

## First Release

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# LIBRARIES, 2023

Data on libraries that operated on the territory of the Republic of Croatia in 2023 were obtained by processing the administrative database of the National and University Library.

A total of 1 872 libraries were covered, which included one national library, 125 libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, 106 specialised libraries, 309 public libraries, 965 libraries in basic schools and 366 libraries in secondary schools.

In 2023, of the total number of libraries, 10% were autonomous, 12% were part of another library (library branch) and 78% were part of another institution, enterprise or educational institution.

### **Increase in the number of libraries with internet access**

The modernisation of libraries with new media and technologies enables a direct access to all types of knowledge and information. Therefore, 71% of libraries had a multimedia department and almost 100% were equipped with the internet connection.

There were 4 083 persons employed in libraries, of which 84% were women. Of the total number of persons employed in libraries, 91% were professional library staff.

### **The most numerous members of public libraries and visitors to library events were children and youth up to 18 years of age**

A total of 1 152 466 persons had a library membership in 2023, of which 75% were active users. 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, followed by the members of public libraries with the share of 40% in the total membership. Children and youth up to 18 years of age accounted for 43% of public library memberships.

Observing the age structure of visitors to library events, 68% of visitors were under 18 years of age.

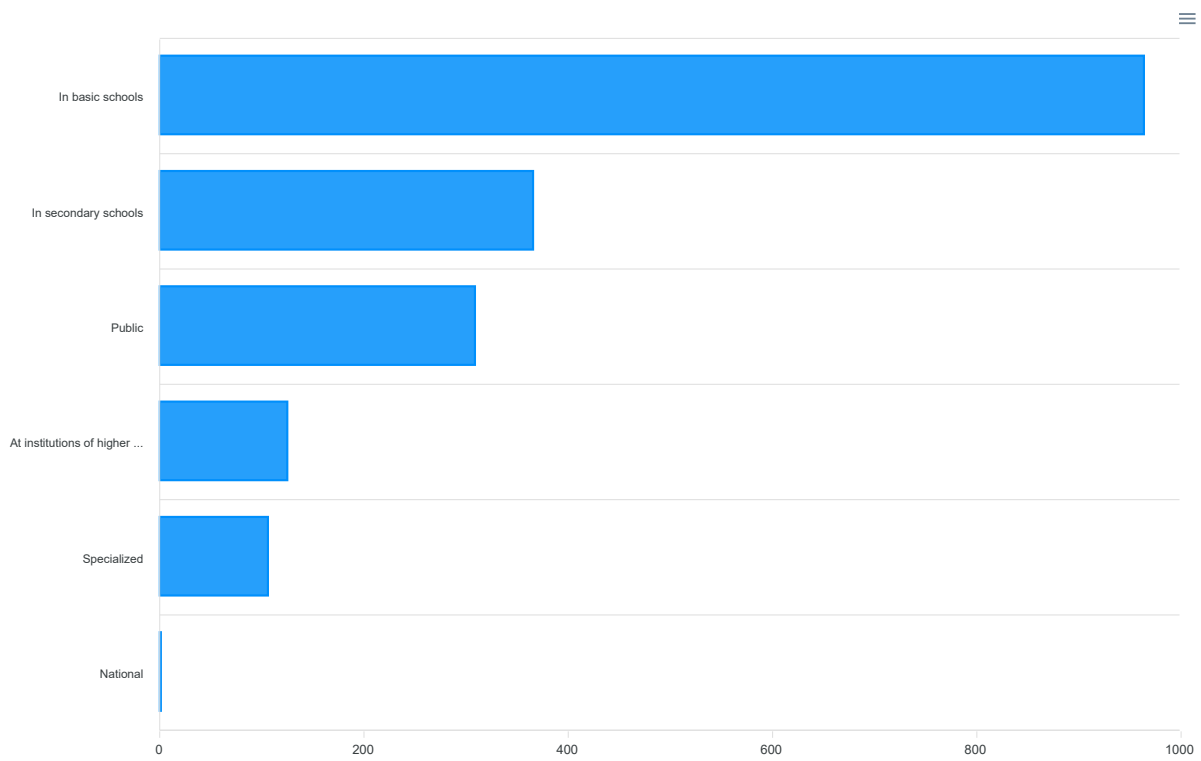
### **Access to libraries for all**

In order to encourage reading and improve the accessibility to library materials in rural areas, public libraries doubled the number of mobile libraries (library buses) from nine (in 2022) to 18 (in 2023).

