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CZECH BIBLIOLOGY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY —
ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT STATE

The roots of Czech bibliology. The foundation of modern Czech bibliology in the First Republic (1918–1939). Czech bibliology in the second half of the twentieth century. Modern bibliology. Assumptions and prospects for the future.

KEY WORDS: bibliology, book culture history, Czech Republic, higher education, historical book collections, digitisation and protection of historical library items

Research into books, the history of printing and broadly understood book culture has had in Czech lands an over century-long tradition. Whereas the earlier history of Czech bibliology has been thoroughly discussed in a master's thesis,¹ the period from the beginning of the second half of the twentieth century up to now has not been properly synthesised.

Researchers interested in this area have had at their disposal primarily two articles written by Petr Voit in 2012 and 2014. Their principal objective, however, was to evoke a debate among Czech researchers over possible directions into which bibliology could develop.² That is why, in order to understand the present

¹ D. Mach, *Historie a vývoj české knihovnědy a knihovědného bádání* (Charles University in Prague, 2010), https://dspace.cuni.cz/bitstream/handle/20.500.11956/35097/DPTX_2009_2_11210_0_145519_0_91336.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

² P. Voit, “Nesnadná cesta knihovědy k dějinám knižní kultury”, *Česká literatura* 60, 2012, no 4, pp. 586–602, https://sites.ff.cuni.cz/uisk/wp-content/uploads/sites/62/2016/01/Nesadn%C3%A1-cesta-knihov%C4%Bdy-k-d%C4%Bjin%C3%A1m-kni%C5%BE%C3%AD-kultury_Voit.pdf [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; idem, “Osobní apel ke koncepci, komplexnosti a interdisciplinární-

state of this discipline in the Czech Republic, it has been necessary to analyse some phenomena that occurred in the second half of the last century. The achievements of researchers from communist times and post-revolutionary changes in the 1990s, together with the development of computer technologies at the turn of the century, prepared the ground for revising earlier conclusions concerning Czech bibliography, and, at the same time, brought new opportunities, similar to those in other humanities — the possibilities of combining classic research with the advantages of new technologies and the Internet environment.

The main objective of this article is to discuss the present state and direction of the development of Czech bibliography. However, in its introduction the earliest references to the beginnings of printing made in Czech research literature are also taken into consideration as well as the roots of bibliological research in the Czech territories in the 18th and 19th centuries, because it was the achievements of the earlier generations of researchers that shaped the principal ideas and goals of modern Czech bibliography in the times of the First Republic (1918–1938). Next, the most important book researchers of the last century are discussed, together with the activities of particular research institutions and the changing place of bibliography in the Czech education system. The outline of the most important achievements in modern bibliography is followed by a discussion of the prospects of this discipline's further development in the future.³

THE ROOTS OF CZECH BIBLIOLOGY

The invention of printing was first recorded in the Czech environment in the 1460s by the polymath Pavel Židek (1413–1471) in his encyclopaedic work *Liber viginti arcium*.⁴ Other, much later references to the significance of printing in the development of culture are contained in humanistic panegyrics written in Latin in the 16th and 17th centuries.⁵ From this period dates a long-standing and interesting

mu charakteru knižní kultury”, *Knihy a dějiny* 21, 2014, <https://asjournals.lib.cas.cz/knihyadejiny/article/uuid:c12e952a-4e31-4460-9f5b-b9462d43b4be> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

³ I would like to express my deep gratitude to the staff of the Department of Historical Bibliography — Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences, especially to PhDr. Anežka Baďurová, also to Doc. PhDr. Petr Voit CSc. and to other colleagues from various research institutions in the Czech Republic, who willingly provided me with various pieces of information that have not been published anywhere so far.

⁴ P. Voit, *Encyklopedie knihy: starší knihtisk a příbuzné obory mezi polovinou 15. a počátkem 19. století*, Praha 2006. Entry: Bamberk, <https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Bamberk> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁵ Ibid. Entry: Knihtisk (chvály a oslavy), [https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Knihtisk_\(chv%C3%A1ly_a_oslavy\)](https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Knihtisk_(chv%C3%A1ly_a_oslavy)) [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

legend of the Czech origin of the inventor of printing Johannes Gutenberg, the truth of which continued to be defended by some Czech authors until the middle of the 19th century.⁶

There were not many Czech publishing achievements in the field of book culture after the Czech protestants' defeat in the Battle of the White Mountain (1620); however, *Typographeum vivum*⁷ by John Amos Comenius (1592–1670), the outstanding Czech philosopher, pedagogue and bishop of the Unity of Brethren, is worth mentioning. The autor published it in exile in the Netherlands within *Opera didactica omnia*. Another important work is *Bohemia Docta*⁸ by Bohuslav Balbín (1621–1688), the Jesuit historian and pedagogue, which contains, among other things, an overview of the earlier Czech literary works.⁹

In 1729, the efforts of the Jesuit Antonín Koniáš (1691–1760) bore fruit and a bibliographical index of heretical books in Czech *Clavis haeresim claudens & aperiens*¹⁰ was published, a valuable work from the point of view of today's retrospective bibliography, yet infamous from the perspective of Czech historiography. The earliest work related to book history was published as late as at the end of the Baroque period on the 300th anniversary of the invention of print, which was celebrated by Prague printers in 1740. Poems and occasional sermons were complemented with indexes of local printers and their printers' mottos and marks. Also on this occasion, Jan Bohumír Antonín Fiebiger's work¹¹ appeared, which can be considered the first attempt to write a historical overview of Prague printing.

Considerable advantages for Czech bibliography resulted from a paradigm shift that started with the Enlightenment. Adopting a new critical approach to historical sources, which, thoroughly investigated, were treated as the basis for objective interpretation of historical events, researchers had to employ new methods of identifying, verifying and classifying historic items, whether they were books or otherwise. Only then, were scientific disciplines rooted in the Czech territories. Some of them would be now termed auxiliary sciences of history, including a form of bibliography. The development of research was supported by the establishment of

⁶ Ibid. Entry: Johann Gutenberg, https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Johann_Gutenberg [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁷ In the BCBT database recorded as: BCBT43143.

⁸ A. Baďurová et al., *Bibliografie spisů Bohuslava Balbína vytištěných do roku 1800*. [digital copy], Praha 1989, <https://kvo.lib.cas.cz/cizojazyčna-bohemika/bibliografie-spisu-bohuslava-balbina-digitalni-kopie/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹ Due to censorship, this work was published almost one hundred years after the author's death, 1776–1778.

