



NATIONAL LIBRARIES NEWS JUNE 2023

The following stories have been submitted from colleagues in national libraries around the world. The Newsletter is prepared by the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR).

Royal Library of Belgium (KBR)

Electronic resources at KBR

KBR, the Royal Library of Belgium, offers several types of [electronic resources](#), mainly in the fields of human and social sciences. More than 120 academic databases, 68.000 ebooks and 6.000 ejournal are available to holders of a [reader's card](#) or a free [electronic resources subscription](#). This free subscription is submitted to a few access conditions, such as owning a Belgian identification number.

Most of these resources are available in [KBR's reading room](#) and remotely thanks to an [EZ Proxy solution](#).

For any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the electronic resources department at eresources@kbr.be.

News: KBR joins OCLC and adds records to WorldCat to increase visibility of collection

This move allows KBR to contribute to WorldCat, the most comprehensive global network of data about library collections and services, by adding millions of bibliographic records. Metadata from the KBR collection will be enriched and improved cooperatively with OCLC staff and member libraries.

More information here: <https://kbr.prezly.com/kbr-joins-oclc-and-adds-records-to-worldcat-to-increase-visibility-of-collection> and here : <https://www.oclc.org/en/news/releases/2023/20230627-royal-library-belgium-joins-oclc.html>

National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina

NULB&H presented Poljica Documents I and II from the collection of Aleksandar Poljanić in Split

<https://nub.ba/aktuelnosti/novosti/vijesti/item/830-nubbih-predstavila-poljicke-isprave-i-i-ii-iz-zbirke-aleksandra-poljanica-u-splitu>

The books Poljica Documents I and Poljica Documents II (from the collection of Aleksandar Poljanić), published by the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, were presented, in the Institute for Scientific and Artistic Work in Split, Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts.

“The Republic of Poljica or duchy (Croatian: Poljička republika, in older form Poljička knežija) was an autonomous community which existed in the late Middle Ages and the early modern period in central Dalmatia, near modern-day Omiš, Croatia”. (Wikipedia)

At the promotion spoke: academician Radoslav Tomić, head of the Institute for Scientific and Artistic Work Split, who also moderated the gathering, Dr. Ismet Ovčina, director of the National and University Library of B&H, prof. Jurica Matijević, Art Academy of the University of Split, prof. dr. Marijana Tomelić Ćurlin, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Split, dr. Mehmed Kardaš, assistant professor, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo and Muamera Smajić, MA, Head of Special Collections of the National and University Library of B&H.

Valerijan Žujo's exhibition "Sarajevo Assassination" (Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand) opened at the Bosniak Institute

The documentary exhibition "Sarajevo Assassination" (Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand), by Valerijan Žujo, was opened at the Bošnjački institut (Bosniak Institute).

The exhibition was organized by the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bošnjački institut (Bosniak Institute) - Adil Zulfikarpašić Foundation.

The exhibition contains multimedia, so in addition to the exhibits, extensive video material is also shown, which also presents materials that could not be seen before.

Gradimir Gojer visited the exhibition "Sarajevo Assassination" and promoted the trilogy of books "Preko plotu"

After the promotion of the book trilogy “Preko plotu”, its author, Gradimir Gojer, a prominent cultural and public worker visited NULB&H’s exhibition. Mr. Gojer was interested to see documents that bear witness to the event that influenced world processes and history.

A few years ago, Gradimir Gojer donated around 800 titles to the National and University Library of BiH as his personal contribution and support to the work of the National Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina, a recognizable institution of culture, education and science and one of the symbols of the cultural identity of the state of BiH.

Ismet Ovčina at the International Conference of Librarians in Ohrid

At the invitation of the director of the National and University Library "Sv. Kliment Ohridski" Skopje, Mr. Rametul Kući and the President of the Association of Librarians of the Republic of North Macedonia, Dr. Jana Mihajlovska, Director of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina (NULB&H) Dr. Ismet Ovčina attended the International Conference of Librarians "Libraries as a Treasury of Mobile Cultural Heritage" that took place in Ohrid (April 27-28), in the organization of the Library Association of Macedonia.

dr. Ovčina spoke at the expert conference - "Meaning and duration of civil registry in librarianship: common foundations in the region"

The National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in the expert conference- "The meaning and duration of civil registry in librarianship: common foundations in the region" (April 20 - 21, Belgrade) organized by the National Library of Serbia.

