

# Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression (FAIFE)

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LIBRARIES IN KOSOVA/KOSOVO



*The remains of the main public library in the municipality of Malishevë (South-Western Kosovo), which was burned down July 1998.*

## **A general assessment and a short and medium-term development plan**

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*Joint UNESCO, CoE and IFLA/FAIFE Kosova Library Mission*

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### 1. Abstract

The UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) and the library professionals in Kosova face a major task to reconstruct library buildings and re-establish library services at all levels. This is the preliminary conclusion of an assessment of the situation concerning libraries performed by a joint expert mission of UNESCO, the Council of Europe (CoE) and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions, IFLA.

The mission has been carried out during the period from February 25th to March 7th by Mr. Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy director of the IFLA / FAIFE Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mr. Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association. The mission has been generously supported by the librarians' organisations in Scandinavia.

The National and University Library and other special libraries are in decay, the preservation of cultural heritage in terms of printed materials endangered and the

national systems to record and disseminate documents are practically out of function. Large parts of the valuable collections in the National and University Library have been removed and probably destroyed during the period 1990-1999.

Many public and school libraries, especially in the countryside, have been totally burned down, others have had their book collections removed or destroyed, and those who are still functioning suffer from the effects of almost 10 years of neglect in acquisitions. Equally many library books have been burned along with the homes of users. An estimated total of almost half the stocks of all the public libraries are lost. A great part of the remaining books are either outdated or irrelevant to local inhabitants due to their ideological, linguistic or ethnic character. Practically all equipment has been removed and most of the present staff needs training after a long period without professional practice and systematic education.

There is no co-operation, or even contact, between professionals of the ethnic Albanian majority and professionals in ethnic Serbian enclaves.

In general there is a heavy need for reading rooms, children's literature, current professional literature and access to new technology. International support in terms of funding and professional assistance is now needed to reconstruct libraries and a functioning library network.

Library services can be an important, and fairly easily applicable, tool in the promotion of reading, education and culture in a region with few or no other offerings and a population with a large share of children and youth. Libraries can, not least in an area like Kosova, provide local gateways to knowledge, reflect the plurality and diversity of society and support the process of democratisation.

The Kosova Library Mission proposes a three to four years action plan, Kosova Library Project 2000+, for the rehabilitation and enforcement of libraries in Kosova. The plan includes short-term projects and attempts to point out longer-term strategies.

The plan suggests the formation of a time-limited body, a Kosova Library Consortium, which should include both local doers, major international donors and international organisations providing professional expertise and advise. A more elaborate and detailed action plan on Kosova libraries could be developed within this framework.

The action plan includes a proposed range of 11 special programmes to be established, each covering different needs and aspects of library activities:

1. Legislation and administration programme
2. Mobile library service programme
3. Reconstruction Programme
4. Book and Reading Programme
5. Information Technology Programme
6. Professional Training and Development Programme
7. Cultural Heritage Programme
8. Children and Youth Programme
9. Open access programme
10. Initiative Support Programme
11. Twinning Programme

The suggested programmes vary in nature and financial weight. An initial and very

rough estimate of the funding needed for basic short-term measures amounts to around DM 14 millions.

The first programme lines out the structural basis on which the rehabilitation process can be founded. The five programmes requiring the most immediate initiative and a heavy part of external funding are the Mobile Library Programme, the Reconstruction Programme, The Professional Training and Development Programme, the Books and Reading Programme, and the Information Technology Programme. There are important correlations between these programmes: The reconstruction of buildings is a longer-term task, which may take some years. Therefore mobile library services are suggested as a fairly immediate compensatory initiative. The buildings themselves have no value without books, technology or qualified library professionals.

The Cultural Heritage Programme aims to provide practical solutions to urgent preservation and security needs. The Children and Youth programme and the Open Access Programme are of a more library political nature with the aim to reform and strengthen certain important aspects of the societal role of libraries. The last two programmes are suggesting the establishment of specific tools to ensure and promote local involvement and participation.

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## 2. Introduction

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 entrusts the United Nations Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) with "performing basic civilian administrative functions" and "organising and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self governance" in Kosova.

In order to prepare an assessment of the situation concerning libraries and to establish rehabilitation guidelines UNESCO, the Council of Europe (CoE) and IFLA/FAIFE organised an expert mission to the main cities of Kosova. In the period from February 25th to March 7th Mr. Carsten Frederiksen, Deputy director of the IFLA/FAIFE Office in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Mr. Frode Bakken, President of the Norwegian Library Association, visited libraries in all major regions of Kosova.

IFLA (International Federation of Library Association and Institutions) is concerned with the role of libraries in building and sustaining democracy. IFLA/FAIFE (Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression) is an initiative within IFLA to defend and promote the basic human rights defined in Article 19 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. A prime priority within the work of IFLA/FAIFE is to: "Promote freedom of access to information and freedom of expression as fundamental human rights, which are cornerstones vital to the mission of libraries and librarians in providing access to knowledge in support of human rights, peace, democracy and development".

The IFLA/FAIFE Committee and Office furthers free access to information and freedom of expression in all aspects, directly or indirectly, related to libraries and librarianship. IFLA/FAIFE monitors the state of intellectual freedom within the library community worldwide, supports IFLA policy development and co-operation with other international human rights organisations, and responds to violations of free access to information and freedom of expression.

UNESCO, OSCE and CoE supported the mission both financially and in terms of logistics.

UNESCO established a consultant contract with Mr. Frederiksen and helped organise the mission in Kosova, in close co-operation with the UNMIK Civil Administration in Prishtina. Likewise the CoE established a contract with Mr. Frederiksen and the Secretariat Office of CoE in Prishtina assisted the mission in practical matters.

Furthermore, the mission received practical assistance from the OSCE HQ in Prishtina and generous financial support from the librarians' organisations in Scandinavia: Bibliotekarforbundet / Union of Danish Librarians (BF), Bibliotekarforbundet / Norwegian Association of Librarians (BF) and Forskerforbundets Fagbibliotekarforening / Union of Special Librarians (FBF), Norway, and Bibliotekarieförbundet / Swedish Association of Librarians (BF), Sweden. These organisations provided the funding for translations, interpretation, local transportation, accommodation etc.

To prepare an assessment of the situation concerning archives UNESCO, the CoE and the International Council on Archives (ICA) in December 1999 organised a parallel expert mission to Kosova, carried out by Mr. Bruce Jackson, County Archivist, Lancashire Records Office, Preston, UK. The Libraries Mission, based on similar conditions and with similar terms of reference, will be relating to the experiences obtained by Mr. Jackson.

