

First Release

Year: LXII.

Zagreb, 19 September 2025

KUL-2025-1-2

ISSN 1334-0557



LIBRARIES, 2024

Data on libraries that operated on the territory of the Republic of Croatia in 2024 were obtained by processing the administrative database of the National and University Library.

A total of **1 885** libraries were covered, which included one national library, **132** libraries at institutions of higher education, university and scientific libraries, **105** specialised libraries, **312** public libraries, **968** libraries in basic schools and **367** libraries in secondary schools.

In 2024, of the total number of libraries, 10% were autonomous, 13% were part of another library (library subsidiaries and branches) and 77% were part of another institution, enterprise or educational institution.

A continuing increase in the number of libraries with multimedia departments

The modernisation of libraries with new media and technologies enables a direct access to all types of knowledge and information. Therefore, 80% of libraries had a multimedia department and almost 100% were equipped with the internet connection.

There were 4 161 persons employed in libraries, of which 84% 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 **1 134 491** persons had a library membership in 2024, of which 77% 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, 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 43% of public library memberships.

Access to libraries for all

In order to encourage reading and improve the accessibility to library materials in rural areas, public libraries increased the number of mobile libraries (library buses) to 19 in 2024.

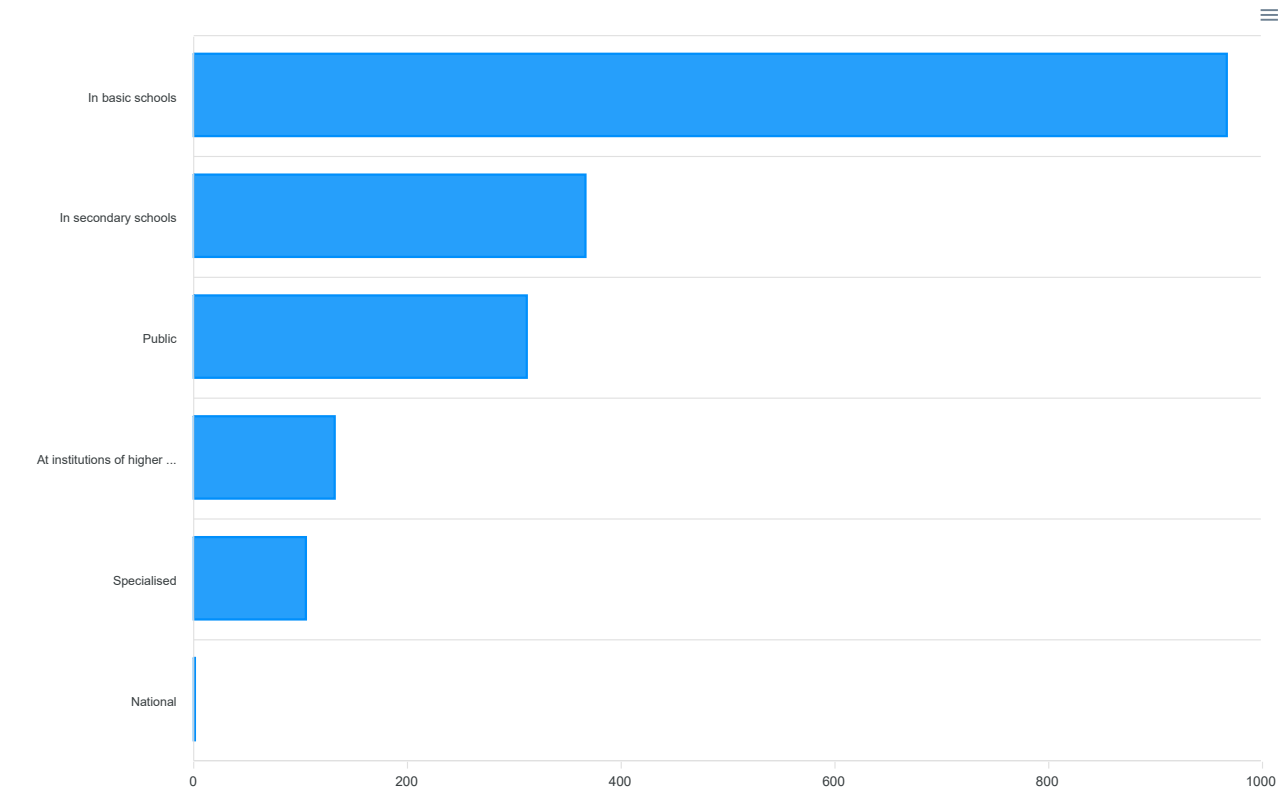
The number of physical visits to libraries was 38% of total visits in 2024, which was the same share as in 2023. Of the total number of visits to libraries, the share of physical visits to those in basic schools was the highest, 88%, followed by libraries in secondary schools, 74%, and in public libraries, 41%.

