

First Release

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LIBRARIES, 2025

Data on libraries that operated on the territory of the Republic of Croatia in 2025 were obtained by processing the administrative database of the National and University Library.

A total of **1 861** libraries were covered, which included one national library, **116** libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, **101** specialised libraries, **308** public libraries, **967** libraries in basic schools and **368** libraries in secondary schools.

In 2025, of the total number of libraries, 10% were autonomous, 12% were part of another library (library subsidiaries and branches) and 78% were part of another institution, enterprise or educational institution.

There were 4 163 persons employed in libraries, of which 85% were women. Of the total number of persons employed in libraries, 90% were professional library staff.

The most numerous members of public libraries were children and youth up to 18 years of age

A total of **1 132 355** persons had a library membership in 2025, of which 76% were active borrowers. Women accounted for 64% of the total number of public library users.

The members of libraries in basic and secondary schools accounted for 42% of all library memberships, as well as the members of public libraries, with the share of 42% in the total membership. Children and youth up to 18 years of age accounted for 42% of public library memberships.

Threefold increase in virtual library visits

The number of virtual library visits has tripled, rising from 21.2 million in 2024 to 66.2 million in 2025. The highest increase was recorded in virtual visits to the libraries of institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, which accounted for 97% of total visits.

The manifold increase in virtual visits in 2025 is the result of machine-generated traffic, which accounts for the majority of server requests on public and academic websites.

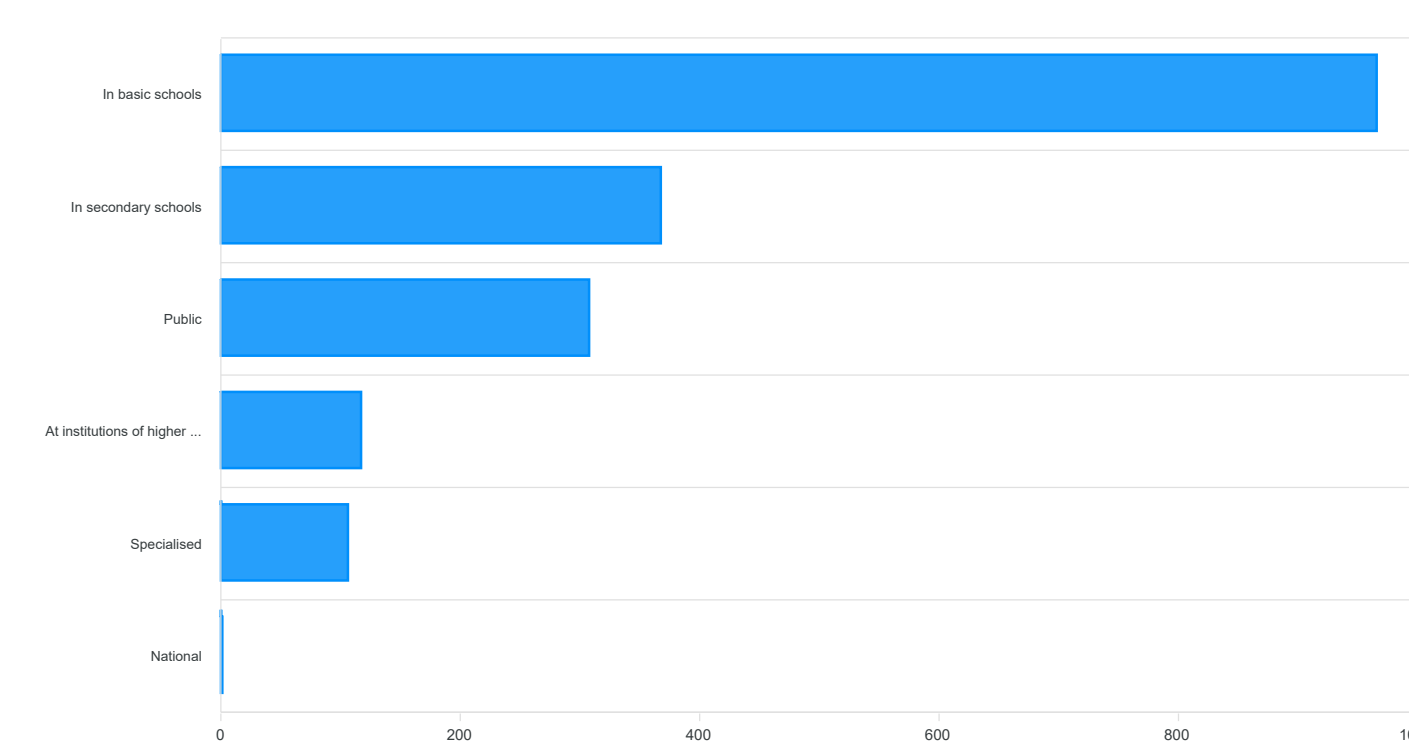
The number of physical visits to libraries accounted for 16% of total visits in 2025, which is a decrease compared to 2024, when the share of physical visits accounted for 38% of total visits. Of the total number of visits to libraries, the highest share of physical visits was recorded in libraries in basic schools, 92%, followed by libraries in secondary schools, 80%, and in public libraries, 25%.