¹⁰ Recorded in the *Knihopis* database as: K04286.

¹¹ P. Voit, *Encyklopedie knihy...*, Entry: Knihtisk (chvály a oslavy).

both the Royal Bohemian Society of Sciences in 1784 and the National Museum in 1818.¹²

In the field of Czech bibliography, Josef Dobrovský (1753–1829) and Karel Rafael Ungar (1744–1807) engaged primarily in research into incunabula. Through the adoption of a critical approach to available historical sources and the *de visu* investigation, considering both the typological and typographical aspects of the analysed prints, they ensured that Czech studies of incunabula reached the European level.¹³ They also rejected the aforementioned legend of the Czech origin of Gutenberg and expressed doubts concerning the year of the publication of *Kronika trojanská (Historia Troiana)*, which for a long time had been regarded as the first book printed in the Czech territories.¹⁴

Apart from Dobrovský and Ungar, research into book history was undertaken by Bohumír Jan Dlabač (1758–1820), Mikuláš Audaukt Voigt (1733–1787), Jan Petr Cerroni (1753–1826) and Leopold Jan Szersznik (1747–1814) among others. They widened the scope of the researched subjects, focusing on the history of particular printing houses and historical library collections, book censorship, patronage, and the beginnings of press and periodicals.¹⁵

When the Czech National Revival began, there was a fundamental change in the direction of research interests in the field of Czech bibliography.¹⁶ In order to prove to the German-speaking world that the Czech culture was ancient and its level was high, Czech bibliologists did research into Czech-language printed heritage their agenda.¹⁷ At the same time, they consciously disregarded, or rather eliminated, all references to a possible German-speaking countries' influence on the historical and cultural development of the Czech territories. The earliest (prior to the middle of the 16th century) occurrences of printing in the Czech territories were treated in a similar way.¹⁸ This shift was evident primarily in two ways.

First of all, the most important objective of bibliography was to compile an all-Czech retrospective bibliography, following Josef Jungmann's (1773–1847) *Historie literatury české [The History of Czech Literature]*, which encompassed only

¹² J. Petrář, "Královská česká společnost nauk: Místo české učené společnosti v dějinách a v proudu vědy", *Vesmír* 74, 1995, issue 11, <https://vesmir.cz/cz/casopis/archiv-casopisu/1995/cislo-11/kralovska-ceska-spolecnost-nauk.html> [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; K. Sklenář, *Obraz vlasti: příběh Národního muzea*, Praha 2001.

¹³ D. Mach, op. cit., p. 97.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid., p. 98.

¹⁶ V. Macura, *Znamení zrodu: české národní obrození jako kulturní typ*, Jinočany 1995.

¹⁷ *Jazyk jako fetiš. Texty o Češích a českých Němcích 1880–1948*, ed. V. Velčovský, Praha 2019.

¹⁸ D. Mach, op. cit., p. 98.

the Czech-language works of literature. Preferring national interests, however, led to one-sided research conclusions.

Furthermore, bibliological research was at an impasse because issues already explored in the past were reconsidered and often regarded as detached from their European context. Czech printers from before the Battle of the White Mountain (1620) were especially glorified, the argument concerning the year of the publication of *Kronika trojanská* was continued, even the legend of Gutenberg's Czech origin was recalled. In consequence, Czech bibliography remained as if closed for a long time, isolated and separated from this discipline's development abroad.¹⁹

The focus on Czech-language printing lasted in Czech bibliography until the second half of the 19th century. However, in the 1860s, when the number of authors dealing with bibliological issues increased, the scope of bibliological research was broadened. The book's internal and external features, including illustrations and binding, were examined; the history of printing houses was researched; even an attempt to create a synthetic historical overview of Czech — especially Moravian — printing was made,²⁰ complemented with the study of the relevant archival documents. Yet, most contemporary researchers, including Čeněk Zíbrt (1864–1932) and Zikmund Winter (1846–1912), were primarily specialists in other disciplines of history — their research into books was of an auxiliary nature whereas their primary interest was in the history of Czech national culture.²¹ Although many useful bibliological works were written, with a few exceptions, they did not reach the level of foreign publications.²²

THE FOUNDATION OF MODERN CZECH BIBLIOLOGY IN THE FIRST REPUBLIC (1918–1938)

In this spirit Czech bibliography entered the 20th century. The National Revival, which was to evoke self-consciousness of the Czechs, was crucial to the establishment of a new independent state. Zdeněk Václav Tobolka (1874–1951), a librarian and historian active in the field of politics, is considered to be the creator of modern Czech bibliography.²³ In his extensive activity as a politician,

¹⁹ Ibid., p. 99.

²⁰ Ibid., pp. 36–40.

²¹ From the perspective of bibliography, Č. Zíbrt's extensive work *Bibliografie české historie* (1900–1912) is especially significant. In turn, Z. Winter made remarkable discoveries in the field of the history of Czech printing, which he described in *Řemeslnictvo a živnosti v Čechách v XVI. věku* (1909) i *Český průmysl a obchod v XVI. věku* (1913).

²² D. Mach, op. cit., p. 101.

²³ J. Chadimová, "Zdeněk Václav Tobolka", *Ikaros* 9, 2005, no 5, <https://ikaros.cz/zdenek-vaclav-tobolka> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

librarian and teacher, four achievements were regarded as most important. Firstly, he initiated and organised the creation of the national retrospective bibliography of Czech-language prints, which was compiled in the National and University Library in Prague (Národní a universitní knihovna v Praze — today Národní knihovna, referred to below as: the National Library). This bibliography was published in 1925 (*Incunabula*) and then continued since 1939 as *Knihopis českých a slovenských tisků od doby nejstarší až do konce XVIII. století* (referred to below as: *Knihopis*). Secondly, between 1926 and 1931 Tobolka initiated the publication of eleven photomechanical reproductions — the facsimiles of the Czech-language paleotypes *Monumenta Bohemiae typographica* appeared. Thirdly, as the head of the State Library School (Státní knihovnická škola), he lobbied for the introduction of library science and bibliography to the university study program.²⁴ Last but not least, he contributed to the foundation of the Czechoslovak Bibliological Society (Československá společnost knihovědná), active until 1945 when it became part of the newly-established Czech Library Association (Svaz českých knihovníků).²⁵

In contrast to the previous period, attempts were made to start foreign collaboration in order to learn and implement foreign library practices in Czech libraries. Tobolka was also active in the field of international librarianship and contributed to the introduction of the first library act in the Czech territories. To make the results of the research conducted in Czechoslovakia available to foreign researchers, he initiated the publication of the journal *Slovanská knihověda* (1931–1947).

