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France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica
in cooperation with the Slovenian Library Association

23rd Mobile Libraries Conference & Festival of Bibliobuses

Book of Abstracts

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Books on the Move : The Story of Our Mobile Library

France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica

Abstract:

The Goriška bookmobile is a mobile outreach service of the France Bevk Public Library Nova Gorica. With a collection of more than 5,000 items, it brings stories and knowledge closer to people of all generations, while nurturing and preserving the joy of reading.

The roots of mobile library services in the Goriška region reach back to 1966, when the first donated books were recorded in the library's inventory. Driven by strong enthusiasm and dedication, the pioneers of mobile librarianship introduced innovative solutions: book trunks were delivered to companies and villages, where local volunteers took care of the materials. A significant milestone was reached in 1975 with the joint purchase of the first bookmobile in cooperation with the Lavrič Library Ajdovščina; two years later, the Ciril Kosmač Library Tolmin also joined this shared service. Covering a large and geographically demanding area, the bookmobile faced considerable challenges, as daily journeys along poorly maintained roads caused rapid wear and tear. The purchase of a new vehicle in 1983 therefore became a necessity. This was followed by additional bookmobiles in 1995 and 2005. In 2024, the Goriška Library welcomed its fifth bookmobile—an outcome of decades of accumulated experience and best practices drawn from both its own history and cooperation with other mobile libraries. The latest bookmobile stands out for its contemporary design and advanced technology. It is equipped with a ramp for wheelchair users and people with reduced mobility, RFID technology for efficient circulation, solar panels ...

Over the years, the bookmobile has evolved into far more than a vehicle filled with books; it has become an integral part of the local community. It connects places and institutions across the Goriška region, including schools, kindergartens, retirement homes, sheltered workshops, and a community for addiction recovery. Since 2008, its activities have also extended across the national border. Serving as a space for learning, meeting, and social interaction, the bookmobile offers storytelling sessions for children and adults, traveling exhibitions, and a variety of reading promotion activities. These initiatives reinforce the fundamental mission of mobile libraries: to bring books closer to people and to encourage library use among the widest possible audience.

Bibliobus Milan - a 40 year journey

Martina Chiarei, Elisa Potenza, Bibliobus - Sistema Bibliotecario di Milano

Abstract:

The presentation will show shortly the story of Bibliobus in Milan since the beginning in 1984 with a focus on how it changed in recent years in order to satisfy the changing needs of citizens and special projects such as schools visits and attention to disadvantaged areas.

Milan Bibliobus is the city's mobile library. A small, but enthusiastic team of librarians and a dedicated driver, work every day to make reading and culture easily accessible to people who might not live near a traditional library or who feel less comfortable using one.

In a city as big and diverse as Milan, not all areas have the same opportunities. The Bibliobus helps bridge that gap by stopping weekly in different neighborhoods across the city—from peripheral districts to markets and busy squares. It's not just about borrowing books: the Bibliobus is a friendly, recognizable presence where people can chat, discover new stories, and feel welcome. For many regular users, especially elderly residents, it has become a familiar and social meeting point.

The Bibliobus is also very active beyond its regular stops. It visits schools, introduces children to libraries through stories and reading activities, and brings books to care homes and centers for people with disabilities. It takes part in citywide cultural events like BookCity Milano and collaborates with other cultural institutions and municipal projects. Fully connected to the Milan Library System, the Bibliobus works just like any other public library—only on wheels—showing how library services can move, adapt, and stay close to the people they serve.

There is a friendly and relaxing environment on board, we know most of our users by name and with some of them we are on first name terms.

When we stop our service for holidays or long maintenance, our loyal users feel lost and they are very happy to see us when we come back.

Sometimes it happens that people who don't know us get on board asking for medical check or they mistake us for the Registry Office. At times people choose a book and then ask for its price thinking we are a bookshop.

On board there is the last entry in the Bibliobus team: it's a soft turtle. It still doesn't have a name. We can't wait to receive your suggestion.