In 2025, there were 57 753 library events. Of that number, 44 422 were intended for children and youth. Furthermore, there were 28 557 educational workshops.

1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, STATUS AND ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTS, 2025

Type of library	Status				Additional departments and services					
	Total	Autonomous	Part of another library	Part of another institution/enterprise	Seats for users	Multimedia departments	For visually impaired	Internet/WLAN	Toys and didactic games	Library bus
Total	1 861	189	225	1 447	40 400	1 132	56	1 854	491	19
National	1	1	-	-	1 100	1	1	1	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	116	4	23	89	5 102	106	9	115	-	-
Specialised	101	1	6	94	1 039	63	3	99	-	-
Public	308	183	113	12	10 017	202	25	308	205	19
In basic schools	967	-	81	886	15 956	560	14	964	253	-
In secondary schools	368	-	2	366	7 186	200	4	367	33	-

G-1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, 2025



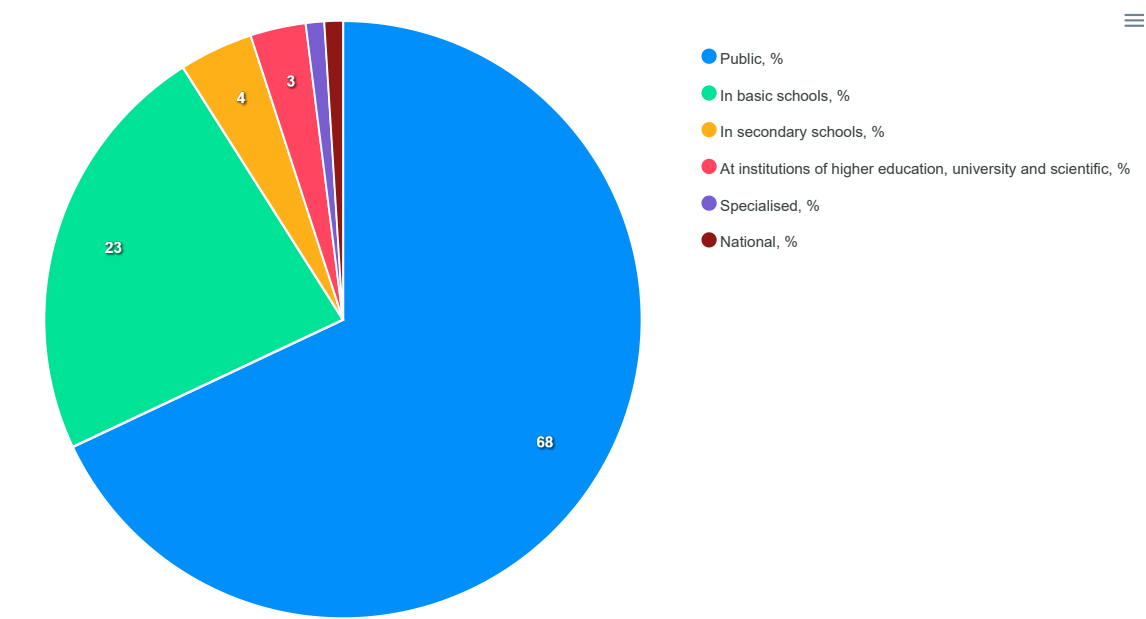
2 PROCESSED BOOK AND NON-BOOK MATERIALS, 2025 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2025)

