

Ljubljana City Library
in cooperation with the Slovenian Library Association

22nd Mobile Libraries Conference & Festival of Bibliobuses

Book of Abstracts



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Festival and Conference Sponsor

The Book Stops Here

Ian Stringer, *CILIP (UK)*

ABSTRACT:

31 years ago I was a member of the U.K. library associations mobile library group and editor of its journal *Service Point*. Amongst the articles I received there was one from Ljubljana in Slovenia. At that time, I had not heard of Slovenia but it was an interesting article and I published it. It was the start of a lasting friendship with Slovenia. The following year I was invited to the first Slovenian mobilemeet at Lake Bled. It was my first invitation to a foreign mobilemeet and was the start of a lifetime involvement with international mobile libraries. I joined the IFLA mobile library group and eventually became chair. In that capacity I was invited around the world to attend mobilemeets. Along the way I saw many fascinating and innovative ways of delivering a mobile library service. My presentation will show pictures from around the world that I think will be of interest to mobile librarians today and I will explain their relevance. I will also show some pictures from the very first Slovenian mobilemeet at Lake Bled and also the one in 1996 in Maribor. I am also bringing a large number of pictures of mobile libraries through the ages. These will be on display during the conference. Finally, to bring us up to date, my son Paul who is here to help me, has produced a summary of the IFLA mobile guidelines by using AI. These are available from him.

Author presentation:

Ian Stringer, retired public librarian with experience in four different public library systems. I worked as an assistant and driver for mobile libraries, eventually becoming the head of mobile library services in both Kirklees and Barnsley. I was a committee member and later chair of the CILIP Mobile Library Group, and edited the group's journal, *Service Point*, for 20 years. Additionally, I served as a committee member and then chair of the IFLA Mobile Library Group. I also contributed as a committee member of the IFLA Public Library Group and edited its journal. As chair of the mobile library section, I was invited to present papers in approximately 25 countries across six continents. I was made an Honorary Fellow of CILIP for my work on international mobile libraries and for the Caterpillar project, a book delivery service in four African countries.

The Ljubljana Mobile Library in its 50 Years of Operation

Neja Drevenšek, Špela Samsa, *Ljubljana City Library (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

The beginnings of mobile librarianship in Slovenia are linked to the vision of Avgust Vižintin, then director of the Workers' Library in Ljubljana, which he presented in 1959 at the fourth congress of the Federation of Librarians' Societies of Yugoslavia. Following examples from abroad, he considered the creation of a special service, a mobile library, which would be part of a network of the future central Ljubljana library. In the light of the agreements at that time, this has been achieved by merging the five Ljubljana municipal libraries (Moste - Polje, Šiška, Bežigrad, Vič - Rudnik, Ljubljana - Center). In 1971, Irena Kernel, the head of the Ljubljana library service, analysed in detail the Ljubljana suburbs in terms of the need for library bus stops. In 1973, the City of Ljubljana established the Ljubljana Mobile Library and hired its first manager, Nika Pugelj. She and Irena Kernel made a plan for a network of stops based on the demands of the local communities, statistical data, the number of inhabitants, and site visits to determine suitable places for such a vehicle to stop. The map, an attachment to the "Long-term Plan for the Development of General Educational Librarianship in Ljubljana", outlined 20 towns with their own branch libraries and 40 villages and settlements where the Bibliobus was to operate. The Bibliobus visited its users for the first time on the 15th of October 1974, in "Iška vas" and "Tomišelj" in the municipality of Ig. The first vehicle had quite a few technical problems. It was without its own source of electricity. A year later a generator was installed. It was without a battery charger. Even the heating by Webasto worked very poorly. Despite its flaws it represented great progress for traveling librarianship in Yugoslavia and a role model for the establishment of other similar services. It ran until 1982 and was then donated to the cause of a traveling apiary. It was replaced by another bibliobus, which ran up to 1992. The main gains of that one were spatial, as it had room for as many as 6,000 books, it had a more powerful engine, fans for ventilation, a battery charger, a generator and a glass ceiling with improved lighting. The employees had a sink with a water collector, a wardrobe and a place for cleaning products. The third bibliobus ran up to 2007 and had a more functional service desk, inclined shelves which were also designed for larger book formats, and dedicated boxes for additional book space. In the back part there was also a toilet with a sink, a cabinet for cash machines and personal items and a place for users' card files. The fourth bibliobus ran up to the end of June 2023 and was equipped with a lift for the disabled, two computers, a printer, a screen and a projector, the employees had a toilet and a refrigerator, two air conditions and lithium-ion batteries. After 16 years it was donated to the Rijeka City Library in Croatia. The fifth bibliobus started operating on September 4th 2023 and is equipped with an RFID board, two computers, a space for a projector is available, the audio system is throughout the bus and enables the implementation of biblio-pedagogical activities for the youngest, the air conditioning is extremely powerful, cushioned furniture is put in the entire back side, all ICT equipment and lights are powered by lithium-ion batteries, we have a chemical toilet and a sink for washing hands. Through 50 years the network of stops has been developing according to the needs of patrons. In 2024 48 stops are visited. In addition to villages in the 10 municipalities of the Central Slovenian region we also visit some special institutions: Soča Rehabilitation Institute, women's prison in the Ig municipality, two schools for children with special needs, 5 retirement homes and underprivileged groups of residents in the Rakova Jelša district. Outside of the regular yearly schedule we also visit kindergartens. In 50 years of operation the network of stops has been revised, some stops were cancelled due to difficult accessibility, because of the establishment of an amateur or local branch library, or due to a strong decline in visits. From 2009 to 2024 10 stops have been added. We visit our users 4 times, 3 times, twice or once per month, mostly in the afternoon and the evening.

Presentation of authors:

Neja Drevenšek is a Bachelor of Arts in History of Art and senior librarian, employed at the Ljubljana City Library since 2012, and has been the head of the Mobile Library since 2016. She is a member of the editorial board of the journal *Potujoče novice*, a member of the management board of the Stepišnik Fund, and a member of the Executive Committee of the Mobile Libraries Section. She contributes professional papers to conferences in Slovenia and abroad. With the bibliobus, she expands reading culture at stops in Ljubljana and the suburban municipalities, where users have difficulty visiting a stationary library due to distance or other barriers (women prisons, two schools for children with special needs, a retirement home, Soča rehabilitation institute, underprivileged in Rakova Jelša district). She performs her mission with joy, as her work is fulfilling due to its diversity, dynamism, and genuine contact with users.

Špela Samsa completed her master's degree in 2015 at the Faculty of Arts, majoring in Librarianship and Information Science. Since 2016, she has been employed in the Mobile Library of the Ljubljana City Library. She enjoys working in the Mobile library because the work is diverse and dynamic. She also visits more vulnerable groups in senior homes. Among other roles, she is also a member of the IFLA Working Group on Prison Libraries.

Serving the Community for 10 Years

Krisztina Somogyi, László Nagy, Csorba Győző Library (Hungary)

ABSTRACT:

In Hungary, providing library service for the people is mandatory by law. All county libraries are managing their own Library Supply Service System. Municipalities where the population is smaller than 500 individuals, have the opportunity to choose bibliobus as a library service. In this case, the village provide the fund – which they get from the government as a cultural normative to operate and improve libraries – to ensure the operating conditions for the buses. This is the basic principle of the whole system, guaranteed by contracts with local governments. The main problem is: too many municipalities, few bibliobuses. Besides, there are counties where the local, small, libraries work well and although bibliobus service would have been justified, they don't want to change. In Baranya County there are more than 250 municipalities to provide for, and only two bibliobuses with 66 villages to attend. Based on the experience of our first mobile library, which has been operating since 2010, the second bibliobus of the Csorba Győző Library was launched in 2014. The 4G mobile network coverage where we worked was in its early days. At that time, it seemed that providing more computers with satellite internet connections would be enough to meet the needs of our readers. That is now history, because we are living in a world of faster and smaller devices. Despite the inevitable benefits of these changes, we are interacting less face-to-face, a situation that has left us more isolated and lonelier than ever. There is no need to reject new technologies, we just need to use them in the right way with clear boundaries, so we can preserve the personal interactions while using the given technology. How can we achieve this? The arrival of these unique vehicles is still a special occasion in many municipalities. The bibliobus can bring different people together in a way that nothing else can. From nursery school children to high school students, all ages have the opportunity to meet friends and learn new things through our different activities. Older people can also benefit from the service, with the opportunity to borrow documents and even to make contact with someone in the process. You can always fill a library space, if you are working with the right people who have the right mindset. In this different, challenging, environment our aim is to keep the social function alive in our bibliobuses. Our goals have not changed since the start, but the technology, the reading habits and the people around us have. We always have to adopt useful things and adapt to the needs of the community.