The Kosova Libraries Mission aimed to cover all categories of libraries and had the following terms of reference:

1. Assess the present situation of libraries in Kosova, including an assessment of the destruction and damages of libraries;
2. Assess the situation in the area of library management in existing administrations;
3. Assess the legal situation related to library management;
4. Advise on short- and medium-term measures to be taken to ensure adequate legal coverage of library and intellectual freedom issues; taking into account the importance of libraries as local gateways to knowledge, promoting equal access and reflecting the plurality and diversity of society and as instruments to support the process of democratisation;
5. Advise on the inclusion of library management components in rehabilitation programmes;
6. Make recommendations on measures to be undertaken to safeguard endangered libraries and to reconstruct a functioning library system in Kosova.
7. Submit to UNESCO, not later than March 31, 2000 a report of the mission to Kosova including;
  - a. a general assessment of the situation;
  - b. a plan for immediate action including recommendations for action addressed to UNESCO and UNMIK;
  - c. recommendations to UNMIK to adequately cover library issues in reconstruction projects;
  - d. a list of several small projects for immediate improvement of the situation;
  - e. a mid-term development plan for consolidation of the situation.

This report has employed a convention used by many international organisations operating in Kosova by citing both the Albanian and the Serbian language place names of municipalities and major cities in the first mention and subsequently wherever helpful. Albanian place names are used thereafter in the text. Furthermore, the Albanian

names of villages are used in areas dominated by ethnic Albanians and Serb names are used in areas dominated by ethnic Serbs.

The decision to use Albanian names as a primary reference was made partly by the fact that the most detailed maps available to us was in Albanian (produced in Albania) and partly by the fact that those names are most widely used in the area today. This choice therefore implies no political position on the future status of Kosova, but reflects a more practical and pragmatic approach.

There are some general problems obtaining information in Kosova, which should be pointed out here, as they to some extent influence the findings of our mission. Communication in Kosova is very difficult. Though the area is quite small, transportation takes time, because roads are very bad and traffic often chaotic. The telephone system is often inefficient and there is no postal system. It is almost impossible to make appointments from outside Kosova to meet people and even when you are there it is difficult. Generally you have to show up and hope that you are in luck. There are very few photocopiers, which means that it is hard to obtain physical documentation.

The segregation of Albanians and Serbs makes it difficult to verify information, as they have little knowledge and interest of status outside their own area. The people, that could have contradicted or verified are no longer present. Furthermore there is limited tradition in handling statistics and numbers and the sense of time and dating events is often loosely related to clocks or calendars. E.g. if we added up the number of inhabitants we were given in various cities and towns, the Kosovar population would be significantly above the actual size.

Collecting data as a foreigner you have to rely on interpretation and translation from local people. These are often not professional interpreters, but students, teachers or employees of the institutions visited with some knowledge of foreign language. Some times such interpreters answer the questions themselves, and some times long disputes concerning an answer are resulting in some consensus, which is then presented as the answer. Changing stories and facts during conversation is not uncommon. Answers some times reflect the desire to accommodate the values of you (and possible donors) as anticipated by the interviewed person or just simple politeness. Political correctness and local political agendas are to be accounted for.

The terms of reference for our mission were very ambitious and included an assessment of all categories of libraries in Kosova. But both practical circumstances – the limited time we had in Kosova and the fact that other professional experts have been investigating archives, academic libraries and religious libraries, made us focus primarily on libraries serving the general public. Thus the information in this report is based on both our own experiences and on information provided by others. The main sources are the following expert reports:

- [www.bosnia.org.uk/bosrep/decfeb00/libraries.htm](http://www.bosnia.org.uk/bosrep/decfeb00/libraries.htm) -- *Libraries and Archives in Kosovo: a postwar Report*. By Andras Riedlmayer, Fine Arts Library, Harvard University, October 1999.
- *Donated Books Needs Assessment: Focus on the National and University Library of Kosovo and the Pristina Municipal Library*. By Tania Vitvitsky, Project Director, Sabre Foundation. November 17, 1999.
- *General Assessment of the Situation of Archives in Kosovo*. By Bruce Jackson and Wladyslav Stepniak Restricted Technical Report, UNESCO, January 2000.

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### 3. General assessment of present situation

In March 2000 the international humanitarian relief operations in Kosova are moving from emergency response to longer-term rehabilitation and development after nine months of one of the largest-ever international relief operation in dollars spent per capita. According to UNHCR, the focus of relief agencies is shifting to key areas such as the need to rebuild the rule of law and foster tolerance throughout Kosova. The Deputy Special Representative of the secretary-general for Humanitarian Affairs, Dennis McNamara, has approved this transition to reconstruction and rehabilitation. At a briefing in the beginning of March he stated that the Secretary-General accepted a recommendation that the UNMIK humanitarian pillar be phased out by mid-2000, as there should not be a need for a prolonged, large-scale humanitarian role by then.

In the education sector the focus is on repairing and equipping of schools and providing textbooks. The Textbook Consortium, which includes UNICEF, the Soros Foundation and a local NGO, Libri Shkollar, is overseeing the printing of new books with funding from a number of international government and private sources. For example, Canada's CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), has committed \$1M (Canadian) to this effort.

At present, there does not appear to be any systematic effort at addressing the needs of Kosova's libraries, including the National and University Library, the departmental libraries at the University of Prishtina, as well as the network of municipal and provincial libraries, not to mention the school libraries. Projects and activities thus far have been sporadic and ad-hoc, though some more recent initiatives tend to stress some level of library networking and overall coordination.

- The Kosovo Internet Assistance Initiative (KIAI), administered by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), links US government agencies, technology companies, foundations, and international relief organisations in a co-ordinated effort to use technology to help address the information and humanitarian needs of Kosovars in the aftermath of the recent conflict. The initiative has provided the National and University Library with an Internet Information Center and is working with government and private sector partners to co-ordinate the contribution and delivery of books and reference materials. One shipment of books was sent to Prishtina in November 1999, and more will be shipped in the future. Brothers Brother Foundation, Sabre Foundation, Inc., Scholastic Inc. and IDG Books World-wide, Inc. will continue to work together to provide the libraries in Kosova with a variety of books and educational materials. KIAI has begun a process wherein the Kosovars can continue to solicit book donations.
- The Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS) has given a fairly high priority to libraries. Some months before the war KFOS suggested to the Rectorat to set up an Intranet at the University of Prishtina linking all faculties, higher schools, the National Library and other schools. The idea also included electronic storage of books and other relevant materials of the National Library and faculty libraries, making them accessible at various sites at the university and through the Internet. Another KFOS project, which has not yet been implemented, outlines a modern library network linking 5 municipal libraries to the National Library. The project would involve the municipalities of Gjilan, Podujeva, Peja, Ferizaj and Gjakova, and

include training of 20-30 librarians in modern information technology.