Type of library	Processed book materials, number of items					Processed non-book materials, number of items				
	Books (volumes)	Newspapers (annual files)	Magazines (volumes)	Manuscripts and graded papers	Other book materials	Toys and didactic games	Digitised book materials	Originally digital materials	Audio-visual materials	Electronic materials on portable media
Total	28 854 897	249 014	2 439 321	584 160	471 870	157 208	196 304	621 612	733 562	184 660
National	1 721 481	127 180	398 755	269 473	-	132 851	27 990	250 061	235 313	66 283
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	5 645 075	59 615	1 051 844	300 528	164 672	-	91 363	291 874	44 226	75 576
Specialised	2 128 374	23 827	801 900	14 159	123 543	-	41 277	60 453	16 566	8 934
Public	12 101 729	34 884	153 375	-	129 858	18 284	35 025	19 065	366 960	24 554
In basic schools	4 966 169	3 093	20 823	-	4 060	4 778	46	77	55 542	5 547
In secondary schools	2 292 069	415	12 624	-	49 737	1 295	603	82	14 955	3 766

3 USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2025

Type of library	Total	Use outside the library	Use inside the library	Use outside the library, by type of material					
				Total lending	Books and brochures	E-books	Audio-visual and electronic materials, and graded papers	Serial publications	Other
Total	12 208 020	9 591 789	2 616 231	9 591 789	9 449 577	40 984	74 089	5 365	21 774
National	102 640	7 693	94 947	7 693	7 693	-	-	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	355 881	217 934	137 947	217 934	217 934	-	-	-	-
Specialised	166 783	58 814	107 969	58 814	58 814	-	-	-	-
Public	8 281 345	6 659 269	1 622 076	6 659 269	6 533 439	40 984	68 196	5 365	11 285
In basic schools	2 834 037	2 260 916	573 121	2 260 916	2 248 930	-	4 978	-	7 008
In secondary schools	467 334	387 163	80 171	387 163	382 767	-	915	-	3 481

G-2 USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2025



4 INTERLIBRARY LOANS, 2025

Type of library ¹⁾	Interlibrary loans							
	Total		Received requests		Submitted requests		Requests for electronic delivery of documents	
	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved
Total	53 750	51 498	7 469	6 680	10 423	9 957	35 858	34 861
National	14 888	13 756	2 846	2 489	4 827	4 542	7 215	6 725
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	26 537	26 030	1 448	1 429	2 054	2 000	23 035	22 601
Specialised	7 942	7 451	868	543	1 874	1 781	5 200	5 127
Public	4 383	4 261	2 307	2 219	1 668	1 634	408	408

1) In libraries in basic and secondary schools, there is no interlibrary loan, but only additions to and weeding out of book and non-book materials. Therefore, they are not included here.