Presentation of authors:

My name is **Krisztina Somogyi**. I was born in Komló, Baranya County, Hungary. I began working as a children's librarian in this city a few months after graduating from the University of Pécs. Among my general librarian duties, I had to promote my classes/presentations to local schools. In 2020, I started working at the Csorba Győző Library as a librarian on Bibliobus 2, although I also gained experience on Bibliobus 1. Nowadays, we design various classes focused on personality and talent development. I continue to conduct creative classes and am responsible for the decorations on Bibliobus 2. Additionally, I collect and manage statistical data about our bibliobuses, which I submit to the Cultural Statistical Data Collection System.

My name is **László Nagy**. In 2014, I got my LIS degree at the University of Kaposvár. After that, I applied for a reference librarian position in Paks, Tolna county at the Paks City Library. Then in 2017, I left Paks and I started to work in Baranya County, in the city of Pécs at the Csorba Győző Library as a mobile librarian. I still work there, more than 7 years now – which is as amazing as frightening for me to think about, I mean, who could possibly have known? - I work mostly in the bibliobuses, but I help to manage our website and take part of event organizing and substance allocating.

"Homens Livro" (Men book)

Rui Guedes, Penafiel Municipal Library

Carlos Marta Ferreira, ADFP Miranda do Corvo Mobile Library

Bento Ramires, Redondo mobile library (Portugal)

ABSTRACT:

The book *Homens Livro* delves into the history of the mobile libraries initiated by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. These libraries, launched in the latter half of the 20th century, transformed Portugal's secluded cultural landscape by providing widespread access to books and reading. The narrative uses personal textual and photographic documents from Bento Ramires and Carlos Marta, the era's remaining librarians, and includes a short story by Rui Guedes, who manages a mobile library. This combination offers a personal glimpse into the impact of these mobile libraries on various societal strata. The book

addresses the cultural disparities shaped by Portugal's geographic diversity and considers various factors including social, anthropological, sociological, demographic, and economic influences. It highlights how mobile libraries extend services to those far from urban centres, playing a crucial role in ensuring access to information, preserving traditions, and fostering inclusive community participation. This reflects their unique, ongoing contribution to the dynamic landscape of "Human Libraries" in today's "liquid modernity." In our presentation, we will also provide the latest updates on Portugal's mobile libraries, including details about their number, vehicle types, and funding mechanisms.

Presentation of authors:

Rui Guedes - Mobile librarian since 2022. Writes books for children and short tales. Co-writer of the book "Homens Livro" and volunteer in Cultiv, an association which promotes books and reading in underprivileged communities and prisons.

Carlos Marta - Mobile librarian since 1981. Co-writer of the book "Homens Livro".

Bento Ramires - Mobile librarian since 1989. Co-writer of the book "Homens Livro".

Mobile Libraries for Children – Gothenburg Mobile Libraries with Electric Drive

Albin Berggren, *Gothenburg City Library (Sweden)*

ABSTRACT:

In 2018 the city of Gothenburg started the project of acquiring two new mobile libraries. The initial requirements were that the vehicles would be fully electric and have a low flooring. Another requirement was that the two mobile libraries would be focusing on children and facilitate books for children ages 0-13. In order to meet the requirements of the new focus the mobile libraries needed to be thrilling and unexpected for children. In collaboration with Volvo and Kiitokori we designed the mobile libraries based on two themes: a fairy-tale forest and a journey through space and sea. The result are two pioneer vehicles that mix a traditional form of mobile libraries with colour, design and shape of imagination and fairy-tales. The mobile libraries are part of the Children, Young People & Mobile library unit at the City Library in Gothenburg and through their innovative thinking they challenge what a mobile library can be. The mobile libraries want to give Gothenburg's children the best possibilities for reading wherever they live in the city. The interior is welcoming and creative with playful furniture and fittings that inspire reading, new knowledge and meetings. In the mornings, the mobile libraries visit the city of Gothenburg's preschools. About 140 preschools are visited a few times each semester. The public can visit a mobile library every day of the week. Either at one of the 37 stops visited on schedule or at a pop-up stop! To promote outreach and reading, the mobile libraries visit places where many children live and play. During the summer, we show up in places around the city where we know many children and families are. The buses make library services available to users who live far from a library and adults are of course also able to use the mobile libraries.

Presentation of authors:

My name is **Albin Berggren**. I am a media pedagogue and have been working with Gothenburg's mobile libraries since 2014. In 2019 I was the project manager for our two new electric mobile libraries. The project consisted of planning and ordering the buses and communicating with Volvo and Kiitokori during production. But foremost the project also meant renewing the way we operate mobile libraries in Gothenburg. The old operation was focused on adult users and the stops and routes had been unaltered for many years. Introducing popup stops and weekend routes was some of the actions to renew the operation.

"More Space Than Square Meters" – Live and Virtual Mobile Library Programs

Nika Čabrić, Dinka Markulin, Sara Semenski, *Zagreb City Libraries (Croatia)*

ABSTRACT:

Mobile Library Service of Zagreb City Libraries was founded in 1976 and is the only Mobile Library Service in the Republic of Croatia that operates in the territory of two counties – the City of Zagreb and Zagreb County. In 2024, with one bibliobus, (MAN, year of manufacture 2011), the Service visits 32 bibliobus stops in the City of Zagreb and 15 stops in Zagreb County in two shifts under the motto *every two weeks at the same time in the same place*. After putting one of the two bibliobuses to rest at the beginning of 2022, the Service has been faced with an additional challenge when working on new activities and programs. Over time, the organization and implementation of the activities and programs of the Bibliobus service necessarily changed and adapted following the needs of new generations of readers, that is, our users. Thus, in addition to its "live" space in the bibliobus itself, the Service has also found its virtual space. By creating various programs, such as a contest for the best SF short story, online quizzes, pop-up exhibitions, travelling exhibitions, presenting translators through video works via social networks, numerous live guest appearances related to projects, activities and events such as *Croatian Book Month, Book Night, Project 65+, Read to me! – National campaign to encourage reading aloud to children from an early age, STEM Revolution*, and by creating a program called *the Human Library* in which short videos were recorded about "ordinary" people living "extraordinary" lives, as well as live programs such as Book Tasting in a restaurant (a mobile library for children and adults, i.e. presenting books by different authors that are borrowed less often) – Zagreb Mobile Library Service showed that content is more important than form and that the possibilities of a space are only a matter of perception. Through constant cooperation with various institutions such as the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the Police Academy "First Croatian Police Officer", the Mimara Museum and numerous others, the Service further expands its area of activity. At the invitation of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, the Bibliobus Service participated in 2023 in the presentation of the National Program for Encouraging Reading to Children from an Early Age, which will deal with preschool children as readers with the active role of paediatricians – the program *Born to Read*. Through the synergy of the organization and implementation of programs in virtual space and live programs, the Service successfully continues to promote the basic idea of every library – the culture of reading.