In 2024, there were 55 023 library events. Of that number, 43 439 were intended for children and youth. Furthermore, there were 26 672 educational workshops.

1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, STATUS AND ADDITIONAL DEPARTMENTS, 2024

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	1 885	189	237	1 459	40 801	1 510	50	1 879	520	19
National	1	1	-	-	1 100	1	1	1	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	132	4	30	98	5 310	120	12	131	-	-
Specialised	105	1	6	98	1 088	62	3	102	-	-
Public	312	183	116	13	10 130	304	28	310	208	19
In basic schools	968	-	83	885	15 902	717	3	968	264	-
In secondary schools	367	-	2	365	7 271	306	3	367	48	-

G-1 LIBRARIES, BY TYPE, 2024



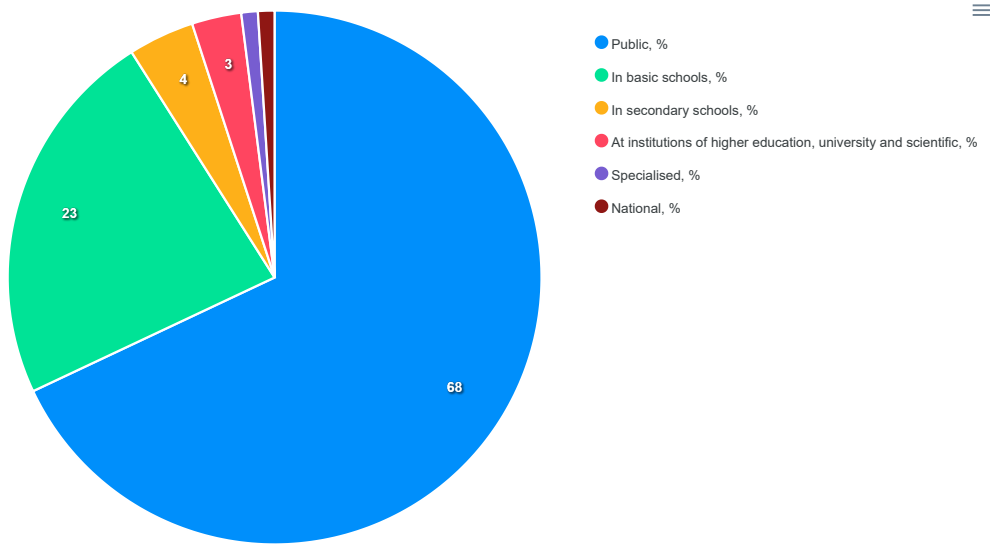
2 PROCESSED BOOK AND NON-BOOK MATERIALS, 2024 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2024)

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	28 963 008	244 305	2 519 914	604 053	594 472	23 624	185 788	544 364	749 407	202 644
National	1 702 404	126 970	390 690	268 775	131 706	-	15 970	222 424	234 716	65 692
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	5 838 107	56 230	1 075 599	321 485	166 763	-	75 565	272 536	39 668	84 401
Specialised	2 056 553	23 778	862 175	13 793	121 353	-	64 572	31 356	15 594	8 684
Public	12 097 047	35 498	153 254	-	122 799	17 806	29 681	18 048	376 140	32 736
In basic schools	4 948 965	1 369	25 175	-	5 277	4 625	-	-	62 519	6 677
In secondary schools	2 319 932	460	13 021	-	46 574	1 193	-	-	20 770	4 454