- On March 2 2000, Prof. Michael Daxner of Germany took up his duties as the international administrator for the Prishtina University system, which consists of seven campuses and some 1,500 faculty and administrators. The Austrian Ministry of Science has assigned Mr. Robert Stumpf, a library professional, to a fact-finding mission in Kosova. Mr. Stumpf has been appointed deputy of the new UNMIK-administrator for the University of Prishtina, Mr. Michael Daxner, and will be responsible for all the matters concerning the reconstruction and reorganisation of the National and University Library of Kosova.

### **3.1 Libraries in Kosova before the war**

Until the civil wars and the collapse of the Yugoslav Federation in 1992-1993 each of the six republics and the two autonomous provinces in Yugoslavia had their own national library, which build up its collection by legal deposits of all works published in the country. The National Library of Kosova, like the national libraries of each of the other republics or provinces took special responsibility for materials from its own area as well as materials referring to its area. The national libraries provided complete coverage of all library-information networks in their territory, assuming the function of central library promotion centres in the system and taking care of professional training. All the national libraries were involved in building a shared catalogue, available online since 1988.

The National Library of Kosova was also the university library of the University of Prishtina. The library co-ordinated the activities of the academic libraries in Kosova located at various faculties, research or educational institutions. Some special libraries were attached to industrial, social, scientific and cultural institutions, like the mining companies north-east of Mitrovice, e.g. the library of the Mining Faculty and the library of the Mining company in Zvečan/Trepça.

Public libraries provided basic library services in the local communities and provided institutional support for educational and cultural activities. Public libraries were funded by local authorities, but with support from the central authorities. Such support was granted for the purchase of library materials and equipment and when new libraries were established, this was usually done with the support of the Ministry of Culture. Public library collections normally comprised books and periodicals published in the country, while books in foreign languages were normally collected by academic, research and special libraries only. Most Kosova libraries had and still have closed stacks.

Many of the public libraries in bigger towns were allocated within the framework of the local House of Culture and in many villages the library was a combined library serving both the general public and as school library. School libraries were under the jurisdiction of educational authorities and each primary and secondary school was obliged to provide a library, but in the pre-war period a great number of schools did not have their own library. Official statistics shows that there were 967 elementary schools and 69 secondary schools in the Kosova region in 1989 and only 328 school libraries (Figure 1.) Far from all had established their own libraries and many pupils were directed to public libraries for their reading. A significant part of the public library budget had to be spent for purchasing schoolbooks.

In the former Yugoslavia each autonomous republic or province had its own library law.

The Library Law of Kosova was approved on April 28 1978 (KK No. 630-2/77). There was no federal library law, but regulations, so-called minimum standards, for public libraries as well as for academic libraries, were adopted by the then Union of Yugoslav Library Associations. These standards determined the number of staff, the number of volumes, space and equipment, the bibliographic standards for processing of library materials etc. for a certain type of library. It seems that many libraries did not meet the standards, but were allowed to function anyway.

**Figure 1.**

<b>Libraries in Kosova before 1999: Numbers and volumes of books</b>			
	<b>1989</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>1995</b>
Research and special libraries:	36	31	34
Volumes of books:	927.000	213.000	810.000
Public libraries:	176	78	59
Volumes of books:	1,927.000	1,859.000	1,080.000
School libraries:	328	146	144
Volumes of books:	1,224.000	639.000	578.000
<b>Source 1989:</b> Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia: 1989. Belgrade: Federal Institute for Statistics, 1991.			
<b>Source 1992 and 1995:</b> Statistical Yearbook of Yugoslavia: 1999. Belgrade: Federal Institute for Statistics, 1999.			

Note that statistical data on libraries have been collected by the Federal Institute for Statistics every three years, thus the 3-year intervals. Data on library staff are not available.

**Figure 2.**

<b>University and Public Libraries in Kosova from 1975 to 1990: Numbers and ethnic belonging</b>
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	1975-1990	1999 before the war
Albanian:	107	37
Serbian:	20	37
Others:	17	6
Total:	144	80
<b>Source:</b> UNESCO: Rapport de Mission au Kosovo. Ros Borath, November 1 - November 30 1999.		

The discrepancies in the number of libraries registered by figure 1 and figure 2 – and figure 3 – indicates the general problems collecting data in Kosova. The confusion derives from several factors. Even practical information is coloured by national political or ethnic implications, and ambitions, which vary pending on time and power. The compilation of data is irregular and often careless. The actual status and existence of individual libraries unclear and the definitions of the different categories of libraries, whether school, public or academic are not distinct.

### 3.2 Library management and administration

The UN Security Council Resolution 1244 entrusts the United Nations Mission in Kosova (UNMIK) with "performing basic civilian administrative functions" and "organising and overseeing the development of provisional institutions for democratic and autonomous self governance" in Kosova.

The features of the inheritance from the preceding administrative system is a model of state-directed activities, with cultural workers as state employees, a highly skewed privileging of Serbian heritage and institutions and a commensurate discrimination of against Kosovar Albanian Culture (Albanian cultural institutions lost state support). All these factors are combined with a considerable under-funding and neglect of the whole sector for the past ten years.

The Kosovo Transitional Council is the highest-level consultative body of Kosovars to the United Nations interim administration. The Interim Administrative Council (IAC) has decided that the 19 administrative departments shall be co-administered by UNMIK and Kosova political leaders, the so-called JIAS (Joint Interim Administrative Structure). On February 28 2000 IAC named Mrs. Edi Shukriu, head of the LDK Women's League, co-head of the department of Culture. Unfortunately we did not have the occasion to meet with Mrs. Shukriu, and the UNMIK co-head, Mr. Gonzalo Retemal Pouilly, had not yet arrived from Chile. Our contacts at the UNMIK central administration were Ms. Sarah Isakson, at present the only employee dedicated to culture, and Mr. Tom Koenigs, head of Pillar 2, civil administration.

The UNMIK budget of the year 2000 for public libraries and archives estimates the number of employees to be 335 and dedicates a sum of DM 1,061.280 for their wages and salaries, while other goods and services acquires DM 307.346. The total UNMIK budget for the public libraries and archives is DM 1,368.626. It must be noted that the

budget will be re-visited, when a more accurate estimation of the staff number and the number of institutions is at hand. The total budget for UNMIK culture amounts to DM 4,650.483 and includes besides libraries and archives, arts, museums, cultural institutions and sports (DM 1,000.000).

