say a few words on this matter in the wider context. It is true that libraries around the world all have different access policies as regards their collections; for example, some American libraries do not loan out Tolkien's Lord of the Rings, as the administrators believe that it advocates witchcraft. We can argue this opinion, and we may or may not agree with it. This is perfectly legitimate. The problem lies in the fact that someone has made this decision on behalf of the American reader, someone who obviously feels themselves more knowledgeable and competent, someone who feels entitled to categorise literature as being either "good" or "bad". You yourself write that you know World of the Crescent. On that basis alone you are able to give a critical opinion of it.

I am convinced that our other readers all have the right to their own opinion. The library's job is to support education. Any kind of political, religious or other form of censorship is totally at odds with what we are trying to achieve. It is up to our readers to think for themselves. The library is there to help them by offering a place with ease of access to a wide range of information from a variety of independent sources. One can only form an objective opinion by studying and analyzing the books oneself. A library is not an educational institution in the sense that it transmits information in order to implant it in the minds of readers or of anyone else. It does not shape public opinion, but allows people to form their own view of the world. Its educational role lies in the fact that it teaches people how to think critically and of their own free will. It does not keep the views of others secret, but it does what it can to offer a range of alternative opinions.

The way I see it that it is not dangerous to loan out certain books; it would be dangerous to loan out ONLY CERTAIN books. The influencing of public opinion to benefit various interest groups is unfortunately a natural part of the media world we live in today. A library must be an island of freedom of information. This is wherein lies its strength, its irreplaceability, and its future.

We look forward to seeing you again soon.

MLP branches in 2004

42

branch	Municipal	number of	of which	visits	number	ratio of	number
[AK] automated branch	district	readers	children (%)	per reader	of loans	educational lit. (%)	of loans per reader
1 Central Library [AK]	1	56 426	7	10	2 180 880	45	39
2 Hradčany	1	374	39	14	25 351	25	68
3 Školská [AK]	1	10 027	7	9	292 091	39	29
4 Dittrichova [AK]	2	2 110	16	9	65 543	27	31
5 Ostrčilovo nám. [AK]	2	1 394	22	10	54 268	26	39
6 Záhřebská [AK]	2	2 270	24	10	78 806	29	35
7 Chmelnice	3	1 400	42	10	65 030	13	46
8 Vinohradská	3	576	100	7	17 058	27	30
9 Žižkov [AK]	3	2 285	19	10	88 165	31	39
10 Braník	4	858	33	10	34 686	14	40
11 Krč *)	4	1 693	35	8	47 757	21	28
12 Michle	4	1 211	41	9	53 279	22	44
13 Na Veselí *)	4	1 239	56	7	37 646	39	30
14 Novodvorská [AK]	4	4 120	28	9	153 414	29	37
15 Spořilov [AK] *)	4	1 640	35	9	45 380	27	28
16 ul. 5. května	4	1 451	0	12	112 283	22	77
17 Vikova	4	1 706	32	11	78 423	20	46
18 Barrandov [AK] *)	5	1 759	57	6	41 850	31	24
19 Cibulka	5	661	59	12	38 415	17	58
20 Košíře	5	828	41	13	53 125	16	64
21 Na Skalce	5	1 278	36	11	65 264	20	51
22 Smíchov [AK]	5	10 283	21	10	317 474	35	31
23 Břevnov [AK]	6	6 065	22	11	216 527	35	36
24 Dědina	6	798	36	11	44 705	21	56
25 Dejvice	6	5 024	19	11	228 704	25	46
26 Petřiny	6	1 745	39	11	99 812	30	57
27 Holešovice [AK] *)	7	1 762	24	10	46 482	28	26

