

LEGACY TREASURE OF
THE “SVETOZAR MARKOVIĆ” UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
IN BELGRADE
Experience from a Digital Environment

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LIBRARIES IN THE SKY

**large-scale collaboration strategies and
infrastructures to enhance the use of digital
heritage collections**

National Library of Norway (Oslo)

April 12th 2018

Introduction

- According to Cambridge Dictionary *legacy* means „money or property that you receive from someone after they die“. It means also „something that is a part of your history or that remains from an earlier time“.
- Cambridge Dictionary:
<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/legacy>
(Access: 2 February 2018.)

- The „Svetozar Marković“ University Library in Belgrade is open for users since 1926. As the central library of the University of Belgrade it works with users from humanities, social sciences, biomedicine and technical sciences as well.
- It contains *33 special libraries* (posebne biblioteke).
- Most of them are a gift to the „Svetozar Marković“ University Library in Belgrade by famous persons from Serbian cultural history.

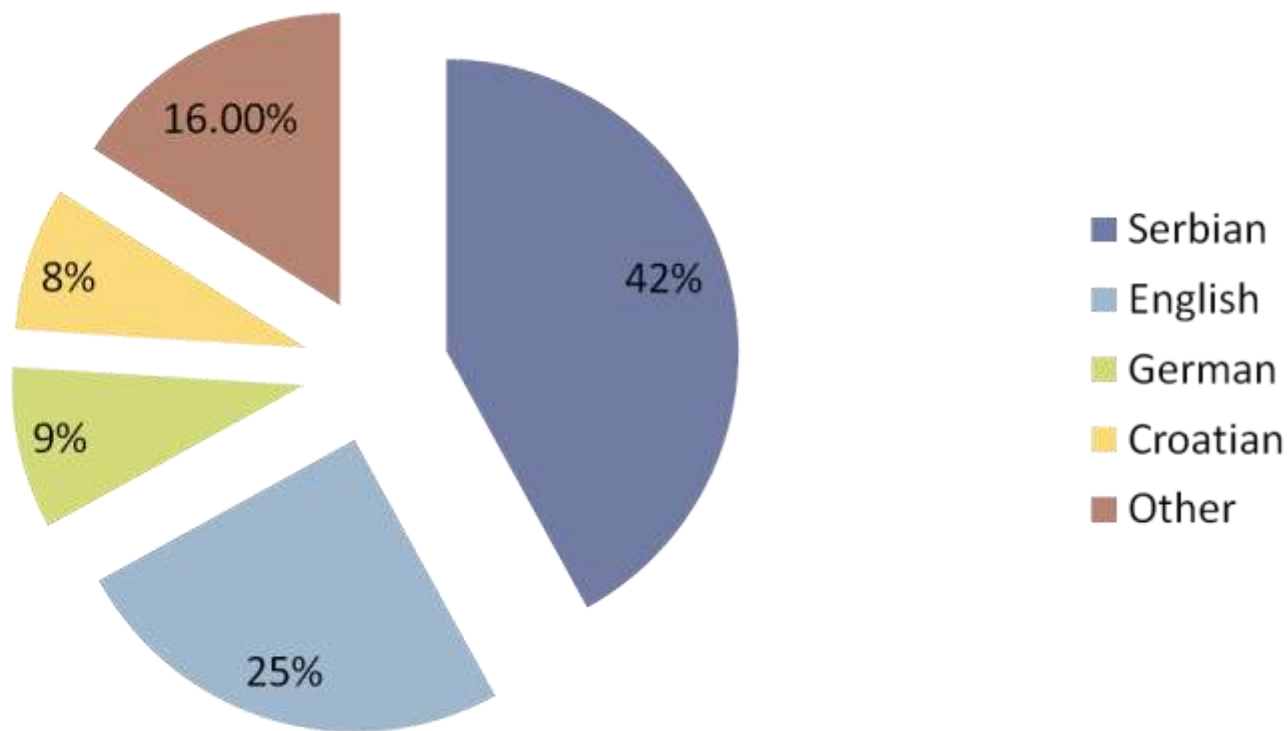
Bibliographic descriptions of library units on Norway in the “Svetozar Marković” University Library in Belgrade

(Source for data: e-catalogue of the “Svetozar Marković University Library” accessed 29 January 2018)

Language	No. of references	%
Serbian	167	42%
Croatian	31	7,8%
English	101	25%
French	4	1%
German	34	8,52%
Russian	2	0,5%

Bibliographic descriptions of library units on Norway in the collections of the “Svetozar Marković” University Library

Source: e-catalogue of the central university library in Belgrade accessed 29 January 2018.