Presentation of authors:

Dinka Markulin was born in 1990 in Zagreb. Following her graduation from the Sisak Gymnasium, in 2010 she enrolled in undergraduate studies in Sociology and Portuguese language and literature, at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb. She engaged in graduate studies in Library science, along with the aforementioned studies in Portuguese language and literature. During this time, she completed an Erasmus+ internship at the higher education library of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Porto, Portugal (Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto). In 2018, after completing her studies, she was employed by the Zagreb City Libraries. Since 2020 she has been a member of the Mobile Library Service crew, after previously working at Gajnice and Vrapče Library.

Nika Čabrić was born in 1982 in Zagreb. In 2010 she graduated from the undergraduate study of Croatian culture and philosophy at the Croatian Studies of the University of Zagreb and earned a master's degree in Croatian studies and philosophy in 2010. In 2015 she graduated from an extracurricular graduate study in information sciences, majoring in librarianship at the Faculty of Philosophy of the University of Zagreb, and earned a master's degree in librarianship. Since 2010 she has been employed in the Zagreb City Libraries as a librarian in the network of Libraries of August Cesarec. Since 2017 she has been working as head of the Bibliobus Service and head of procurement of library materials for the Bibliobus Service. In 2021 she obtained the title of senior librarian, awarded by the Minister of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, at the proposal of the Croatian Library Council.

Mobile Library – Centre of Small Local Communities

Žaklina Nikolić, *Library "Center for Culture" Kladovo (Serbia)*

ABSTRACT:

The presentation will show successful examples of mobile libraries in the Republic of Serbia, with an emphasis on experiences in Kladovo, as a favourite meeting place of the local community. Libraries are constantly changing and developing in accordance with the needs of society. They become more than just a place to borrow books and provide other library services. The role of libraries is no longer to be just a place where books are borrowed, not even a place where information is exchanged, but rather a place of socializing. Mobile libraries that have become the living rooms of the local communities are leading the way in all of this, where very often there are very unexpected services that can be applied. We will present examples of a mobile library becoming a space for creative and educational workshops, a small stage for theatre performances, music and quiz competitions, an exhibition gallery, a mobile scenography for various cultural and artistic programs and a favourite gathering place for residents of small local communities when reading newspapers, harvesting the vineyard, serving freshly made wine or brandy, or celebrating St. Patron's Day. Adaptation and adjustment of space is a big challenge. In this challenge, the ability and creativity of travelling librarians is essential, who, in addition to providing services, pay attention and dedication to their users, which is much needed by the elderly and the young. How mobile libraries organize their work, spatial capacities and possibilities according to users' needs, will be shown by the examples from mobile libraries of the Republic of Serbia that I will manifest in my presentation.

Presentation of authors:

Žaklina Nikolić (1967), graduate librarian adviser, director of the Library "Center for Culture" in Kladovo, president of the Mobile Libraries Section of the Library Association of Serbia. She is the manager of several local and international projects in the fields of culture, cultural heritage and libraries, where a special emphasis is given to mobile libraries. Author, co-author or editor of monographic publications and articles on library and information activities and several thematic exhibition settings. Participant by invitation, representative of the Republic of Serbia, exhibitor of expert papers, video presentations and posters at international conferences of librarians in France, Belgium, Croatia, Slovenia, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary as well as in Serbia. Republic award winner: "The Best Librarian of Serbia" recognition of the Librarian Society of Serbia (2018), "Cultural Pattern" recognition of the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Republic of Serbia for dedicated work (2018), "Đura Daničić" recognition of the Community of Home Libraries of the Republic of Serbia for contribution to the development of library and information activities and culture in the Republic of Serbia (2023), "Wolf Award" recognition of the Cultural and Educational Community of Serbia and the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia for outstanding contribution to the development of culture in the Republic of Serbia (2023).

The Role and Everyday Life of a Mobile Librarian

Ksenija Trs, *Maribor Public Library (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

The very beginning of Slovenian mobile librarianship tells us that this profession is associated with a special love for books and readers, making mobile librarians perceive our work as a mission and positioning us as promoters of culture, science, and education. We are aware that the success, development, and survival of our work are based on values such as knowledge, professionalism, compassion, commitment, and above all, a sincere relationship with users and ourselves, as this helps build trust between the user, the librarian, and the library. Given the specific nature of mobile librarians' work, which must adapt to various conditions — from weather, limited workspace, vehicle breakdowns, to adapting to special forms of work with groups having special needs in various institutions and establishments, including individuals with moderate, severe, and most severe mental and physical disabilities — we often have to perform our duties with creativity and self-initiative, using improvisation, all in order to maintain the quality of our work. We unanimously agree that equating mobile libraries with stationary libraries limits our work, as our daily operations differ from theirs. We have to emphasize the social role of the mobile library, which is most apparent in the work of mobile librarians; from this perspective, it is crucial to have independent collections for mobile libraries, as certain groups of people require extended borrowing periods for library materials. The mission of the mobile library in places it visits is

not only about lending library materials but also about educating, informing, promoting literacy among the youngest, providing entertainment, facilitating social interactions, and fostering friendships. This mission extends beyond borders.

Author presentation:

Ksenija Trs is an Independent Library Associate and a mobile librarian at the Maribor Library since 1992. She is an author of over 70 papers, including 6 professional articles. Achievements: Contribution to the award for European Bookmobile of the Year 2001 in the Netherlands, participation in Pecha Kucha Night with a presentation on working in a mobile library, Professional contribution on mobile libraries on the portal Kamra and on online biographical lexicon Faces of Slovenian Regions (Stane Kocutar), initiative for the "Book Cabinet in the Classroom" project at an elementary school. She is the author of the biographical novel "Who's Afraid of the Bogeyman", 2021, recipient of the Čop Award, 2021, author of the book "Traveling glimpses" (about the operation of mobile librarians), May 2023, co-author of a reading badge on the theme of Maister's Values, with VDC POLŽ Maribor, March 2024, chair of the Stepišnik Fund, representative for Mobile Libraries of Slovenia, participant with contributions at international conferences of mobile librarians.

From Mobile Loan and Educational Services to Encouragement of Digital Inclusion!

Ester Wielemaker, *ZB Library of Zeeland (Netherlands)*

ABSTRACT:

ZB Library of Zeeland, Netherlands exploits 3 mobile libraries in Zeeland: the Biblioservicebus offering products no longer available in the villages; The Columbus with educational services for schools; The ZBBUZZ as an information point for people who have difficulty finding government information. For example: healthcare benefits, driver's license, questions about smartphone, tablet or laptop, but also better reading, speaking and writing Dutch. The Biblioservicebus is due to be replaced by a new vehicle in 2025. Part of the research we did by developing the ZBBUZZ was a research with the University of Gent, Belgium, on reaching (elderly) people in the country with language and digital problems. As a follow-up to this research we want to have an international project ERASMUS+ Project How to encourage digital inclusion among senior citizens (65+) in rural areas. With our partners from Hungary and Germany we want to focus on the social inclusion of the most vulnerable citizens. As we libraries are committed to the social and thus digital inclusion of all inhabitants but fail to reach this target group adequately with our regular educational methods, these adverse conditions call for new, outreaching approaches. The objective of this project is to raise the level of digital skills of senior citizens in remote rural areas, in order to contribute to their participation in modern society. By sharing experiences and learning from each other, we aim to reach our target audience and our impact goal by developing customized activities that motivate the target group and stimulate a learning demand.

Author presentation:

Ester Wielemaker started out in retail and joined Zeeland Library in 2023, as senior information officer in the library of Vlissingen. In April 2024 she will start as team leader of mobile libraries.