The immediate inspiration for the compilation of *Knihopis* was contemporary German *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*. Tobolka adopted Haebler's typological method, which he used in his further works, including the aforementioned facsimiles. However, influenced by Jungmann's tradition, the new national retrospective bibliography initially included only Czech-language publications. Although recording Czech prints in foreign languages was considered, it was only brought to life by Tobolka's followers.

Between 1918 and 1938 there was a large group of researchers who to a greater or lesser extent contributed to the compilation of *Knihopis*. They usually continued their bibliological research within the Czech National Revival tradition and focused on the history of printing prior to 1620, regarding this period as the golden age of Czech independence. However, some of them did drift away from this traditional approach, including Josef Volf (1878–1937), the head of the National Museum Library in Prague, Cyril Antonín Straka (1868–1927) and Vít Miloslav Hůlka (1887–1957), two librarians from the Strahov Library, Jan Thon (1886–1973), the

²⁴ So-called Tobolka's Courses were held at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University from 1927 to 1939, when the universities were closed during the period of German occupation. The courses were restarted in 1947 but were held only for a short period of time.

²⁵ J. Chadimová, op. cit.

head of the Municipal Library in Prague, and Pavlína Hamanová (1894–1978) of the National Library. More and more attention was paid to the history of printing after 1620.²⁶ The studies of binding, typography, bookselling, the history of publishing and press also developed.²⁷

The main direction of research set by bibliologists of the First Republic did not change during the Second World War and was followed even in the post-war period. The primary tasks of Czech bibliography included the compilation of the national retrospective bibliography and research into printing in the Czech language before 1620. After the introduction of the communist regime in 1948, these two tasks aligned with the philosophy of Marxist science concerning research into national histories, so only few scholars researched other issues.²⁸ An important exception was the compilation of *Bibliografie cizojazyčných bohemikálních tisků 1501–1800* [*The Bibliography of Foreign-language Printed Bohemica 1501–1800*] (referred to below as: BCBT), entitled *Soupis cizojazyčných bohemikálních tisků z let 1501–1800* [*The Index of Foreign-language Printed Bohemica 1501–1800*]. This bibliographical project began in the middle of the 1950s in the newly-opened Library of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (Základní knihovna Československé akademie věd).

CZECH BIBLIOLOGY IN THE SECOND HALF OF THE 20TH CENTURY

Post-war bibliography was significantly influenced by the development of the Czechoslovak librarianship with which it had been organically connected in the previous period. However, whereas in the interwar period teaching librarianship at the Charles University in Prague had a strong bibliographical bias, a new post-war programme was of a very different character.²⁹

In 1950, at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague, the Course of Library Science was introduced, followed by the establishment of the Department of Library Science. Its teaching programme was structured on the basis of contemporary librarianship and its needs in foreign countries, especially the Soviet Union, which inevitably entailed a strong ideological influence exerted on

²⁶ J. Kubíček, “Vznik Československa — 100 let, 9. Část”, *Čtenář* 2018, <https://www.svkkl.cz/ctenar/clanek/2706> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

²⁷ D. Mach, op. cit., p. 103.

²⁸ P. Voit, “Nesnadná cesta...”, p. 588.

²⁹ J. Cejpek, “Jak dál v univerzitním knihovědném studiu”, [in:] *Problematika historických a vzácných knižních fondů Čech, Moravy a Slezska: nové prvky ve starých knihách. Sborník z 11. odborné konference Olomouc, 13.–14. listopadu 2002*, Brno 2002, <http://www.digitalniknihovna.cz/mzk/view/uuid:7d5f91f2-7702-11e0-ab3d-0050569d679d?page=uuid:a1736941-7702-11e0-ab3d-0050569d679d> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

the future graduates who were to perform new social functions.³⁰ To the extent that was possible, Czech library science responded to the development of science and technology, including new information technologies.³¹ Although bibliography was somehow neglected, at the end of the 1950s the interest of students in historical issues was still represented in their diploma theses' topics. However, in the 1960s the number of historically-orientated doctoral dissertations suddenly decreased, only to increase again at the beginning of the 1970s.³² In addition, at the end of the 1940s and the beginning of the 1950s, numerous theses in librarianship were written at the Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archive Studies of the Charles University in Prague.³³

Bibliological research and the education of future bibliologists gradually drifted away from universities to state institutions preserving historical heritage, mainly libraries holding historical collections. The National Museum Library (Knihovna Národního muzea, referred to below as: KNM) and the National Library in Prague had already been most important in this context and their employees, already active in the First Republic (1918–1938), played a significant role. For the most part they were graduates of the so-called Tobolka's Courses (Tobolkovy kurzy). Often their personal interests brought them to the field of bibliography, and thus the scope of researched issues was broadened.

However, their activities responded to the professional demands of contemporary practical needs of their employing institutions, libraries and museums. Most researchers had to put a great deal of effort into relocating historical collections after the Second World War, mostly including Church library collections after the dissolution of monasteries in the 1950s.³⁴ Many of them engaged in the bibliographical description of Czech old prints, necessary for the still incomplete *Knihopis* as well as the newly launched BCBT.

The most important representatives of this post-war generation, who prepared the ground for modern bibliography, included the archivist and librarian Bohumír

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ Ibid.

³² M. Růžičková, "Diplomové práce s knihovědnou tematikou, obhájené na Katedře vědeckých informací a knihovnictví Filosofické fakulty University Karlovy od roku 1956 do roku 1994", *Knihy a dějiny* 1, no 1, <https://kramerius.lib.cas.cz/uuid/uuid:24af669-dbd8-4f6a-b71d-38e4a4ec5a7f> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

³³ L. Veselá, "Diplomové a disertační práce s knihovědnou tematikou obhájené v letech 1948–1994 na Katedře pomocných věd historických a archivnictví a v letech 1953–1994 na Katedře obecných a českých dějin Filosofické fakulty UK", *Knihy a dějiny* 2, 1995, no 2, <https://kramerius.lib.cas.cz/uuid/uuid:0fca9b37-394f-4c52-94c9-f5ffc492ecc4> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

³⁴ F. Horák, "Klášteřní knihovny v českých zemích", *Knihovna* 1966, issue 6, passim; L. Kokeš, M. Strouhalová, "Církevní knihovny: »Loupež za bílého dne« osudy klášterních knihoven po akci »K«, *Čtenář* 2019, <https://svkkl.cz/ctenar/clanek/2754> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

Lifka (1900–1987), the former head of the library of the Náprstek Museum of Asian, African and American Cultures (Náprstkovo muzeum asijských, afrických a amerických kultur) in Prague, who initiated the establishment of the Department of Castle Libraries (Oddělení zámeckých knihoven KNM), later an external employee of the Library of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, which is now the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (Knihovna Akademie věd ČR, referred to below as: KNAV). Lifka's professional interests were mainly in the issues of historic Church and castle collections.

