

Slovak Republic

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Slovak National Library

A. Users and content

Statistics on potential users of cultural and scientific content (2004)

The Slovak Republic has a population of 5.5 million inhabitants. In the educational domain, there were 108,608 university students in 24 universities, 260,796 students in various types of a total of 729 secondary schools, 53,217 students in 435 special schools and 555,335 pupils in 2,342 elementary schools. In the cultural sector, there were 2,677 public, 12 central scientific and 621 academic libraries with a total number of 833,000 registered users and over 28 million circulation transactions made annually. 3.7 million visitors have seen over 428 permanent and 1,026 temporary exhibitions in 84 museums and over one half a million visitors came to 83 permanent and 430 temporary exhibitions in 21 art galleries. In the research and development domain, there are 22,217 persons in Slovakia working in this area, from highly qualified researchers to support staff.

Digital content

Digital cultural and scientific content is created and maintained in the following main digitisation initiatives and the respective central national institution:

Programme of Implementation of ICT in Libraries (Slovak National Library), 2002

Within this program, there are two mutually related projects in progress at present: KIS3G - Common Library and Information System; and VIKS - Virtual Library of Slovakia (a digital library).

The Slovak Library

Through this portal users have access to 2 million bibliographic records in one common database with holdings of multiple libraries (national library, research

libraries, academic libraries, public libraries). At this time there are 22 libraries involved and in the near future the project will extend to other 40 libraries. Users registered at cooperating libraries can make use of a range of services. It contains the Slovak National Bibliography, Union Catalogue of Monographs and the Union Catalogue of Old Prints (1477-1830). According to Web statistics launched in December 2005, in one month there were 18,918 visits by 8,142 visitors from 5,669 unique IP addresses.
<<http://www.kis3g.sk>>

Memoria Slovaca

This portal is the initial result of the Virtual Library of Slovakia project. Currently it contains MARC 21 records and links to digital material pertaining to the Slovak National Literary Museum (including a gallery of about 15,000 art originals), Literature and Art Archives (photographs), historical postcards, full-text documents of digital libraries of Research Project of Stabilizing and Preservation of Traditional Media (Kniha_sk) and Research Project of History of the Book Culture (BDKK). Gradually more records and linked digitised material will be added from various heritage organisations.
<<http://www.memoria.sk>>

National corpus of the Slovak Language and the project of Implementation of ICT in Linguistic research 2002-2006 (Slovak Academy of Sciences)

The following projects are managed by the respective central cultural institution:

- CEMUZ - Central register of museum objects (managed by the Slovak National Museum), approved in 2003
- Central Register of Museum Collections: this catalogue currently contains sample records. Nationwide cooperation is underway to gradually process and make available over 8 million museum artifacts kept in Slovak museums
<<http://www.cemuz.sk>>

- AIS OP - Automated information system of preservation of monuments (Institute of Monuments) 2003, Geographic information system of monuments (Institute of Monuments), 2004
- CEDVU - Central Register of Works of Fine Arts (Slovak National Gallery), 2002
- Central Register of Works of Fine Art: from this National Gallery's Website central catalogue of works of art (paintings, sculptures etc.) located in Slovak museums and galleries. This catalogue is built since 1990 and will be accessible to public with over 220,000 records <<http://www.sng.sk>>
- THEISA - Theatrical information system for archives (Theatre Institute), 2002
- LINDA - Literary information database (Literary Information Centre), 2002
- SNORKA - Music database (Music Centre), 2002
- SKCINEMA - Film database (Slovak Film Institute), 2002
- Slovak Film Database - This is a portal to all Slovak movies (live action, documentary, cartoons) filmed from 1921. It also contains a list of film creators, actors, directors, script writers and film characters. It offers advanced search options. At the moment there are 2,135 creators, 393 films, 2,685 characters and 344 photographs. <<http://www.sfd.sfu.sk>>
- IS DIZAJN - Information system for Design (Slovak Centre of Design), 2004
- A national cultural portal, Register of Culture, is a project of a national cultural portal managed by the Ministry of Culture, ICT Department. The objective is a comprehensive interface to multiple information databases built in the cultural sector in two logical parts – the register of cultural heritage and the register of cultural activities. In 2006 the implementation of this initiative will be taken forward by the Ministry of Culture and the University Library in Bratislava as the service administrator of the Register of Culture that shall be available at <<http://www.registerekultury.sk>> and will be a part of a future European cultural portal.