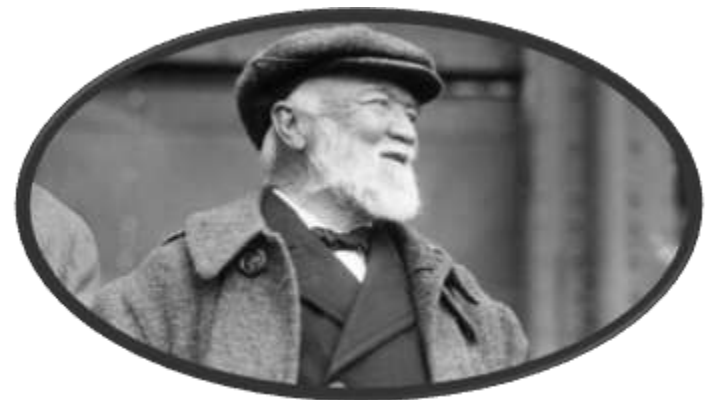


The examples of positive practice

- All **33 special libraries** are the examples of positive practice. Let's mention just some of them:
- The special library of **Andrew Carnegie**
- The special library of **Gedeon Dunderski**
- The special library of **Božidar Karađorđević**
- The special library of **Stojan Novaković**
- The special library of **Vojislav Jovanović Marambo**
- The special library of **Mihajlo Pupin**
- The special library of **Vojin Milić**
- The special library of **Joca Vujić**
- The special library of **Isidora Sekulić**

- The Legacy of **Andrew Carnegie** (1835-1919) deserves particular attention because **the University Library in Belgrade** (nowadays **the “Svetozar Marković” University Library**) is founded due to the financial aid e.g. donation from **Carnegie Foundation**.
- Although that amount of money was big but insufficient to erect a library, it is through the mechanism of credit that the library was finally constructed and open for users in 1926.
- **The University Library in Belgrade** received approximately 2.000 publications as a gift from the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1927. The seat of this institution is in Washington D.C. (USA)

Photo: Andrew Carnegie



- The name of **Gedeon Dunđerski** (1875-1939) is a very bright one in the history of **the University Library** in **Belgrade**. This man was not just financially rich. He had wide horizons.
- He was going in for industry and banking. Except that he was known as the owner of land whose surface was not small.
- **Gedeon Dunđerski** belonged to a wealthy family.
- He was the member of the **Hungarian Parliament** until 1918.
- He was the president of **Matica Srpska** from 1911 to 1920.
- Although his biography is full of interesting data which illustrate his talent for entrepreneurship, it is to be pointed out that known for his humanitarian work, **Gedeon Dunđerski** was sending lots of food to the poor every year.

- He even founded a factory of planes in **Novi Sad** in 1923. He moved later that factory to **Zemun**.
- It is for **the University Library** in **Belgrade** that **Gedeon Dunđerski** bought a very important library of Petar Stojadinović which costed 320.000 dinars.
- **The University Library** recieved that gift from him in 1929.

Illustration: Gedeon Dunđerski



- The legacy of **Božidar Karađorđević** (Paris, 1861 – Paris, 1908) is also the bright example of a special library. Its owner was a lawyer who spent all his life in France. **Božidar Karađorđević** is a grand-grand-child of Karađođe.
- He was also interested very much in publishing critics and translations in the French, English as well as the American journals. Except this, he was in a way a travelwriter.
- **Božidar Karađorđević** is interesting also because he wrote several novels and stories. His library, in fact a legacy, contains 128 works. Almost all of them are in French. Every book has the *ex libris* of **Božidar Karađorđević** as the sign of property and a very good, even excellent organization.

- It was a great name of Serbian librarianship. [Stojan Novaković](#) (1842-1915) created his own library with many rare and professional works from all scientific branches including particularly units from slavistics and Serbian history.
- [The University Library in Belgrade](#) received a part of that library as a gift.
- That collection of [Stojan Novaković](#) has approximately 5.000 units in the form of books and journals. It is implied in this text that one unit is one number of a journal.