Another important person was Emma Urbánková (1909–1992), for many years the head of the Department of Manuscripts and Printed Books of the National Library, whose major work is devoted to the beginnings of Czech printing, in which she discusses the results of her typographical analysis of *Kronika trojanská*, including the conclusion that this work was published between 1476 and 1479. E. Urbánková gave many popularising lectures and contributed to many discussions and exhibitions. She was also involved in creating *Cimelia Bohemica*, the series of facsimiles of important manuscripts and old prints, which appeared between 1967 and 1972.³⁵ She contributed to *Pravidla jmenné katalogizace starých tisků, prvotisků a rukopisů* [*The Rules of Nominal Cataloguing of Old Books, Incunabula and Manuscripts*] (1971), the instructions as to how to catalogue old prints, incunabula and manuscripts, and published *Soupis prvotisků českého původu* [*The Index of the Incunabula of Czech Origin*] (1986), which raised Czech incunabula studies to the European level.

František Horák (1911–1983), Tobolka's student, was equally commendable. He was the second Czech bibliologist who was awarded the docent title, the editor-in-chief of *Knihopis* compiled at the National Library and initiator of the bibliography of the 19th-century prints. As the head of the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV) (1953–1967), he concentrated on completing *Knihopis* and, at the same time, advocated the foundation of the BCBT.³⁶ In this way, he broadened the scope of the Czech retrospective bibliography in the spheres of languages and chronology. He was a co-author of *Pravidla jmenné katalogizace starých tisků, prvotisků a rukopisů* (1971) and, for a long time, taught some courses in bibliography at the Department of Library Science of the Charles University in Prague.

The history of book printing in Moravia, with a special focus on the history of Moravian monastic libraries, was researched by Vladislav Dokoupil (1918–1992),

³⁵ P. Voit, *Encyklopedie knihy...*, Entry: Cimélie, <https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Cim%C3%A9lie> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

³⁶ J. Burgetová, “Příspěvek k historii Knihovny AV ČR”, *Informace* 2013, no 3, https://www.lib.cas.cz/casopis_informace/prispevek-k-historii-knihovny-av-cr/ [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

who for several decades worked at the University Library in Brno.³⁷ It was mainly thanks to him that, after the dissolution of monasteries in the 1950s, many monastic library collections in Moravia remained in their original places and were made known through catalogues.³⁸ Among saved library collections was the library of the Benedictine Monastery in Rajhrad, today a part of the Museum of Literature in Moravia (Památník písemnictví na Moravě). V. Dokoupil compiled an index of Moravian incunabula (except the ones published in Olomouc, 1499–1500), which significantly contributed to the national retrospective bibliography of incunabula.³⁹

Another important person in the history of Czech bibliography was Mirjam Bohatcová (1919–2007), a graduate of the Department of Auxiliary Historical Sciences and Archive Studies of the Charles University in Prague. She worked at the Department of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the National Museum Library in Prague (Oddělení rukopisů a starých tisků Knihovny Národního muzea v Praze) for a dozen years and then for nineteen years at the Centre for Philological Documentation at the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (Kabinet filologické dokumentace ČSAV).⁴⁰ She was then one of a few researchers into book history who published their works abroad, although in the times of so-called “normalisation” she was banished from academic circles. She was especially involved in studying the book printing of the Unity of the Brethren but was interested also in other issues.⁴¹ After the political transformation in the 1990s, she lectured at the Charles University in Prague. She was the leader of a group of authors working on the first synthetic historical overview of book culture in the Czech territories — the popular-scientific monograph *Česká kniha v proměnách staletí [Czech Books throughout the Centuries]* (1990).⁴²

There were also younger representatives of this pre-war generation who exerted an important influence on the research and education in the field of Czech bibliography in the second half of the 20th century. Among them were Bohuslava Brtová (1925–1999) and Bedřiška Wižďálková (1926–2006), who collaborated with F. Horák on compiling the national retrospective bibliography. Wižďálková was also a co-author of *Pravidla jmenné katalogizace starých tisků, prvotisků a rukopisů*. Yet another outstanding bibliologist was Jaroslav Vrchotka (1926–

³⁷ JUDr. Vladislav Dokoupil, [in:] *Internetová encyklopedie dějin Brna*, https://encyklopedie.brna.cz/home-mmb/?acc=profil_osobnosti&load=13493 [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

³⁸ J. Kubíček, *Moravská zemská knihovna v Brně 1808–2008: knihovní sbírky*, Brno 2008.

³⁹ Rajhrad — Památník písemnictví na Moravě, pobočka Muzea Brněnska, <http://rajhrad.muzeumbrnenska.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁰ M. Bohatcová defended her doctoral thesis there in 1965, see: D. Mach, op. cit., p. 101.

⁴¹ *Sborník k 80. narozeninám Mirjam Bohatcové*, ed. A. Baďurová, Praha 1999; V. Bok, K. Rexová, “Mirjam Bohatcová (28.6.1919–22.8.2007)”, *Český časopis historický* 106, 2008, no 2, pp. 470–473.

⁴² *Česká kniha v proměnách staletí*, ed. M. Bohatcová, Praha 1990.