In addition to the initiatives above funded primarily from the state budget, there are numerous activities by cultural organisations, public associations and/or private entities:

- Museums' Portal - This resource contains a guide to the Slovak museums with structured information

including Websites, opening hours and related images. Since 2003 it has been visited 420,000 times. <<http://www.muzeum.sk>>

- A Yahoo discussion group "Knižnica" (Library) was established to discuss digitisation of Slovak classical literary works. Some output addressed to teachers is available at Classic Slovak Writers <<http://www.klasic.sk>>, The Golden Thread of Slovak Writers (University Library), and work is being done under digitisation project of Slovak literature by the daily newspaper SME. The civic association T2B (Text-to-Bytes) offers digitised content for the blind and visually impaired registered users.

B. Sustainability of content

The political and financial support for coordination of digitisation is not explicitly formulated in any political documents. In 2001 the National Council has adopted a Declaration on Protection of Cultural Heritage, which was followed by 2002 Government Resolution on measures to be taken in culture, where the long term strategy is to form and build a uniform information system for all parts of the cultural and natural heritage compatible with European and world systems. In November 2004 the government approved the Strategy of State Cultural Policy and the Action Plan for Initial Phase Implementation of Cultural Policy. One of the goals of the policy is the systematic digitisation and implementation of ICT to cultural infrastructure. The strategy explicates among others these priorities of the action plan that include digitisation: restoration of audio-visual cultural heritage and launch of the "Register of Culture" project.

The Ministry of Culture prepares strategy of systematic digitisation of audiovisual materials according to which state institutions (Slovak Television, Slovak Film Institute and its part National Film Archives) will preserve audiovisual material held by these institutions and also private entities.

In cultural sector it is the respective central national institution that manages digitisation projects. Under the Ministry of Culture these projects form a part of the State Information System (developed since 1995) and are reviewed by the Board on Implementation of ICT in the Cultural Sector. Digitisation is funded as a part of regular annual budget allocated from Ministry of Culture

to state institutions or also to other entities (state, local, private) under some of the grant schemes offered by the Ministry of Culture in these programmes for 2006:

- Let's Restore Our House
- Cultural Activities in the Area of Memory Institutions
- AudioVision 2006
- Arts
- Pro Slovakia
- Culture of National Minorities
- Culture of the Handicapped Groups of citizens
- Intangible cultural heritage and cultural and educational activity
- Cultural vouchers

In January 2006 a new Board for Coordination of Implementation of ICT will be established by the Ministry of Culture, composed of mainly managers of cultural heritage institutions, which will approve strategic documents also on digitisation prepared by invited experts. The Board will also comprise participants from other sectors such as education and economy. Among the first issues tackled by this Board shall be the strategy of preservation and access to cultural, scientific and intellectual heritage that should be ideally incorporated and approved within the Government Policy Declaration after the 2006 parliamentary election.

The resources for digitisation and digital preservation shall be requested from the EU structural funds under the relevant programmes.

C. Technologies for digitisation

Although almost each cultural organisation has some technology for digitisation, there are only few sites that can be considered a competitive centre with high quality equipment that can produce content consistent with MINERVA quality recommendations. Examples are the Slovak National Library with hybrid camera for digitisation and microfilming. The plan for the future is building a technological park for complex treatment of cultural material in a cycle including high capacity chemical stabilisation of traditional media and their digital processing and storage. The National Library has also some experience with 3D digitisation of its museum objects in a pilot cooperation with the

University of Žilina. The University Library in Bratislava possesses quality scanning facility for bound materials. A great expertise in digital technology and a large volume of digitised sound material is held and produced by the Slovak Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired in Levoča.

D. Digital preservation

As there is no common national digital preservation strategy in place currently, it is each institution's responsibility to maintain its digital assets. Organisations usually have their internal strategy of preserving and migrating digital content, which is for the time being typically stored on offline optical media as well as on server disk arrays.

There is no Web archiving activity in place currently and as for electronic publications, the Slovak law on legal deposit makes preference of printed copy of documents in case both digital and printed forms exist.

The National Library has among its tasks for 2006 elaboration of the national strategy for digital archiving in accordance with UNESCO guidelines and relevant recommendations and plans to acquire technologies for a high capacity digital archiving system.

E. Monitoring

The indicators for measuring progress have been presented to the Ministry of Culture as a part of the report from the November 2005 NRG meeting with a recommendation to collect these pieces of information from entities in the Slovak Republic in the forthcoming periods.

As for NRG and MINERVA results and their usage, all of the most important documents related to digitisation of cultural and scientific heritage have been translated to Slovak and made widely available at <http://www.vi ks. sk/di gi tus>.

The Ministry of Culture also plans to publish and disseminate the MINERVA methodological tools and make them mandatory for cultural heritage organisations in Slovakia.