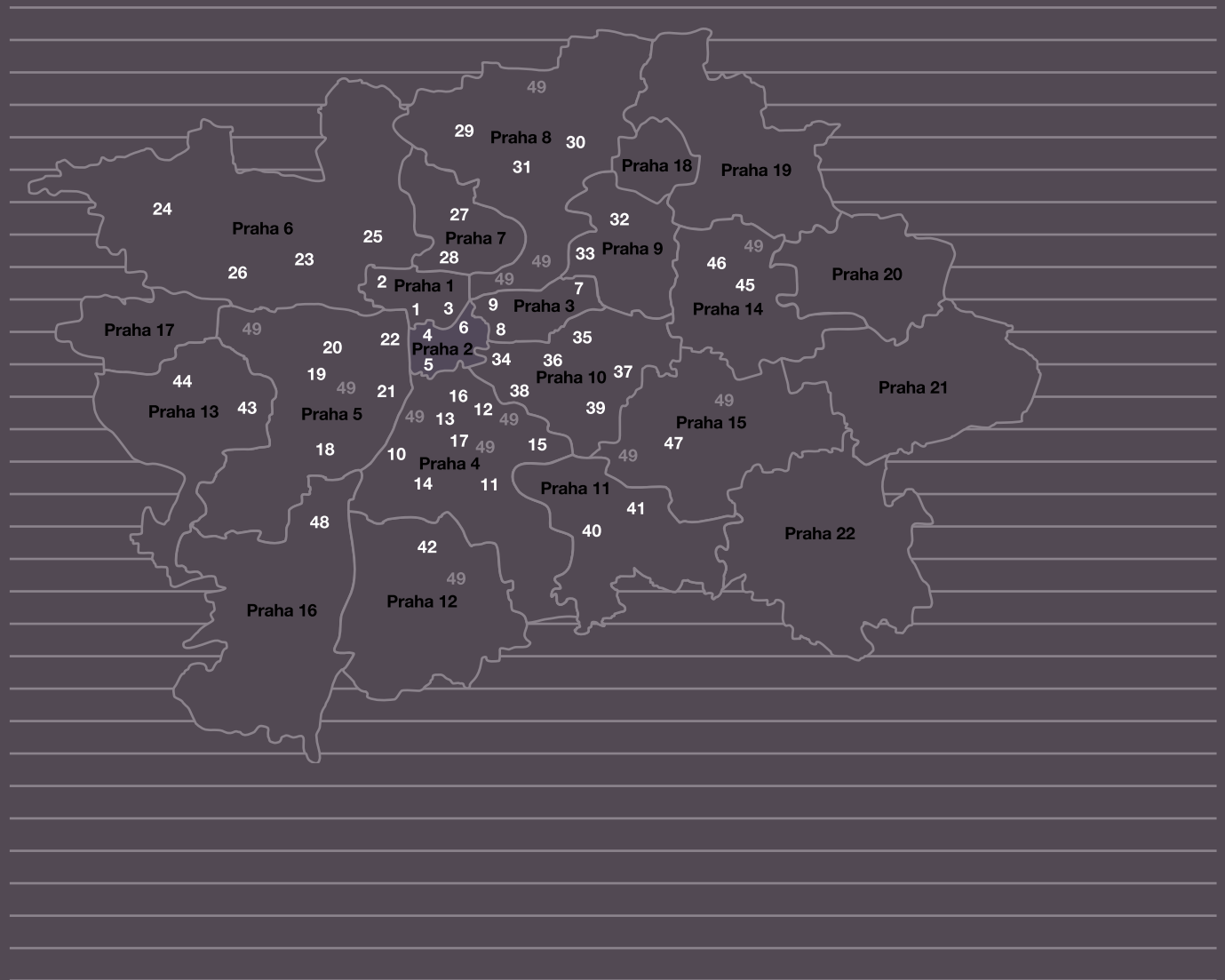
	branch	Municipal	number of	of which	visits	number	ratio of	number
	[AK] automated branch	district	readers	children (%)	per reader	of loans	educational lit. (%)	of loans per reader
28	Letná [AK]	7	5 303	18	9	162 895	33	31
29	Bohnice [AK]	8	6 162	25	12	273 822	29	44
30	Ďáblice *)	8	2 081	35	8	84 353	27	41
31	Kobylisy	8	1 857	33	10	112 612	18	61
32	Prosek [AK]	9	3 782	26	11	173 359	29	46
33	Vysočany [AK] *)	9	1 679	37	8	59 256	25	35
34	Korunní [AK]	10	7 596	20	10	282 124	31	37
35	Malešice	10	983	35	10	32 968	18	34
36	Ruská	10	3 383	27	13	161 607	32	48
37	Skalka	10	1 852	38	11	70 683	22	38
38	Vršovice [AK] *)	10	1 366	31	9	53 246	25	39
39	Zahradní Město	10	1 482	37	10	63 060	22	43
40	Jírovcovo náměstí [AK]	11	2 106	34	11	82 233	30	39
41	Opatov [AK]	11	14 512	20	11	676 414	32	47
42	Modřany	12	2 423	61	9	83 667	25	35
43	Lužiny [AK] *)	13	7 600	34	9	256 592	33	35
44	Stodůlky	13	1 637	49	11	75 957	28	46
45	Černý Most	14	2 252	55	10	85 360	27	38
46	Hloubětín	14	1 885	29	11	92 082	21	49
47	Hostivař	15	1 388	48	10	59 432	25	43
48	Velká Chuchle	16	250	56	12	14 525	23	58
49	pojízdna knihovna		1 412	42	9	43 357	20	31

*) branch closed for at least 1 month (reconstruction work, preparations for automation, more extensive repairs, audit of book collection, etc.)

