4th China–CEEC Curators' Forum of Libraries Union

**Connection, Creation, Interaction, Inspiration –
the future of libraries**

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What does a library connect?

Knowledge (through electronic catalogs and full-text databases, digital collections, as well as physical material),
Users (through communication and common work in libraries)**,**
Resources (through exchange), and the
Entire local community (as meeting points and exchange of ideas).

National Library of Serbia (NBS) Example:

The National Library of Serbia is included in the **WorldCat** (World Catalog), which probably represents the greatest achievement in connecting the metadata about the knowledge it preserves with the knowledge of the entire world.
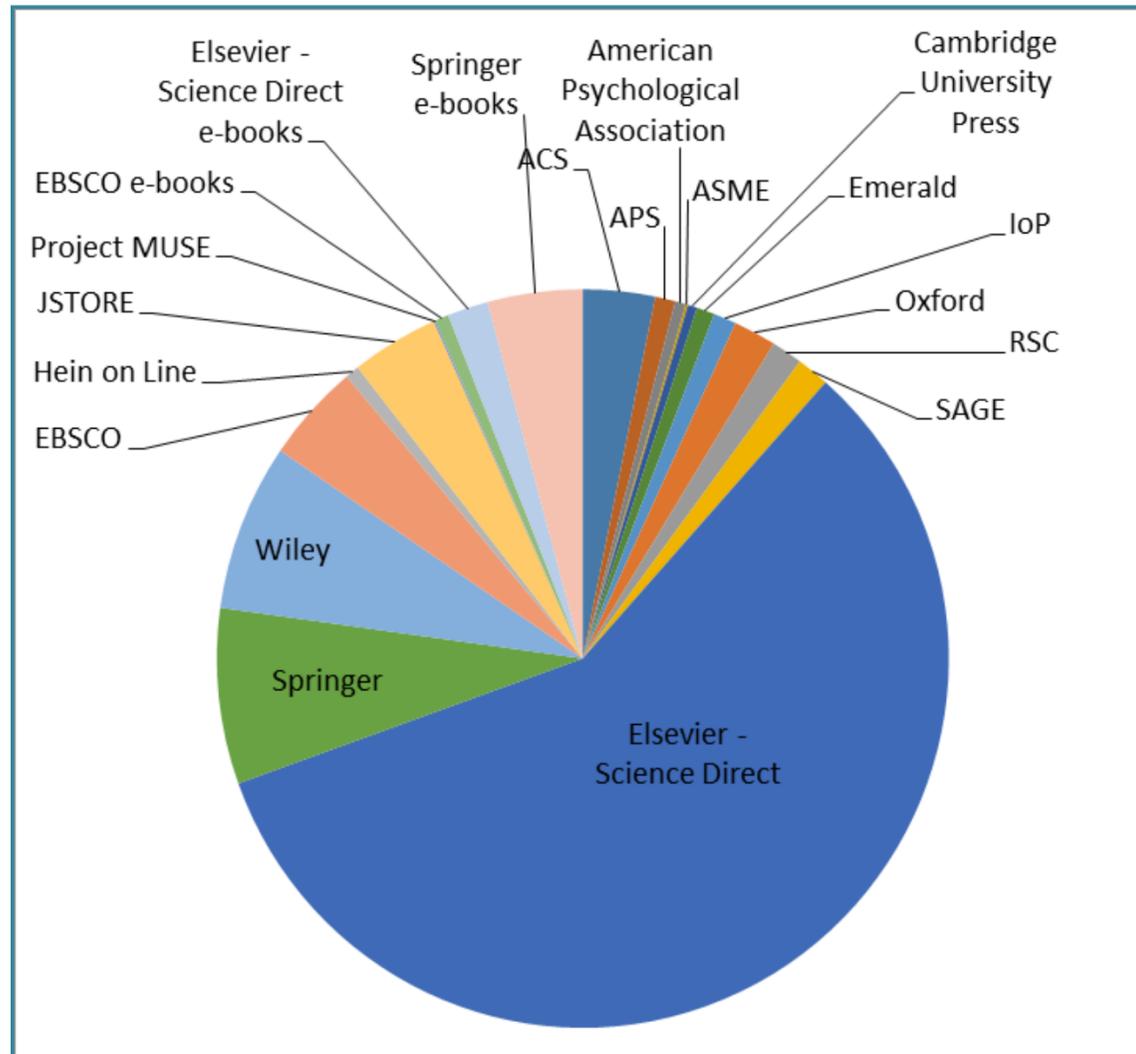
NBS Example:

Through cooperation with international organizations, its librarians build **bridges for the professional community** with librarians from all over the world.

The National Library of Serbia is a member of **IFLA, CENL, LIBER, EIFL, EBLIDA**, and the **ISBN, ISSN, ISMN agencies**, but through its international activity, it is also focused on the **scientific community**. Through the **Consolidated Acquisition of Foreign Scientific Journals - KoBSON -** project via full-text databases, it collaborates with the most renowned global publishers such as **Elsevier, Wiley, Springer, and Clarivate**. Access to the **KoBSON portal** in 2024 reached an impressive **2,960,110**, with a total of **1,521,086** articles and book chapters downloaded, and a total of **4,915,429** articles and book chapters downloaded from index databases.