Library workers have not received salaries for at least 1 year, since the outbreak of the war. The payment of librarians and others publicly employed only began March 2000. The exact number of people employed is still uncertain, because UNMIK lacks information from some municipalities, but the actual figure must be somewhat higher than 335. The number of public libraries alone used to be around 180 before 1990 and today is estimated to be at least 118 of which many employ two or more persons. The average salary is between DM 250 and DM 350 a month. According to an estimate by Mr. Gerguri libraries used to employ around 600 librarians.

### **3.3 Legislation and regulations concerning libraries**

The situation concerning legislation in Kosova is still somewhat unclear and the UNMIK administration is still working its way through the various fields of society to clarify the legal status. According to UNMIK regulations 2000/24 and 25, laws applicable in Kosova on March 1989, when Kosova's Parliament was dissolved and its autonomy revoked, are still valid, until they are replaced or changed by new laws and regulations.

The National and University Library holds copies of all legislation valid or previously valid in Kosova. The director, Mr. Gerguri, provided us with copies of the 3 legal texts relevant to libraries: The Law on libraries, the Decree on the National and University Library and the Decree on legal deposit. Naturally, these texts are in Albanian, so they have been forwarded to UNMIK Culture both to their information and for translation into English. The translations are found as the annexes 4, 5 and 6 to this report.

The current Library Law of Kosova was adopted on April 28 1978 (KK No. 630-2/77). It defines library activity as a social activity the purpose of which is:

"... to increase the general educational level through the help of the book and other library material; To fulfil continuously the cultural needs of the working people and citizens and also to develop the scientific, professional work and to develop the economy, education, science, culture and other activities" (Article 1),

Books and other library materials are at "public disposal" and "working people and the ordinary citizens can use the books and other library material equally", but a strong emphasis is also given to the role of libraries in regard to preservation of cultural heritage.

The law includes all types of libraries, though it focuses on general or national libraries (public and scientific libraries, including the National and University Library). There are very few specific regulations concerning special libraries and school libraries. According to the law libraries can be established by political and social unions, unions of cultural interest (local cultural administrations), regional and other organisations if certain conditions are met in regard to funding, book collections, space and equipment, and professional workers.

The law defines the different categories of libraries and outlines the general structure for

a Kosova library system. The National and University Library is the principal institution overall responsible for co-ordination of library activities, library co-operation, professional research and the main catalogue covering all libraries in Kosova and the main bibliography, including material of "the nations and nationalities of Kosova". This function as main central library involves both general libraries and special libraries.

On a second level it defines the tasks of regional main libraries (provincial libraries) to provide professional assistance within their territory, to supervise library activities, to harmonise and to encourage co-operation. The municipal and regional authorities in culture are responsible for the funding and governance of local and regional general libraries according to law, while the provincial authorities of culture, education and science provides the funding for the National and University Library. All general libraries are obliged to have a board and statutes. The law "in principle" provides for interlibrary loans and exchange of materials.

Much attention is given to the correct handling of library materials, conservation, preservation and limitations in use of valuable materials. The Council of the National and University library takes final decisions on weeding of materials of all libraries.

The law also defines the levels of education necessary for library workers distinguishing between 5 categories of employees: data entry clerk, senior data clerk, librarian, senior librarian and library advisor. To become librarian a university degree and the professional exam for librarian is needed. Diplomas were issued and exams performed at the University of Belgrade.

The Decree on the National and University Library specifies the tasks given by the law (articles 25 and 27) and adds an important responsibility for proposing and organising the education and professional training of library workers.

The Legal Deposit Decree provides 15 free samples of all publications from Kosovar publishing organisations or agencies to the National and University Library. From these copies the library has to send one copy to each of the central (national) libraries in the other FRY republics, leaving 8 copies for the N&U Library. Furthermore the decree states that all main libraries (provincial libraries) are obliged to provide at least one copy of books, magazines, brochures and other publications published in Kosova at their own expense.

Before the war the standard systems to register printed materials, ISSN (International Standard Serial Number) and ISBN (International Standard Book Number), promoted by the international organisation for standardisation, ISO was managed from a central FRY office in Belgrade. The first digits in these code numbers identify the country in which the publication is made. There is a strong wish to have a special Kosova code and to establish a separate Kosova office handling this registration. At the moment new Kosovar Albanian language books are not registered according to current international standards.

### **3.4 Destruction and damages**

In March 1989 the Serbian parliament adopted constitutional amendments which stripped Kosova of its virtual autonomy, which was granted by the Federal Constitution. This act was in many ways a turning point in both political and human rights developments in Kosova. During the 1990's Serbian authorities have increasingly infringed on fundamental rights of the ethnic Albanian majority of the Kosova

population. The Serbian government imposed "emergency measures" and systematically tightened its grip on the region; it purged all sectors of Kosova public life and marginalised about 90% of the population.

On 26 June 1990 the Serbian authorities imposed a new wave of decrees, officially described as temporary measures. These measures, which remained permanent, included the dismissal of thousands of state employees. Approximately 6.000 schoolteachers were dismissed and more were to follow. Ethnic Albanian professors and students were expelled from or began boycotting both university and elementary and secondary schools in 1991, after instruction in the Albanian language was banned and a uniform Serbian curriculum imposed.

Albanian educators were dismissed because they refused to adhere to new Serbian curricula, others appear to have been dismissed from their jobs solely for reasons relating to their ethnicity or political beliefs. The ethnic Albanian population responded by developing a parallel society, which established its own government and its own institutions. Albanian teachers, doctors and other professionals provided their services either from home or in makeshift surgeries and offices. In 1994, for example, Albanian sources claimed that 335,000 pupils taught by more than 18,000 teachers attended their parallel education system.

Mr. Mehmet Gerguri, Director of the National and University Library in Kosova, was appointed to this position in June 1990. Less than four months later on September 27 1990 the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Serbia decided to implement "temporary coercive measures" in the National and University Library. The director was overruled and a directing board of five Serbs and Montenegrins and one Albanian was appointed. The Albanian refused to accept the nomination.

All ethnic Albanians in the leadership were immediately dismissed from their positions and in the end 99 librarians and technical staff - 93 Albanians, 3 Bosnians, 2 Turks and a Croat - were deprived of their jobs.

Since then Mr. Gerguri has frequently attempted to draw the attention of the world society to the situation at his library. He has written several letters of appeal to UNESCO - in 1993, 1995, 1997 and finally after the war in 1999 - and other international organisations, including IFLA, but received practically no response.