5 LIBRARY USERS, BY ACTIVITY, 2025

Type of library	Structure of library users				
	Total	Pupils/students	Employees	External users	Of that, active borrowers
Total	655 568	512 455	109 550	33 563	469 106
National	13 211	-	-	13 211	13 211
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	116 215	101 410	9 805	5 000	57 704
Specialised	51 828	-	38 391	13 437	13 438
In basic schools	330 326	286 237	43 072	1 017	288 487
In secondary schools	143 988	124 808	18 282	898	96 266

6 PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS, BY SEX, AGE AND ACTIVITY, 2025

Type of library	Total	Male	Female	Members, by age groups				Active borrowers	New users
				14 and under	15 – 17	18 – 64	65 and over		
Public libraries	476 787	170 223	306 564	166 190	35 649	223 195	51 753	396 856	67 153

7 VISITS TO LIBRARIES AND ATTENDANCE OF LIBRARY EVENTS, 2025

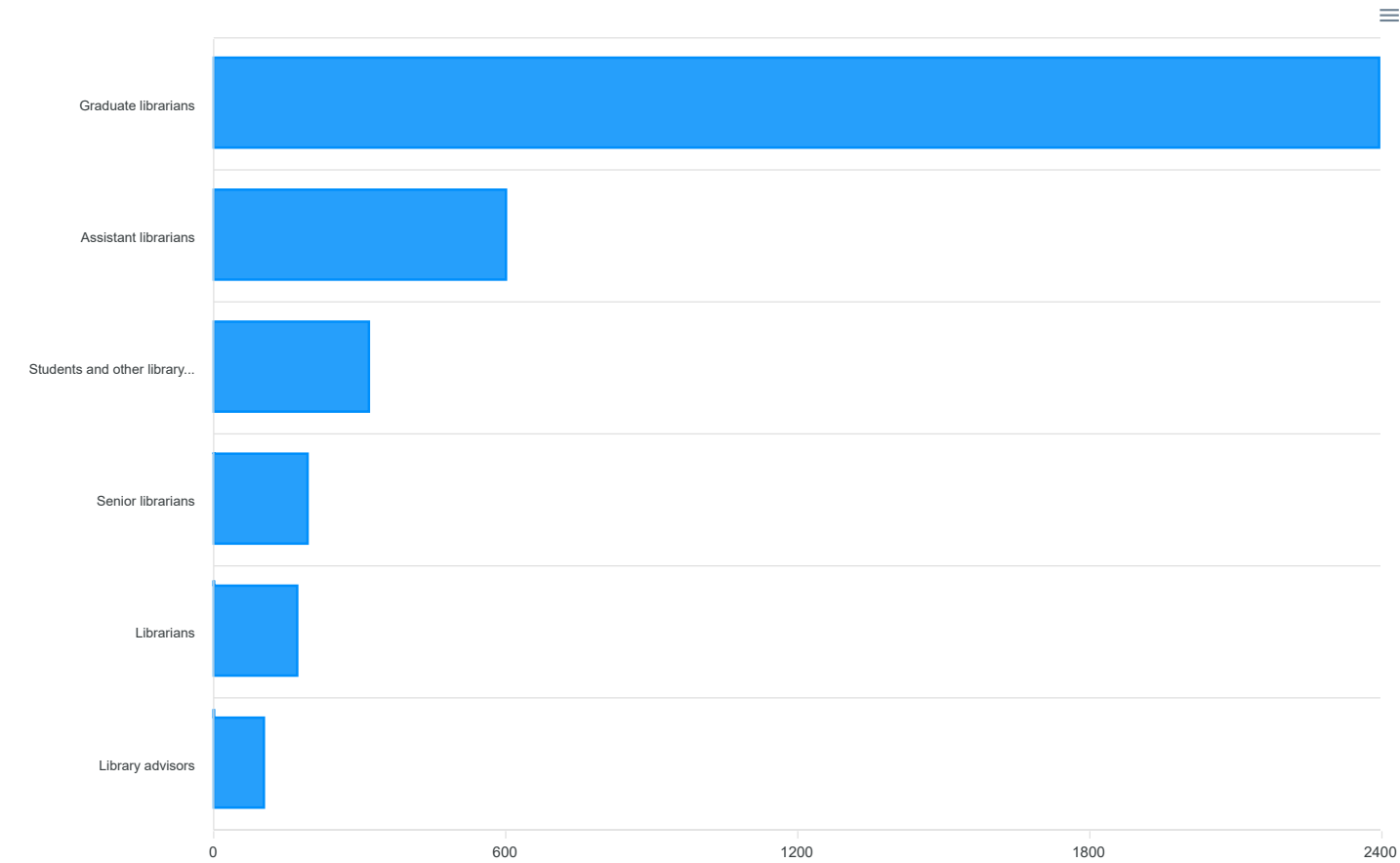
Type of library	Visits to libraries and attendance of library events								
	Visits to libraries			Library events				Workshops	
	Total	Physical	Virtual	Number of library events		Attendance of library events		Number	Attendance
				Total	Of that, children and youth	Total	Of that, children and youth		
Total	78 555 926	12 391 240	66 164 686 ¹⁾	57 753	44 422	1 229 673	876 871	28 557	502 556
National	2 914 947	198 752	2 716 195	43	21	6 800	3 600	156	2 917
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	44 606 417	1 131 548	43 474 869 ¹⁾	434	-	14 492	-	866	12 488
Specialised	2 284 080	100 324	2 183 756 ¹⁾	419	-	17 592	-	206	2 723
Public	22 981 261	5 804 762	17 176 499 ¹⁾	36 888	24 432	720 781	403 263	8 022	154 124
In basic schools	4 686 453	4 288 884	397 569	16 936	16 936	363 549	363 549	15 761	263 368
In secondary schools	1 082 768	866 970	215 798	3 033	3 033	106 459	106 459	3 546	66 936

