



СЪЮЗ НА БИБЛИОТЕЧНИТЕ И ИНФОРМАЦИОННИТЕ РАБОТНИЦИ / СБИР/
UNION OF LIBRARIANS AND INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICERS /ULISO/

1000 София, пл. "Славейков" № 4, стая 609, тел. 987 07 34, 980 66 88 /264/, факс 987 07 34
1000 Sofia Slaveikov sq. № 4, tel. /3592/ 987 07 34, fax /3592 / 987 07 34

REPORT ON THE NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

“THE LIBRARY – INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE”

MAY 15TH - 21ST 2006

*Under the patronage of Mr. George Pirinski – Chairman of the 40th
National Assembly*

Forty-eight libraries from 28 different towns and villages took part in the National Library Week “The Library – Investment in the Future”. Among them were some of the biggest research, academic and public libraries in the country: National Library “St. St. Cyril and Methodius”, The Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, The Central Science and Technical Library, The University Library as well as 16 regional, 14 university, 10 “chitalishta” and 4 school libraries.

The National Library Week began on the 15th of May with the opening of the exhibition “Contemporary Bulgarian Library” in the Club of the Members of the National Assembly, which is located in the building of the National Assembly. At the opening were present more than 200 library specialists from all over the country, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of Regional Development and Public Works, officials from the local authorities, members of non-governmental organizations, scientists, etc. Dr. Kamelia Kasabova (deputy chairman of the National Assembly) carried out the opening of the exhibition. Prof. Stefan Danailov (Minister of Culture) and Mr. Jeffrey Levine (Deputy Ambassador of the USA in Sofia) gave out welcome speeches addressed to the participants.

A discussion forum about the problems of the libraries with the active participation of Mr. George Pirinski, Prof. Andrei Pantev?member of Parliament/, Mrs. Iskra Mihaylova (Deputy Minister of the Regional Development and Public Works), Dr. K. Mirev (mayor of Targovishte municipality and Chairman of the Association of Municipality Mayors),

representatives of the Association “Bulgarian Book” and library professionals was held after the opening of the exhibition.

Meetings among library specialists, members of the National Assembly from various electoral districts, representatives of the executive and local authorities and members of “chitalishta” boards were held in different places around the country as part of the National Library Week. The main purpose of these meetings were presenting the activities of the libraries and introducing everybody to the problems, which the libraries must solve in order to complete their humane mission.

The Regional Libraries in 6 cities organized meetings with the Members of the National Assembly from the respective electoral districts:

- in Bourgas – with Marusia Liubcheva and Svetoslav Marinov
- in Veliko Turnovo – with Miroslav Murdjov
- in Dobrich – with Yassen Penchev
- in Pleven – with Anelia Mingova and Vassil Antonov
- in Plovdiv – with Zahari Georgiev
- in Targovishte – with Rumen Takorov

Meetings with representatives of the executive authorities:

- The Deputy Minister of Culture Nadejda Zaharieva took part in meetings with librarians from Bourgas, Slivan, Yambol and Rakovski.
- The Deputy Minister of Regional Development and Public Works Iskra Mihaylova in discussion meeting for the librarians in Rakovski.

Meetings with representatives of the municipal authorities were held in 4 cities:

- in Pleven – with the regional governor Nikolay Russinov
- in Razgrad – with the regional governor Nasko Anastasov and the deputy regional governor Milena Caneva
- in Silistra – with the regional governor Svetlana Velikova
- in Stara Zagora – with the deputy regional governor Dantcho Danev

The highest number of meetings have been held between representatives of the local authorities and members of the “chitalishta” boards – in 13 libraries located in 11 different towns: Varna, Veliko Turnovo, Dimitrovgrad, Dobrich, Pazardjik, Plovdiv, Razgrad, Silistra, Sliven, Stara Zagora and Targovishte.

As a result of that 7 libraries reached an agreement with the authorities regarding the solution of their most serious problems:

- Regional Library “Petko Rachev Slaveikov” – Veliko Turnovo negotiated a purchase of copying equipment amounting to 5000 lv. with funds from the municipality, and change of lights, woodwork and repainting of the “Art” department all amounting to 15 000 lv. The funds for these repairs will be drawn from the investment program the municipality.
- The Library and Information Center of the International College – Albena, Dobrich received new equipment – the device Bizhub combining copier, scanner and printer.
- Mrs. D. Nikolova, mayor of Dobrich, donated books to three school libraries in the city.
- Regional Library “N. Furnadjiev” – Pazardjik reached an agreement with the municipality for the provision of additional funds (amounting to about 35 000 lv.) needed for the completion of repair works in the hall, which will be used as a new storage for books.
- Library “Boyan Penev” – Razgrad reached agreements about:
 - the investment financing of the gas and heating installation in the main building of the library
 - including the entrance area of the Children Department in the municipal structuring program and constructing a special device for the handicapped children
 - financing of the library’s 2006 publishing – the collection “Selected Songs from the Ludogorie Region”
 - redirecting of two subsidiary employees from the ones hired by the municipality through the National Program “
- In Sliven the members of the municipal council decided to file a request for funding of the repair works in the local library “Zora”
- The Central Science and Technical Library in Sofia has received a donation of books amounting to 100 lv. from the “BIK Ltd.”

As a result of the widely advertised Open House days, the libraries registered **4400** new readers for free. The regional libraries with the

highest number of new readers are as follows: Razgrad – 313, Stara Zagora – 613, Pleven – 530, Plovdiv – 530, Silistra – 525, Veliko Turnovo – 393; in the “chitalishte” libraries “Rodina” (Stara Zagora) - 226, “Zora” (Sliven) - 205, Zavet village – 30, etc.

The National Library Week was covered in details by and national and local electronic media, and in the press. Broadcasts and reports dedicated to the campaign itself and the problems of libraries were produced by Channel 1 of the Bulgarian National Television (in the morning program “Sutreshen Block” and in the news program “Posveta i u nas”), Msat, BBT, Evrokom, TV Europe; Bulgarian National Radio – in both “Horizon” and “Hristo Botev” programs, Darik Radio, “Alma Mater” Radio and many more local TV and radio stations. Many articles on the campaign and the problems of the libraries were published in the following newspapers: “Trud”, “Duma”, “Standard”, “Kultura”, “Az, Buki” as well as in local newspapers in 11 cities across the country.