Helsinki Watch has examined the dismissal papers of several ethnic Albanian employees of the National and University Library of Kosova. The reason for dismissal of such workers often is attributed - with no further explanation - to the workers' "failure to perform [his or her] duties and preventing other workers from attending to their responsibilities and doing their jobs." In several instances the dismissal is justified by the following clause:

"... in making statements to the press, the worker misrepresented the situation at the library, misinformed the public and gave a wrong impression of the work of the temporary bodies [i.e. the emergency management teams] and their actions, in that [s/]he accused and rudely attacked their work and the relevant measures of the Serbian Parliament as 'police methods'."

The dismissal notice cited is dated March 4 1991 and is signed by Dr. Slobodan Kostic of the temporary management team. Kostic was director of the N&U library from October 1

1990 until 1995-96. Helsinki Watch retains copies of such dismissal notices dating from 1990 and onwards (Ivana Nizich: Yugoslavia: Human Rights abuses in Kosovo 1990-1992, October 1992. Helsinki Watch).

In 1991 the Serbian government intensified its assimilation policies in Kosova. The Albanian language was banned as language of instruction at all levels of education. Very few ethnic Albanian students were allowed to enrol at Prishtina University and thousands of Albanian teachers and other Kosova Albanians lost their jobs due to their ethnicity. Many ethnic Albanian librarians lost their jobs. At the National and University Library of Kosova alone 99 librarians and other library workers, including the director, were dismissed and ethnic Albanian users were expelled from the reading rooms.

The general decrease in the number of libraries registered in the official Yugoslav statistics (see Figure 1) might well be a reflection of this political development - the attempt to perform an ethnic cleansing of Kosova. To some extent it may reflect a result of Serbian wars with former members of the Yugoslav Federation: the closure of libraries because of the inadequate funding or the inability to collect the correct statistical data.

But the decrease in the number of both public and school libraries is significantly higher than in the number of research and special libraries. This indicates that Serb authorities have either officially closed or just administratively left out public or school libraries located in clearly ethnic Albanian towns and villages, while research and special libraries in major towns have been taken over by Serb officials. The fate of the academic libraries has naturally been closely connected with the fate of Kosovar educational institutions. The radical decrease in the number of book volumes in 1992 may well indicate the removal or destruction of books in the Albanian language, while the increase in 1995 may indicate new supplies of books in Serb. The reasons for the fluxes in the number of libraries and the number of volumes shown in statistical yearbooks for 1989 and 1992 and 1995 should be more closely investigated.

In the autumn of 1999 the National and University Library of Kosova, sponsored by the Kosova Foundation for Open Society (KFOS), undertook the task to take stock of the condition of public libraries throughout Kosova. The actual collection of data took place in September and October 1999 and the survey was completed in December. In January/February 2000 the IFLA/FAIFE Office in Copenhagen had the text of this survey translated from Albanian into English (Annex 3: Overview of the Situation of the Public Libraries of Kosova). The translated text has been revised and approved by Mr. Mehmet Gerguri, director of the National and University Library.

**Figure 3.**

<b>Public libraries in Kosova before 1990 and after 1999: Numbers and volumes of books</b>			
	<b>Before 1990</b>	<b>After 1999</b>	<b>Annihilated</b>
Main libraries	25	22	3

Volumes of Books	843.123	581.431	261.692
Branch libraries	158	96	62
Volumes of Books	1.171.505	532.609	638.896
Public libraries in total	183	118	65
Volumes of Books	2.014.628	1.114.060	900.588
<b>Source:</b> Overview of the Situation of the Public Libraries of Kosova. Prishtina: The National and University Library of Kosova			

The survey includes data for public libraries in 25 of Kosova's 29 municipalities. Figure 3. shows the main results of this survey. The municipalities not covered are Zubin Potok/Zubin Potok, Shterpçë/Strepce, Novo Brdo/Novoberdë and Obiliq/Obiliq. 3 of these municipalities are areas, which at least before the war were populated with a majority of ethnic Serbs, and this may be the reason, they are not included. The fourth, Obiliq, is a quite small municipality neighbouring Prishtina to the West, of which we were informed that Serbs had burned the main library.

According to the survey the total number of public libraries before the war was 205. 183 of these libraries are located in the areas now dominated by ethnic Albanians and 65 of those were destroyed during the period from 1990 to the end of the war in 1999.

The findings described in the survey were generally confirmed by the information collected by our mission, though there were some minor discrepancies. Most importantly the main library in Peja did indeed survive the war, but is now out of function, because the House of Culture of which it was part, is housing the UNMIK police station. The books are kept in a locked room on the 4th floor of the building. In a few other municipalities visited there were minor and insignificant differences in the number of volumes or in the number of branch libraries. The variation in the number of these libraries was caused by uncertainty regarding their status; that is, if they should be considered strictly school libraries or combined libraries.

### **3.5 Allegations and responsibility of destructions**

During the summer of 1999 IFLA/FAIFE received reports of the massive Serbian abolition and demolition of ethnic Albanian literature and libraries, which has taken place during the period of Yugoslav rule. IFLA/FAIFE also received reports that the

destruction of libraries and book collections was still going on in Kosova, but that the roles had changed and that Serb books and libraries were now being destroyed by ethnic Albanians. On June 9 1999 UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy for the Balkans, Carl Bildt, described Kosova as a "devastated wasteland that will have to be rebuilt from the bottom up". He stressed that this would include the reconstruction of archives and libraries and that there was evidence of massive destruction of the collective memory.

Kosovar Albanians claim that Serbs have systematically destroyed Albanian books in an attempt to eradicate Albanian cultural heritage in Kosova and to harass ethnic Albanians into leaving the area. At the National Library alone more than 100.000 books were destroyed in the period from July 1991 to 1995. In July 1991 six truckloads of periodicals, mainly newspapers, were sent to Cardboard factory. In January and February 1992 around 100.000 books, more than 8.000 magazines and more newspapers were taken out and transported to unknown destination by trucks with license plates from Nis in Serbia, and in 1995 a smaller amount of publications were shipped of.

This process of 'ethnic cleansing' is also reported from almost all other public libraries in Kosova. The extend of these measures seems to have depended on the dedication of the director of the individual library to perform the task. For instance the present director of the municipal library of Mitrovice, Hajrulla Mustafa, informed us that no such segregation had taken place under the former Serb director Olja Stevic, who left during or after the war.