NBS Example:

At the national level, through a **unique system of centralized coordination of library activities development**, the National Library of Serbia has been entrusted with the **legal role** of enhancing the profession for the whole of Serbia. In this way, it connects the **entire national network of libraries** into a unique and standardized system, which also contributes to the unification of resources. The network consists of **31 main libraries**, each of which coordinates the development of activities in its geographical territory.
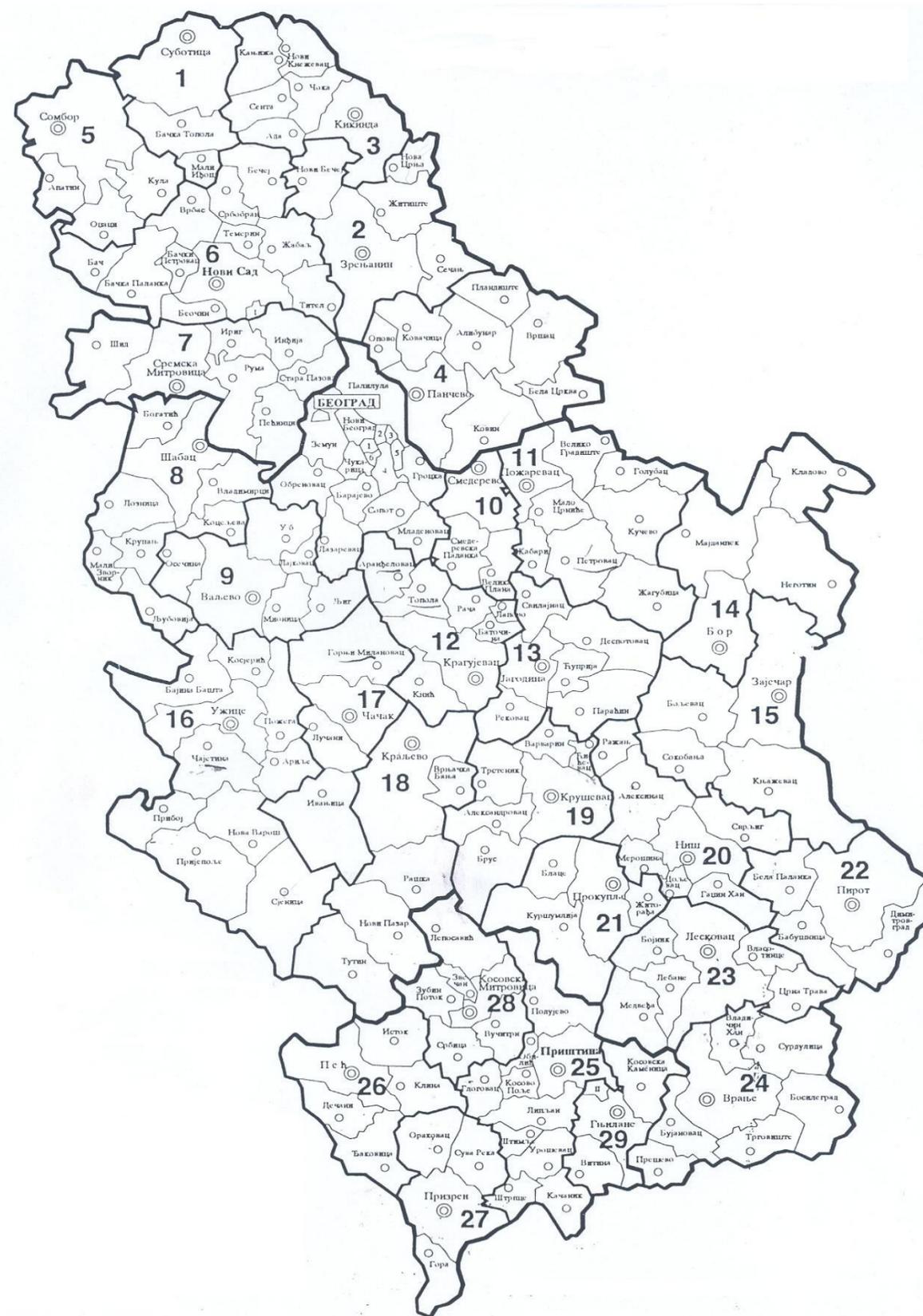
What does a library create?