2013), a famous researcher into the history of book culture and for many years the head of the National Museum Library (KNM), who supported the foundation of the Museum of the Book in Žďár nad Sázavou.⁴³ It is also important to mention: Pravoslav Kneidl (1927–2003), the head of the Department of the Castle Libraries of the National Museum Library (Oddělení zámeckých knihoven KNM), 1955–1964, who later became the head of the Strahov Library — Museum of Czech Literature in Prague (Strahovská knihovna — Památník národního písemnictví v Praze, referred to below as: PNP), and in the 1990s also the head of the whole Museum of Czech Literature (PNP);⁴⁴ Milan Kopecký (1925–2006), a literary historian and editor, thanks to whom the Memorial of Kralice Bible (Památník Bible Kralické) was founded;⁴⁵ Jiří Kábrt (1928–2010), a researcher into the history of Czech bibliography, from 1968 to 1971 the editor of *Bibliografický časopis*, the first Czech professor of information and library sciences.⁴⁶ Finally, Zdeněk Šimeček (1929–2019), the recently deceased Slavacist, whose primary research was into the history of press, periodicals and publishing in the Czech territories.⁴⁷

Among the living bibliologists worth mentioning are Bohumil Nuska (b. 1932), an expert on renaissance book binding, and Václav Pumprla (b. 1937), who for thirty years worked for the State Olomouc Research Library (today Olomouc Research Library — Vědecká knihovna v Olomouci, referred to below as: VKOL), where he compiled an enormous edition of the inventory of old prints held by this institution. In the 1990s he initiated the annual conference *Problematika historických a vzácných knižních fondů Čech, Moravy a Slezska* [*The Problems of Historical and Valuable Book Collections of Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia*], which is still organised by the State Olomouc Research Library (VKOL) under the new name *Bibliotheca Antiqua*.⁴⁸

The Moravian Library in Brno (Moravská zemská knihovna, referred to below as: MZK) affiliated Jaromír Kubíček (b. 1938), the former head of this library and president of a few professional associations, and recently deceased Jaroslav Vobr (1939–2013), a librarian. They became active in the field of bibliography as late as the 1960s together with Anežka Baďurová (b. 1942), a historian, the successor

⁴³ L. Kurka, “Zemřel emeritní ředitel Knihovny Národního muzea Jaroslav Vrchoťka”, *Bulletin SKIP* 2013, no 3, https://bulletin.skipcr.cz/bulletin/Bull13_306.htm [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁴ J. Cejpek, “Pravoslav Kneidl (1927–2003)”, *Bulletin SKIP* 2005, no 3, https://bulletin.skipcr.cz/bulletin/Bull05_312.htm#ti [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁵ P. Pešta, “Milan Kopecký”, [in:] *Slovník české literatury po roce 1945*, <http://www.slovník-ceskeliteratury.cz/showContent.jsp?docId=410> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁶ Jiří Kábrt, Databáze Slovník českých knihovníků, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&-doc_number=000000153&local_base=SCK [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁷ P. Pešta, “Zemřel PhDr. Zdeněk Šimeček, CSc. (28.2.1929–4.2.2019)”, *Čtenář* 2019, <https://www.svkk1.cz/ctenar/clanek/2835> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁴⁸ The Conference *Bibliotheca Antiqua*, <https://kba.vkol.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

of B. Brtova, who initiated the foundation of the Department of Historical Bibliography at the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences in the 1990s, or Helga Turková (b. 1942), later the head of the National Museum Library in Prague.⁴⁹

Most of the mentioned researchers concentrated on the printed book, so the issues of book history were often discussed by specialists in the bordering historical or philological disciplines, whose scope of research encompassed the period before the introduction of printing. One of them was Ivan Hlaváček (b. 1931), a historian, archivist and academic teacher, who examined manuscripts and the history of libraries in the Middle Ages. A significant achievement was also the six-volume publication *Rukověť humanistického básnictví v Čechách a na Moravě* [*A Handbook of Humanistic Literature, Particularly Poetical, in Bohemia and Moravia in the 16th Century*], commenced by the linguists Antonín Truhlář (1849–1908) and Karel Hrdina (1882–1949), transformed, reedited and continued by the philologists Jan Martínek (1924–2014) and Josef Hejnic (1924–2019). The first volumes were published in the 1960s, but the whole publication was completed as late as in 2011 (*Dodatky*).⁵⁰

Another important group of scholars consists of historical librarians and bibliologists who graduated from the Charles University in the 1970s and 1980s. Apart from the already mentioned Jaroslav Vobr, this group of people includes the former head of the Book Culture Department of the National Museum Library in Prague Eva Ryšavá (b. 1937), specialising in research into broadside ballads. From among younger researchers it is worth mentioning Marie Hálová (b. 1952), who for a long time has managed the historical collections of the Education and Research Library of the Pilsener Region (Studijní a vědecká knihovna Plzeňského kraje), Miroslava Hejnová (b. 1955), the former head of the Department of Historical and Music Collections of the National Library and Petr Mašek (b. 1959), the present head of the Department of the Castle Libraries of the National Museum Library (KNM).⁵¹

⁴⁹ “Anežka Baďurová — Osobní bibliografie PhDr. Anežky Baďurové”, *Knihy a dějiny Zvláštní číslo věnované PhDr. Anežce Baďurové*, <https://kramerius.lib.cas.cz/uuid/uuid:c613ead7-f46e-473a-8e58-fa7132c7d69b> [retrieved: 9.11.2020]; *Helga Turková*, Databáze Slovník českých knihovníků, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&doc_number=000000545&local_base=SCK [retrieved: 9.11.2020].

⁵⁰ *Rukověť humanistického básnictví v Čechách a na Moravě = Enchiridion renatae poesis Latinae in Bohemia et Moravia cultae*, eds. A. Truhlář et al., Praha 1966–2011.

⁵¹ *Eva Ryšavá*, Databáze Slovník českých knihovníků, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&doc_number=000000520&local_base=SCK [retrieved: 9.11.2020]; *Marie Hálová*, Databáze Slovník českých knihovníků, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&doc_number=000000242&local_base=SCK [retrieved: 9.11.2020]; *Miroslava Hejnová*, Databáze autorit Národní knihovny ČR, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&doc_number=000081134&local_base=AUT [retrieved: 9.11.2020];

More or less at the same time, research into books was conducted by scholars who, although educated in other disciplines, concentrated on the history of book culture. Many of them were academic teachers at the Charles University in Prague. They were involved in both transformation processes in the 1990s, which took place also in libraries and museums holding historical collections, and computerisation — they witnessed the introduction of the Internet and digitising historical collections.

A lot of them were professionally affiliated to the National Library for a long time. Undoubtedly, the most outstanding Czech bibliologist is Petr Voit (b. 1956), a historian of literature, specialist in the history of book culture, former editor of *Knihopis* and head of the Manuscripts and Early Printed Books Department of the National Library, presently an academic teacher. Another is Zdeněk Uhlř (b. 1956), a codicologist and methodologist dealing with digitising manuscripts, involved in founding the digital library Manuscriptorium.⁵² Also, Alena Richtrová (b. 1952) is worth mentioning — a historian, librarian and researcher into historical collections — as is Kamil Boldan (b. 1966), who examines incunabula and watermarks.

