

The Function of Music Libraries in Music Education in Macedonia

Libraries are an essential part of cultural life and music education in Macedonia. In addition to collecting, processing and preserving library material, one of the main functions and goals of the libraries is to offer its users various services.

In Macedonia there are several libraries whose resources contain music material. One of the largest and richest deposit libraries are the National and University Library “St. Clement of Ohrid” in Skopje (NUL – Skopje), the University Library in Bitola, and the City Library of Shtip. There is also a library at the Faculty of Music in Skopje.

The holdings of these libraries consist of several types of material. Above all, these are publications on the art of music ranging from general and technical textbooks, music histories, aesthetics books, to technical and scientific publications covering music issues. As far as other types of materials are concerned, there are also scores by mainly domestic composers, as well as foreign composers and sound carrier samples.

In addition to the libraries containing different types of materials which help the education of musicians, as well as introduce the population to the art of music, in Macedonia there is only one specialized Collection of Music within the NUL – Skopje. The libraries in Shtip and Bitola do not have separate music sections. Their resources contain a small number of scores, monograph and serial publications on music, as well as audio materials. These have been acquired during the years after independence as free trial samples. The holdings of these two libraries can be taken out from the library, whereas the accessibility of information is realized through OPAC – a public access catalogue. The holdings of the Bitola library have been partially registered in the COBIB.MK database; the monograph publications on music and some of the scores are included, but not the audio material. The Shtip library holdings are still in the phase of registering the monograph publications.

As opposed to the last two libraries, the NUL Collection of Music is a specialized collection. Because of the library’s national character and its purpose of

preserving cultural values, the materials of the library can be used only within the building.

The holdings for the NUL Collection of Music are richer than those of other libraries and are consisted of a so-called book and non-book library materials. The book materials include publications regarding music in different regions, genres, languages, such as: textbooks, theory of music, monographs on music history, music aesthetics, philosophy, psychology, music sociology, acoustics; music forms, instruments, orchestration, paleography, interpretation, methodology, musicological papers, works concerning issues regardless of genre, composer or stylistic period. The total number of titles – music scores and monographs – is above 16 000.

The non-book materials of the Collection are consisted of scores, sound carriers, video cassettes, concert posters and programs. The scores, the music parts, songbooks etc. are by different authors from all genres, by local or foreign world composers, transcribed folk songs collections, spiritual music. The Collection includes legacies by Stefan Gajdov, and also materials of the prominent Ensemble for Contemporary Macedonian Music “St. Sophia”, as well as many manuscripts by Macedonian composers.

The concert posters and programs describe Macedonian music life chronologically, their number reaching 4000.

The sound carriers consist of phonograph records (singles and LPs), audio cassettes, magnetic tapes, compact disks and CD-ROMs. These sound carriers constitute the complete production of former-Yugoslav production companies. From 1991 onwards they include Macedonian music production, as well as samples collected from different production companies around the globe. The total number of sound carrier samples from different production companies is 23 810. With reference to types of carriers, the situation is as follows: there are 16 582 phonograph records, 6 900 audio cassettes, 500 CDs, 353 video cassettes and 85 magnetic tapes. As far as the content of these carriers is concerned, most of them are music recordings, and a small number are speech samples.

These are the holdings the Collection of Music offers its users.

The Collection of Music aims to provide fast and simple access to resources, to help in searching topics, and to suggest further reference.

The fast and simple access to information of the materials and the services the Collection provides is carried out through the Internet, i.e. through OPAC and the

classic catalogues. The automatic catalogue distributes data for some of the collection materials, such as monograph publications, video cassettes, phonograph records (Macedonian issues or records featuring Macedonian composers, performers, arrangers etc. are prioritized), compact discs and part of the scores. Since the automatic processing began in 1997, the complete materials have not yet been entered in the on-line database. Therefore, the collection is organized by classic catalogues – cards and catalogues, books the readers and listeners can use to obtain information.