About the authors:

Martina is the bibliobus manager, and Elisa is one of the great librarians working there. Both coming from very different backgrounds, from tourism to accounting, but united by the love for books and the ambitious goal of making more and more people of every age fall in love with reading.

Mobile Libraries and Their Role in Social Inclusion

Klaudija Mandić, *Vinkovci City Library*

Abstract:

This presentation discusses the results of doctoral research examining the role of mobile libraries in addressing social exclusion in rural communities. The research is grounded in a multidimensional understanding of social exclusion, encompassing economic, spatial, cultural, institutional, and digital dimensions, and explores how mobile library services can contribute to improving access to information, education, and culture in areas with limited cultural infrastructure.

The empirical study combines qualitative and quantitative methods, including community analysis, a survey questionnaire, and semi-structured interviews with users and local decision-makers. The research was conducted in three settlements in Vukovar-Srijem County (Croatia): Lipovac and Nijemci, which are served by mobile library services, and Markušica, which is not included in the mobile library network.

The presentation will highlight key findings of the study, showing that residents of rural areas experience multiple forms of social exclusion, particularly in relation to access to information, cultural resources, and digital opportunities. The results indicate that mobile libraries can play an important role in mitigating these challenges by providing access to cultural and educational resources and supporting social participation, especially among older adults and children. Differences in the perceived usefulness of the service were

linked to factors such as the availability and duration of visits, users' digital skills, and the level of support from local authorities.

The presentation will also outline recommendations for strengthening the role of mobile libraries in promoting cultural accessibility and digital inclusion in underserved rural communities.

About the author:

Klaudija Mandić is a senior librarian at the Vinkovci Public Library, where she serves as Head of the Library Materials Acquisition Department. She holds degrees in Library and Information Science and Croatian Language and Literature from the University of Josip Juraj Strossmayer in Osijek. In 2025 she earned her PhD from the University of Zadar, Department of Information Sciences, within the doctoral programme Knowledge Society and Information Transfer. Her professional and research interests focus on mobile libraries, social inclusion, access to information, and library services for underserved communities.

Going Electric!

Nejc Perko, *Library of Dr. Tone Pretnar, Tržič*

Abstract:

The lecture is intended to present the new mobile library vehicle at the Library of Dr. Tone Pretnar in Tržič. It is an electric vehicle, which in itself represents a particular point of interest. The presentation highlights the differences compared to the previous vehicle and also touches on the operation of the mobile library service in the Municipality of Tržič.

About the Author:

Nejc Perko is a librarian employed at the Library of Dr. Tone Pretnar. His main areas of work are local studies and the mobile library service. He publishes professional articles in various journals, as well as on the Kamra.si portal and Faces of Slovenian Regions, among others. He performs the work of a mobile librarian independently, as the sole staff member in this service.

Between Community Needs and Logistics: Reorganizing the Library Bus Stop Network

Nika Čabrić, *Mobile Library Service, Zagreb City Libraries*

Abstract:

Zagreb City Libraries (ZCL) represent the largest public library network in Croatia. Since 1976, its Mobile Library Service has operated as a unique model, serving 31 stops in the City of Zagreb and 16 in Zagreb County with a single vehicle operating in two shifts. Under the motto "every two weeks, at the same time, in the same place," the bibliobus serves educational institutions in the morning and residential settlements in the afternoon.

Following the decommissioning of an old vehicle in 2022, ZCL has faced constant requests for new stops. However, the current capacity is fully booked. Annual evaluations are conducted to reorganize the network based on parking feasibility, cooperation with local institutions, and the proximity of stationary libraries. If a location no longer justifies the service, resources are redirected to areas with higher demand.

Logistics remain a primary obstacle. In hilly districts like Podsljeme and many institutional yards, large vehicles cannot navigate the narrow, steep streets. To bridge this gap, the City of Zagreb plans to introduce a smaller "bibliovan" by autumn 2026. This is particularly crucial for Zagreb County, where 15 out of 25 municipalities lack any library service, and

existing mobile coverage is insufficient to meet community needs. The reorganization aims to promote equality in access to culture and lifelong learning. This presentation addresses the strategic balancing act between community desires and the objective logistical limitations of mobile librarianship.