We cannot forget about the Romanists — Jitka Radimská (b. 1948) from the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, who was the organiser of the cyclic conferences *K výzkumu zámeckých, měšťanských a církevních knihoven*, and Jaroslava Kašparova (b. 1952), who for a long time worked both for the National Library and the National Museum Library (KNM) and engaged in intense pedagogical activity.⁵³ The historian, archivist and academic teacher Jiří Pešek (b. 1954) has researched the history of urban culture in modern times for many years. Using the surviving wills of Prague burghers, he has attempted to reconstruct their libraries, as they evidence the level of cultural development and education of the contemporary bourgeoisie. This issue has also been explored by the historian Olga Fejtová (b. 1962).⁵⁴

Finally, it is necessary to mention Slovak experts, who until 1993, when Czechoslovakia split into two sovereign states — the Czech Republic and Slovakia, were involved in the development of bibliography and setting the directions of research in the book culture history field: the historians Viliam Čičaj (b. 1949) and Eva Frim-

Petr Mašek, Databáze Slovník českých knihovníků, https://aleph.nkp.cz/F/?func=direct&doc_number=000000867&local_base=SCK [retrieved: 9.11.2020].

⁵² The digital library Manuscriptorium, www.manuscriptorium.com [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁵³ The homepage of J. Radimská, http://www.ckrumlov.cz/cz1250/autori/i_jr.htm [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁵⁴ V. Ledvinka, *Historik nakažený historií Jiří Pešek*, [in:] *Jeho Praha. Výbor statí Jiřího Peška k dějinám Prahy*, eds. O. Fejtová et al., Praha 2014, pp. 17–23; *Olga Fejtová*, <http://ff.ujep.cz/index.php/15-khi/personalni-slozeni/108-phdr-olga-fejtova> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

mová (b. 1950), Klára Komorová (b. 1949), a librarian and historian of literature, Helena Saktorová (b. 1953) and Gabriela Žibritová (b. 1941), an expert in the theory of bibliography and information science.

The political transformation at the beginning of the 1990s significantly influenced the development of training librarians. Departing from the ideological aspect of this transformation, it had at least two advantages for the discipline of librarianship and library science. First of all, in 1991, the Institute of Auxiliary Historical Sciences, Archival Studies and Library Science was established at the Masaryk University in Brno, which meant that the University in Prague was no longer the only research institution educating specialists in library and information sciences.⁵⁵ The head of this newly-founded institute was Miroslav Flodr (1929–2015), who specialised in medieval book culture. Because many teachers were moved from the Department of History to the new institute, which so far had dealt with auxiliary historical sciences, at first the institute in Brno specialised in bibliology, while teaching of library subjects was for some time provided by external teachers only.⁵⁶ The other significant change was a renewed interest in bibliology at the Charles University in Prague.⁵⁷ The situation was quite different there. Because of the lack of teachers, training historical librarians was initially a form of a bibliological seminar, conducted at the request of students themselves by Mirjam Bohatcová at the National Museum Library (KNM).⁵⁸ Gradually, the programme included nine compulsory courses taught at master's level mainly by external teachers, namely A. Baďurová, P. Kneidl, Z. Uhlíř, P. Mašek, P. Voit and others.⁵⁹

The activity of the Prague department — since 1993 the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship (Ústav informačních studií a knihovnictví) — has been stable for decades and bibliology is its integral part. It provides students with post-graduate doctoral courses in information studies. Furthermore, in 1995, 1996 and 1997 it organised three librarianship courses “Historické knižní fondy současnosti” [“Historical library collections in modern times”] for librarians-practitioners.⁶⁰

⁵⁵ J. Kubíček, “Počátky vysokoškolského studia knihovnictví na Masarykově univerzitě”, *Duha* 2016, nr 1, <https://duha.mzk.cz/clanky/pocatky-vysokoskolskeho-studia-knihovnictvi-na-masarykove-univerzite> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁵⁶ J. Cejpek, *Jak dál...*

⁵⁷ J. Cejpek, E. Techlová, *Knihovědné studium v Ústavu informačních studií a knihovnictví*, [in:] *Problematika historických a vzácných knižních fondů Čech, Moravy a Slezska. Sborník ze 3. odborné konference Olomouc, 5.–6. října 1993*, Olomouc 1993.

⁵⁸ M. Bohatcová, “Bilance knihovědného semináře v letech 1991–1998”, *Knihy a dějiny* 6, 1999, no 2, https://www.lib.cas.cz/knav/kad/knihy_a_dejiny_99-2.htm#4 [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁵⁹ J. Cejpek, *Jak dál...*

⁶⁰ E. Techlová, “Kursy »Historické knižní fondy současnosti Ústavu informačních studií a knihovnictví FFUK«”, [in:] *Problematika historických a vzácných knižních fondů Čech, Moravy*

At the same time, teaching library science in Brno continued to be conducted at a few university institutes and, until the academic year 1999/2000, was a form of distance learning.

The concept of bibliography did not change much, however, the emphasis on modern courses in study programmes of fast-developing librarianship, together with heavy demands made on students of bibliography, gradually resulted in a decreasing interest in studying book culture history.

From the perspective of extramural events, the 1990s were marked with heightened activity in the sphere of automation and computerisation of libraries. Many historical collections were re-catalogued as electronic catalogues began to be used, earlier library systems were replaced with new ones and the first phase of digitization commenced.⁶¹ The financial support came from both the new subsidy programmes of the Czech Ministry of Culture, which first of all financed infra-structural projects, and from the Czech Science Foundation (Grantová agentura České republiky, further referred to as: GAČR), which, from the moment of its establishment in 1993, has supported primary research.⁶²

The initial aim of digitisation was to provide access to the Czech national heritage. The project *Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica* resulted in the creation of the greatest digital library of historic documents in Europe — *Manuscriptorium*.⁶³ The project *Clavis monumentorum literarum* was also subsidised.⁶⁴ Its goal was to create a database system providing, among other things, access to a part of the national retrospective bibliography in electronic form. Unfortunately, for various reasons, it was terminated too early. The staff of the Division of Classical Studies, the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences, managed to include at least part of *Knihopis* in the Internet database.⁶⁵ Although it had existed in electronic form since the late 1980s, the BCBT was still available only offline.