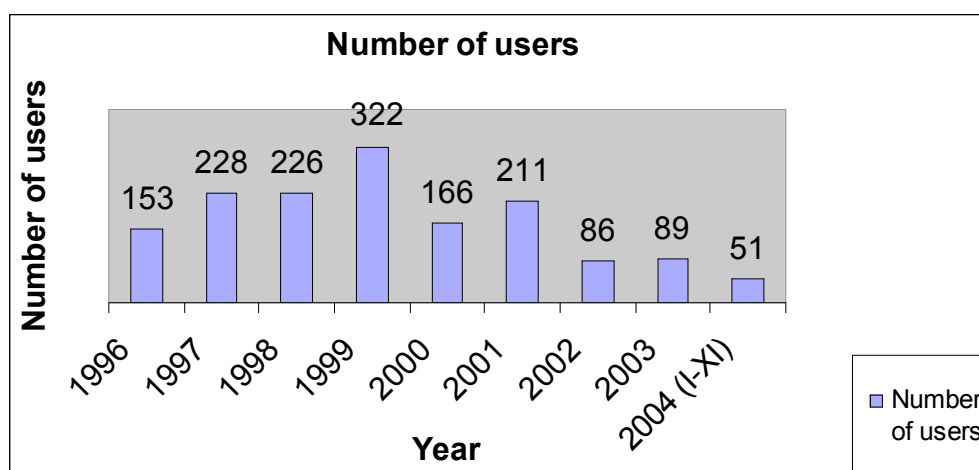
Users can gain access to the reference materials in the Collection's reading room containing the most necessary publications usually used such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, music histories, magazines.

In addition to using the printed materials of the collection, a special stand enables the users to listen to the audio materials of the collection. Currently four people can use the stand at the same time.

The collection also owns a piano for examining the scores.

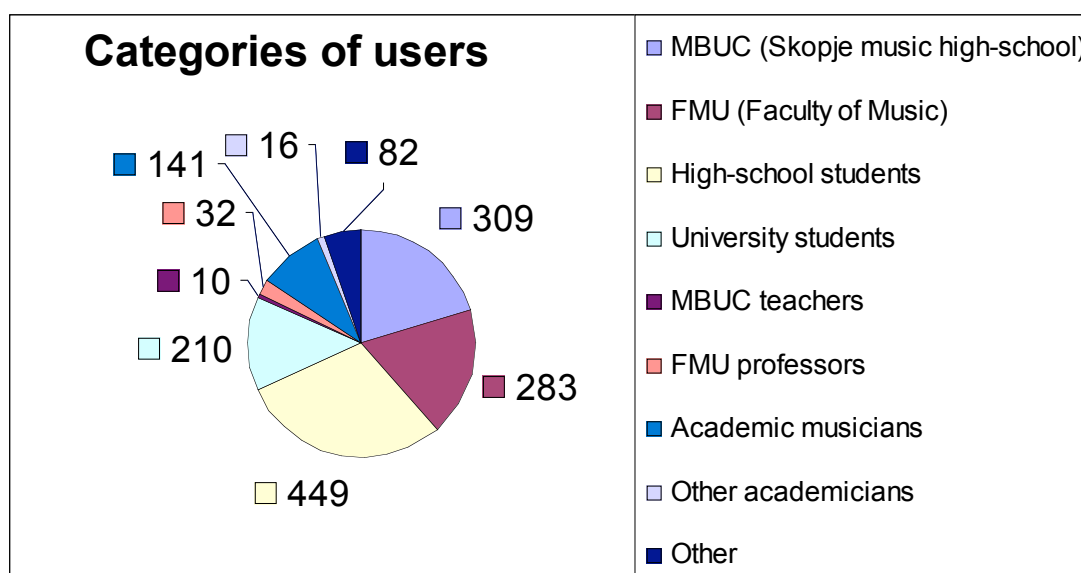
In order to analyze how and to which extent the Collection has accomplished its aims, research has been carried out within the data of the Collection.

We were mainly interested in the number of users.



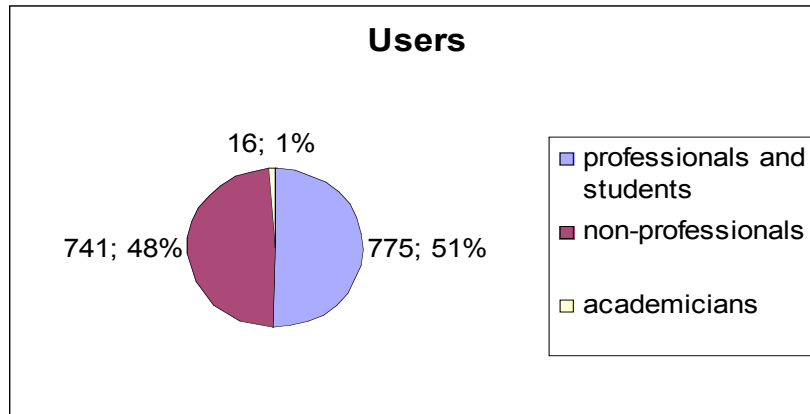
The graph above covering the period between 1996-2004 shows that the number of users varies. The smallest number is seen in 2004 – only 51, whereas the largest number 322 was reached in 1999. It is evident that the number of users has declined within the past three years.