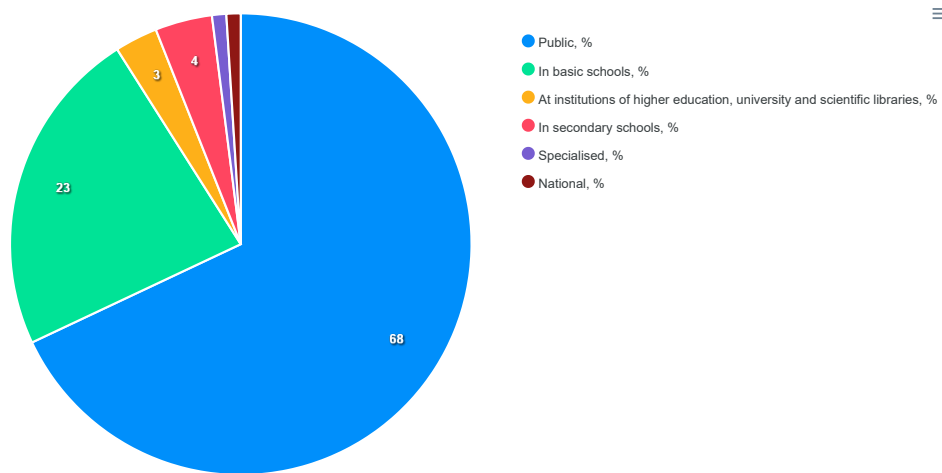
The number of personal visits to libraries increased to 38% in 2023, which was 9% more than in 2022. Of the total number of visits to libraries, the share of personal visits to those in basic schools was the highest, 88%, followed by libraries in secondary schools, 72%, and public libraries, 35%.

In 2023, there were 52 568 library events, which was 12% more than in 2022. Of that number, 42 416 were intended for children and youth. Furthermore, there were 25 402 educational workshops.

### G-1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, 2023



### G-2 USE OF BOOK MATERIALS, 2023



## 1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, STATUS AND ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTS, 2023

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	1 872	187	229	1 456	40 783	1 331	48	1 866	549	18
National	1	1	-	-	1 264	1	1	1	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	125	4	24	97	5 091	114	11	125	-	-
Specialised	106	1	6	99	1 203	67	5	103	-	-
Public	309	181	116	12	10 195	299	16	307	209	18
In basic schools	965	-	81	884	15 866	574	13	964	290	-
In secondary schools	366	-	2	364	7 164	276	2	366	50	-

## 2 PROCESSED BOOK AND NON-BOOK MATERIALS, 2023 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2023)

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 removable media
Total	29 081 847	242 762	2 693 209	581 664	597 605	23 192	141 746	499 325	766 644	193 120
National	1 685 106	126 767	374 342	267 712	131 173	-	14 608	176 901	233 756	64 972
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	5 788 855	54 670	1 219 113	300 411	164 380	-	71 482	234 390	43 036	75 883
Specialised	2 145 020	24 065	898 960	13 541	122 075	-	28 693	75 757	4 867	8 272
Public	12 125 078	35 049	153 922	-	127 961	17 947	26 963	12 277	396 721	33 059
In basic schools	4 942 517	1 587	29 170	-	5 441	4 142	-	-	67 049	6 265
In secondary schools	2 395 271	624	17 702	-	46 575	1 103	-	-	21 215	4 669

## 3 USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2023

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	12 398 671	9 966 388	2 432 283	9 966 388	9 770 174	51 222	102 188	13 481	29 323
National	102 981	7 687	95 294	7 687	7 687	-	-	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	426 376	274 627	151 749	274 627	274 627	-	-	-	-
Specialised	110 176	56 948	53 228	56 948	56 948	-	-	-	-
Public	8 385 567	6 928 334	1 457 233	6 928 334	6 761 888	51 222	89 767	13 481	11 976
In basic schools	2 888 485	2 293 633	594 852	2 293 633	2 269 724	-	11 628	-	12 281
In secondary schools	485 086	405 159	79 927	405 159	399 300	-	793	-	5 066

#### 4 INTERLIBRARY LOANS, 2023

Type of library <sup>1)</sup>	Interlibrary loans							
	Total		Received requests		Submitted requests		Requests for electronic delivery of documents	
	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved	Total	Resolved
Total	35 400	32 706	7 948	6 659	8 868	8 578	18 584	17 469
National	11 202	9 927	2 817	2 256	3 111	3 083	5 274	4 588
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	12 687	12 226	1 366	1 313	2 677	2 620	8 644	8 293
Specialised	7 286	6 543	1 484	913	1 379	1 263	4 423	4 367
Public	4 225	4 010	2 281	2 177	1 701	1 612	243	221

