

DRŽAVNI ZAVOD ZA STATISTIKU
REPUBLIKE HRVATSKE
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From Gutenberg to the Digital Record

A book, that is, non-periodic printed publication of at least 49 pages excluding the covers, as defined methodologically by the official statistics, has been used for more than 7 000 years, when records on bamboo boards appeared in China. Even though some of the gems of world philosophy and literature date back to the ancient times, the most important event in the history of the book certainly took place in the middle of the 15th century, when German Johannes Gutenberg developed a printing press. Since all the books in Europe have been reproduced by handwriting until then, the printing press has speeded up the process of printing books and caused a real turnaround on the European renaissance scene. Gutenberg probably could not imagine what kind of influence he would have on the world culture and that, thanks to his invention, Cervantes' or Shakespeare's masterpieces would find the way to the readers. These were the two greats whom the UNESCO honoured at the General Conference held in Paris in 1995, when they declared the day of their death, 23 April, the World Book and Copyright Day.¹

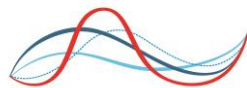
Libraries – the way books enter into everyday life

For a long time, books have not been reserved only for scholars and intellectuals, serious and stringent places like offices and universities; they have become available to common people who read their favourite titles while travelling by train or tram, waiting for a flight at the airport or waiting at a doctor's office, relaxing in the shade of pines on the beach or, what is the simplest and often the most beautiful, in the warmth of their homes. In order for the book to be so widespread and available, we need libraries.

What can be found in Croatian libraries?

There are 1 768 libraries available to the citizens of Croatia and most of them, or precisely 84.8%, are part of an institution or enterprise, 9.6% are autonomous, while 5.6% are part of another library.

¹ UN: World Book and Copyright Day 23 April:
<http://www.un.org/en/events/bookday/>



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INTERESTING FACTS

Zagreb, 15 December 2017

If you have ever thought that all the content in the libraries is obsolete and does not meet your needs, you may be surprised to find out that you can use almost 27 million books and brochures, of which about 8 million have been used.

The largest part, as much as 3.0 million, was used in public libraries and 2.7 million was used in libraries at institutions of higher education and university libraries. Accessions from other libraries and other sources were 744 thousand new books and brochures.

However, libraries do not serve only for keeping books; you can also read 2 million newspapers and almost 1.5 million magazines there. Data show that reading newspapers, which account for 18.1% of book materials, is the second favourite library activity and there are 477 reading rooms available to library members for that purpose.

A total of 266 libraries can boast having a multimedia department, while 36.2% of libraries have a WLAN wireless network. The number of new electronic materials increased from 11 960 in 2013 to 314 986 in 2016, while digital materials increased from 1 977 to 23 091 records.

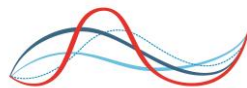
Blind persons have 22 libraries at their disposal in Croatia.

Every third citizen in Croatia is a library member

The majority of Croatian library members are the members of school (40.4%) and public libraries (39.5%). As much as 59.1% of library members are women, who generally read more, which is confirmed by the Eurostat data published in digital application "The life of women and men in Europe - A Statistical Portrait". In the last 12 months, 35% of women and 20% of men aged over 15 read at least five books.²

Children, that is, persons under the age of 14, account for 35.6% of library members. There are departments for children and youth in 43.7% of libraries, while 173 libraries have playrooms for children. Although a library may not be a favourite location for the students in primary schools, it is good to know that there are 858 primary school libraries in Croatia, where 4.6 million books and brochures are kept.

² Eurostat, The Life of Women and Men in Europe - A Statistical Portrait:
<https://www.dzs.hr/womenmen/bloc-3b.html?lang=hr>



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Apart from the fact that there are more women than men among the library members, women will also more often provide professional help and service, as the share of women in the total of 4 066 employees in libraries amounts to 82.9%.

Croatian libraries mark their day

Since 2010, Croatian libraries have been marking 11 November, when famous St. Martin's Day is also celebrated, as the Croatian Library Day. On that day, the award for the best library is given and a motto for a specific year is selected, aimed at stimulating readers. In 2017, the motto was "Library for all of us. Come. Turn the page!", which is aimed at advocating the expansion and modernisation of libraries as places where everyone can find the necessary resources for acquiring new knowledge and skills as well as places for meetings with associates and friends.³

It is the active users who are the greatest treasure of libraries. Of the total number of library members, 87.9% are active users. It is a pity to have membership and not to use it and enjoy books, magazines, newspapers and many workshops. That is why you should be active, if not already, during 2018 and join over 1.3 million library members. Because, as Albert Einstein once said: "The only thing you absolutely have to know is the location of the library!"

³ Source: National and University Library in Zagreb:
<http://www.nsk.hr/dan-hrvatskih-knjiznica-2017/>