However, it must be pointed out that the numbers in the graph does not respond to the realistic number of users. The graph does not show the collective, organized visits of high-school and university students, neither the collective members such as TV, radio station, newspaper and production companies lawyers, nor the large numbers of users who are not members of the NUL.



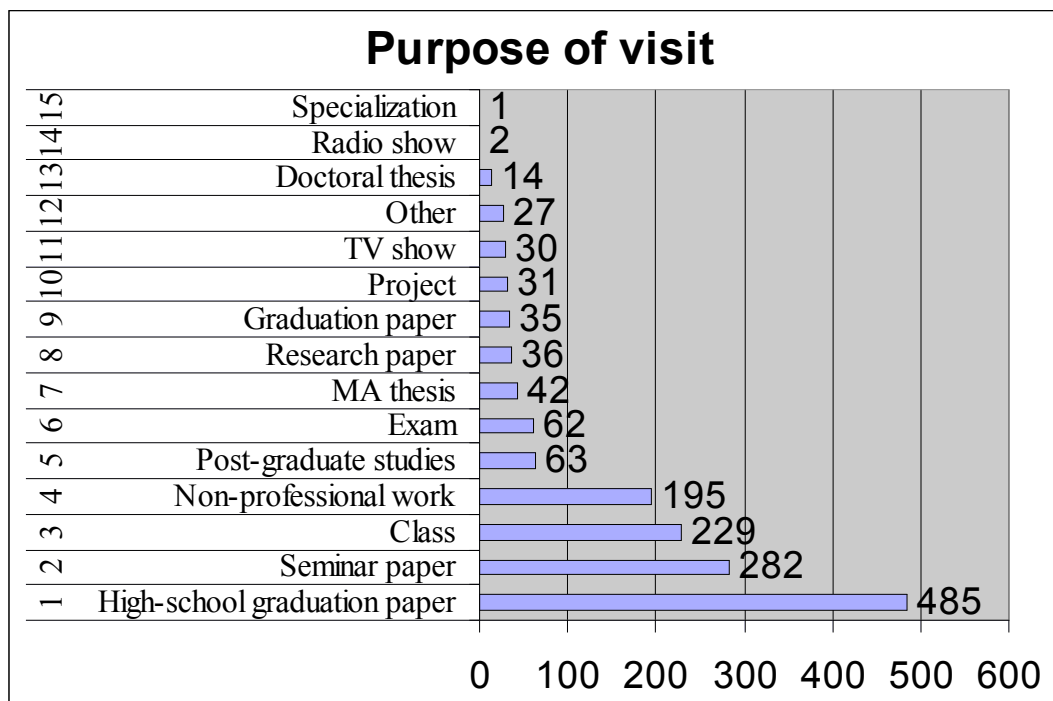
Members of the NUL are all citizens over the age of 17, but the library also offers its services to high-school and elementary school students. In fact, the above graph shows that the largest number of Collection users are high-school students (449), MBUC students (309) and FMU students (283). The smallest number is of the professors and assistants of FMU (32).

At the initiative of the elementary and high-school teachers in Skopje, triggered by the students' interest in music, an informal cooperation between the library and these two institutions was established. This cooperation includes organized collective library visits of the Skopje elementary and high-school students. The primary goal is to inform the students about the existence of the Collection, to inform the visitors about the content of the holdings and to teach them how to search and use the material. These visits also include discussions on different music genres and recommendations of literature suitable for the users' needs. All this helps educate and interest the students beyond the school programs.



The following statistics prove that the Collection is equally used by music professionals and by non-professional music lovers.

The following graph shows the purpose of the Collection users.



The statistic analysis proves that the Collection holdings is mostly used for the preparation of graduation and seminar papers, i.e. for educational purposes. On the other hand there is a number of non-professional music lovers who show an interest in various music genres. The number of high-school students who show an interest in music and are not from professional schools is also important. The students' high-

school graduation papers are mainly concerned with music genres not covered in the school curricula, such as jazz and rock.

The non-professional users of the library also show a predominant interest towards jazz and rock.

Based on these facts we may conclude that the Collection of Music fulfills its educational goal both in professional and in individual, informal education. Also, the evident decline of users reflects on the overall decline in the interest for reading. The Internet and its growing popularity has undeniably caused a decline in the number of NUL users. The second problem of this decline is the materials offered by NUL. Unfortunately, from its establishment and to this day, the music material holdings are rarely renewed. The score and particularly the audio material holdings have been almost completely diminished. Therefore, the financial means needed to renew these holdings are necessary for the further existence of a music section in the NUL “Clement of Ohrid” – Skopje.