New knowledge, new collections and metadata
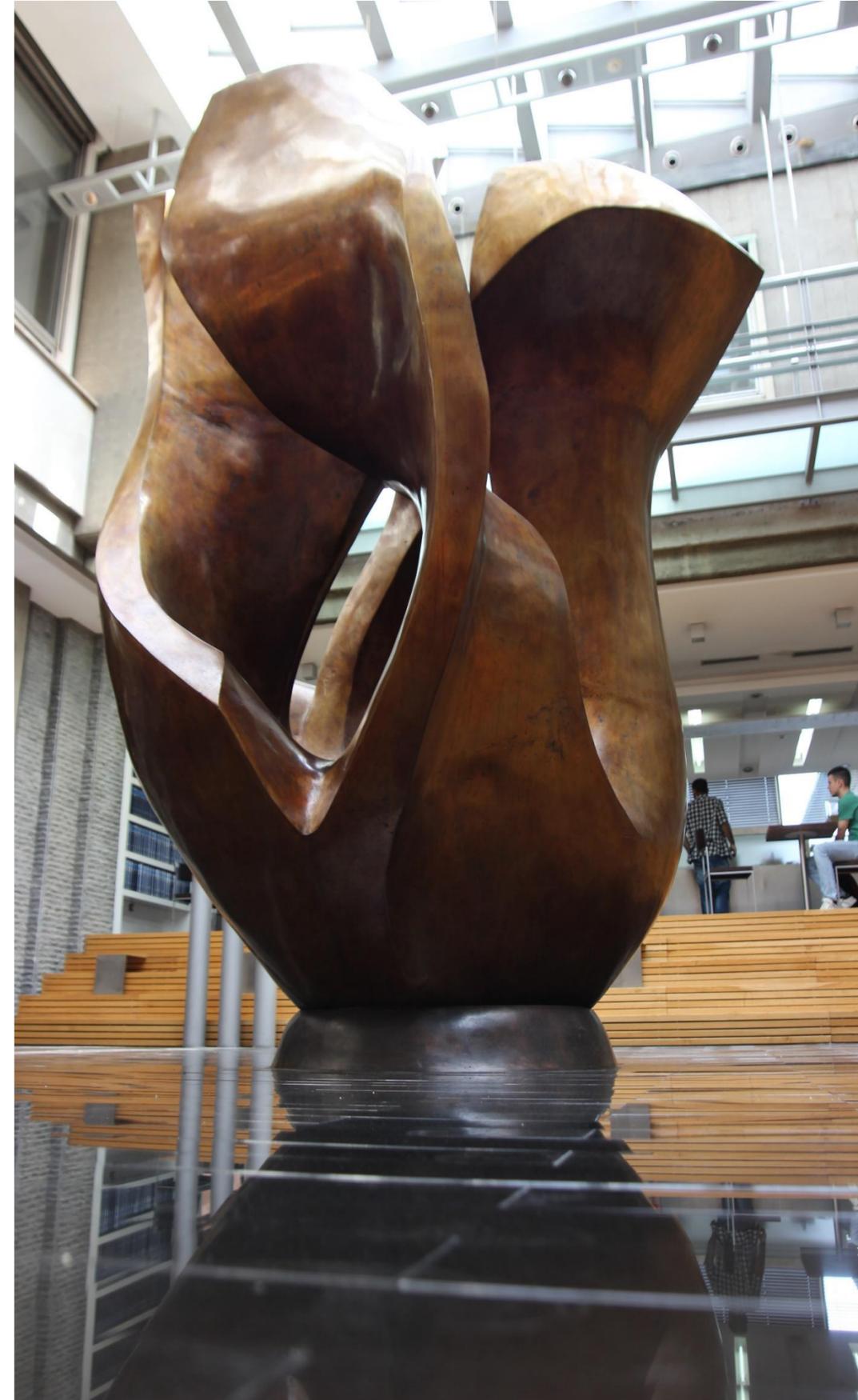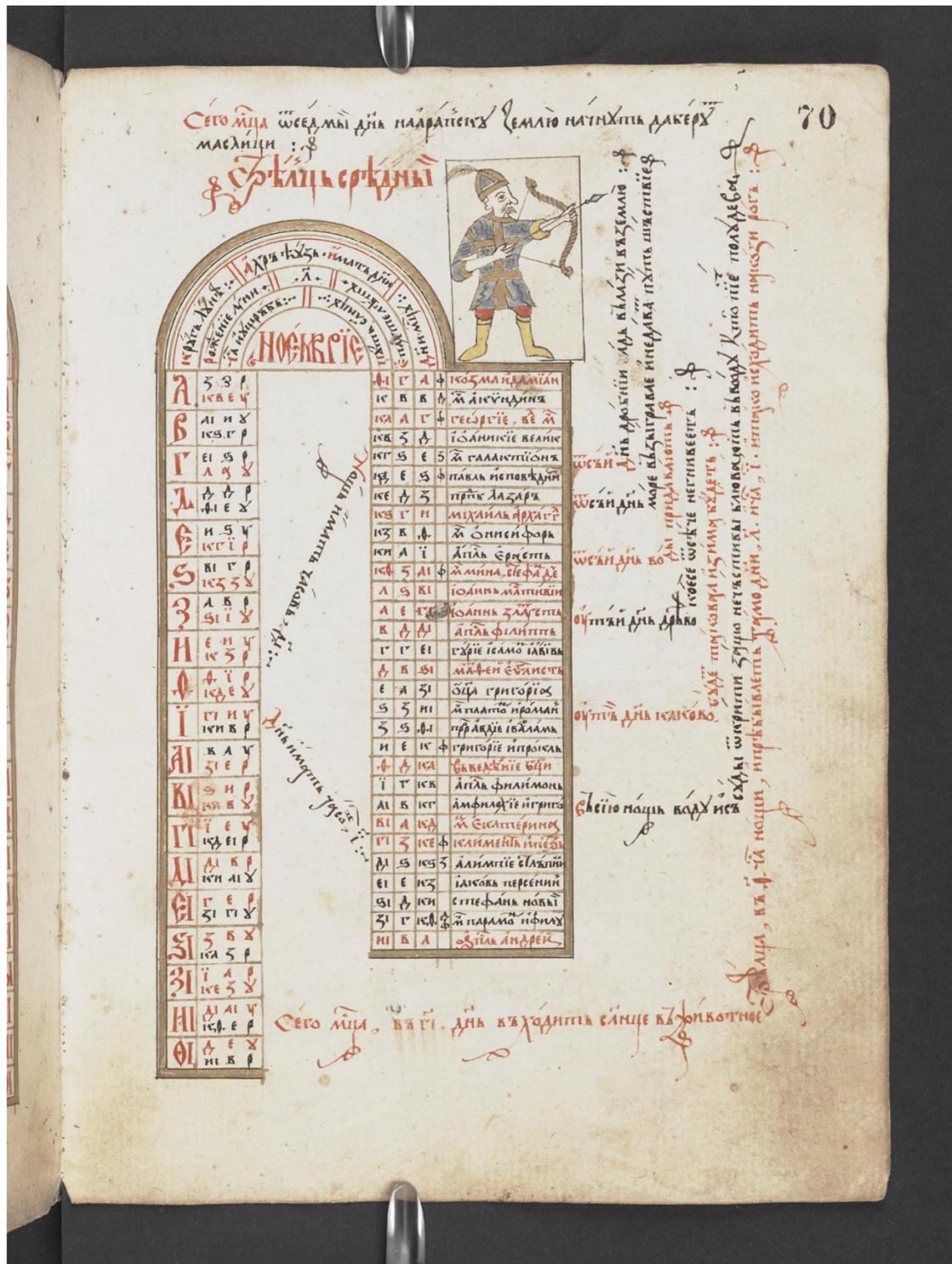
NBS Example:

Acquisition of digital images of Serbian manuscripts from abroad – the project
"All Serbian Books Under One Roof,"
which aims to collect digitized material to launch the **Virtual Library of Serbian Manuscripts**.

The collaboration with the **Széchényi National Library of Hungary** in Budapest is the first to yield concrete results. This means that the NBS obtained digital images of **14 Serbian manuscript books and fragments** preserved by that institution.

The remaining Serbian manuscripts in Hungary are located in two other libraries in Budapest, as well as in **Debrecen, Medina, Sentandreja (Szentendre), Stoni Beograd (Székesfehérvár), and Šarošpatak (Sárospatak)**. Among them is the **Festive Menaion** from the late 13th or the first third of the 14th century, one of the manuscripts from the NBS Old Collection that **went missing in 1915**.

Oct. Serb. 1: ("Flower of Virtues"), around 1679, scribe Hristofor Račanin
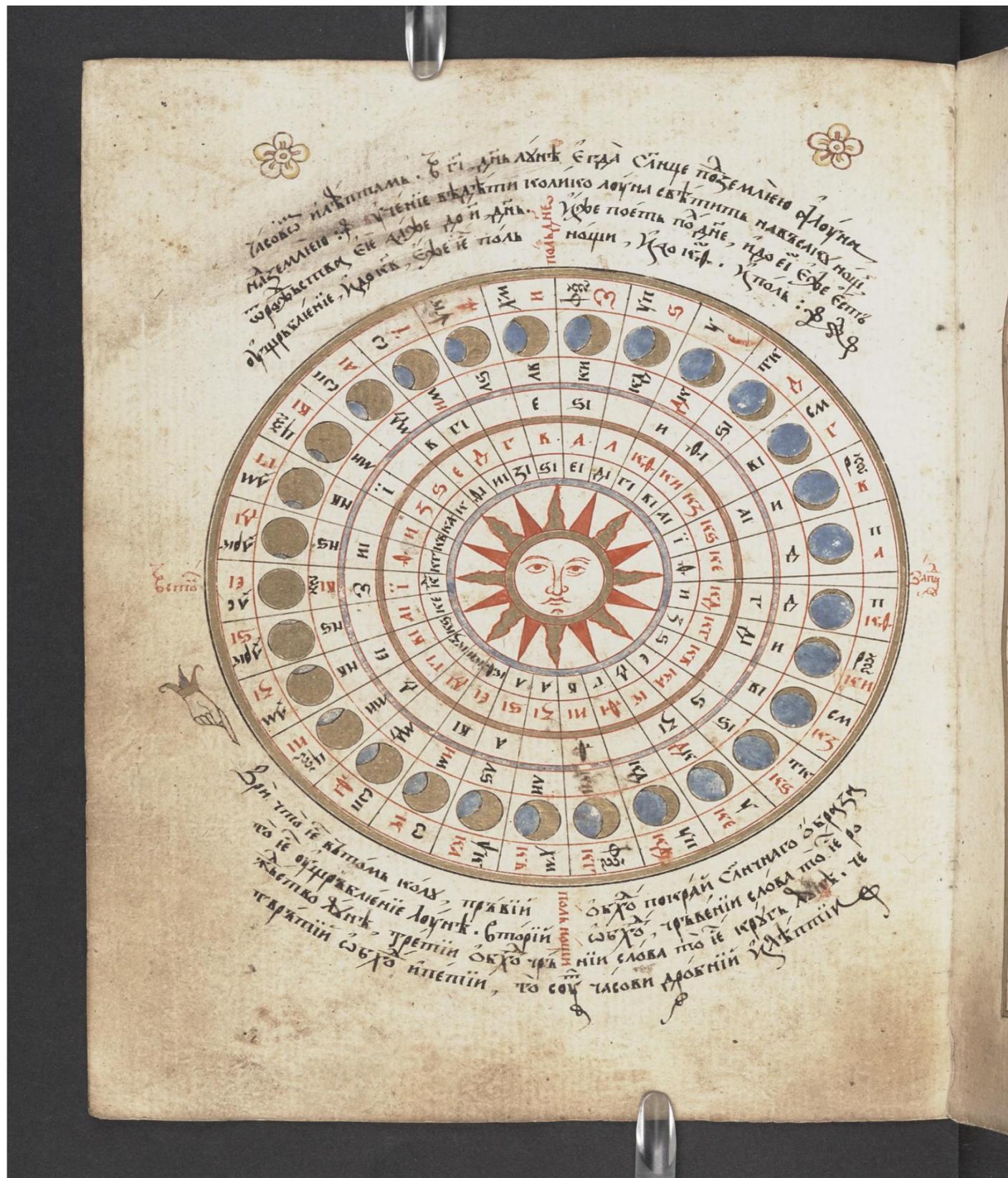
An example of a rich and precise illustration from the same book:

Oct. Serb. 1: ("Flower of Virtues"), around 1679, scribe Hristofor Račanin
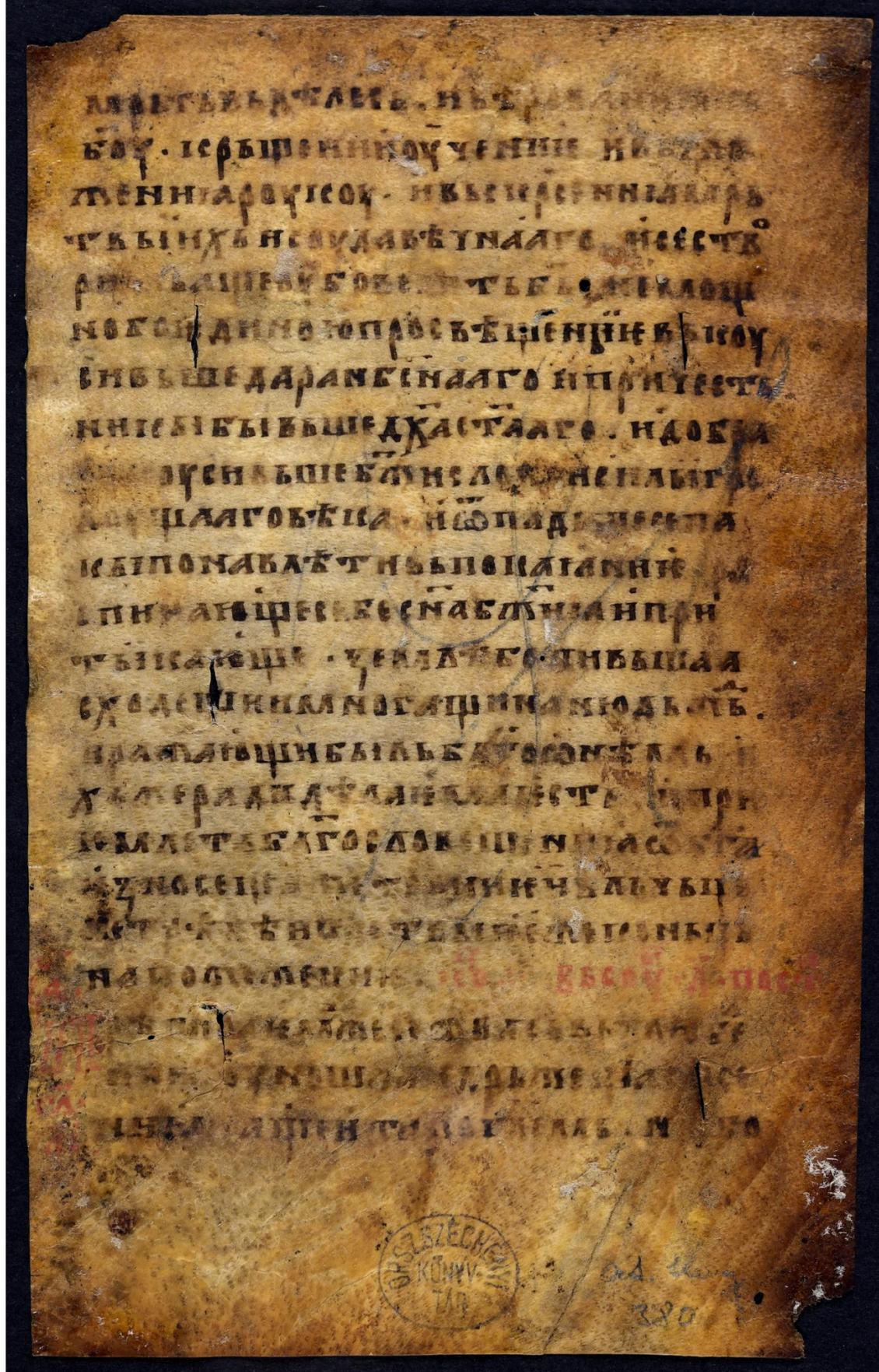
Example of a page from a book whose digital copy was acquired in collaboration with **Széchényi National Library of Hungary:**

Fragm. Eccl. Slav. 3: Budapest fragments of the Serbian Praxepostol, second half of the 13th century

NBS Example:

NBS produces **metadata** necessary for precise and reliable searches, among which the **archaeographic descriptions of old manuscript books** are particularly notable.