3 USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2024

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	12 286 595	9 862 157	2 424 438	9 862 157	9 674 005	70 889	81 847	4 043	31 373
National	100 819	6 918	93 901	6 918	6 918	-	-	-	-
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	371 143	242 955	128 188	242 955	242 955	-	-	-	-
Specialised	145 704	52 520	93 184	52 520	52 520	-	-	-	-
Public	8 373 351	6 900 051	1 473 300	6 900 051	6 732 219	70 889	75 187	4 043	17 713
In basic schools	2 822 218	2 267 236	554 982	2 267 236	2 252 542	-	5 778	-	8 916
In secondary schools	473 360	392 477	80 883	392 477	386 851	-	882	-	4 744

G-2 USE OF LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2024



4 INTERLIBRARY LOANS, 2024

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	53 364	49 770	8 327	6 810	10 732	10 128	34 305	32 832
National	15 344	13 843	3 675	3 050	4 301	4 096	7 368	6 697
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	26 281	25 364	1 076	990	3 073	2 899	22 132	21 475
Specialised	7 149	6 212	1 180	532	1 680	1 536	4 289	4 144
Public	4 590	4 351	2 396	2 238	1 678	1 597	516	516

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, 2024

Type of library	Structure of library users				
	Total	Pupils/students	Employees	External users	Of that, active users
Total	663 616	511 181	111 642	40 793	479 533
National	13 355	-	-	13 355	13 355
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	114 620	97 699	10 004	6 917	57 816
Specialised	58 429	-	39 875	18 554	15 053
In basic schools	332 685	287 876	43 921	888	293 042
In secondary schools	144 527	125 606	17 842	1 079	100 267

6 PUBLIC LIBRARY USERS, BY SEX, AGE AND ACTIVITY, 2024

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	470 875	167 349	303 526	166 606	36 150	218 713	49 406	396 651	71 915