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, 2023

Type of library	Structure of library users				
	Total	Pupils/students	Employees	External users	Of that, active users
Total	693 337	538 852	115 350	39 135	474 420
National	11 657	-	-	11 657	11 657
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	141 802	122 377	11 897	7 528	64 382
Specialised	60 483	-	42 591	17 892	12 484
In basic schools	336 368	292 759	42 648	961	288 091
In secondary schools	143 027	123 716	18 214	1 097	97 806

#### 6 PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS, BY SEX, AGE AND ACTIVITY, 2023

Type of library	Total	Male	Female	Members, by age groups				Active users	New users
				14 and under	15 – 17	18 – 64	65 and over		
Public libraries	459 129	164 205	294 924	162 419	34 970	214 920	46 820	391 157	70 154

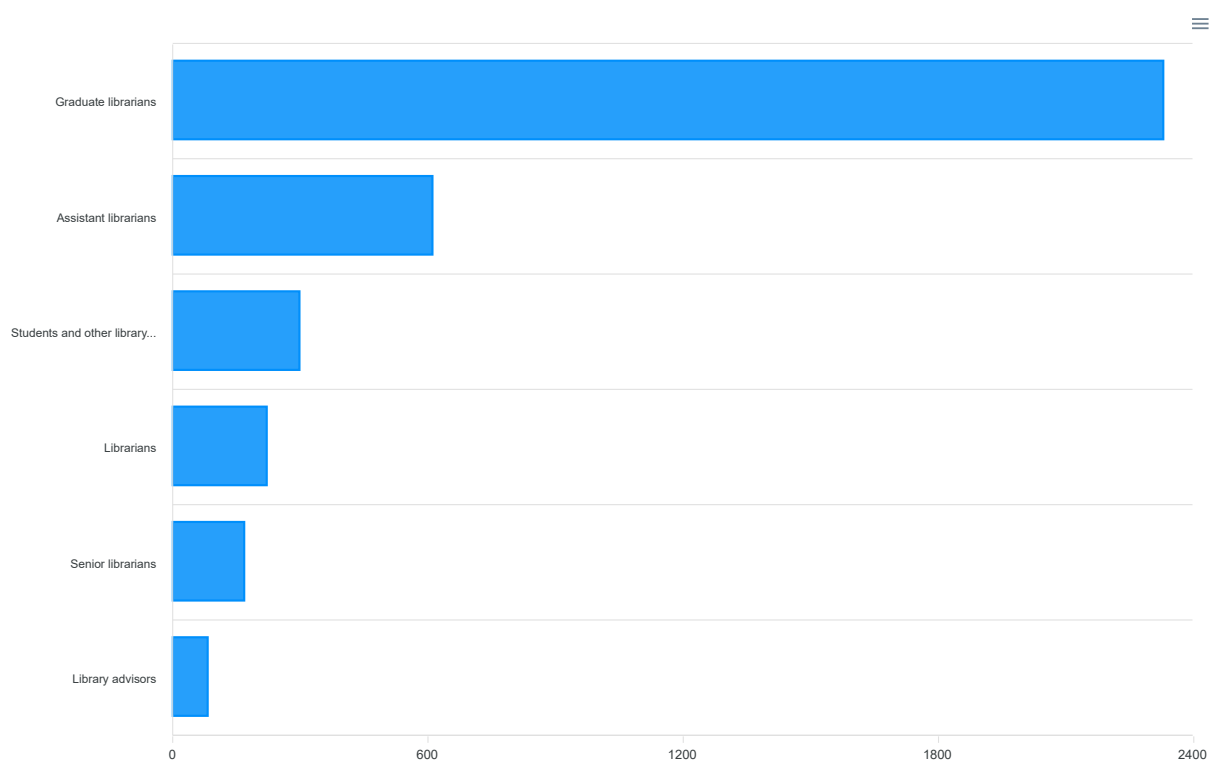
#### 7 VISITS TO LIBRARIES AND ATTENDANCE OF LIBRARY EVENTS, 2023

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	32 320 503	12 419 202	19 901 301	52 568	42 416	1 240 496	842 129	25 402	472 197
National	1 404 158	167 514	1 236 644	44	-	5 280	-	137	2 507
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	7 254 805	1 499 624	5 755 181	366	-	14 608	-	846	12 734
Specialised	1 345 249	88 705	1 256 544	280	-	13 373	-	203	2 423
Public	16 537 865	5 749 836	10 788 029	33 305	23 843	758 282	393 176	5 183	115 434
In basic schools	4 685 056	4 124 625	560 431	15 766	15 766	357 566	357 566	15 883	275 835
In secondary schools	1 093 370	788 898	304 472	2 807	2 807	91 387	91 387	3 150	63 264

## 8 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2023 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2023)