Serbs have repeatedly claimed that at least four Serbian libraries have been destroyed and over two million Serbian books burned. The following message was delivered on September 28 by Glas Javnosti, a Serbian newspaper issued in Belgrade, and widely distributed by the official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, and the Serb Orthodox Monastery in Decane/Decani under the heading "Goethe, Shakespeare Burning... Albanian Terrorists burned more than two million Serb books in Kosovo":

"Since the arrival of KFOR Albanian terrorists in Kosovo destroyed in Kosovo local libraries more than two million books in Serbian, claim the representatives of the Historical Archive in Kosovska Mitrovica.

The very important archive material is also targeted. It has been destroyed by the terrorists in front of KFOR eyes and nothing has been done to protect the books in libraries and other cultural Serb institutions in Kosovo. It is a shame that the works of Shakespeare, Goethe and other famous writers are burned in front of soldiers who came from the countries of these writers.

In the worst position are the communal libraries in Prizren, Djakovica, Istok, Glogovac, Srbica, Podujevo and other cities, which are under control of the KLA members. This barbarism is not remembered from the time of Hitler and the Nazi burning of books in the Second World War."

The intentions are clearly to attach the actual destruction of libraries to the Albanians now controlling the areas mentioned, but when it comes to facts these statements lacks foundation.

First of all, there were never two million Serb books in the public libraries of Kosova, even according to official Yugoslav statistics (se Figure 1). Secondly, most of the libraries mentioned, Prizren/Prizren, Gjakova/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Glogovac/Glogovac

and Skenderaj/Srbica are in the Western part of Kosova, where Serbs themselves were responsible for burning down both villages and towns. And most of the destruction of both books and library buildings took place in the countryside. The main libraries of Istog, Glogovac, Skenderaj and Podujevo/Podujeve, located in the Eastern part of Kosova, have been burned or otherwise destroyed, while this is not the case with the libraries of Prizren and Gjakova. In the surviving libraries of Prizren and Gjakova the collections are intact and books in Serbian are still to be found on the shelves. Finally, it is interesting to note that the Serbs themselves define public libraries in Kosova as 'cultural Serb institutions' and thus leaves out around 80-90% of the area's population.

A more detailed account of alleged Albanian destruction of Kosovar libraries and books were distributed under the heading: "Ethnic Albanian Extremists Burning Serbian Books" by Tanjug, the Decani e-group (<http://www.egroups.com/message/decani/23410?&start=22859>) and the newspaper "Borba daily" on 20. December 1999. It is mainly quoting the former ethnic Serb director of the National and University library, Mr. Jordan Ristic, who held this position from director from 1995/96 until June 16 1999:

"Since the arrival of the KFOR international forces in Serbia's Kosovo and Metohija province in June, all Serb employees have been sacked from the Ivo Andric National Library of the University of Prishtina, and Serbs are now even banned from entering this biggest book center in the province, library Manager Jordan Ristic told Tanjug on Saturday.

Expressing great concern for the fate of the entire book fund of the province, Ristic said eyewitnesses had reported that ethnic Albanian vandals had burned piles of books or otherwise destroyed them and threw them into garbage containers, in plain sight of KFOR members.

Ethnic Albanian extremists also set fire to the Prishtina City Library, which had been the biggest library in the province, with about 400,000 titles.

In addition to Serb books, the arson also destroyed Albanian and Turkish books, and others in the languages of other ethnic groups, Ristic said.

At present, it is not possible to get reliable information on what happened to about a million books of the national university library, and no communication is possible with those who entered its premises after the expulsion of Serbs, Ristic said.

At the time of the expulsion of Serbs, the library had also been host to two exhibitions - "Wooden churches in Serbia" and "Chelandari miniatures", said Ristic. Nothing is known about these exhibits, either, he said.

Within its rich scientific and cultural life, the library had been a specific cultural center in which over a hundred events were staged each year, from concerts and painting exhibitions, to book fairs and symposiums which were attended by prominent figures from the country and from all over the world.

The library also annually published about 30 books, the most prominent of them being a two-volume monograph on the Gračanica Monastery, the Book on Drenica, and three books by Serbian Orthodox Patriarch Pavle.

Earlier, before Kosovo Albanians withdrew from public life in the province

under pressure from their terrorist and extremist leaders the library had also hosted all important events in the Albanian language.

Nothing is known either about the book funds of the faculties of the University of Prishtina, Ristic said. Serbs banished from some places in the province told Ristic that they had seen Kosovo Albanians bring books out of Serb houses and apartments and burn them in public in the streets.

It has also been confirmed that the rampant ethnic Albanian terrorists also destroyed almost all private home libraries, in particular from the homes of prominent Serb writers who had lived in the province. Ristic himself had been the proud possessor of one of the most valuable private collections in Kosovo and Metohija - over 4,500 titles. All these books have been destroyed. Ristic was expelled from his apartment at gunpoint. The "third set of tenants" who subsequently moved into his apartment telephoned him to say that his private library "now contains only parquetry," he said.

Nothing at all is known about the fate of the books in libraries in the area of Prizren, south-western Kosovo and Metohija, from where almost all Serbs have been expelled. This includes the library of the Prizren Faculty of Theology, with one of the richest spiritual archives in the area. Serbs who fled from Prizren said the faculty building had been plundered and partly burned, so that one can only suspect what happened to the books, Ristic said".

The timing of this release is remarkable. The 20th of December 1999 is just a few days after the announcement of the major finding of the National and University Library survey, accusing Serbs of destroying libraries. Furthermore the article in several phrases indicates that an overview of the situation is not yet accomplished. More than six months after the end of the war it is still only suspected what happened "to one of the richest spiritual archives in the area" at the Faculty of the Theology or rather the Seminary and theological library of Serb-Orthodox Church in Prizren. According to Andras Riedlmayer this building is intact and closely guarded by German KFOR soldiers. Since the end of the war in June 1999, the seminary has served as a shelter for Serb, Roma, ethnic Turk and Albanian refugees. We have found no Kosovar Serb sources claiming that damages has been done to this library.

The Prishtina City Library has not been burned, and again the numbers of library books are exaggerated and inexact. The Center for Peace and Tolerance in Belgrade provided reports from sources in Prishtina on attacks on and harassment of ethnic Serbs in Kosova from June 18 to September 2 1999, including detailed accounts of thefts or occupied apartments (<http://www.cptkosovo.org.yu/English/default.htm>). This Serb source only has one mention of libraries during this period. On June 28th 1999 it states that: "The public library of Pristina is forcibly occupied, and the car, Skoda Felicia, registration plates: PR 104 11, dark blue metallic was stolen, Kralja Milutina St. No 10". There is no mention of libraries demolished or books destroyed in Prishtina or elsewhere in Kosova, though many violations of different nature are listed.