One example is the recently initiated collaboration with the **Berlin State Library (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)**, owner of the **Vuk Karadžić collection of manuscript books**, on the processing of the corresponding digital collection in the **Kitodo** database.

In 2024, began the creation and filling of the archeographic digital platform with data related to the description of digital copies of manuscripts from the collection of Vuk Karadžić, the most significant Serbian linguist of the 19th century, reformer of the Serbian language, collector of folk tales and writer of the first dictionary of the Serbian language - the most significant figure of serbian literature of the first half of the 19th century.

To date, descriptions of **19 manuscripts** have been prepared and entered.

KITODO

MaTheo_1815274697

hierarchy level show title
assigned pages structure tree
lock image

Pagination | **Structure data** | Metadata

Hide image | Validate | Back | Save | Save and exit

Tree structure (left panel):

- ⊟ 0 Theotokarion (1:uncounted-371:uncounted)
  - ⊟ 1 binding (1:uncounted-4:uncounted)
    - 2 cover front (1:uncounted-1:uncounted)
    - 2 paste down (2:uncounted-2:uncounted)
    - 2 endsheet (3:uncounted-4:uncounted)
  - ⊟ 1 Мольбнь | Починаемь сь б(ого)мь. молбнь. (6:1v-360:178v)
    - ⊟ 2 Глас(ь) .а҃. (6:1v-60:28v)
      - ⊟ 3 Вь сѫботѫ веч(е)рь. кан(wнь). на бдѣние. глас(ь) .а҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃. (6:1v-19:8r)
        - 4 other (5:1r-5:1r)
        - 4 Headpiece with zoomorphic inhabitation. (6:1v-6:1v)
        - **4 Decorated initial Г** (6:1v-6:1v)
      - ⊟ 3 В(ь) нед(ѣлю). веч(ерь). кан(wнь). б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .а҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃ ирмос(ь). (19:8r-23:10r)
        - 4 Decorated initial К (19:8r-19:8r)
      - 3 Вь понед(ѣльникь). веч(ерь) покаан(нь) кан(wнь) глас(ь) .а҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (23:10r-34:15v)
      - 3 В(ь) в(ь)то(рьни)к(ь). кан(wнь) покаанн. б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .а҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (34:15v-42:19v)
      - 3 В(ь) срѣд(ѫ). веч(е)рь. канwнь покаанн. б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .а҃. пѣс(ьнь) а҃. (42:19v-51:24r)
      - ⊟ 3 В(ь) че(тврьть)к(ь) веч(ерь). кан(wнь) покаан(нь). б(огороди)ци глас(ь) .а҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (51:24r-60:28v)
        - 4 Decorated initial И (51:24r-51:24r)
    - ⊟ 2 Глас(ь) .в҃. (60:28v-112:54v)
      - ⊟ 3 (Вь сѫботѫ.) веч(ерь). на молбѫ бдѣниꙗ. кан(wнь) глас(ь) в҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (60:28v-75:36r)
        - 4 Ornamental border (60:28v-60:28v)
      - 3 В(ь) нед(ѣлю). веч(ерь) кан(wнь). покааннь. глас(ь) .в҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (75:36r-79:38r)
      - 3 В(ь) понед(ѣльникь) веч(ерь). кан(wнь). покаан(нь). б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .в҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. (79:38r-88:42v)
      - 3 В(ь) в(ь)то(рьни)к(ь). веч(ерь). кан(wнь). покаанн. глас(ь) .в҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃ ирмос(ь). (88:42v-96:46v)
      - 3 Вь срѣд(ѫ) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) покааннь. б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .в҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃ ирмос(ь). (96:46v-104:50v)
      - ⊟ 3 Вь че(тврьть)к(ь) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) .в҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃ ирмос(ь). (104:50v-112:54v)
        - 4 Decorated initial П (104:50v-104:50v)
    - ⊟ 2 Глас(ь) .г҃. (112:54v-156:76v)
      - 3 В(ь) сѫб(отѫ). веч(е)рь. кан(w)нь покааннь на мол(ь)бѫ бдѣниꙗ. глас(ь) .г҃. пѣс(ьнь) .а҃. ирмос(ь). (112:54v-122:59v)
      - 3 В(ь) нед(ѣлю) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) м(о)л(ь)бнь б(огороди)ци. глас(ь) г҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃ ирмос(ь). (122:59v-126:61v)
      - 3 В(ь) пон(едѣльникь) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) мол(ь)б(ь)нь б(огороди)ци глас(ь) г҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃ ирмос(ь). (126:61v-134:65v)
      - 3 В(ь) в(ь)то(рьни)к(ь) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) мольбнь б(огороди)ци гл(а)с(ь) г҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃. (134:65v-141:69r)
      - ⊟ 3 В(ь) срѣд(ѫ) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) б(огороди)ци покаанн глас(ь) г҃ пѣс(ьнь) .а҃ ирмос(ь). (141:69r-149:73r)
        - 4 Decorated initial Z (141:69r-141:69r)
      - 3 В(ь) че(тврьть)к(ь) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) м(о)л(ь)бнь б(огороди)ци глас(ь) г҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃ ирмос(ь). (149:73r-156:76v)
    - ⊟ 2 Глас(ь) .д҃. (156:76v-199:98r)
      - 3 Вь сѫб(отѫ) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) покаан(нь) на м(о)л(ь)бѫ бдѣн(и)ꙗ глас(ь) д҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃ ирмос(ь). (156:76v-168:82v)
      - 3 В(ь) нед(ѣлю) веч(ерь) кан(wнь) мольбнь б(огороди)ци глас(ь) д҃ пѣс(ьнь) а҃ ирмос(ь). (168:82v-171:84r)
      - 4 Decorated initial Д (168:82v-168:82v)