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	4 083	629	3 446	3 711	82	168	2 331	221	611	298	372
National	306	103	203	273	24	19	72	13	60	85	33
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	527	107	420	475	22	52	188	25	84	104	52
Specialised	163	20	138	157	13	11	94	11	15	13	6
Public	1 763	273	1 487	1 482	22	81	735	129	444	71	281
In basic schools	925	82	843	925	-	2	883	26	2	12	-
In secondary schools	399	44	355	399	1	3	359	17	6	13	-

### G-3 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2023 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2023), BY OCCUPATION



## 9 ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2023

		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	17 822	64 288	15 784	435 193	125 393	41 166
	Purchase	365	18 386	4 093	299 648	96 624	31 634
	Replacement	176	472	3 280	12 294	153	48
	Donation	3 027	26 889	8 411	31 138	28 616	9 484
	Mandatory items	14 254	18 541	-	3 760	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	88 353	-	-
Magazines (number of volumes)	Total	7 200	20 590	5 379	2 486	3 855	1 578
	Purchase	19	1 634	712	2 018	2 963	980
	Replacement	271	2 008	3 215	7	-	-
	Donation	88	4 091	1 452	398	892	598
	Mandatory item	6 822	12 857	-	44	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	19	-	-
Newspapers (number of titles)	Total	215	1 600	46	334	115	42
	Purchase	-	47	30	107	108	36
	Replacement	-	22	13	-	-	1
	Donation	-	38	3	17	7	5
	Mandatory item	215	1 493	-	203	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	7	-	-
Manuscripts and graded papers	Total	1 061	7 259	252	-	-	-
	Purchase	-	1 152	-	-	-	-
	Replacement	-	300	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	5 807	252	-	-	-
	Mandatory item	1 061	-	-	-	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other book materials	Total	719	2 307	296	1 743	222	537
	Purchase	23	62	108	1 058	153	435
	Replacement	-	1	-	3	-	-
	Donation	292	1 703	188	102	69	102
	Mandatory item	404	541	-	574	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	6	-	-
Audio-visual materials	Total	863	419	111	6 839	1 448	356
	Purchase	-	36	103	5 972	1 270	197
	Replacement	-	-	2	-	63	-
	Donation	136	47	6	732	115	159
	Mandatory item	727	336	-	23	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	112	-	-
Electronic materials on removable media	Total	874	2 140	223	431	211	78
	Purchase	-	294	39	370	93	67
	Replacement	-	301	26	-	-	-
	Donation	16	1 075	158	54	118	11
	Mandatory item	858	470	-	7	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toys and didactic games	Total	-	-	-	1 172	430	123
	Purchase	-	-	-	1 026	198	109
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	-	-	146	232	14
Digitised materials	Total	1 309	13 805	2 143	1 594	-	-
	Inside the library	1 309	8 617	1 099	550	-	-

	Outside the library	-	5 188	1 044	1 044	-	-
Originally digital materials	Total	45 535	150 950	75 364	3 740	-	-
	E-books	382	83 174	59 883	3 740	-	-
	E-magazines	1 396	26 274	13 903	-	-	-
	E-graded papers	33 754	37 786	515	-	-	-
	Other e-documents	10 003	3 716	1 063	-	-	-

## 10 LIBRARY REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, 2023

Euro

		National library	Libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries <sup>1)</sup>	Specialised libraries <sup>2)</sup>	Public libraries	Libraries in basic schools	Libraries in secondary schools
Expenditures	Total	14 947 705,66	13 830 625,09	4 336 547,86	56 130 019,03	18 346 944,28	8 408 350,84
	Acquisition of book materials	39 529,72	1 098 036,35	606 995,20	6 567 287,00	1 240 297,72	611 506,44
	Education of library staff	20 328,97	60 573,55	23 497,31	131 789,52	62 817,08	32 767,22
	Expenses of employees' gross earnings	5 663 171,77	9 715 682,39	3 469 514,39	33 563 061,19	16 775 959,22	7 560 941,42
	Other expenses	9 224 675,20	2 956 332,80	236 540,96	15 867 881,32	267 870,26	203 135,76
Revenues	Total	15 343 973,14	3 305 150,59	-	56 944 108,05	20 597 137,56	9 583 456,33
	Revenues from the budget/parent institution <sup>3)</sup>	13 624 449,57	2 537 544,26	-	50 745 799,32	20 361 312,10	9 429 921,68
	Own revenues	1 207 023,11	236 398,55	-	3 032 789,00	133 399,63	71 316,51
	Other sources of revenues	512 500,46	531 207,78	-	3 165 539,73	102 425,83	82 218,14

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), revenues for the acquisition of materials, 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 in order 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 2023. 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.

**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** 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.

**Digitised 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.

**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, 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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