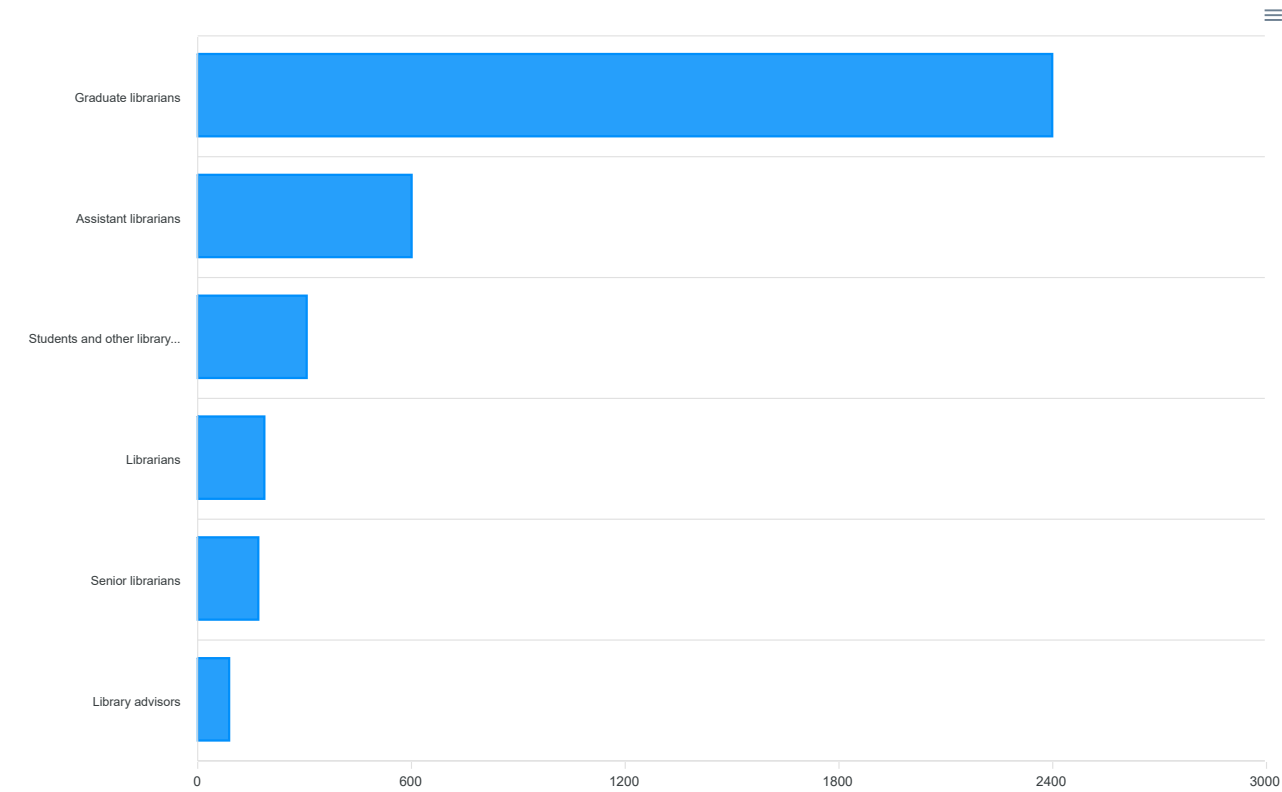
7 VISITS TO LIBRARIES AND ATTENDANCE OF LIBRARY EVENTS, 2024

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	33 857 734	12 669 146	21 188 588	55 023	43 439	1 218 971	873 591	26 672	487 939
National	2 677 235	193 392	2 483 843	48	-	5 200	-	175	3 224
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	10 574 550	1 494 512	9 080 038	347	-	17 433	-	809	13 243
Specialised	639 705	98 857	540 848	389	-	18 300	-	185	4 732
Public	14 026 461	5 811 605	8 214 856	35 342	24 542	701 685	397 238	6 429	132 924
In basic schools	4 790 985	4 224 974	566 011	16 004	16 004	367 694	367 694	15 583	266 660
In secondary schools	1 148 798	845 806	302 992	2 893	2 893	108 659	108 659	3 491	67 156

8 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2024 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2024)

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	4 161	648	3 513	3 754	88	170	2 402	187	601	306	407
National	307	98	209	272	21	20	75	10	58	88	35
At institutions of higher education, university and scientific	532	111	421	478	24	49	200	23	83	99	54
Specialised	197	35	162	168	16	11	101	10	18	12	29
Public	1 775	278	1 497	1 486	26	82	751	121	438	68	289
In basic schools	943	83	860	943	-	4	911	10	2	16	-
In secondary schools	407	43	364	407	1	4	364	13	2	23	-