Right panel — Edit structure data:

Edit structure data

backward | 1 | ... | 4 | 5 | **6** | 7 | 8 | ... | 371 | Forward

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New docstruct

- ⦿ Before current element
- ○ Behind current element
- ○ As first child of current element
- ○ As last child of current element

[colophon ▾]

First page: [ ] ⬅
Last page: [ ] ⬅

Several   Add docstruct

Selected docstruct ...

- ⬆ Move docstruct up
- ⬇ Move docstruct down
- ⬅ Move docstruct to other location
- ⬍ Change docstruct type
- ⬇ Add docstructs from Opac
- 🗑 Delete docstruct

Page allocation (normal)

First page [ ]
Last page [ ]

Assign pages of subelements   Assign pages

All pages   **Related pages**

All pages	Related pages
1: uncounted	6: 1v
2: uncounted	
3: uncounted	
4: uncounted	
5: 1r	
6: 1v	
7: 2r	
8: 2v	
9: 3r	

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NBS Example:

The National Library of Serbia compiles the **national bibliography** *Serbica*, as well as retrospective and other bibliographies as tools to serve to researchers.

Like other national libraries, the NBS produces a **current** national bibliography, but also special bibliographies, among which we highlight:

- Retrospective SERBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY: 1768–2005 (serial publications)
- 18TH CENTURY SERBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY
- RETROSPECTIVE SERBIAN BIBLIOGRAPHY since 1945

(establishing criteria, collecting and studying sources and materials)

CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY OF THE CHILANDAR MONASTERY is also one of the important activities of the NBS and its experts are working on it.

Interaction

Interaction in a library takes place between the collections and users, between librarians and users, users among themselves, between users and artificial intelligence, as well as between the past and the future.

NBS Example:

According to the **Law on Old and Rare Library Material**, the **conservation laboratory** of the National Library of Serbia, alongside the Library of Matica Srpska, performs **conservation of cultural goods** on parchment and paper. For this reason, it simultaneously conserves old and rare library material from the NBS collections and from other cultural institutions, mainly libraries and museums. Also, NBS conservators and restorers actively protect the **parchment and paper heritage of Hilandar Monastery**.

The cooperation with Hilandar Monastery is one of the most important examples of interaction between the **past and the future**.

Hil. 398 (T 150): Pandects of the monk Nikon, 1375/85. and 1610/20. years, paper, l. 452, 290 × 210 mm
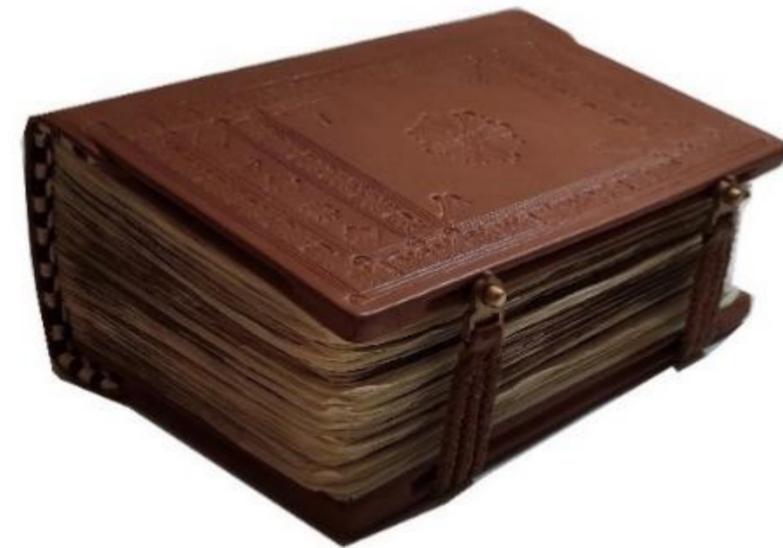
Examples from the lithographs "King Peter the First" (20th century) and "Jeremiah" (1907), a gift from Archimandrite Teofil Pešić.

A book from the library of the Holy Monastery of Chilandar that underwent conservation in 2024. The image shows the condition before and after conservation interventions.