The article claims that all Serb employees have been dismissed from the National and University Library of Prishtina. Mr. Gerguri informed us that the ethnic Serb employees had been offered to return to their jobs, but that nobody accepted this invitation. Some libraries in the areas now dominated by ethnic Albanians informed us that they had

offered the former Serb employees to return to their jobs, some of these employees had even showed up to do so, but none had actually resumed service. Fear of personal security seems to be the obvious reason for this.

The article clearly seems to be produced as a propaganda response to the allegations made by ethnic Albanians. The information revealed is inaccurate and even incorrect and the interview seems to be outdated reflecting the confusing days immediately after the war and with no knowledge of the situation at the time of publication (December 1999).

It is impossible to rule out that some libraries may have been destroyed by ethnic Albanians attacking 'Serb cultural institutions'. We saw no indications in the libraries visited, that Serb books had been systematically destroyed or demolished. Actually, in some of the most damaged areas like Rahovec/Orahovac, books in Serbian were the only ones left.

Representatives of almost all libraries visited by our mission stressed the fact that they still contained books in Serb and random checks of books on the shelves confirmed this. Mr. Hajrulla Mustafa, director of the Municipal Library in Mitrovice, stated: "We must keep all books, never mind the language". Though these books now are of very little or no use to the libraries and their users they are still kept and preserved.

### **3.6 Co-operation and reconciliation perspectives**

Today there is no co-operation, or even contact, between professionals of the ethnic Albanian majority and professionals in ethnic Serbian enclaves. We only encountered one example of any attempt to establish some co-operation. The director of the main public library in Prishtina, the "Hivzi Sulejman Library", Mr. Sulejman Pireva, told us that he had had a conversation with a Serb librarian in Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje. Mr. Pireva had suggested some exchange of books - books in Serb for books in Albanian, and vice versa, but nothing had come out of it and there had been no further contacts.

We discussed the question of co-operation with several ethnic Albanian librarians. None of these rejected the idea, but all stated that it would be impossible, as they cannot, or rather dare not, go into the Serb enclaves. When we travelled to visit the largest Serb enclave, Mr. Jetish Kadishani, who is responsible for contacts with public libraries at the National and University Library, joined us. Mr. Kaishani didn't dare go with us into the Serb enclave, though we were driving in a UN vehicle, so he stayed in the main library of Mitrovice. Later we were informed that he had tried to pass a message to the librarians in Leposaviq through us. Mr. Kadishani does not speak any foreign languages, so he had asked the UN-employed driver, an ethnic Serb who spoke English, to ask us, if we could offer some co-operation. The driver never mentioned this to us. The reason for this is likely to be that the offer was conditioned by an acceptance of the Republic of Kosova.

We also asked the library director of the public library in Leposaviq, Mr. Milomir Tanaskovic, if he would be interested in some co-operation with the main public library in Mitrovice, which is located on the South-side of the river Ibrit in the ethnic Albanian part of the town. He said that he would be interested in contacts with both Mitrovice and Prishtina, but that he didn't know the people in charge there and even doubted if they held their positions legitimately. On the other hand his library was quite isolated and there were no contacts with libraries in Serbia - though the library had all Serbian daily

newspapers on the day of issue. He stated that: "If I enter into such co-operation, I will be the first in this area doing so - in any field"

The general impression during our mission was that the immediate possibilities of co-operation and reconciliation are very limited. It seems that the problems derive from the overall political climate in Kosova and not as much from personal or professional conflicts. Many of the people we talked to implied that co-operation might raise some problems with their own ethnic group. Mr. Sulejman, director of Prishtina Municipal Library, delivered a very characteristic remark on the relation between Kosovar Serb and Albanian library professionals: "If they show any interest, or contact us, it is ok".

#### 4. Specific assessment of institutions and sectors

In the course of the twelve days of our stay in Kosova we were able to visit all regions all 5 districts of Kosova, all major cities and 13 of 29 municipalities, including Leposavic in the major Serb enclave north of Mitrovice. We visited more than 20 libraries and other cultural institutions and had official meetings with UNMIK and 4 other important international organisations. We made professional interviews and had talks with more than 45 persons - and met hundreds of Kosovar library and cultural workers. The information provided in this part of our report is based on our own experiences and supplemented by other sources referred to in the text.

**Figure 4. Map of Kosova including districts and municipalities. Place names in Serbian.**



#### 4.1 National and University Library of Kosova

The National and University Library of Kosova has its origins as a Regional Library founded in 1944 in Prizren (1944-1963), and later, as a Provincial Library (1963-1970). When the University of Kosova was founded in 1970, the Library also took on the

functions and name of National and University library.

The construction of the current building, located in Central Prishtina, began in 1974 and the new library was inaugurated on November 25 1982. Built in a style blending Byzantine and Islamic architectural forms, by 1983 the Library's holdings were comprised of 600,000 items. The seven-level building with 12,000 sq. meter of usable area, houses two reading rooms with respectively 300 and 100 seats, a periodicals reading room, rooms for special collections, cataloguing and research, a 150-seat amphitheatre and a 75-seat meeting hall. It has the capacity to accommodate two million volumes. The book stacks are located on two levels below grade and are closed to the public, as is a common practice in the region.

The N&U Library functions as a legal depository library for all materials published in Kosova. The library had by legal deposit law been receiving 8 copies of all works published in Kosova and one copy of all works published in the other Republics of Yugoslavia by exchange with their National libraries. Mr. Gerguri hopes to enlarge library holdings with Albanian-language publications published in the West "everything written in Albanian". This is the practice, for example, in Croatia, where the N&U Library collects "Croatica", and in Slovenia, where the National and University Library collects "Slovenica", by exchange with other libraries and/or purchase.

The National and University Library intends to reassume the task of producing a national bibliography. We discussed with Mr. Gerguri the question of a bibliography of Albanica versus one embracing all publications deriving from Kosova, including Serbian- and other language publications. The existing law on libraries clearly proscribes that the National and University Library: "Makes the updated and retrospective bibliography of the library material of the nations and nationalities of the Autonomous Socialist Province of Kosova".

Up to 1990/91, the Library was linked via an on-line catalogue to all other national libraries in then Yugoslavia through a joint bibliographic database installed on a host computer in Maribor, Slovenia. At present, only a card catalogue is offered to the readers. The old 1980's computer, which was used to access the catalogue, is still found in the basement and it is not clear whether any back-up cataloguing tapes exist. The library director expects that the data contained in those computers could be converted to a new system.