Mobile Libraries in Slovenia – "Always Mobile, Except When We Stop"

Matjaž Stibilj, *Valvasor Library Krško (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

Mobile libraries play a vital role in providing access to library materials and services, particularly in Slovenia's remote or less accessible areas. They aim to bring library services to all segments of the population, overcoming geographic and other barriers, thereby enhancing education, information access, and cultural engagement across all societal layers. The impact of these services is significant, although challenging to quantify. Sometimes, a single visit might only brighten the day for two users in a remote village, yet it remains crucial for maintaining access to information and culture. The history of mobile librarianship in Slovenia dates back to the second half of the 19th century. A significant development occurred in 1973 when the first bibliobus was introduced by the Koper Library. This initiative was quickly followed by Ljubljana and Maribor in the subsequent year. So, last year, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first bibliobus in Slovenia. Today, there are 13 mobile library vehicles that serve around 90 of the 212 Slovenian municipalities, and some of them also extend their services across borders into neighbouring countries of Croatia, Hungary, and Italy. In 2022 alone, these mobile units made 840 stops each month, thereby establishing 840 small but fully equipped "temporary" libraries, fairy-tale rooms, showrooms, and meeting places. The increase in membership, visits, and lending activities, alongside a recovery in material acquisition since a dip in 2008, signals the continued relevance and necessity of mobile libraries. Despite this widespread coverage, some areas still lack mobile library services. This gap highlights the ongoing need to evaluate and expand mobile librarianship to ensure no community is underserved. Efforts to establish services in these regions have so far not been successful, underscoring the need for a collaborative approach to expand coverage, and the importance of multiple libraries joining forces to purchase vehicles and provide mobile library services. The co-financing scheme, facilitated by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with local municipalities, significantly eases the acquisition of new mobile library vehicles. Without this partnership, the financial responsibility would weigh heavily on the municipalities alone, making purchases much more challenging. The Mobile Libraries Section at the Slovenian Library Association is trying to play a significant role in promoting and supporting mobile librarianship. We strive to facilitate the exchange of best practices and inform about innovations in technical and professional areas. Recent initiatives include the establishment of a work group, which will try to provide information and support for those in the process of acquiring new vehicles or modifying existing ones. Looking ahead, plans are underway to produce a short documentary about Slovenian mobile libraries and librarians, highlighting the significant impact of these services on Slovenian society.

Presentation of authors:

Matjaž Stibilj, historian and sociologist of culture, president of the Mobile Libraries Section of the Slovenian Library Association I've been working in libraries since 2005, when I joined the Public Library Dr. Karel Lavrič in Ajdovščina. There, I performed various tasks ranging from working with users in the mobile library to storytelling and web design. I managed technical development and improvements, the implementation of RFID technology, and the system for centralized computer control. I served as the contact person for IZUM and was responsible for introducing the innovations they developed. In 2012 I participated in the acquisition process of a new mobile library vehicle and prepared the necessary technical documentation. In 2014 I was involved in organizing the Conference and the Mobile Library Festival in Ajdovščina and Vipava. In 2020 I started working as a librarian at the new Posavje Mobile Library, where I was involved in its launch. I now work as a librarian with various responsibilities at the Valvasor Library in Krško, where I actively participated in the construction of the new library and the implementation of RFID technology and self-service borrowing. Since 2021 I have been leading the Mobile Libraries Section at the Slovenian Library Association and am a member of several working groups within the Slovenian Public Libraries Association, I also started leading the working group for COBISS as part of the National coordination of the Central regional libraries.

Ensuring Access to Public Reading: Incorporation of 2 New Mobile Libraries into the Barcelona Library Network (XBM)

Rosa Poch Casanovas, *Barcelona Provincial Council (Spain)*

Marta Sala González, *Mobile library Serra de Rubió (Spain)*

Marta Sorribas Torné, *Mobile library Serra del Cadí (Spain)*

ABSTRACT:

The Barcelona Provincial Council (Diputació de Barcelona) advises and supports municipalities in creating and developing library services and leads the Network of Municipal Libraries (XBM). Barcelona province comprises of 311 municipalities, out of which 146 have fewer than 3.000 inhabitants. In 2022, the XBM operated 10 mobile libraries to provide public reading services to municipalities with population ranging from 300 to 3.000 inhabitants, but it was still pending to guarantee access to culture for the inhabitants of the 41 municipalities with less than 300 inhabitants. In 2023, two van mobile libraries came into operation with greater mobility and ease of access to rural areas to guarantee the provision of a library service with the same quality as any other library integrated in the Network. The planning of these novelties stems from strategic deliberation aimed at enhancing public reading access in small municipalities. The strategy entails socio-cultural analysis of the territory and the creation of alliances with local entities and governments. A service model is defined, adapted to the specific needs of each municipality (collection, routes, timetable, etc.) These new vehicles, of reduced dimensions, facilitate access to rural areas, offering quality service. They make two daily stops of defined duration and frequency according to the population. The collection is diverse and constantly renewed. They are equipped with all the resources and technologies available to the rest of the network's library buses, in addition to energy and autonomy. They have the capacity to transport more than 500 documents and are managed by a librarian /driver. These van mobile libraries have become the Library Network's representative for physical and virtual services, making public reading accessible to all citizens, regardless of where they live. The involvement with the small municipalities and their agents can turn mobile libraries into cultural engines of their area. The two library vans, the Serra del Cadí and the Serra de Rubió, serve 29 municipalities, with a combined population of approximately 5.000 inhabitants. With their incorporation, the XBM reaches 234 libraries in 146 municipalities and 12 mobile libraries in 138 municipalities, covering 98% of the population of the area. Currently, the 13th vehicle is on its way to ensure cultural rights for 100% of the population of the Barcelona province.

Presentation of authors:

Rosa Poch Casanovas, Head of Mobile Libraries of the Diputació de Barcelona. Diploma in Library and Information Science and Degree in History from the University of Barcelona. Began at XBM in 2003 as director of mobile library. In 2018 joined the central services as Head of Mobile libraries.

Marta Sala González, Director of the Serra de Rubió mobile library. Diploma in Library and Information Science and specialized in culture, reading and literature for children and young people from the University of Valencia. Began at Mobile libraries in 2021 and joined Serra de Rubió as librarian/driver in April 2023.

Marta Sorribas Torné, Director of the Serra del Cadí mobile library. Diploma in Library and Information Science from the University of Vic and graduate in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage. Began as a librarian in XBM since 2014, in Mobile libraries since 2018, and joined Serra del Cadí as librarian/driver in April 2023.

The Role of the Library in Improving the Cultural Development of the Rural Environment

Jovana Rilak, Todor Džidrov, Dragan Gjorgiev, *National Institution – University Library "Goce Delčev" Štip (Republic of North Macedonia)*

ABSTRACT:

The library is a place where people improve, get inspired, learn, and upgrade themselves throughout their lives. As such, it should be accessible to all potential users. Unfortunately, due to economic, social, or technological factors, there is an imbalance in access to information in rural areas and the use of IT and library services. One of the ways to equalize rights in providing the aforementioned services is to bring the library closer to the residents of rural areas. Easy access to the library expands education, science, and culture and raises awareness among the population. As an example, the "Library on Wheels" stands

out. The main goal of this library is to train an individual to build awareness of the importance of the process of education and lifelong learning, and independent search for information. The National Institution – University Library “Goce Delčev” Štip, has the privilege of owning an IT traveling library – Infobus, which has been reaching a large number of readers for 22 years, offering the possibility of self-education and lifelong learning. The initial activities of the traveling library date back to December 2002 with a visit to Slovenia, where the Infobus vehicle was to be delivered. The visit to Slovenia also enabled a visit to the libraries in Kobarid, Nova Gorica, and Tolmin, where great experience was gained for the activities that preceded the launch of Infobus in Štip, as well as for the overall organization and thorough preparation. After the Infobus had been delivered from Slovenia to Macedonia, the composition of ethnic groups was examined and information was collected about the needs of local communities, which in turn led to further interactive cooperation with local authorities, school directors, and communities from municipalities. About 1.000 books were transferred from the main library to Infobus, and the rest were bought from several publishing houses. Infobus initially had a modest collection of books, but still enough to arouse the curiosity of the population in the places it visited. In the introductory part of the paper, the development of the mobile library is briefly presented, with the establishment of which the activity of the library was further developed in the context of the cultural development of rural areas. The important multidisciplinary role of Infobus for cultural and promotional activities in the areas it visits is emphasized. At the beginning of its work, the target groups were adults, farmers, and retirees, and today special attention is paid to children and young people. The paper emphasizes the practical work of the mobile library and highlights successful projects and activities organized to promote reading and spread of elementary and information literacy. Also, the goal of the paper is to point out the significant role of the modern librarian and the necessity of enormous efforts to attract and retain readers.