How does a library inspire?
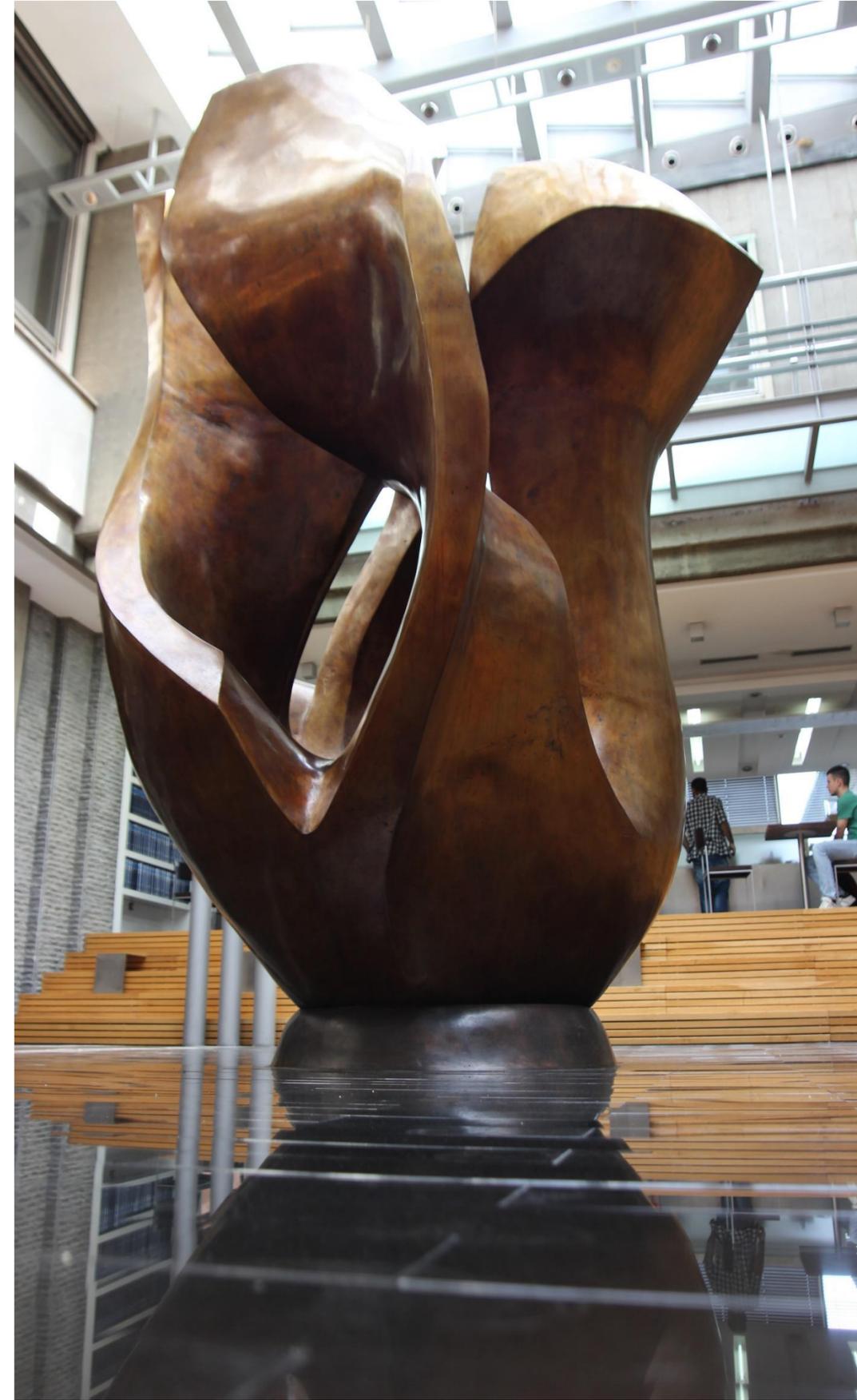
НАРОДНА БИБЛИОТЕКА СРБИЈЕ 1832–2021

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NBS Example:

Library inspires informal learning groups that gather in the library and outside the reading room exchange knowledge and information. It serves as a type of forum for discussion about what has been learned, especially among students.

In this way, the library also serves informal learning.

On an annual basis, the NBS has a circulation of over 120,000 users. Many of them use the library as a place to meet and inspire, as well as exchange ideas.

NBS Example:

The National Library of Serbia has a rich collection of sheet music and audio material, including old records.

An example of a motivating collaboration with various external associates is the **digitization of 78 rpm gramophone records**.

The process covered **600 of the most valuable and endangered sound carriers**.
Not only have the recordings from old records been digitized, but work has also been done to clean up the audio recordings (removing crackles and noises).

This was the first time that NBS had engaged in this type of work and collaborating with experts in the field of sound digitization was an exciting and new experience.

A photograph of a music reading room from the 1980s.
Gramophones on which users listened to old records.

NBS Example:

The creation of a **permanent exhibition of the legacy of rock musician Milan Mladenović**, in cooperation with his foundation,
is an inspiration for young generations who listen to the music
of this famous frontman of the band **Ekatarina Velika**,
but who also stood out as a poet and anti-war activist.

NBS Example:

Inspiration for development and progress, besides the library's core activity, also lies in the **organization of cultural content**.
The NBS organizes an average of about **15 exhibitions** and about **50 literary and discussion programs** annually, and as a publishing house, it publishes about **20 editions** independently or in co-publishing. This makes it a **meeting place for creators** from various fields and the audience, a place for **dialogue and exchange of ideas**.

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Thank You

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