Though severely neglected, the building is intact, except for some minor damages to the main entrance area. The library is equipped with an automated book ordering and delivery systems, but currently both the book conveyor belt and the building elevators are inoperable. The librarians hand-carries books from the stacks in the basement to the reading rooms. As everywhere else in Prishtina electricity is irregular and there is no heating.

There are major problems with water penetration in the lowest level. Water is standing on the floor, and some shelves are already rusting. The building is on a slope and appears to have been constructed with a sump that required pumping out, but with the failure of the electricity and the removal of the back-up generator the situation has deteriorated rapidly. The book stack is at substantial risk, and failure to restore pumping will create a major problem due to the need to replace stack and equipment.

Though more than 100.000 books have been removed the main research collection of

the National and University Library has survived essentially intact. But in ten years only 22,000 items were added to the collection, none of them in Albanian. Since the end of the war there has been no money to buy books to make up for the lost years, but the library often receives donations for the

According to Mr. Bruce Jackson the Oriental Manuscript and Albanian language printed collections has suffered particularly. Since documentation was not complete in 1990, it is not possible to be totally precise about the damage suffered. Manuscripts are now stored in a single room, and many are in poor condition.

Before 1991 the N&U Library carried out its activities through 11 professional and administrative sections, with 139 librarians and other technical staff. Today the library employs a staff of 70, around 50 librarians and 20-22 technical staff. During February/March 2000 further 10 people will be employed. We were informed that priority would be given to younger professionals. According to Mr. Gerguri the library used to have up to 10.000 registered users a year and approximately 1.000 daily users. Today the number is heavily reduced. Although the Library is open to students the lack of electricity is forcing early afternoon closure and the lack of heating equally causes limitations to use. This may be better when spring and summer arrives, but many students and teachers have left the university to work with international NGO's and UNMIK administration. A local cartoon pictured two people meeting in the street, one saying to the other: "Have you heard, they have closed the university?" - "No, why?" - "The are no students and teachers left. They all work with the internationals".

Around 150 canisters of Kosova Film material were found on the floor. It was not known whether they were still to be preserved, but we were informed that they would be shelved to reduce the risk of damage.

Some international initiatives have been taken to support the N&U Library. Tania Vitvitsky, Project Director at the Sabre Foundation, went to Prishtina in October 1999 for an assessment visit and is working with government agencies and publishers to set up a book donation program. The Soros Foundation has provided access for three years to an on-line database of EBSCO holding approximately 4,500 periodicals. As there is no International Mail service to Kosova, the mailing of journal subscriptions is not feasible at this time, but the electronic access and the possibility to make prints are major achievements in user service. IOM has sponsored the renovation of a smaller section of the N&U Library and set up an Internet Center accommodating computer terminals and workstations.

The library is now attempting to re-establish relations with library professionals outside Kosova. Mr. Gerguri informed us that 10 Kosovar librarians, 6 from the N&U library, one from Vushtrri, one from Mitrovice, one from Glogoc and one from Skenderaj, were going to attend a conference in Croatia on the 26th And 27th of April this year. Furthermore the N&U library on the 16th of February signed an agreement with the National Library of Albania in Tirana on future co-operation, including the exchange of two copies of all printed material in Albanian and of bibliographic data.

The most pressing problems facing the National and University library at this point are:

- Missing, damaged or outdated equipment:
- Provision of generator to operate pump to prevent major problems with large cost implications

- Restoration of electricity supply
- Repairs to book delivery system and lifts
- Provision of general office equipment
- Restoration of telephone lines
  
- The need to make up for a decade of neglect of collection development:
- Replacement of Albanian texts destroyed in the 1990s (possibly through contact with other copyright libraries in the former Yugoslavia)
- Provision of modern student textbooks
- Provision of new English-language books with these priorities: Medical, Engineering, Computer science, Reference (dictionaries and encyclopaedias), Business/economics, Law, Art/music, Mining (coal, gold, silver) and English language
- The need for conservation and preservation measures
- Relocation of manuscripts to secure, controlled storage
- Conservation programmes with refresher training possibly in Italy?
- Provision of conservation materials and equipment in tandem with restart of conservation at Archives of Kosova
  
- The loss of on-line catalogue records and automated systems:
- a new automated system
- re-conversion of digital catalogue
  
- The need for professional training:
- short courses and workshop for library staff workshops by visiting experts

#### **4.2 Academic and faculty libraries**

The University of Prishtina embraces 7 high schools (teachers and technical training colleges) and 13 faculties. A High School is a two-year university-level college. Such schools are commonly teachers training or engineering colleges.

The high schools are: 1) a Teachers Training College, Prishtina, 2) a Teachers Training College, Prizren, 3) a Teachers Training College, Gjakova, 4) a Teachers Training College, Gjilan, 5) a College of Economics, Peja, 6) a Engineering College, Ferizaj, and 7) a Engineering College, Mitrovice.

The faculties are: 1) the Faculty of Philosophy, Prishtina, 2) the Faculty of Philology, Prishtina, 3) the Faculty of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, Prishtina, 4) the Faculty of Law, Prishtina, 5) the Faculty of Economics, Prishtina, 6) the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Prishtina, 7) the Faculty of Electronic Engineering, Prishtina, 8) the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Prishtina, 9) the Medical Faculty, Prishtina, 10) the Faculty of Arts, Prishtina, 11) the Faculty Mining and Metallurgy, Mitrovice, 12) the Faculty of Physical Training (Sports), Prishtina, and 13) the Faculty of Agriculture, Prishtina.

The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences includes 5 libraries or book collections allocated to different buildings and departments. All of these were looted and need new books, journals and computers providing access to databases and the Internet. The Faculty of Philology also reports that many books in Albanian and Foreign languages were looted. The Faculty of Economics reports that the library of more than 20.000 books in three languages was looted. There is a need of library equipment, professional

literature and scientific magazines.

At the library of the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture all but two dozen volumes are reported to have been removed. At the Faculty of Law a lot of technical instruments, water heaters, telephones, computers, etc. were stolen and some books and documents devastated. The fund of books and the entire library inventory has been removed. A 100,000-volume collection was subsequently discovered by KFOR stashed in various locations around Prishtina, boxed for shipping and marked with Cyrillic labels reading "Biblioteka". The Library of the Faculty of Law is in need of modern law literature as well as other common sciences; electronic equipment; computers and alike.

KFOS is involved in a project proving basic literature for the University faculties. The project aims to have 40 core titles within different specialities translated into Albanian. The titles have been selected on the basis of requests and suggestions from the University faculties.

We visited the library of the Teachers Training College or High