Photo: Stojan Novaković



- **Vojislav Jovanović – Marambo** (Belgrade, 1884 – Belgrade, 1968) was a man of wide horizons. He was studying literature in several European countries e.g. Switzerland, France and in the United Kingdom. His doctoral dissertation had a title „*La Guzla de Prosper Merimée*“. He became first a docent. After that he became a professor at the University of Belgrade where he was lecturing comparative literature.
- His life was truly dynamic. **Vojislav Jovanović – Marambo** was a director of the *School of Diplomacy* from 1945-1947.
- He was working in different institutions. During certain period he was working in the Academy of Sciences changing jobs until 1962 when he retired.

- It is due to his sister, [Slavka Jovanović](#) that the University Library in Belgrade received his own library and his family house as a gift. The Department of Serbian literature is located there - in the old part of Belgrade.
- [Vojislav Jovanović – Marambo](#) was particularly interested in Serbian literature. His special library contains even 6.292 notebooks, manuscripts and at least 1.300 photos. The internal sign of this library is ПБ22 (PB22).
- [The Department of Serbian Literature](#) of [The University Library](#) is located in Birčaninova street 24, in [Belgrade](#). It is being visited by users often.

Photo: Vojislav Jovanović Marambo



- **Mihajlo Pupin** (1854-1935) was a famous scientist, a university professor and a diplomat who registered several important patents. He was also a big patriot.
- The gift by **Mihajlo Pupin** to **the University Library** in **Belgrade** was approximately 500 publications. While **the University Library** was being built he subscribed it to the journal Nova Evropa e.g. *New Europe* for 1925.

Photo: Mihajlo Pupin in 1916



- Although Mihajlo Pupin donored expensive individual gifts, it is sufficient to mention just *Encyclopedia Britannica in 32 volumes* as an illustration of his precious scientific taste and choice. The whole [University of Belgrade](#) hadn't previously possess it.

- [Vojin Milić](#) (1922-1996) was a sociologist, professor at [the University of Belgrade](#). He gave his library and the archive to [the University Library](#) as a gift. It contains 3473 works.
- Books from this library are in the domain of social sciences.
- The archive of professor [Vojin Milić](#) is also precious for the development of scientific thought in social sciences as well as the books he donored.

- Joca Vujić (Senta, 1863 – Belgrade, 1934) was a landlord who used to help the University of Belgrade as a donor. He had a very high position in Serbian cultural life as he was the member of the managerial board of Matica Srpska which is the oldest Serbian cultural and scientific society.
- He was going in for agronomy in a professional way because he had previously achieved indispensable qualifications for that. As his father had a land, Vujić decided to help and take care of it as an intellectual. More than four decades this persistent man was collecting books and manuscripts concerning Serbian culture and civilization.

- His valuable legacy has more than 10.000 (ten thousand) books and journals. It is a big cultural treasure for all those who would study or analyse Serbian cultural past, its history and civilization. Many library units refer to the culture of other peoples in ex-Yugoslavia.
- The legacy of **Joca Vujić** contains *old Serbian books and journals as well as the books from Dubrovnik and Croatia from XVIII until the end of XIX century*. His collection is a rich illustration of a cultural interconnection among peoples from ex-Yugoslavia. It contains also many old works in Latin, German and Hungarian language from XVI-XVIII century. Their content is mostly of historical nature. There are, for example, 25 books from XVI century. Among them there are rare editions from Dubrovnik.

- Except the library, **Joca Vujić** donored his archive which contains 4.000 documents. It is particularly important that the correspondence of some key historical persons is among them. The origins of these documents are in XVIII century.
- The archive of **Joca Vujić** contains also military and political reports from **Serbian-Turkish War** from 1875-1878 as well as from the wars in the period 1912-1918. It means that the archive materials refer partly to the period of **Balkan Wars** and **the First World War**.

Photo: Joca Vujić





LEGACY OF ISIDORA SEKULIĆ



- [Isidora Sekulić](#), famous Serbian writer, known to the public particularly as a travelwriter, gave her library as a heritage to [the University Library in Belgrade](#). As she was fluent in several foreign languages, the units in her legacy were being chosen with the greatest possible attention.
- Her remarks are to be noticed on the margins of books.
- She was particularly interested in linguistics, history, philosophy, music and painting. Her [library](#) contains approximately 170 books.



- Isidora Sekulić was known particularly due to her book *Letters from Norway*.