1) The manifold increase in virtual visits in 2025 is the result of machine-generated traffic, which accounts for the majority of server requests on public and academic websites.

8 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2025 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2025)

Type of library	Employees			Professional staff							Other staff
	Total	Male	Female	Total	Library advisors	Senior librarians	Graduate librarians	Librarians	Assistant librarians	Students and other library staff	
Total	4 163	625	3 538	3 763	94	190	2 397	162	601	319	400
National	309	102	207	274	25	17	75	9	56	92	35
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	530	101	429	481	24	53	185	20	75	124	49
Specialised	194	37	157	165	17	14	99	6	19	10	29
Public	1 786	261	1 525	1 499	27	96	762	108	448	58	287
In basic schools	938	86	852	938	-	5	908	8	2	15	-
In secondary schools	406	38	368	406	1	5	368	11	1	20	-

G-3 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2025 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2025), BY OCCUPATION



9 ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2025

		National library	Libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries	Specialised libraries	Public libraries	Libraries in basic schools	Libraries in secondary schools
Books (number of volumes)	Total	19 077	67 960	16 756	495 471	146 144	45 364
	Purchase	384	19 744	4 451	345 740	122 511	35 681
	Replacement	64	266	2 706	90	207	46
	Donation	1 576	30 501	9 599	36 682	23 426	9 637
	Mandatory item	17 053	17 449	-	3 595	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	109 364	-	-
Magazines (number of volumes)	Total	8 065	10 755	4 631	3 615	2 652	1 782
	Purchase	24	2 017	751	2 319	2 141	1 015
	Replacement	142	987	2 784	5	-	-
	Donation	600	2 953	1 096	624	511	767
	Mandatory item	7 299	4 798	-	657	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	10	-	-
Newspapers (number of titles)	Total	210	1 409	29	294	156	68
	Purchase	-	90	15	114	78	38
	Replacement	-	3	8	-	1	-
	Donation	-	33	6	54	77	30
	Mandatory item	210	1 283	-	126	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manuscripts and graded papers	Total	698	6 787	311	-	-	-
	Purchase	-	797	148	-	-	-
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	5 990	163	-	-	-
	Mandatory item	698	-	-	-	-	-
Other book materials	Total	1 154	1 913	95	1 811	438	201
	Purchase	489	75	30	903	301	156
	Replacement	2	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	200	1 669	65	298	137	45
	Mandatory item	463	169	-	610	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audio-visual materials	Total	597	345	474	3 692	900	33
	Purchase	-	7	296	2 933	790	4
	Replacement	-	-	21	-	-	-
	Donation	14	61	157	750	110	29
	Mandatory item	583	277	-	9	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-