The introduction of new computer technologies in processing, recording, preserving and providing access to historical collections was inevitable and, in many respects, undoubtedly positive. However, it did not solve long-standing problems of administering historical libraries. The most urgent was the imbalance be-

a Slezska, Olomouc 1996, <http://www.digitalniknihovna.cz/mzk/view/uid:62011194-76ff-11e0-ab3d-0050569d679d?page=uid:92e93640-76ff-11e0-ab3d-0050569d679d> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁶¹ A. Baďurová, “Zbiory dawnej książki w Republice Czeskiej: stan ich opracowania bibliotecznego i wykorzystanie naukowe”, *Roczniki Biblioteczne* 43, 1999, pp. 71–73.

⁶² Grantová agentura České republiky, <https://gacr.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁶³ A. Knol, “*Memoriae Mundi Series Bohemica*: Program digitálního zpřístupnění vzácných fondů”, *Ikaros* 7, 1998, no 2, <https://ikaros.cz/memoriae-mundi-series-bohemica-program-digitalniho-zpristupneni-vzacnych-fondu> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁶⁴ An overview of the projects supported by the state, <https://starfos.tacr.cz/cs/project/GV405%2F98%2FK016>.

⁶⁵ The *Knihopis* database, managed by the National Library, <http://www.knihopis.cz/>.

tween the enormous quantity of historical items and a small number of specialists (or financially secure posts) who were to manage historical collections.⁶⁶ In consequence, the specialists did not produce many publications, limiting themselves to compiling inventories and catalogues, partially solving research problems and writing research reports.⁶⁷ Although this kind of activity in the past often resulted in new discoveries, it was obviously demanding and did not leave time to develop a general concept of bibliology.

In this context, the opinions expressed by Z. Uhlíř at the turn of the century are exceptional because in his assessment on the challenges of the coming digital era he asked questions about the methods of processing and publishing historical documents as well as the business of modern librarians managing historical collections.⁶⁸

The discussions described here naturally ended when a compromise was reached and it was decided that in practice, there should be electronic catalogues on the one hand, and a full-text digital library on the platform of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI) in Extensible Markup Language (EML) on the other hand. Many other problems, however, have remained unsolved and continue to influence the discussed sphere.⁶⁹

MODERN BIBLIOLOGY

Summing up the above discussion, we can accurately describe the state of Czech bibliology at the beginning of the 21st century. The three aspects of the development of this discipline that shall be considered are as follows: (1) the management of historical collections, (2) science — research — education, (3) a general direction of the development of Czech bibliology as a more or less independent academic discipline. The three aspects are inter-related to one another also because the same specialists are usually involved in more than one of them.

⁶⁶ J. Kašparová, “Staré tisky a jejich zpracování v ČR”, *Daidalos* 2001, no 1/2, http://daidalos.ff.cuni.cz/2001/leden/jk_hf.php [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; A. Baďurová, “Zbiory dawnej książki w Republice Czeskiej...”, *passim*.

⁶⁷ P. Voit, “Nesnadná cesta...”, p. 592.

⁶⁸ Z. Uhlíř, “Měníci se role rukopisného knihovníka”, *Ikaros* 7, 2003, no 4, <https://ikaros.cz/menici-se-role-rukopisneho-knihovnika> [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; *idem*, *Zdroje a prameny: historické knihovnictví v informačním věku*, *Ikaros* 5, 2001, no 1, <https://ikaros.cz/zdroje-a-prameny-historicke-knihovnictvi-v-informacnim-veku> [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; *idem*, “Votum separatum k problému katalogizace starých tisků v NK ČR”, *Daidalos* 2001, no 1/2, http://daidalos.ff.cuni.cz/2001/leden/zu_jk.php [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁶⁹ J. Kašparová, *op. cit.*

The historical collections of the Czech Republic were described in detail by A. Baďurová and published in this very periodical (*Roczniki Biblioteczne*) in 1999.⁷⁰ Apart from a short overview of the foundation and development of particular institutions holding historical collections, she examined the contemporary state of their catalogues and the function of these institutions in the system of sciences, including their role in solving national problems concerning administering, processing and creating access to historical documents in book form.

In the last century, the managers of historical collections had to face, on several occasions, situations where large parts of collections of books were moved from one place to another. During the Second World War, their losses were not as substantial as in neighbouring countries but the relocation and later return of certain numbers of books required considerable organisational and logistical efforts. The post-war confiscation of properties and the establishment of new institutions at the beginning of the communist regime period in the 1950s further complicated this already difficult situation. Although after the dissolution of monasteries assuming orphaned Church collections by newly founded institutions was obviously necessary, these new institutions cared mainly about their own functioning and were unprepared for this kind of situation — first of all, they did not employ enough staff, and secondly, they did not have enough storage space.⁷¹ In time, the situation became stable but developing methods of securing and storing historical collections required the whole generation of “historical” librarians to combine their efforts.

The last significant changes took place in the 1990s, with the restitution of the properties nationalised after 1945, and concerned both Church libraries and aristocratic library collections, which were given back to their rightful owners together with castles and palaces.⁷² Apart from rebuilding important national institutions of culture, including creating new storage spaces together with temporary or permanent changes in the organisation of collections, the state of historical collections in the Czech Republic stabilised at the turn of the century.⁷³ Since then there have not been many proprietary changes, and so the aforementioned A. Baďurova’s overview can still be regarded as a reliable, valid source of information.

Describing particular historical collections relied on the staff of individual institutions, their ability to undertake this kind of task, as well as the profession-

⁷⁰ A. Baďurová, “Zbiory dawnej książki w Republice Czeskiej...”, pp. 69–103.

⁷¹ F. Horák, op. cit., passim.

⁷² P. Mašek, H. Turková, *Zámecké, hradní a palácové knihovny v Čechách, na Moravě a ve Slezsku: k výstavě 50 let oddělení zámeckých knihoven Knihovny Národního muzea 1954–2004: Muzeum knihy Žďár nad Sázavou květen–říjen 2004*, Praha 2004.