Presentation of authors:

Jovana Rilak was born in Vršac, Serbia. In 2016, she earned a master’s degree in educational sciences from the “Goce Delčev” University in Štip, North Macedonia. Since 2019, she has been employed at the National Institution – University Library “Goce Delčev” Štip, as a librarian specializing in the processing of periodical publications. She is the author of several library and international projects, supported by the Ministry of Culture of North Macedonia, including “Exchange of Visions” (Osijek, Sofia, Sarajevo); “Promotion of Libraries in Preschool Institutions”; “Art Workshops for Teenagers,” etc. She has participated in and presented at numerous domestic and international professional development events, webinars, and conferences in the field of librarianship. She is as an author, editor and translator of numerous publications.

The First Modern Mobile Library – Bibliobus in Vilnius, Lithuania

Inga Vaiciulionyte, *Central Library of Vilnius City Municipality (Lithuania)*

ABSTRACT:

Vilnius Central Library is a system of 16 public libraries in Vilnius city. In order to reach the distant districts of our branches and provide library services there, we have initiated the bibliobus project. The aim is to reach the 5 districts of Vilnius which are furthest away from the library’s branches and the city centre, and provide public library services. In the past, these districts were served by our library branches. The readership and attendance in these districts were relatively low (compared to other branches), but the need for the library was high. The idea of the library bus was born out of looking at the examples of foreign countries, where the mobile library network is well developed and works well not only in rural areas, but also in big cities. The plan is that the bibliobus will go to 5 districts and will be open one day a week, all day long, in each district (from 10 am until 7 pm). To make it convenient and easy for Vilnius residents to use the library’s services, we have created a website with the information on the opening hours of the bus. The project took 2 years to complete. We wanted the bibliobus to be a modern, up-to-date mobile library, which would not only offer book lending, but also a functional small library space: with workstations and space to organize courses and events. At the end of February 2024, we presented the bibliobus to the public at the Vilnius Book Fair. Vilnius residents and visitors had the opportunity to get to know the bibliobus, and we are planning to launch our route in mid-April. The already equipped and manufactured bibliobus has a collection of about 1.000 fiction and non-fiction books in Lithuanian and foreign languages for children and adults. All visitors will have the opportunity to register and become a reader and use the e-catalogue. The bibliobus offers free Wi-Fi, printing and photocopying services. The library can accommodate up to 10 visitors at a time. For those with mobility problems, a lift will make it easier to get inside. The functionally designed space of the library bus includes 2 computerized workstations, 3 seats for reading or working with your own computer and 5 pouffes. During events, the mobile library offers an interactive screen, blacked-out windows for cinema screenings and cosy cushions. During the warmer months of the year, it will be possible to organize activities and meetings outside. There is a possibility to put a screen on the front of the library bus to project films, and we will also provide outdoor furniture and umbrellas for the convenience of visitors.

Presentation of authors:

My name is **Inga Vaiciulionyte**, marketing manager of the Central Library of Vilnius City Municipality. I have been working at the Vilnius Central Library for almost 10 years. First as a librarian, then as an assistant marketing manager and now as marketing manager. I have successfully implemented a number of reading promotion projects in cooperation with cultural representatives from other fields, and I organize the representation of the activities and services of the library network to the public at the most important cultural festivals and events in the city. I have successfully implemented two open-air reading room projects. I’ve worked on a project to introduce a network of 11 self-service library lockers in the capital to increase the accessibility of public library services. Digital marketing is a major part of my work. I work on the website, social networks, press releases and project proposals. One of the biggest projects that I have initiated and implemented together with my team is the mobile library project – Bibliobus. It is a marketing and accessibility project inspired by foreign examples.

Books in Search of (More) Readers

Desislava Ivanova, "Mihalaki Georgiev" Regional Library – Vidin (Bulgaria)

ABSTRACT:

"Mihalaki Georgiev" Regional Library – Vidin town is a leading institution in the cultural life of the Vidin region. The library has all the modern means of access to the books, as well as to the global information network. One of the main difficulties in attracting new readers is undoubtedly the difficult access to the city from the more remote and isolated populated places. In order to overcome this limitation, it was necessary for the library to find a way and resources to overcome the physical and spatial limitations, open to the community and be able to reach every resident, which was only possible by creating a mobile library. During the period 2022 – 2023 we managed to realize two mobile library projects. Under a program of the Ministry of Culture, we purchased a van, with technical characteristics that comply with IFLA's minimum requirements for mobile libraries and transformed it into a mobile library that would provide free and equal access to literature, information, educational and creative initiatives to the population of the entire Vidin region. We have also realized another project to create a new cultural and informational attraction, which is a traveling stage and is realized through an electric mobile vehicle, equipped with books. Unlike the "big brother", as we call it, our electric library bus is more of an attraction through which we attract the attention of young and elderly people and introduce them to the library, books and reading. It is equipped with many and varied children's books, games and audio/music equipment and travels to kindergartens, schools, parks. We combine reading, quizzes and fairy-tales, games and music with the attractive and attention-grabbing bibliobus for the youth and adults.

Presentation of authors:

My name is **Desislava Ivanova**. I have master's degree in Library – information sciences and cultural policy. I started my professional career in 1999 in a school library. Since 2004 I have been working in the "Mihalaki Georgiev" Regional Library. I started as a librarian in the foreign language department of the library, four years later I was appointed methodist and public relations. I provided coordination and expert-consultative assistance to the librarians in the Vidin region. I was responsible for the realization of qualification programs, trainings and seminars. I have been the director of the library since 2012. Working in the library gives me real pleasure. "Librarian" for me and my team is both a profession and a vocation. I work with a motivated and open-minded team, thanks to which we find new ways and perspectives to improve library services for the population of the Vidin region.

Presentations of the Mobile Library Outside Regular Stops

Jana Balažic, Regional and Study Library, Murska Sobota (Slovenia)

ABSTRACT:

Each year, the Murska Sobota Mobile Library conducts several presentational drives beyond its regular stops. The purpose of these presentations is to bring the library closer to the people, showcasing library services to the widest possible local audience. Through these activities, we promote reading, emphasize the importance of the library, and foster intercultural dialogue and cultural cooperation. The goals of these promotions are: to connect with the local community, thereby expanding the library's reach, to promote reading and the library as a whole, to provide quality literature in the field, which contributes to literacy, to facilitate cooperation between the library, educational institutions, businesses, and other public institutions, to exchange opinions, experiences, and materials, to engage with potential future users. In our case, we will focus on promoting the bibliobus at various institutions, particularly at the company Lušt. In 2023, we visited their so-called Saturday market twice, each time gaining new members for the bibliobus and acquainting visitors from wider Slovenia with the mobile library service throughout the country. A practice on our promotional journeys is also to give away discarded books to visitors. There are indeed people who, despite the proximity of the library, rarely read books; this approach helps us introduce reading to them in a pleasant manner. The ultimate goal of giving away books is to establish ongoing two-way communication between users and providers — the library.

