

# LOCAL STUDIES

From our roots,  
the future grows

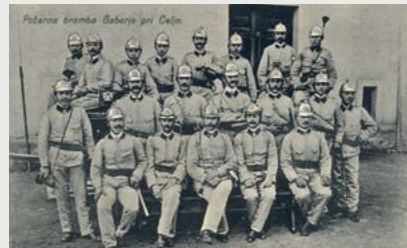
Slovenian Library  
Association  
Local studies and cultural  
heritage section



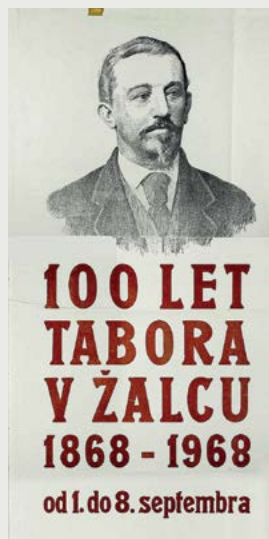
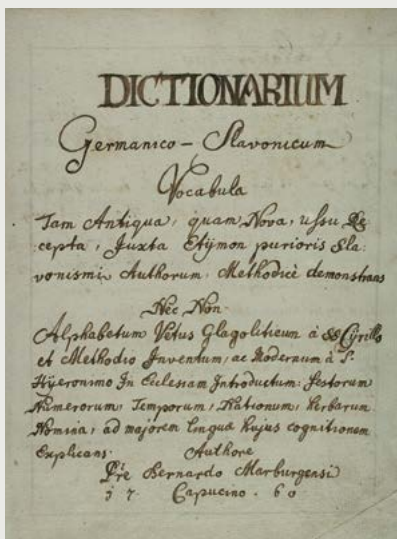
# Local studies and associated activities in Slovenian libraries

Local studies are a separate activity and one of the statutory functions of Slovenian general and other libraries, and comprise collecting, processing, keeping, and promoting materials that are especially relevant for the region that a particular library serves. Libraries keep such materials in special collections (local studies collections, departments), where they are processed analytically and offered to users as information on the life, work, events and individuals in a particular area in the past and today.

Libraries also hold various events and activities to raise awareness about cultural heritage and promote interest in the local environment and community.



*Local studies means exploring and researching one's hometown.*







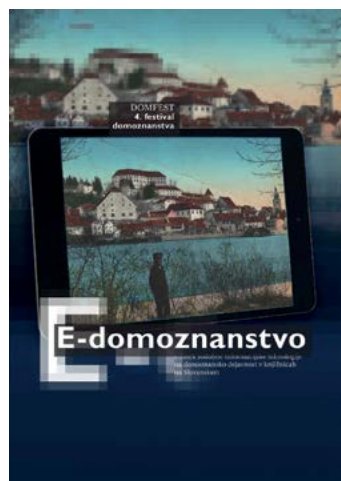
# Local studies and cultural heritage section

The Local studies and cultural heritage section is one of the ten permanent working bodies of the Slovenian Library Association (SLA). It was established in 1997 to promote closer cooperation between local studies and cultural heritage professionals. It promotes responding to challenges and issues that arise in local studies activities, and presenting the results and initiatives to the professional community. It organizes and helps organize events in the field of local studies and cultural heritage (lectures, consultations, round tables, professional excursions) in cooperation with libraries and other cultural organizations (museums, archives, galleries, associations, etc.).

The main academic event in the field of local studies is Domfest, a festival for everyone involved or interested in local studies. It takes place biennially, each time hosted by a different library. The event is accompanied by an anthology on the selected topic.



Participants in the colloquium on Selecting and acquiring local studies materials, Levstik's Room at the Celje Central Library, 26 November 1999.



Anthology of the 4th Domfest in Ptuj, 2016

# The Goropevšek Awards

SLA confers the awards for outstanding achievements in the field of local studies and cultural heritage, which are of wider social relevance and contribute to the advancement of local studies in libraries. They are named after the prominent Slovenian librarian and local studies expert, and the first chairman of the Local studies section, Branko Goropevšek (1966–2012). The awards are given biennially, and were first presented at Domfest in Ljubljana in 2018.



*“The notion of local studies is the lifeblood of the general library and permeates all spheres of its work.”*

Andreja Pleničar, librarian, director of the Pavel Golia Library in Trebnje

*“The local studies collection shapes and maintains the cultural identity of the local community, representing its culture in the broadest sense of the word.”*

Silva Novljan, librarian and researcher, former consultant for general libraries

*“A library is only viable if it is integrated into the region from which it emerged.”*

Janko Glazer, literary historian, poet and librarian, longtime director of the Study Library in Maribor

*“Local studies give us an identity.”*

Vili Rezman, former MP and mayor of Ruše, local history researcher, recipient of the Goropevšek Charter

*“Home, sweet home to whom it is known.”*

Darja Peperko Golob, local studies librarian, Miran Jarc Library in Novo mesto



# Connected, we pursue common goals

*Slovenian libraries are looking for opportunities for fruitful partnerships with institutions from other countries working in the areas of local studies and cultural heritage. For more information, visit our website or contact us at: [domoznanstvo@zbdz-zveza.si](mailto:domoznanstvo@zbdz-zveza.si).*



**Slovenian Library Association**  
Local studies and cultural heritage section  
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