

National and University Library of BiH, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
St.St. Cyril and Methodius National Library, Sofia, Bulgaria
Central National Library 'Djurdje Crnojevic', Cetinje, Montenegro
National and University Library 'St. Kliment Ohridski', Skopje, Macedonia
National and University Library, Ljubljana, Slovenia
National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, Serbia
Institute of Information Science, Maribor; Slovenia

26 May 2008

National and University Library in Zagreb
Prof. Tihomil Maštrović, PhD, Director General
10000 Zagreb, Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4
Republic of Croatia

Subject: Invitation to Cooperation

Dear Prof. Maštrović,

In March 2006, the signatories of the *COBISS.Net Project: Phase 2* (www.cobiss.net) document invited libraries in the region to reassess their development strategies and to participate in the joint COBISS.Net project. The National Library in Bulgaria answered the call and signed an agreement on free exchange of bibliographic records created in autonomous library information systems within the COBISS.Net network. Additionally, the translation of the COBISS user interface and user manuals into Bulgarian is under way, and so is the initial creation of the Bulgarian union catalogue. The interest for the participation in the COBISS.Net network expressed by many libraries in Kosovo and Albania, has also initiated the translation of the COBISS user interface and user manuals into Albanian.

Today, we are proud to announce that over 500 libraries have been operating within this network. Libraries of all types are being included at the national levels in the network, and so far over 100,000 bibliographic records have been exchanged among library information systems of the countries participating in COBISS.Net. Along with the rationalisation of library operations, an entirely new quality has been acquired also by linking national library information systems with research information systems. The preparation of researchers' bibliographies is an integral part of the shared cataloguing system. With the unique methodology used for the creation of bibliographic records and the classification of bibliographic units, we have achieved greater transparency of research results on one hand and got the opportunity to use unique research evaluation criteria on the other. Thus the role of libraries and librarians in their environment has become more visible.

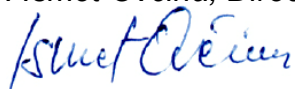
On a completely new level, a intercultural dialogue has taken place through the cooperation in the COBISS.Net network as well. This is why, the slogan "Support to Knowledge and Intercultural Dialogue" has been chosen for our project.

For years, we have been following with interest the development of library automation process in the Republic of Croatia wishing for their libraries to cooperate within the COBISS.Net network. The level of the complementarity of library collection, similar cataloguing standards and strong professional ties between library communities in the region are the facts which support this. Moreover, it is not a coincidence that in the academic year 2007/2008, the Croatian university was chosen as the education provider for librarians from the countries in which an adequate study of library science does not exist.

We believe that the participation of Croatian libraries in the COBISS.Net network would benefit all, and so we would gladly accept your invitation to discuss the subject with you.

Your sincerely,

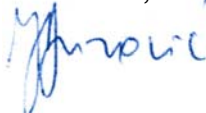
Dr. Ismet Ovčina, Director



Prof. Dr. Boryana Hristova, Director



Jelena Đurović, Director



Mile Bošeski, Director



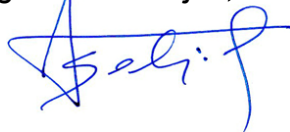
Mag. Lenart Šetinc, Director



Sreten Ugričić, Director



Mag. Tomaž Seljak, Director



For information:

- Libraries in the Republic of Croatia
- Croatian Library Association