Electronic materials on portable media	Total	591	663	412	320	45	13
	Purchase	-	42	132	255	43	8
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	598	280	60	2	5
	Mandatory item	591	23	-	5	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toys and didactic games	Total	-	-	-	1 317	628	96
	Purchase	-	-	-	1 199	315	58
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	1
	Donation	-	-	-	118	313	37
Digitised materials	Total	12 020	6 167	4 750	4 106	15	38
	Inside the library	12 020	4 902	1 167	197	14	-
	Outside the library	-	1 265	3 583	3 909	1	38
Originally digital materials	Total	27 637	148 447	33 922	4 886	8	42
	E-books	1 096	81 725	29 002	3 705	-	-
	E-magazines	1 453	31 165	3 135	15	-	-
	E-graded papers	25 028	32 394	293	-	-	-
	Other e-documents	60	3 163	1 492	1 166	8	42

10 LIBRARY REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, 2025

Euro

		National library	Libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries ¹⁾	Specialised libraries ²⁾	Public libraries	Libraries in basic schools	Libraries in secondary schools
Expenditures	Total	20 261 782,76	17 376 742,20	6 644 319,06	79 125 027,02	24 316 514,08	10 911 504,99
	Acquisition of book materials	79 608,86	1 150 001,47	806 016,90	8 589 696,70	1 517 452,11	596 046,20
	Education of library staff	26 379,35	70 976,64	45 547,78	251 220,41	99 638,52	35 983,93
	Expenses of employees' gross earnings	9 247 139,43	13 198 122,75	5 351 325,56	51 955 585,04	22 282 850,18	9 941 966,40
	Other expenses	10 908 655,12	2 957 641,34	441 428,82	18 328 524,87	416 573,27	337 508,46
Revenues ³⁾	Total	17 911 063,01	5 252 261,81	-	77 463 493,45	24 087 674,59	10 800 954,82
	Revenues from the budget/parent institution	16 325 386,64	4 105 877,57	-	73 357 494,70	23 830 807,53	10 711 768,43
	Own revenues	917 316,47	258 321,95	-	3 235 641,42	174 814,77	57 494,18
	Other sources of revenues	668 359,90	888 062,29	-	870 357,33	82 052,29	31 692,21

1) As regards libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, the revenue of autonomous libraries is presented as own revenue and as revenue from other sources, while the revenue of libraries that are part of institutions of higher education or universities is presented as the revenue of the parent institution.

2) Specialised libraries have no revenue data, but only expenditure data. The revenue of specialised libraries is a part of the total revenue of the parent institution, of which the library is a part, so it is not presented separately.

3) The revenues covered by this First Release refer to direct library revenues from all levels of the budget of the Republic of Croatia (central, government and local bodies), own revenues and other sources of revenues.

NOTES ON METHODOLOGY

Sources and methods of data collection

Data on libraries are the result of processing statistical data from the administrative database of the National and University Library (NSK). Pursuant to Article 6, paragraph 3 of the Library and Library Activity Act (NN, Nos 17/19, 98/19, 114/22 and 36/24), libraries are obliged to collect statistical data on their operations and enter them into NSK's system of unique electronic collection of statistical data on library operations in accordance with the standards referred to in Article 12, paragraph 2 of the aforementioned Act.

The collection of data from administrative sources is in line with the recommendations from the European Statistics Code of Practice relating to the use of administrative and other data whenever possible to reduce the burden on reporting units and to reduce the costs of collecting, processing and publishing statistical data.

Coverage and comparability

The statistical survey covers all libraries that existed on the territory of the Republic of Croatia on 31 December 2025. Data are comparable to those from previous years.