The representative of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina was Dr. Ismet Ovčina, director of the NULB&H, who spoke on the topic: "Public libraries and new information technologies".

The book Doctor Karel Bayer by Valerijana Žujo (Czech ed.) was promoted in Prague

Doctor Karel Bayer, the longtime director of the first modern hospital in Bosnia and Herzegovina, is an exceptional personality who connects the Czech and Bosnian cultures.

The original edition of this publication was published by the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The National and University Library of B&H nominated BH candidates for ALMA 2024

After the completed procedure, the applications received and the candidates considered, the Commission for the Nomination of BH authors for ALMA 2024 met, and based on their decision, the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina nominated two prominent BH writers for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award for 2024 and promoter of reading for children and young people.

National Library of Finland

Kimmo Tuominen becomes the new Chair of the OAPEN Foundation

Dr. Kimmo Tuominen, National Librarian at the National Library of Finland, succeeds Bas Savenije as Chair of the [OAPEN Foundation Supervisory Board](#).

OAPEN is a non-profit organisation based in the Netherlands, whose mission is to promote and support the transition to open access for academic books by providing open infrastructure services to stakeholders in scholarly communication. Kimmo Tuominen assumed the position of Board Chair of the OAPEN Foundation on 9 June 2023. [Original Press release](#) published 20.6.2023 on the OAPEN Foundation's website, oapen.org.

New resources in the National Library search service

As of June, the [National Library of Finland search service](#) can help you find manuscript and archival material as well as ephemera.

The National Library catalogues manuscript and archival material as well as ephemera in its archiving system. In the future, bibliographic information on these resources can be found in the National Library search service. Such descriptive metadata have until now been available primarily in the library facilities, on index cards and in paper files.

Käärijä's Eurovision journey captured in the Finnish Web Archive

Online materials on Käärijä, the Finnish entry in the Eurovision Song Contest in Liverpool, have been collected in the [Finnish Web Archive](#) maintained by the National Library. As Käärijäs popularity became evident during the spring of 2023 the National Library decided to carry out a themed harvest to preserve not only Finnish and international news items, but also a broad range of social media content.

URL addresses of the harvested materials can be browsed to a limited extent in the Finnish Web Archive Index. The resources themselves can be accessed, in accordance with the Copyright Act, from legal deposit workstations at all legal deposit libraries across Finland, at the Library of Parliament and at the library of the National Audiovisual Institute.

National Library of France (BnF)

[BnF President chairs the Francophone Digital Network's AGM in Alexandria](#)



Annual General Meeting 2023 of the Réseau Francophone Numérique © N.Searc/BnF

In a hybrid format, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina (Egypt) hosted the AGM of the [RFN - Réseau Francophone Numérique \(Francophone Digital Network\)](#). Created in 2006 by the National Library of France, the Royal Library of Belgium, the National Library of Luxembourg, the Swiss National Library and the National Libraries of Canada and Québec, the RFN currently comprises 30 institutions in 20 countries. The Network fosters the online dissemination of a diverse francophone documentary heritage by helping its members to preserve and reconstitute their heritage with the support of the OIF - Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie (International Organisation of La Francophonie). Laurence Engel, President of the BnF chairs the RFN since 2017. 2017 also marked the launch of the RFN's digital library.

[The BnF hosted the 2023 General Assembly of the CENL](#)



Annual General Meeting 2023 of the CENL ©A.Lecomte/BnF

The [General Assembly of the Conference of European National Libraries \(CENL\)](#) took place at the BnF from 19 to 20 June 2023, on the topic of environmental, social and digital sustainability in libraries.

Created in 1987, the CENL brings together the directors of 46 national libraries from the Council of Europe member states, who meet regularly to discuss issues relating to heritage and technology. In addition to sharing knowledge and experience, this organisation also enables their library staff to carry out targeted projects such as exhibitions, events, study trips, etc., in partnership with their counterparts through grants and bursaries.