Presentation of authors:

Jana Balažic, born in 1977 in Murska Sobota. I am a librarian, employed since 2006 at the Regional and Study Library Murska Sobota. Currently, I work in the youth department. I graduated from the Faculty of Administration in Ljubljana. In January 2015 I took over the management of the Murska Sobota Mobile Library. As part of the Mobile Library's activities I conduct literary hours on Monošter Radio in Hungary, publish articles in the Porabje newspaper under the section "Library Recommends for Reading", where I present books, carry out the Slovenian Reading Badge project in Porabje, and publish articles in the journal Potujoče novice. I participate in the European Heritage Days and the Cultural Heritage Week projects. Related to this, I publish papers in the library newsletter Prekmuriana and contributions on the Kamra web portal, which consolidates digitized contents related to local history in libraries and other local cultural institutions. Since 2016 I have also been a member of the executive committee at the Mobile Libraries Section of Slovenian Library Association.

Collaboration Between the Mobile Library and the Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana – Case Study of Good Practice

Nina Janžekovič, Maja Vocovnik, *Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

The collaboration between the Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing Ljubljana and the Mobile Library of the Ljubljana City Library began in May 2017 when then-director Boris Černilec supported the idea of making the Institute a permanent stop for the Mobile Library. On June 6th 2017, a focus group was held at the Institute where representatives from the kindergartens, primary and secondary schools, residential educators, school and public librarians set a strategy for cooperation between the Institute and the Mobile Library. This paper is an opportunity to reflect on the seven years of collaboration and set directions for future successful cooperation. We used the SWOT analysis method to consider the weaknesses and many advantages, external obstacles, and new opportunities that such cooperation may bring to both institutions. Using a questionnaire, we, the school librarians, will check how satisfied the students and employees at the Institute registered with the Mobile Library are with the services, space, collection, and the new external appearance of the bibliobus. Initially, the Mobile Library visited the Institute once a month, but since 2022 the visits have increased to twice a month, and the duration of each visit has also been extended, lasting from 1:10 PM to 2:45 PM. Primary students either come from the playground on their own or are brought by the teacher of the extended stay program, the class teacher, or the school librarian. High school students are encouraged to visit by the school librarian or by residential educator. The school librarians also collaborate on returning registration forms from parents to librarians, promoting borrowing and returning of materials, informing about the Mobile Library visits, collection, and new services, as well as stepping in with interpreting as needed. The success of our collaboration is based on the personal commitment and cooperation of the educational staff at the Institute, who work with children with special needs (deaf, hard of hearing, some also users of sign language, children with autism, speech-language disorders or associated disorders). Open two-way communication and information flow between the school and public librarians are also crucial.

Presentation of authors:

Nina Janžekovič is a university graduate librarian and comparative literature specialist. Since 2009 she has been employed at the library of the Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana. She continuously learns and seeks ways to make stories and books as a medium accessible to the deaf, hard of hearing, children with autism, and children with speech disorders, whom she encounters daily.

Maja Vocovnik is a university graduate librarian and educator. Since September 2023 she has been working at the library of the Institute for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing in Ljubljana. She applies the experience gained in a public library with bibliopedagogical activities in school as a school counselling worker in her work with children with special needs.

Escape Room or a Detective Story in the Mobile Library

Nenad Arizanović, *Public Library Beno Zupančič, Postojna (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

The "Detective in the Bibliobus" is a workshop designed to motivate reading and enhance literacy skills, where participants use various props to solve questions or puzzles related to excerpts read from books and try to escape from a locked mobile library. The activity begins with an introduction to the bibliobus and the first clue given to the participants. They are assisted in their discovery and problem-solving by a briefcase containing tools that help them decipher questions and continue the activity. Our goal is to motivate reading while maintaining the playfulness and charm of an escape room. Codes, passwords, and other answers are found in various books, where understanding the text and applying it to find solutions is crucial. During the activity, participants also get to know the mobile library in detail, including how to browse the shelves. Ultimately, we hope that the bibliobus will become a place they continually return to.

Presentation of authors:

Nenad Arizanović is a senior library associate and has been employed at the Beno Zupančič Library in Postojna since 2011, working in the lending department and as a substitute driver for the Postojna Mobile Library, where he also conducts library-pedagogical sessions in kindergartens and elementary schools. He actively participates in preparing workshops, events, and creating promotional materials. A father of two mischievous sons, he enjoys sculpting and spends a lot of time outdoors with his family. He is the creator of the reading encouragement workshop "Difficult Readers," for which he received an award for the most socially beneficial idea from the Postojna Business Incubator.

Visits of the Mobile Library Team from Ptuj to Retirement Home Units

Tjaša Mrgole Jukič, Bojan Petek, *Ivan Potrč Library, Ptuj (Slovenia)*

ABSTRACT:

In the end of 2022 the mobile library department proposed a collaboration with the units of the Ptuj Retirement Home. Both directors welcomed the collaboration, so we initiated the project that we have piloted in 2023 and started it as a regular activity in 2024. We have designed the visits based on a study of the work of other Slovenian mobile libraries in retirement homes. We realized that simply setting up a stop outside the retirement home and waiting for visitors was insufficient. Residents

desire in-house visits and interaction with librarians. We have decided on active participation, which initially involved training two staff members from one unit (familiarization with materials, borrowing e-books, audio books, reservations) and setting up bookshelves in the homes. Our work is structured as follows: We visit each unit four times a year. Bojan Petek is responsible for collaborating with the staff from the retirement home units. Before each visit, he coordinates with the "home librarian" regarding desired literature, reservations, and material exchanges. According to Cobiss, the loan in 2023 was 2,404 library units. During visits, Tjaša Mrgole Jukič and colleagues prepare the program: a fairy tale, game, kamishibai, songs, which we present at tea parties. The program is designed according to the retirement home's guidelines (event duration, themes, etc.). Residents also prepare for the tea party. Under the guidance of staff, they prepare products (wild garlic spread, bake cookies) and of course, offer tea. Regarding library practice our cooperation is a hybrid between visiting stops and a mobile collection. This work is a challenge for us mobile librarians, which we have accepted in the desire to transfer the culture of reading to older people and enhance their lives in a familiar way. The project can only be successful with good relationships with the staff, as the success of our work depends on them. We believe our efforts enrich many residents' days and enhance the other days of their stay in the home, thus brightening the autumn days of their lives. Once again, we have proven that being a mobile librarian is not just a profession, it is a mission.

Presentation of authors:

Tjaša Mrgole Jukič, a library specialist at the Ivan Potrč Library Ptuj, has led the mobile library for many years. She is proud of several projects, such as integrating first-graders into the library, introducing small free libraries throughout the municipalities visited by the bookmobile, and visits to nursing homes. She also narrates fairy-tales. Tjaša is the author of numerous professional papers both domestically and internationally, and has curated many exhibitions. For many years, she had led the Mobile Libraries Section of Slovenia at the Slovenian Library Association and was the editor of the journal "Potujoče novice". As president, she co-organized many conferences of mobile libraries in Slovenia and participates in national and international conferences and congresses.

Bojan Petek, an independent librarian and driver at the Ivan Potrč Library Ptuj. He keeps up with the progress of the profession, a reliable and responsible worker dedicated to his work. He actively participates in all projects of the Mobile library. He has also written about some of them in papers and is a co-author of several exhibitions. He led the project of implementation of RFID technology into the Mobile library.