About the author:

Nika Čabrić, graduated in 2010 from the undergraduate study of Croatian culture and philosophy at the Croatian Studies Department of the University of Zagreb and obtained the title of Master of Croatology and Philosophy in 2010. In 2015, she graduated from the part-time graduate study of information sciences, majoring in library science at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Zagreb and obtained the title of Master of Library Science. Since 2010, she has been employed as a librarian by the Zagreb City Libraries. In 2017, she was appointed Head of the Mobile Library Service. In 2021, she obtained the title of Senior Librarian, awarded by the Ministry of Culture and Media.

Job Satisfaction among Mobile Library Staff

Hilarija Kete, *Public Library Dr. Karel Lavrič, Ajdovščina*

Abstract:

The purpose of the research is to determine employee satisfaction in mobile libraries in Slovenia. Employee satisfaction is key to their efficiency, success, and engagement. A review of professional literature and sources shows that no such study is currently available. There are some studies on employee satisfaction in public libraries, but work in a mobile library is quite specific in several aspects. Various factors influence an individual's satisfaction: interpersonal relationships at work, physical working conditions, opportunities for professional and personal development, the work environment, supervisors, salary, work organization, and more.

Through the survey, we aimed to determine the current situation while also creating space for suggestions that will shape our mobile libraries in the future.

In the study, we used methods typical of quantitative research, and we chose a questionnaire with closed-ended questions as the data collection method. In these, respondents are offered questions along with predefined answer options, as well as questions with a rating scale including multiple intermediate categories from which respondents can freely choose one. In some cases, respondents also had the option to provide their own answers. The first section of the questionnaire collects basic information about the employees, the second examines how different factors influence their satisfaction with working in a mobile library, focusing on working conditions, physical demands, and organizational factors. The third section of questions addresses the subjective perception of the meaning of work, payment, interpersonal relationships, and opportunities for advancement.

On March 16, 2026, the survey was sent to the employees of mobile libraries via their email addresses, with a submission deadline of March 31, 2026. Twenty-seven respondents replied.

Stability in Motion: Mobile Libraries Between Statistical Trends and User Expectations

Matjaž Stibilj, *Valvasor Library Krško*

Abstract:

The paper discusses the role and significance of mobile libraries within the Slovenian library landscape through the lens of statistical data from the past decade and direct user feedback. The first part presents a comparative analysis of key indicators (visits, circulation, number of active members) between public libraries as a whole and mobile libraries in particular. The results indicate that, despite trends in digitalization and changing reading habits, mobile libraries are not experiencing a decline in interest. Their specific accessibility and personal approach ensure a high level of user loyalty and a stable presence in local environments where other cultural offerings are often limited.

The second part of the paper is based on a survey conducted among bookmobile users, highlighting their attitude toward this specific form of library activity. In addition to user satisfaction with the current state, the research identified potential for the further development of mobile library services. The survey underscored interest in certain supplementary services that could enhance the existing services alongside basic book lending; however, the primary focus of users remains the core function of the library.

About the Author:

Matjaž Stibilj, a historian and sociologist of culture, has been working in librarianship since 2005. He began his career at the Public Library Dr. Karel Lavrič in Ajdovščina, focusing on user services, technical development, RFID implementation, and, for a time, working with the mobile library service. In 2020, he assisted in launching the new Posavje Mobile Library. He is currently employed as a librarian at the Valvasor Library Krško, where he played an active role in the construction of the new library and the digitalization of its services. Since 2021, he has chaired the Mobile Libraries Section of the Slovenian Library Association (ZBDS).

ROUND TABLE: Between User Desires and the Reality of the Field: Where Next for Mobile Libraries?

The round table will draw on the results of two surveys that shed light on how both users and employees perceive mobile libraries. While users express interest in the development of new services, the survey among employees reveals numerous challenges—ranging from a lack of time for internal work to organizational and staffing constraints.