MLP branches in 2004

MLP branches in 2004

44



Educational and cultural events as part of MLP services in 2004

dept. CL/DL (Central Library, District Libraries)	events for adults		events for teenagers				events for children				total	
	total		of which LBP *)				total		of which LBP *)			
	no. of events	no. of people	no. of events	no. of people	no. of events	no. of people	no. of events	no. of people	no. of events	no. of people	no. of events	no. of people
Open University	525	31 657									525	31 657
Central Library	13	332	84	2 443	61	1 763	66	1 611	27	679	163	4 386
DL 1, 2, 3	44	429	4	187	3	67	178	4 253	70	1 416	226	4 869
DL 4, 11, 12	100	1 043	70	1863	2	497	493	10 878	72	1 728	663	13 784
DL 5, 13, 16	120	1 382	11	80	4	60	616	13 739	54	1 225	747	15 201
DL 6, 7	17	611					150	3 078	48	1 193	167	3 689
DL 8, 9, 14	14	115	10	247	8	212	368	7 191	101	1 673	392	7 553
DL 10	7	215	4	12	4	120	349	9 435	62	1 536	360	9 662
DL 1–10	302	3 795	99	2389	41	956	2 154	48 574	407	8 771	2 555	54 758
CL and DL 1–10	315	4 127	183	4 832	102	2 719	2 220	50 185	434	9 450	2 718	59 144
MLP	840	35 784	183	4 832	102	2 719	2 220	50 185	434	9 450	3 243	90 801

*) Library Bibliographical Preparation

MLP branches in 2004

45

Lease of Multipurpose Rooms

46

- Modern suites in the historical heart of Prague, two minutes' walk from Old own Square, one minute from the Metro station.
- Attractive surroundings of the newly-reconstructed historical home of The Municipal Library of Prague
- Buffets may be organised in the nearby corridors
- Reasonable prices

The MLP Great Hall – capacity 390 seats.

Technical conditions and facilities:

35-mm film projection, DOLBY– A, DOLBY – SR, DOLBY– DIGITAL audio, DTZS system, 6 + 1 audio channels. Large-screen projection from variety of sources –VHS, DVD video. laptop, personal computer, Internet connection available. Hall fitted with a high-performance YAMAHA sound system, standard and wireless microphone connections and SHURE microports for use with the spoken word, singing and musical instruments, serial inputs may be connected, e.g. guitar, el. piano, plus multi-effects processor, DIGITECH Studio, TOTOQUE speakers, PHILIPS audio communications equipment and amplifiers, stage, dressing-room for artistes and organiser. Other audio sources – cassette player, CD player, Minidisk, Tascam DAT, studio tape-recorder. Scenic STRAND LIGHTING theatrical lighting, control desk with memory, 24 independent adjustable lighting circuits, each up to 2.5 kW. Separate 220/ 380 V plugs for stage with 16, 32 and 63 A fuses. Stage area has 4 self-contained theatrical pulleys with a load capacity of 4 x 75 kg, frontal curtain. Other facilities: slide-projector, overhead projector, simultaneous interpreting facilities. Top of the range PETROF upright piano. Fully air-conditioned hall, dressing-rooms with toilet and bathroom, barrier-free access, stage trapdoor.

The MLP Small Hall – capacity 140 seats.

Technical conditions and facilities:

35 mm and 16 mm film projection, classic stereo reproduction. Large-screen projection from variety of sources –VHS, DVD player, laptop, personal computer, Internet connection available. Hall fitted with a high-performance YAMAHA sound system, standard and wireless microphone connections use with the spoken word and music, effects, amplifier, audio communications equipment, dressing-room for artistes and organiser. Other audio sources – cassette player, CD player, Minidisk, Tascam DAT. Scenic STRAND LIGHTING theatrical lighting with manual desk, 10 independent adjustable lighting circuits, 100 W each. Separate 220 V plug for stage with 16 A fuse. Other facilities: slide-projector, overhead projector, simultaneous interpreting facilities. Fully air-conditioned hall, dressing-room, barrier-free access.

Organise your own cultural program, training session, get-together or what ever other kind of event in unique surroundings in a luxurious part of Prague.

Other questions should be addressed to hall technicians,
tel.: 222 113 422

Hire of hall: Elena Doškářová, tel.: 222 113 420, fax: 222 323 416,
e-mail: doskaroe@mlp.cz

Halls can be hired only on condition that MLP is not holding its own event at that time.



Annual Report of The Municipal Library of Prague for the year 2004

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The Litera citizens' association

The Town Hall

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Sundrape, spol. s r. o.

The Association of Librarians and Information Staff

Taktika Muzika

The British Council, Czech Republic

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In conclusion we would like to all publishers and distributors for the cooperation they have shown us in helping to keep our collections well stocked.