Mobile Libraries Network in Croatia

Klaudija Mandić, Vinkovci City Library, President of the Commission for Mobile Libraries of the Croatian Library Association (Croatia)

ABSTRACT:

Mobile libraries are an essential component in the network of public libraries in Croatia. The specificity of the mobile library is the ability to provide quality and professional library services to citizens in the area where they operate. The libraries aim to promote the culture of reading and access to information; therefore, mobile libraries increase the level of cultural life by their presence in the most remote and isolated areas, and provide equal opportunities for learning and education. A significant part of the mobile library work is cooperation at the international level with mobile libraries in neighbouring countries, which is conducted by participating in professional conferences and by continuous exchange of information with examples of good practice. The Commission for Mobile Libraries of the Croatian Library Association has been operating for more than twenty years. When it comes to the advocacy and promotion of mobile libraries, the role of the Commission is very important. For many years the Commission has been informing the public about the important role of this type of library in providing library services, and educating users about the importance of all types of literacy, with special emphasis on reading and information literacy. Mobile libraries in Croatia have achieved remarkable success with their systematic work and have reached a high level of development, by European and world trends and professional standards. By 2021, nine mobile library services with a total of thirteen vehicles were operating in Croatia in eight counties and the City of Zagreb. After the 2021 ESF Call for Submission of project proposals "Reading to an Inclusive Society" was published, which was aimed at increasing the social inclusion of members of vulnerable groups through the development of reading literacy, the network of mobile libraries in Croatia expanded. Grants in the total amount of EUR 4,645,298.29 have been secured through this Call for the establishment of new mobile library services and the revitalization of active services. Public libraries that modernized their mobile library and replaced old vehicles with new ones are: Vinkovci City Library, Library Nikola Zrinski Čakovec, Public Library Petar Preradović Bjelovar, and City Library Ivan Goran Kovačić Karlovac. What particularly pleases the librarian community is the establishment of new mobile library services in the Municipality of Vrpolje, Marko Marulić Split City Library, Novi Marof City Library, Virovitica City Library, Lekenik Public Library, Milivoje Cvetnić City Library Hrvatska Kostajnica and Poreč City Library. The paper will present the mobile library network in Croatia, the scope of its work, and the services they provide to the users.

Presentation of authors:

Klaudija Mandić works at the City Library Vinkovci as the Head of the bookmobile service. She is the President of the Commission for Mobile Libraries of the Croatian Library Association, which aims, among other things, at developing a network of mobile libraries in Croatia. She is a Ph.D. student in the Postgraduate Doctoral Study Programme „Knowledge Society and Information Transfer“ at the University of Zadar. She has participated in and has given presentations at numerous professional conferences in Croatia and abroad, and is the author of several professional papers on the subject of mobile librarianship. Her interests include mobile libraries and social inclusion, information literacy, and childhood creativity in libraries.

New Vehicle, New Space, New Services: Koprivnica Mobile Library for the 21st Century

Valentina Mikec, Ana Škvarić, "Fran Galović" Public Library, Koprivnica (Croatia)

ABSTRACT:

In the first half of 2024, the mobile library service of the "Fran Galović" public library in Koprivnica will receive a new, contemporary-equipped vehicle with technical specifications and spatial organization that are suitable for the needs of library users in the 21st century. In this context, the first part of the presentation will present the network of mobile libraries in Koprivnica-Križevci County, highlight the challenges in its development, functioning, and financing, and it will also describe the coverage of library services and the structure of users of public libraries and mobile libraries in the county. The main goal of the presentation is to present the specifics of the work of the Koprivnica Bibliobus service, to describe the problems and limitations of the old vehicle, and in this context to point out the importance of recognizing the needs of users of mobile libraries and careful planning of the library space in accordance with the recognized needs and the modern environment in which the analogue and the digital intertwine. During the presentation, the process and flow of acquisition, planning, construction and equipping of the new bookmobile of the Koprivnica mobile library service will be presented. The presenters will compare the main features of the space of the old and new vehicle, and in this context show the possibilities of developing programs and services that will be provided by the new spatial organization of the bookmobile. The content of the presentation will aim to highlight the importance of acquiring a new vehicle for the Koprivnica Bibliobus service in the local and wider context and look at the future development of mobile library services in Koprivnica-Križevci County.

Presentation of authors:

Valentina Mikec, librarian and art history teacher. Professionally trained at the "Fran Galović" Public Library in Koprivnica during 2018. Substitute librarian at the "Braća Radić" Elementary School in Koprivnica from December 2018 to February 2020. Employed as a reference librarian and head of mobile library service at the "Fran Galović" Public Library in Koprivnica since February 2020. Main areas of interest are: mobile library service, library services for children and adults, innovative library practices, and contemporary library spaces.

Ana Škvarić, Senior librarian working in "Fran Galović" Public Library Koprivnica from 2014 to 2019 she was an employee of Koprivnica's Mobile library service. Since 2019 she has been working in the Acquisition and processing department, managing acquisition for all library departments. She is an editor of the Croatian and English editions of the picture book "Magdalen's Library on Wheels", and participates in numerous library development programs and projects on regular basis. She actively participated in the process of developing a new mobile library vehicle and is currently the producer of the library podcast "Premalo čitam" ("I read too little").

Honk for the Book! A New Mobile Library in the Virovitica-Podravine County

Robert Fritz, Silvija Perić, Public Library Virovitica (Croatia)

ABSTRACT:

The new mobile service of the Virovitica-Podravine County will be highlighted in the presentation. In particular, advocacy and preparation before the formation of the service itself in a county where this type of library network had not existed before, will be presented. The Public Library Virovitica is the main library of the Virovitica-Podravine County and its task is to improve and systematically develop library activities and libraries in the area of its jurisdiction. According to the latest population census, from 2021, the County has 70,660 inhabitants. It has 188 settlements, of which 3 cities and 13 municipalities. With the project *Honk for the Book!* as part of the call of the Ministry of Culture and Media of the Republic of Croatia, *Reading to an inclusive society*, Public Library Virovitica has established a Mobile library for the first time. Namely, with the project, the financial resources of the European Social Fund and the Ministry of Culture and Media for the purchase of biblio-van for the needs of the Mobile library were secured in full. Virovitica-Podravine County and the City of Virovitica played an important part in the establishment of the service. Before the actual establishment of the service, a whole series of meetings with local and local self-government bodies, with the directors of schools and kindergartens, various associations and a tour of potential points of view preceded. The county Mobile library network with, for now, about 40 stops enables municipalities and settlements and all their residents equal access to library materials and use of library services.

Presentation of authors:

Robert Fritz, was born in 1971, graduated from the study of Information and Communication Sciences, majoring in librarianship at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb. Employed in the Public Library of Daruvar, Croatia in 1997, and since 2007 in the Public Library of Virovitica, Croatia. In his professional career he worked as a library technician, library associate and graduate librarian. The jobs have consisted of direct work with users and material in open access and in the expert science department, then coordination of the IT system, organization and management of collections, and up to the acquisition, cataloguing and classification of material, the work of reference librarian and the preparation of cultural, informational and educational activities. He edited a poetry book, authored and edited several publications, brochures, papers and reviews. He authored the Croatian bibliography of works on basketball published until 2020. He is currently the director of the Public Library Virovitica. Areas of interest are: library management, public librarianship, digitalization, bibliographic organization, bibliography. Affiliation: Member of Croatian Library Association.

Silvija Perić, senior librarian, head of the County development department for public and school libraries since 2008. Areas of interest: introduction of new library services and programs, public relations, expansion of the library network in the Virovitica-Podravine County through mobile libraries. Active member of the Croatian Library Association, president of the Expert Committee of the Croatian Library, president of the Commission for Free Access to Information and member of the Commission for Mobile Libraries.