The discussion will seek answers to the question of how to envision the future of mobile libraries under such conditions: whether the development of new services is even possible and under what terms. Special emphasis will be placed on finding a balance between user expectations and the realistic possibilities of delivering services in the field.

Challenges and Future of Split Bookmobile Service

Petra Skelin Giljanović, *Marko Marulić City Library Split*

Abstract:

The County's Mobile Library Service of the Marko Marulić City Library Split was established

in 2023 thanks to the project "For good vibes, read the lines", funded by the European Union and the Croatian State Budget. In addition to the purchase of vehicle and the establishment of the service, as a part of the project there were organised numerous workshops for children and young people, people with disabilities and people over 55 years of age, as well as a campaign to encourage reading, which included a round table on the importance of reading. Activities for users continued after the project ended with holding more than 130 activities annually, like hosting writers, reading books, art workshops, quizzes, exhibitions, etc.

The presentation will show how the service was established, how it is being funded after the end of the EU project, what challenges it faces, how it plans to develop, and what can we expect in the future. It will also highlight why the call „Reading towards an Inclusive Society“ is of utmost importance for mobile library services in Croatia and it will show on examples how mobile libraries can integrate and promote local culture.

About the Author:

Petra Skelin Giljanović, Master of Sociology and Communicology, as the Project Manager of the EU project "For good vibes, read the lines", participated in the establishment of The County's mobile library service of the Marko Marulić City Library in Split. After the project was completed, she continued to coordinate the work of the mobile library service, and as a Senior Expert Associate for Programs and Projects, she works on the preparation and implementation of new projects, not only on an EU level but also on a national, regional and local levels. In her work, she promotes the importance of librarianship, as well as reading itself, especially among children and young people. She participates in the organization and promotion of numerous events and coordinates the international project Science Comes to Town at GKMM. She is a member of the Association for Communication and Media Culture and the Society of Librarians in Split, and is particularly interested in media and ocean literacy and establishing international cooperation with librarians and experts from around the world.

The Impact of Mobile Library Bibliopedagogical Activities on the Early Development of Reading Culture in Rural Areas

Nuša Ramšak, *Ivan Potrč Library, Ptuj*

Abstract:

Bibliopedagogical activities within **mobile libraries** represent a vital method of promoting reading culture, ensuring access to library services for children in environments where access to central libraries is limited. Activities such as story-telling hours play a significant role in a child's first contact with books, reading, and the library environment in general. Since reading habits, interests, and a positive attitude toward books are formed during early childhood, evaluating these activities is essential for the ongoing development of library practice.

The research conducted examines the impact of bibliopedagogical activities provided by the **Ivan Potrč Mobile Library, Ptuj** on the development of reading interest and attitudes toward reading among preschool children and students in the first triad of primary school. The purpose of the study was to determine the extent to which these mobile library activities contribute to fostering a child's interest in reading. Using a survey questionnaire,

we gathered data from preschool educators and primary school teachers who accompany children during these activities.

This approach allowed us to analyse the perspectives of educators, teachers, librarians, and mobile library staff regarding perceived changes in children, leading to the formulation of proposals for further development. The presentation will detail the research results, contributing to a better understanding of the importance of mobile library bibliopedagogical activities and the advancement of programs promoting early reading culture. The findings will serve as an example of **best practice** and a professional foundation for planning, evaluating, and developing future mobile library services.

About the Author:

Nuša Ramšak holds a degree in Library and Information Science and is employed in the Mobile Library Department at the Ivan Potrč Library Ptuj. She is currently completing her Master's degree in Library Science. She began her career at the Ivan Potrč Ptuj Library in 2024 within the Research Department, providing maternity/sick leave cover. In August 2025, she joined the Mobile Library Department, succeeding the retired staff member Tjaša Mrgole Jukič.