G-3 LIBRARY EMPLOYEES, 2024 (SITUATION AS ON 31 DECEMBER 2024), BY OCCUPATION



9 ADDITIONS TO LIBRARY MATERIALS, 2024

		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	17 298	67 157	19 477	488 582	141 998	41 583
	Purchase	377	20 738	5 389	325 939	115 366	32 367
	Replacement	408	386	3 325	6 818	356	48
	Donation	1 747	24 977	10 763	34 323	26 276	9 168
	Mandatory items	14 766	21 056	-	4 260	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	117 242	-	-
Magazines (number of volumes)	Total	16 348	15 172	5 349	4 359	3 799	1 360
	Purchase	-	1 419	1 221	3 147	2 907	938
	Replacement	158	1 033	2 805	13	-	1
	Donation	157	4 868	1 323	488	892	421
	Mandatory item	16 033	7 852	-	705	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	6	-	-
Newspapers (number of titles)	Total	203	1 452	140	316	130	89
	Purchase	-	62	27	118	90	33
	Replacement	-	26	105	-	-	-
	Donation	-	64	8	15	40	56
	Mandatory item	203	1 300	-	183	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Manuscripts and graded papers	Total	1 063	6 401	415	-	-	-
	Purchase	-	621	-	-	-	-
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	5 780	415	-	-	-
	Mandatory item	1 063	-	-	-	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other book materials	Total	533	8 437	107	2 058	160	340
	Purchase	146	170	96	1 192	120	222
	Replacement	-	2	7	-	-	-
	Donation	111	7 784	4	246	40	118
	Mandatory item	276	481	-	620	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Audio-visual materials	Total	960	935	957	4 647	586	204
	Purchase	-	16	955	3 956	507	192
	Replacement	1	-	1	-	-	-
	Donation	53	606	1	657	79	12
	Mandatory item	906	313	-	22	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	12	-	-
Electronic materials on portable media	Total	720	1 176	487	685	92	34
	Purchase	-	396	35	606	35	33

	Replacement	-	-	32	-	-	-
	Donation	-	641	420	59	57	1
	Mandatory item	720	139	-	20	-	-
	Purchase by the Ministry of Culture and Media	-	-	-	-	-	-
Toys and didactic games	Total	-	-	-	1 176	488	100
	Purchase	-	-	-	1 047	269	48
	Replacement	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Donation	-	-	-	129	219	52
Digitised materials	Total	1 362	7 337	5 880	1 549	-	-
	Inside the library	1 362	5 398	2 547	253	-	-
	Outside the library	-	1 939	3 333	1 296	-	-
Originally digital materials	Total	45 523	119 959	65 126	3 478	-	-
	E-books	741	40 229	59 911	3 478	-	-
	E-magazines	1 915	39 866	3 780	-	-	-
	E-graded papers	33 260	36 896	369	-	-	-
	Other e-documents	9 607	2 968	1 066	-	-	-

10 LIBRARY REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, 2024

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	17 791 218,32	15 094 542,46	6 045 646,19	66 462 161,77	22 462 542,81	10 014 901,58
Acquisition of book materials	43 740,44	1 087 882,94	785 441,09	7 915 191,21	1 412 494,80	534 172,25
Education of library staff	35 151,14	78 844,98	45 097,22	204 166,62	129 023,71	37 119,81
Expenses of employees' gross earnings	6 990 783,77	12 311 465,35	4 881 196,83	41 412 058,86	20 629 073,22	9 222 478,37
Other expenses	10 721 542,97	1 616 349,19	333 911,05	16 930 745,08	291 951,08	221 131,15
Revenues ³⁾ Total	17 737 856,61	4 396 793,70	-	66 035 846,95	28 192 786,93	9 927 257,60
Revenues from the budget/parent institution	15 979 573,45	3 584 912,48	-	61 482 864,58	27 898 629,60	9 829 478,88
Own revenues	1 069 291,86	250 745,07	-	3 220 623,15	167 770,87	63 757,74
Other sources of revenues	688 991,30	561 136,15	-	1 332 359,22	126 386,46	34 020,98

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 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 2024. 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.

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
---	---------------

Published by the Croatian Bureau of Statistics, Zagreb, Ilica 3, P. O. B. 80

Phone: (+385 1) 48 06 111

Press corner: press@dzs.hr

Persons responsible:

Mario Vlačević, Director of Demographic and Social Statistics Directorate

Lidija Brković, Director General

Prepared by:

Marija Gojević, Gordana Bralić and Maja Lončar

USERS ARE KINDLY REQUESTED TO STATE THE SOURCE.

Customer Relations and Data Protection Department

Information and user requests

Phone: (+385 1) 48 06 138, 48 06 154, 48 06 115

E-mail: stat.info@dzs.hr

Subscription

Phone: (+385 1) 21 00 455

E-mail: prodaja@dzs.hr