

# **Preservation of Library Materials in the Local History Collections of Croatian Public Libraries**

Ana Barbarić

University of Zagreb

Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences

Department of Information and Communication  
Sciences

# Terminology

- Local history collection
- Local collection
- Local studies
- Croatian – zavičajna zbirka (homeland collection)

# Croatian Legislation

- Library Act (1997)
- Public Libraries Standard (1999)
  - Local history collection in every public library
  - County level local history collection
  - Legal deposit
- Croatian Library Association Guidelines for Local History Collections
  - preservation of library materials

# Public Library

- IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994)
  - The public library, the local gateway to knowledge, provides a basic condition for lifelong learning, independent decision-making and cultural development of the individual and social groups.

# Public Library

- IFLA/UNESCO Public Library Manifesto (1994)
  - Cultural and social understanding material must reflect current trends and the evolution of society, as well as the memory of human endeavour and imagination.

# Library Materials

- AV resources, books, broadsheets, cartographic materials, ephemera, facsimile reproductions, incunabula, journals, microforms, newspaper, notated music scores, pamphlets, photographs, postcards, posters, serials, wallcharts etc.

# Criteria

- Content
- Place of publication, printing, production

# Survey

- Central public library in each Croatian county
- Total of 21 counties including City of Zagreb
- Online questionnaire
- Response: 15 libraries
- May 2014



# Local history collection as separate library department

yes	no
14	1

# Library materials

Type	Library
<b>Books</b>	<b>15</b>
Old books (16 century to 1850)	8
Incunabula	0
Newspaper	13
Old newspapers	1
<b>Serials (journals, annuals etc.)</b>	<b>15</b>
Ephemera (posters, flyers etc.)	13
Manuscripts	9
Printed music	9
Cartographic material	10
Photographs	10
<b>AV resources</b>	<b>15</b>
Electronic resources	13

# Location

Location	Library
Closed stacks	1
Separate room open for library patrons	4
Separate room closed for library patrons	2
Study room	4
More than one location	4

# Temperature

Library materials from local history collections are stored	Library
Below to 20°	0
20°-22° (human comfort zone)	4
Higher than 22°	1
Fluctuation of temperature more than 10° according to local climate conditions	8
I don't know	2

# Relative humidity

Library materials from local history collections are stored	Library
Below to 55%	0
55%-65%	2
Higher than 65%	0
Fluctuation of RH more than 20% according to local climate conditions	7
I don't know	6

# Equipment

Type	Library
Temperature and RV monitoring instruments	1
Dehumidifiers/humidifiers	2
Fans	1
HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) systems	9
Cases with air conditioning	0
Screens, blinds, shutters	8
UV filters on windows and glass cases	0
Fluorescent lighting	4
Other	1

# Disaster planning

<b>Disaster response and salvage plan</b>	<b>Library</b>
No plan	6
Written plan – local history collection is not specifically mentioned	6
Written plan – local history collection is salvage priority	3
Written plan –some other collection is salvage priority	0

# Reformatting

Reformatting method	Library
Photocopying	8
Microfilming	1
Digitalization	12



# Conclusion

- Importance of local history collections in Croatian public libraries
- Funding?
- A new legislative
  - Development policy
  - Emphasizing the importance of preservation
- A national strategy?

Thank you for your attention!

[abarbari@ffzg.hr](mailto:abarbari@ffzg.hr)