Portrait of Isidora Sekulić

Source for photo: riznicasrpska.net

THE ROOM OF ISIDORA SEKULIĆ
(IN THE HOUSE OF KING PETER I; collaboration with
the “Svetozar Marković” University Library in Belgrade, 2016)

- From the exhibition on **Isidora Sekulić** by Laura Barna and Lidija Jakšić



- Photo: <http://www.nezavisne.com/kultura/knjizevnost/Rekonstrisana-soba-Isidore-Sekulic-u-Kuci-kralja-Petra/354856>

The University Library in COBISS.SR

- The University Library in Belgrade is in COBISS (Cooperative On-line Bibliographic System & Services) system. Its e-catalogue is in free access. Bibliographic descriptions are being created in accordance with the international standards for bibliographic description of library materials.
- Library staff catalogues and classifies library materials in COBISS 3. The vast majority of the academic libraries in Serbia is included into COBISS.
- Cumulative catalogue COBIB.SR exists in free access. It is easily retrievable. However, it is the University Library in Belgrade which has an interlibrarian loan service with abroad.

- The staff of [the University Library in Belgrade](#) catalogues and classifies gradually materials from special libraries in accordance with the [international standards](#) for that purpose.
- Such bibliographic descriptions are visible not just in the local e-catalogue but also in the cumulative one.
- Until today, numerous exhibitions were prepared for the public concerning the legacy treasure of the [University Library](#). Mass media were carefully following such events.

- The University Library in Belgrade offers e-services to its users. They may retrieve the aggregated databases instructed by library staff. Only those libraries which are included into KoBSON (Consortium of Serbian Libraries for Coordinated Acquisition) have free access to the e-journals with e-articles in full text.
- These libraries are numerous and they are usually the members of SALA - Serbian Academic Library Association. All scientific areas are covered by these e-journals e.g. humanities and social sciences also. Library users choose those full texts that they need for their professional work and studies on different levels.



- The University of Belgrade has its digital repository – PHAIDRA (Permanent Hosting, Archiving and Indexing of Digital Resources and Assets). The full texts of doctoral dissertations finished and defended at this university are being downloaded into PHAIDRA.
- These full texts are in free access.
- It is due to such a work that doctoral dissertations from PHAIDRA are visible in DART which is a European portal of e-theses.
- Its' web address is: www.dart-europe.eu.

- The connection between the e-catalogue of [the University Library](#) and [PHAIDRA](#) exists due to the bibliographic descriptions which can be found by retrieving that e-catalogue.
- If a library unit refers to a [doctoral dissertation](#), its bibliographic description will contain a [perma-link](#) leading to the [full text](#) of the [dissertation](#) which can be downloaded in pdf. It refers to the dissertations from all scientific fields including, of course, [social sciences](#) and [humanities](#). Therefore, useful materials can be found in Serbian concerning its history, literature and culture.
- [Doctoral dissertations](#) contain precious [bibliographic information](#) and the [expanded abstracts](#) in [English](#) for all those potential readers who don't speak Serbian at all or who are not native speakers of this south-slavic language.

Conclusion

- The „Svetozar Marković“ University Library in Belgrade pays lots of attention to its legacy treasure. Although all special libraries are important, the legacy of [Isidora Sekulić](#) is the most interesting one. It is particularly valuable as she was a famous Serbian writer, influential intellectual and a very kind donor. The young and the old read her works.

- The University Library staff catalogues the materials from legacies with greatest attention in order to make bibliographic descriptions visible through the e-catalogue. If a bibliographic description contains [perma-link](#), it means that it leads towards the [full text](#) of a paper.
- Such implementation of new technologies will improve the visibility of papers which refer also to the [legacies](#).
- The implementation of certain formats in computer practice of [the University Library](#) is not realized because it is still on the level of recommendations. [The University Library](#) as well as all other libraries in Serbia has a [legal obligation](#) to take care of its [cultural treasure](#).

- **Promotive activities** are a way to make that **treasure** closer to the public relying on the role of **mass media**. Therefore editing activity of this library follows all the events concerning those topics which rely on legacy units.
- The **library staff** tends to revitalize special collections and not to keep it hidden from readers.
- The staff sincerely hopes that the experience of such **donors** will improve the work of **library users**, particularly because of the fact that the creation of these **legacies** was being realized by people who were the leading intellectuals of their epoch.

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Thank you!

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