Culture in Motion – Upgrade of Library Services of the Mobile Library of Vukovar-Srijem County

Klaudija Mandić, Vedrana Lugić, *Vinkovci City Library (Croatia)*

ABSTRACT:

The Mobile Library of the Vukovar-Srijem County has been operating since 2006. At the beginning, it provided traditional library service that included the availability of library materials. Over time, the service has developed and, in addition to traditional services, development programs and services aimed at meeting increasingly complex user requirements, as well as improving the quality of life of the local community have been created. The “Culture in Motion” project, which was co-financed by the European Union from the European Social Fund (85% of the total value of the project) and the State Budget of the Republic of Croatia (15% of the total value of the project), enabled the implementation of programs that increased the visibility of the service, but also its important role in the development of reading literacy. The goal of the project was to encourage reading and foster reading competencies, as well as raise public awareness of the importance of reading for personal growth and social integration. Thanks to this project, a new bibliobus vehicle was acquired, which replaced the worn-out one. The library bus service of Vukovar-Srijem County has become a meeting place, a place of lifelong education, and a desirable partner in the creation of content, the goal of which is to keep up with the time.

Presentation of authors:

Vedrana Lugić is the director of the Vinkovci City Library. She has worked at the public library for 17 years. The area of her interest is the development of library services and greater visibility of the public library. She has participated in and has given presentations at numerous conferences in Croatia and abroad and is the author of several professional papers on the library as a heritage institution and library as a meeting place.

County Library Bus – Another Vehicle, New Opportunities

Ante Ledenko, *Rijeka City Library (Croatia)*

ABSTRACT:

The County Library Bus in Primorje-Gorski Kotar County began its operation and route visits in November 2004. From then until October 2023, the same vehicle, an Eurocargo truck, reached stops throughout the county. Over the years, there have been changes in staff working in the library bus service, but not in the vehicle itself. Since 2017, technical problems with the vehicle have been increasing: breakdowns, leaks, corrosion of the chassis, and other issues. All of these factors have disrupted the regular operation of the Library Bus service, resulting in more frequent absences from stops. It became increasingly difficult to organize program activities within the vehicle, so they were often moved to school and kindergarten premises near the stops. By 2023, the situation had escalated to the point where the existing condition became unsustainable, leading to the question: what next? The situation further developed positively for the Library Bus service of the Rijeka City Library. The “rescue” came from Ljubljana. Thanks to the director of the Rijeka City Library, an initiative was launched to purchase a used library bus vehicle from the Ljubljana City Library, and thanks to the efforts of the director of the Ljubljana City Library, a decision was made for the Ljubljana City Library to donate its library bus vehicle to the Rijeka City Library. With the donation of a replacement vehicle, an Irisbus, better working conditions were created within the library bus space. The replacement vehicle was well received by both staff and users, and increased program activities began immediately. Teachers from small schools now conduct entire school hours within the library bus space, and staff read stories to kindergarten groups, for which there is now sufficient space within the vehicle itself. Marketing efforts and media collaboration have also been intensified to make the activities of the library bus service more visible to everyone benefiting from the Library Bus.

Presentation of authors:

My name is **Ante Ledenko**. I began my career as a Croatian language teacher, accumulating several years of experience in schools before shifting my focus towards librarianship. I enrolled in library studies in Rijeka in 2014 and graduated in 2017 with a thesis on Digitalization in Libraries and Copyright Law. In early 2018, I started working in the Bibliobus Service of the Rijeka City Library, and by 2020, I became the head of the Bibliobus Service. My fondness for books began in elementary school and had turned into love during high school. Back then, as now, I admired the masters who skilfully describe the human soul, environment, society, and emotions, all while weaving these elements into captivating plots and atmospheres. I have always loved good children's authors, who introduced me to the magical world of literature. Now, thanks to my current job, I have the possibility to stimulate children to read and to fall in love with the words that form poems and stories.

Bjelovar Mobile Library: A Case Study of Library Collaboration with Preschool Institutions in Early Literacy Development

Vjeruška Štivić, Neda Adamović, *Public Library “Petar Preradović”, Bjelovar (Croatia)*

ABSTRACT:

The Mobile Library Service of the “Petar Preradović” Public Library in Bjelovar has been operating continuously for 52 years. Over time, it has adapted its services to social circumstances, technological advancements, and the needs of users, aiming to promote literacy and make reading materials and other library resources accessible to those for whom the stationary library

is inaccessible. Initially, the targeted user group of the mobile library were factory workers, employees of organizations, and pupils from rural primary schools. In recent years, the mobile library has shifted its focus towards preschool children to foster early literacy development. For this reason, collaboration has been offered to preschools in the Bjelovar area and parts of the Bjelovar-Bilogora County covered by the Mobile Library Service, thereby strengthening the already established good cooperation between the library and preschools. Unlike educational institutions, preschools are not obligated by the Law on Libraries and Library Activities of the Republic of Croatia to provide library services to their attendees. However, the Library saw an opportunity to introduce books and reading to children through the mobile library service, promoting the development of reading habits from an early age through continuous access to printed materials. Additionally, it facilitates access to information and resources necessary for the professional development and lifelong learning of educational professionals. This collaboration will encourage a more active role for parents in the development of early literacy, which is recognized as one of the fundamental competencies for lifelong learning and healthy growth. In this way, the entire community participates in early literacy development. The presentation will showcase the results of surveys conducted with preschool directors and educators on the role of librarians in preschools and the benefits of regular visits by the Mobile library to preschools, with a focus on early literacy development.

Presentation of authors:

Vjeruška Štivić is a Senior Librarian and the Director of the "Petar Preradović" Public Library in Bjelovar, where she has accumulated over thirty years of work experience. Her areas of professional interest include encouraging reading among children and youth and fostering reading culture, facilitating free access to information, promoting quality literature for children, young adults, and adults alike, working with children with learning and reading difficulties, utilizing new technologies to advance the library, books, and reading, strengthening the library-user relationship, and enhancing the library's visibility within the community.

Employed at the Bjelovar Library since 2003, **Neda Adamović** has played various roles within the institution. She worked as an information specialist in the Adult Department and as a cataloguer and classifier in the Acquisition and Processing Service. From 2012 to 2021, she was Head of the Acquisition and Processing Service. In 2021, she became Head of the County Central Development Service for Public and School Libraries, a position she still holds today. Her areas of interest include: green transition in libraries, community reading initiatives, the library's impact on the local community, and analysis of work results of the school and public libraries.

Bralko – Mobile Library Posavje: A Pilot Study on the Use of Services by Parents and Their Children in the pre-Literacy Stage

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ABSTRACT:

The Mobile library Posavje is the youngest in the Slovenian mobile library network, having only been in operation since 2020. In the past, residents of the municipalities of Brežice, Kostanjevica na Krki, Krško, Radeče and Sevnica had to use the libraries in larger towns or smaller branch libraries with permanent library collections. With the introduction of the Mobile library Posavje, the accessibility rate has increased. In the past, to meet the needs of children, parents had to use transport to get to the nearest libraries, which in some cases were up to 20 kilometres away. A person cannot become a reader, if they do not have access to books. It is very important that the encounter between the reader and the book takes place in early childhood, and this encounter is very difficult, if libraries are not easily accessible. The mobile library is often the first place where children come into contact with books or even reading, and a place where they can develop and learn to use library services. The importance of mobile libraries has already been highlighted in the academic literature (e.g. Štendler, 2002), but preschool children and their needs are not specifically mentioned. Therefore, this group of library users will be presented. As part of a pilot study, we will investigate the extent to which parents of preschool children use mobile library services. In April 2024, a semi-structured interview was conducted with parents of preschool children, living in the area of the municipalities of Krško and Brežice, where the mobile library has its stops. Eight parents of preschool children took part in the study. The results of the pilot study shed light on the use of mobile library services, the associated limitations and challenges, and the characteristics of users in terms of their information needs. This type of pilot study could serve as a basis for future research, particularly on the reading habits of parents from this neighbourhood and the importance of giving children the opportunity to get to know the library and its services.

Štendler, J. (2014). Kaj menijo uporabniki o delu slovenskih potujočih knjižnic. Knjižnica, 46(1-2), str. 137-150.

Presentation of authors:

Pia Utenkar is a student of librarianship and comparative literature. She is interested in exploring reading culture and discovering new areas of reading and librarianship.

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