Definitions and explanations

Library is a legal entity that performs the library activity in accordance with the provisions of the Library and Library Activity Act.

According to the purpose and library contents, libraries are categorised as follows: national library, libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, specialised libraries, public libraries and school libraries.

Specialised (professional) library is a library that covers one discipline or a particular area of knowledge. The name "specialised library" is sometimes used to indicate a library intended primarily for a special category of users (e.g., patients) or focused on a particular form of documents (e.g., music, sound and video library, photograph library, cinematic arts library). It may be public if the founder is the Republic of Croatia or a legal entity predominantly owned by the Republic of Croatia, or private if the founder is another legal entity or natural person.

Administrative unit is a library or a group of libraries that operate under a single library administration. An administrative unit may consist of a central library and its branches, i.e., subsidiaries.

Autonomous library is an independent public institution, that is, a registered legal entity, which performs the library activity in accordance with the Library and Library Activity Act.

Library that is a part of another library is an organisational unit of an institution or another legal entity that performs the library activity in accordance with the Library and Library Activity Act.

Library branch/subsidiary is an organisational part of the administrative unit of a library situated on a separate location, which provides services to users.

Library bus is a mobile library department, that is, a specially equipped vehicle for delivering library materials and providing services directly to users.

User area (net user area) is usable area for user services. It includes area for reading, learning (individually or in groups), lending, providing instruction, information and other services, areas where users use the library independently (borrowing and returning materials, automatic recording of book returns and lending), as well as areas for recreation and communication/rest and socialising, multipurpose halls, rooms for people who have suddenly fallen ill, the entrance hall, and areas with open access materials that are integral parts of user services.

Seats for users are seating places for users (excluding seating places for rest).

Library materials consist of each textual, visual and audio document, on easily transferable material or in electronically readable form, of informational, artistic, scientific or professional content, produced in several copies and intended for the public, including manuscripts. Games, toys, etc. are also considered library materials if they are part of the library fund.

Book materials are physical library materials that are not in digital form. They include books, serial publications, manuscripts, graded papers, brochures and other book materials (maps, photographs, art reproductions, etc.)

Fund includes overall library materials in all formats.

Book is a non-periodic printed publication of at least 49 pages, not including cover pages.

Brochure is a non-periodic printed publication of at least five and no more than 48 pages, not including cover pages.

Magazine is a periodic publication in several volumes whose publication is not limited in time, that is, which is established with the intention of being published in an unlimited number of volumes. It is published at more or less regular intervals.

Volume is a physical unit of any printed or manuscript work contained in one binding.

Newspaper is a serial material unit that is published at frequent intervals, usually daily, weekly or semi-weekly, which reports on current events and topics of public interest.

Manuscripts are original handwritten or typewritten materials.

Graded papers are papers that are required for completing a study and acquiring a certain academic title or degree of tertiary education. In the Republic of Croatia, they include a doctoral thesis or dissertation (at the end of postgraduate university study), graduate thesis (at the end of graduate and integrated graduate and undergraduate university study) and final thesis (at the end of all other studies, but often means the final thesis of undergraduate study).

Digitised materials are copies of the originals made by the process of digitisation, that is, conversion into digital form. Different forms can be digitised, such as text, audio, video materials, etc.

Digital materials in originally digital form are materials that were originally created in digital form, such as e-books, e-magazines, e-newspapers, and other digital documents processed and stored in the repository of an institution.

Audiovisual materials are a type of non-book materials that can only be used with a certain device, such as a projector, reader, magnifier, etc. Audiovisual materials include films (video cassettes, boxes, reels and loops), microforms (microfilms, microfiche), video recordings (videotapes, videocassettes, video boxes and video discs), visual projections (filmstrips, slides, transparencies, stereographs and microscopic preparations) and sound recordings (gramophone records, compact discs, audiotapes, audiocassettes and loudspeakers).

Electronic collection includes sources in electronic form as part of the library collection, which are originally digital or have been digitised.