In 2021, Laurence Engel, President of the BnF, was elected to the Executive Committee of this 8-member European consortium. The Library is also involved in two of the three working groups: "Artificial Intelligence in Libraries", which it chairs, and "Equality, Diversity and Inclusion".

The 2024 General Assembly will be held at the National Library of Poland (Biblioteka Narodowa) in Warsaw.

National Library of Ireland

NLI launch pop-up exhibition: Le Grá; Seamus <<https://www.nli.ie/news-stories/news/nli-launch-pop-exhibition-le-gra-seamus>>

Seamus Heaney was a beloved and celebrated poet. He was also a great correspondent, sending letters and postcards and Christmas cards all over the world.

The NLI are delighted to announce the launch of Le Grá; Seamus, a temporary new display of the Des and Mary Kavanagh Postcard Collection.

Visit our exhibition Seamus Heaney: Listen Now Again <<https://www.nli.ie/exhibitions-events/exhibition-seamus-heaney-listen-now-again>> to see some of the postcards Seamus Heaney and his wife Marie sent to their friends Des and Mary Kavanagh over many decades.

<<https://www.nli.ie/exhibitions-events/people-places>> People and Places | New photographic exhibition in Dublin City Centre <<https://www.nli.ie/exhibitions-events/people-places>>

Exhibition | People & Places: Ireland in 19th & 20th Centuries

Look back through the camera lens at 150 years of life in Ireland in images selected from some of our most popular photographic collections.

The National Library of Ireland holds over five million photographs in our collections, and they create a unique and fascinating record of life in Ireland. This exhibition showcases 50 of those photographs, revealing the people and places of the island of Ireland from the 1850s to the turn of the 21st century in images.

National Library of Israel

[The National Library of Israel issues its annual book publishing data report for 2022](#)

Concurrent with National Hebrew Book Week 2023, the National Library of Israel (NLI) has issued its [data on book publishing in Israel](#) for the previous year. Some notable data in the 2022 book publishing report:

- 6,971 books were published in Israel in 2022
- A record number of 2,004 prose and poetry books were published
- Women writers comprised 60% of all authors

By analyzing the changes and trends of the published books it is also possible to trace patterns and transformations in Israeli culture and society.

[New acquisition creates world's largest collection of "Kabbalistic Trees" at the National Library of Israel](#)

Long a center for Kabbalah scholars, the National Library of Israel (NLI) now has the world's largest and most important collection of scrolls containing *ilanot* - "Kabbalistic trees" or diagrams illustrating Jewish esoteric teachings.

The new acquisition makes NLI's *ilanot* collection the world's largest, with over 60 scrolls, dating between 1660 to 1920, from Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Yemen, Kurdistan, Iraq, and other locales, including some scrolls measuring over 11 meters (~12 yards) in length.

[National Library of Israel Expands Sephardic Heritage and Spanish-language Online Offerings](#)

We invite you to read the National Library of Israel's online publication. Available in Hebrew, English, and Arabic, [The Librarians](#) is updated continuously with lively and informative articles related to NLI collections, archives, projects, and interests.

National Library of Singapore

Postcard Impressions of Early 20th Century Singapore: Perspectives from the Japanese Community

The National Library Singapore's ["Postcard Impressions of Early 20th Century Singapore: Perspectives from the Japanese Community"](#) won the Vermeil medal at the [International Stamp Exhibition](#) in Germany in May 2023.

The [book](#) features more than 150 seldom-seen postcards from a collection donated to the National Library by Mr Lim Shao Bin, providing new perspectives on the Japanese community in pre-WWII Singapore and shedding light on subjects like tourism, war and empire. The book also received the Vermeil medal at the 17th Asian International Stamp Exhibition in Japan in 2021.

BiblioAsia+

[BiblioAsia+](#) is a podcast series produced by the National Library Singapore on fascinating stories about Singapore's past. In each episode, the podcast tackles little-known stories about Singapore: Who are the Orang Seletar? What's happened to the iconic mural in Paya Lebar Airport? Where did they use to make belacan in Singapore? BiblioAsia+ is available on [Spotify](#), [Apple Podcasts](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and wherever you listen.