

22nd Mobile Libraries Conference and Festival of Bibliobuses



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Ljubljana mobile library
in its 50 years of operation

Mobile library as a library space

Mobile library: vision, initiative, strategy

- Beograd 1959:
4th Congress of Yugoslavian library
association:
The vision of the development of mobile
librarianship, the importance and role of
traveling libraries
- **Avzug Vižintin**, *director of Ljubljana Workers
Library*
- Examples from abroad: bibliobuses
- Gradual omission of book delivery with
suitcases – sophisticated vehicles converted
into library space
- 2 vehicles for Ljubljana suburbs: one 12-meters
and another one 8 meters



Plan for the establishment of bus stops network

Irena Kernel, head of the Registry Office of the Workers' Library

Nika Pugelj, head of Ljubljana Mobile Library

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- **1971 preparations, analysis of users needs on site:**
 - ✓ Survey questionnaires sent to local communities
- Statistical data: number of inhabitants, the distance between the local library and potential stop
- **1st of Sept. 1973** the employment of the first head of the mobile library Nika Pugelj
- **1974** Site visits, suitability and accessibility of the bibliobus stop



International standards for mobile libraries

in the past

- **The first standards and recommendations for a bibliobus stop:**
 - ✓ Places with fewer than 300 inhabitants, which are far from libraries
 - ✓ Vulnerable groups of users and residents of more remote places with less than 1,500 inhabitants, there is no smaller local library unit within 1.5 km, or there is no major library unit within 3-4 km
- **Purpose of establishing the service of the traveling library::**
 - ✓ To bring the book to underprivileged groups of people
 - ✓ To reduce the differences between the city and the suburbs
 - ✓ To culturally animate people, the first contact with the library and the incentive to visit the stationary library

Important factors for determining the network of 30 stops

in the beginnings of the Ljubljana Mobile Library's operation

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- Anticipating a long-term plan for the development of the place
- Number of inhabitants
- Traffic conditions and road suitability for bibliobus
- Distance from cultural institutions
- Proximity to the general education library and school



First site visit: October 15, 1974

Iška vas and Tomišelj in the municipality of Ig

- Iška vas: 1hour visit
- 20 of newly enrolled members
- 81 borrowed books
- Tomišelj: 1hour visit has been extended
- 37 of newly enrolled members
- 102 borrowed books



First bibliobus (October 1974-January 1982)

- Manufactured in the TAM Maribor factory
- Operated for only eight years
- It was designed and painted by Matjaž Vipotnik
- Prototype for all bibliobuses that were made later
- It had room for 4.500 units materials



Technical deficiencies

- It didn't have its own source of electricity
- Didn't have a battery charger
- The system of Webasto heaters worked very poorly
- The system of lamps on the ceiling was also not adequate



Second bibliobus (1982-1992)

- Manufactured in the TAM Maribor factory
- It was designed and painted by Matjaž Vipotnik



Improvements

- Spatial (6.000 books)
- Powerful engine
- Ventilation fans
- A generator
- A battery charger
- Improved lighting
- For employees, there was a sink with a water collector, a wardrobe and a place for cleaning supplies



Third bibliobus (1992-2007)

- The undercarriage of a TAM bus was upgraded into a mobile library by the company AS - Remont from Domžale
- It was designed and painted by Matjaž Vipotnik



Interior of the bibliobus

- The shelves were tilted and adjusted for larger book formats
- Multi-purpose boxes (7,000 units of material)
- Toilet with a sink
- Cabinet for a coffee machine and personal items
- Space for users' card files



Fourth bibliobus (2007-2023)

- Converted by the company Dumida from Maribor
- Was painted by the painter Bine Skrt
- Around 7,000 units of material



Advantages and disadvantages

Advantages

- Lift for the disabled
- Two computers
- A multifunction printer
- Toilet for employees and a refrigerator.

Disadvantages

- The Bibliobus did not have air conditioning
- Inadequate electrical wiring
- Weak batteries

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It still serves the same purpose - it is still dedicated to books and readers, as the City Library of Ljubljana donated it to the City Library of Rijeka.



Foto: Mitja Bradeško

Fifth bibliobus 2023 -

- Went on the road for the first time on September 4th 2023
- Converted by the company AS Domžale
- Was painted by the painter Anna Sangawa Hmeljak





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Foto: Rok Valenčič



The development of the network of stops from the beginning of operation to the present day

- 1974: 30 stops on 12 routes
- 1994: after many changes to 34 stops
- 2024: after further development now we have 47 stops on 16 routes

Some discontinued stops since 1974:

- **Beričevo* (1974)
- **Besnica* (1974 – 1983)
- **Črna vas* (1980)
- **Črni vrh* (1981-85)
- **Dol* (2021-2023)
- **Gameljne* (1974 -)
- **Knej* (1974 – 75)
- **Rakitna* (1976)
- **Savljje* (1974 – 1986)
- **Stanežiče* (1976- 1986)
- **Tacen* (1974)
- **Topol* (1974)
- **Trebeljevo* (1974 – 1983)
- **Utik* (1974 – 1984)
- **Zadvor* (1974 - 2011)

*Stops canceled due to difficult accessibility, the establishment of an amateur or local library, or due to a major decline in visits and borrowing

New stops added between 2009 - 2024

• 2009 – 2024 new stops added:

- Dol, Dol pri Ljubljani (2021-23)
- Dom starejših Ljubljana Vič-Rudnik (2014 -)
- Dom starejših Medvode (2011 -)
- Center starejših Trnovo - Ljubljana (2010 -)
- Dom starejših Škofljica (2019 -)
- Univerzitetni rehabilitacijski institut Soča (2009 -)
- Zavod za gluhe in naglušne Ljubljana (2018 -)
- Center Janeza Levca, enota Dečkova (2019 -)
- Rakova Jelša (2024 -)

Special visits outside the annual schedule

- ✓ Groups of kindergartens announced within the Ciciuhec and Bobri projects

• Dynamics of visits to bus stops in 2024

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 4x monthly – 3 stops | Dolsko, Senožeti, Podgorica |
| 3 x monthly – 1 stop | Rakova jelša |
| 2x monthly – 11 stops | Preserje, Podkraj, Tomišelj, Tomačevo, Šmartno, Center starejših Medvode, Smlednik, Zavod za gluhe in naglušne, Soča rehabilitacijski institut, Dvor, Smolnik, |
| 1x monthly – 32 stops | Vrbljene, Strahomer, Iška vas, Zaporj Ig, Center Janeza Levca, Lipoglav, Reški Kovač, Podlipoglav, Sadinja vas, Karlovica, Mala Slevica, Dvorska vas, Dom starejših Vič-Rudnik (Bokalce), Lavrica, Rašica, Turjak, Golo, Zapotok, Škrilje, Vrzenec, Brezje, Trnovec, Sora, Zbilje, Skaručna, Center starejših Trnovo, Jezero, Goričica, Matena, Dom starejših Škofljica, Pijava Gorica, Želimlje |

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Thank you for your attention!

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