Electronic book is one or several computer files of limited content, which are publicly available online (online book) or in physical form (on CD ROM and DVD).

Other book materials are all materials other than books, periodicals, manuscripts, microfilms and audiovisual materials. This includes materials such as maps, charts, art reproductions, photographs, technical drawings, toys, multimedia, etc.

Additions include documents or material units that are added to the collection in the reporting period.

Library user (library member) is any person registered with the library as a user of its materials or services in the reporting year.

Active user is a library member (registered user) who visited or used the library or its services in the reporting year. The use may also include the use of electronic services inside or outside the library.

Active borrower is a library member who has borrowed at least one item during the reporting period.

Visit is the act of entering the library premises or accessing the library website in order to use one of the services provided by the library.

Physical visit is the act of entering the library premises in order to use one of the services provided by the library.

Virtual visit is an individual external virtual visit to the library website and catalogue.

User education includes education programmes with an elaborate lecture plan for the acquisition of knowledge and skills for the use of the library and other information and technical services. It may include a guided tour of the library, as well as lessons on information technology and online services with educational content.

Workshop is an activity organised by an expert employee of the library for users. User education is defined as a programme with a special lecture plan aimed at teaching users how to use the library and other information and technical services. It also includes a guided tour of the library, as well as lessons on information technology and online services with educational content. Educations within the project are included only if the project is intended for library users.

Library events are activities organised for users for literary, cultural or social purposes, such as visits by authors, reading groups, literary meetings and exhibitions.

Interlibrary loan is a loan of documents in the material form (books) or delivery of documents as copies from one library to another that is not under the same management. It also covers electronically delivered documents.

Library advisor is a person who has at least five years of work experience in the library profession after acquiring the title of a senior librarian and who has expert knowledge due to which he/she has acquired at least 500 points in accordance with the Criteria for Assessing Professional Competence.

Senior librarian is a person who has passed the qualifying exam for a graduate librarian, having at least five years of work experience in the profession after passing the qualifying exam for a graduate librarian and expert knowledge due to which he/she has acquired at least 400 points in accordance with the Criteria for Assessing Professional Competence.

Graduate librarian is a person who has completed an undergraduate and graduate university study in the field of information and communication sciences with at least 60 ECTS credits from the librarianship programme, or a librarianship study by which a university degree was obtained in accordance with the regulations that had been in force before the Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education was in force, or who has completed another study by which a university degree was obtained in accordance with the regulations that had been in force before the aforementioned Act was in force, with the obligation to acquire 60 ECTS credits from the librarianship programme within three years from the day of employment and to pass the qualifying exam for a graduate librarian.

Librarian is a person who has completed an undergraduate university study in the field of information and communication sciences with at least 30 ECTS credits from the basic librarianship courses, or another study by which a non-university college degree was obtained in accordance with the regulations that had been in force before the Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education was in force, with the obligation to acquire at least 30 ECTS credits from the basic librarianship courses within three years from the day of employment and to pass the qualifying exam for a librarian.

Assistant librarian is a person who has completed a four-year secondary school and has passed the qualifying exam for an assistant librarian.

Other library staff consists of all library employees who do not have a professional library title.

Students are university students who work part-time in libraries or who perform practice in libraries as part of certain courses.

Library revenues are the financial resources provided for the regular activity of the library.

Own revenue is the revenue generated by the library. It refers to revenues from the provision of services and/or delivery of goods on the market, such as the sale of own publications or renting premises, revenues from the main activity of the library, such as revenue from membership fees and late fees and revenue from property (interest).

Library expenditure is the expenditure incurred by managing the library. It includes the purchase of book materials, employees' gross earnings, education of library staff and other library expenditures.

Abbreviations

CD ROM	compact disc read-only memory
DVD	digital versatile disc
ECTS	European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System
NN	Narodne novine, official gazette of the Republic of Croatia
WLAN	wireless local area network

Symbols

-	no occurrence
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