Mobile Library in the Culture of the City of Kruševac

Snežana Nenezić, *Kruševac Public Library*

According to the 2022 census, the city of Kruševac (urban area) has 53,746 inhabitants. The total number of inhabitants in the territory of the entire city of Kruševac, which includes 101 inhabited places, is 113,582. In 16 settlements, the number of inhabitants is greater than 1,000.

In 2017, in order to bring books and the written word closer to users who do not have access to this service at their place of residence, the Public Library Kruševac applied to the Ministry of Culture and Information of the RS for co-financing of a project to purchase vans for the purpose of providing this service. - used vehicle FIAT IVECO DAILY. The interior of the vehicle has been redesigned or modified to accommodate books. The body of the vehicle is branded on the outside, so it is recognizable throughout the area.

Today, the mobile library serves 8 places where books are exchanged.

The van is equipped with its own collection of books. Since 2018, as part of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Serbia's programme for purchasing books for public libraries, it has been supplied with books intended for first-category libraries.

The Mobile Library Brings You Guests is an activity in which a children's author visits a school together with librarians, where the programme takes place, and meets and interacts/engages with the children.

The mobile library joins actions and events organized by the City on the occasion of Family Day, European Mobility Week, Children's Book Day, Children's Week...

About the Author:

Snežana Nenezić, library advisor, received her master's degree from the Department of Library and Information Science at the Faculty of Philology, University of Belgrade (2003). She worked on cataloging VBS - COBISS.SR within NBKS, organized the process of digitization of the Local History Collection. Author and implementer of numerous projects from library and information science, among which is the Mobile library. She is also the

author of accredited seminar of the same name in library and information science (2023,2024,2026). Currently in the position of director of the Kruševac Public Library.

30 Years of the Section for Mobile Libraries at ZBDS - Stronger Together!

Ksenija Trs

Abstract:

The Section for Mobile Libraries within the Slovenian Library Association (ZBDS) is founded on a rich tradition of mobile librarianship in Slovenia, which began in the 1970s with the introduction of the first bookmobiles. These vehicles made library services accessible in areas without libraries, which quickly created the need for professional cooperation and the exchange of experience.

A key milestone was the first official professional meeting of mobile library workers and directors of parent libraries, held on 12 May 1980 in Ljubljana under the auspices of the National and University Library. The participants discussed work organization, staffing, finances, the bookmobile network, and technical issues. In 1991, another meeting followed, dedicated to preparing theses for mobile library standards, which were presented later that year at a professional conference on Rogla. The realization that the work of mobile libraries was insufficiently recognized strengthened the need for formal cooperation.

In 1996, a subsection for mobile libraries was established, and a year later it was transformed into the regular Section for Mobile Libraries within ZBDS. The first president of the section was Nika Pugelj, who made an important contribution to shaping the identity and functioning of the section. In 2006, the publication *Potujoče novice* (Mobile Library News) began to be issued under the auspices of the section, documenting developments, professional meetings, bookmobile festivals, and good practices. Throughout the years, the section has also become increasingly active internationally. Connections with European mobile libraries, exchanges of best practices, and participation in international festivals and professional forums have steadily grown. Today, the section connects all Slovenian mobile libraries, supports professional development, and preserves and strengthens the tradition of mobile librarianship both nationally and internationally.

About the Author:

Ksenija Trs, a long time librarian on the mobile library bus, dedicated herself to the mission of Maribor Library from 1992 onward, connecting the library, books, and people. Her work extended far beyond traditional librarianship: she brought culture to remote areas, built meaningful relationships with users, and strengthened the visibility of librarianship through professional contributions and public engagement. She focused on reaching non users, adapting to various challenges, and consistently placing readers' needs at the forefront.

She is also a writer and poet, and the author of *Potujoči utrinki* (Travelling Impressions), a book capturing stories and reflections on the work of mobile librarians. Her bibliography includes 83 entries, and her influence reaches both the local environment and the wider professional community.

Since January of this year, she has been retired, yet remains actively engaged in promoting mobile librarianship. In 2021, she received the Čop Award for her outstanding contributions and her belief in the transformative power of books to enrich communities.

POSTERS:

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