⁷³ A. Baďurová, J. Burgetová, “Rozhovor s Martinem Sekerou”, *Informace* 4, 2012, https://www.lib.cas.cz/casopis_informace/rozhovor-s-martinem-sekerou/ [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

al skills of individual librarians who managed historical collections. Traditional cataloguing, followed by re-cataloguing, which resulted from the introduction of computers, together with publishing catalogues, manuals and guide books to particular collections, were among the tasks of the libraries holding historical collections themselves, and their parent bodies. Although at the beginning of the 1970s the already mentioned *Pravidla* appeared, which, in a practical way, helped to converge the rules of cataloguing, there was no complex concept of describing historical collections at the national level. However, due to the cultural significance of these documents, similarly to other countries, they were described according to the time of their production, i.e. starting from medieval manuscripts through incunabula and 16th- and 17th-century prints to the latest ones. Catalogues were arranged according to generally accepted rules. In the case of old prints they contained descriptions of bibliographical items in alphabetical order, starting with headlines (the name of their author or their title). Apart from selected collections, there was not enough time to describe most of them. Great expectations aroused when the electronic means of cataloguing appeared in the 1990s.⁷⁴

Besides access to historical collections provided for users, there were printed catalogues that presented these collections to the public. Otherwise, historic books could be viewed only at exhibitions, often complimented with professional or popular lectures, or in selected representative publications.⁷⁵ Sometimes, on special occasions, such as the 500th anniversary of the alleged beginning of printing in the Czech territories, bibliological issues were discussed in the state media.⁷⁶

The fact that there was no concept as to how to describe historical collections in particular libraries affected the creation of joint catalogues of incunabula and old prints in Czechoslovakia and later in the Czech Republic. Even computerisation, viewed by many contemporary experts as a hopeful solution to this problem, did not initially change much because there were many different cataloguing systems used, depending on the financial support given to individual libraries, which meant that computer systems were not introduced at one time, and derogations from cataloguing rules occurred, making it difficult to share records. The situation improved at the turn of the century when some important libraries started to use the Aleph library system and accepted the unified standards of cataloguing.⁷⁷

⁷⁴ A. Baďurová, “Zbiory dawnej książki w Republice Czeskiej...”, p. 86.

⁷⁵ See e.g. P. Hamanová, B. Nuska, *Kněžní vazba sedmi století z fondů Strahovské knihovny*, Praha 1966.

⁷⁶ On the occasion of the anniversary of Czech printing, in 1968 Czechoslovak Television broadcast the film *Pochodeň černého umění* [*The black art torch*]; for more information on the anniversary of Moravian printing see: <https://duha.mzk.cz/clanky/petiste-vyroci-knihtisku-v-brne>.

⁷⁷ ExLibris Aleph, <https://www.exlibrisgroup.com/products/aleph-integrated-library-system/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

However, the situation in smaller libraries still varied, so completing the production of a substantial catalogue of incunabula and old prints was thought to be possible only in the distant future,⁷⁸ as was the national retrospective bibliography of printed works published before 1800, to say nothing of the ones printed in the 19th century.⁷⁹

This state of bibliography placed contemporary bibliological research in the field of historical sciences. Little support from authorities, underfunding and not enough staff in the case of *Knihopis* slowed down the publication of the *Dodatky* [*Supplements*] tirelessly prepared by its editor, namely B. Wiždálková, at the National Library. Unfortunately, even the aforementioned project *Clavis Monumentorum Litterarum* from the 1990s was not enough to continue the work over *Knihopis*, which ceased at the turn of the century.⁸⁰ The problem of providing access to bibliographical data was not overcome by the staff of the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV) compiling the BCBT either.⁸¹ The bibliography of the 19th century was terminated in the National Library in 2000. At present, the data is available only in the form of scanned files.⁸²

If compiling the national retrospective bibliography, the primary goal and main idea of bibliological research at the beginning of the last century, was in such an abysmal condition a hundred years later, it is difficult to envisage that much attention was given to other issues researched in the field of bibliography. It mostly depended on personal research interests of individual scholars.

Therefore, practical activities connected with the bibliographical description of incunabula and old prints — especially the typology of incunabula and, subsequently, a broadened typological-typographic analysis of old prints published by 1500 — were brought to the fore. However, it was not bibliography itself and its development as a discipline that were important, but adopting and learning foreign practices and implementing new methodological procedures in the process of compiling the national retrospective bibliography.⁸³ Although this was closely related to research into the history of lettering, i.e. typefaces, the latter did not evoke much interest, mainly due to the lack of a source database. The archaeological discovery of the remains of the Unity of the Brethren's printing house in Kralice

⁷⁸ J. Kašparová, op. cit.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ Ibid.

⁸¹ For more information on the BCBT see: <https://kvo.lib.cas.cz/cizojazyčna-bohemika/bibliografie-cizojazyčných-bohemikálních-tisku/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁸² J. Andrlé, “Česká národní retrospektivní bibliografie jako pomůcka”, *Česká literatura: časopis pro literární vědu* 60, 2012, no 6, p. 916.

⁸³ P. Voit, *Encyklopedie knihy...*, Entry: Typologie, <https://www.encyklopedieknihy.cz/index.php?title=Typologie> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

nad Oslavou was exceptional.⁸⁴ At the same time, the collected bibliographical material provided a lot of information which could be used to determine the time when particular printing houses operated, as well as their production. A serious disadvantage in the area of this research resulted from the fact that for a long time specialists had focused mainly on bibliographical description of books written in the Czech language.

A similar source of experience and new information was the current, ongoing description of historical library collections. Therefore the history of libraries is one of the best explored fields of old book culture in the Czech territories. This is the case of mainly aristocratic libraries (more precisely — castle libraries) and, to a certain extent, Church libraries, especially monastic ones. In this context, in contrast to the work on bibliographies, the features of particular copies are examined, including their binding and provenance.

It is regrettable that only a small group of scholars have researched these issues over a protracted period of time. To a limited extent, sometimes not at all, bibliologists of the last century engaged in research into typefaces, bookselling, censorship, practical publishing or readers' reception. It is surprising that research into the fascinating issues of book illustrations was neglected.⁸⁵

On the other hand, one should not be surprised at all. Teaching bibliography at universities for the most part of the last century was carried out within a wider library- and information-focused education. Radical changes which took place as late as in the 1990s followed new broader study programmes in Prague and Brno, later adopted also by the Silesian University in Opava.⁸⁶ It was also possible to study some bibliological subjects outside the field of library science. Bibliology was incorporated in the study programmes of auxiliary historical sciences and archival sciences and less so of general history or the history of literature. Nevertheless, at the turn of the century the condition of bibliology was critical. First of all, there were not enough lecturers at particular universities and, at the same time, the number of students generally decreased. In consequence, bibliology disappeared from the study programme at the Charles University in Prague for almost five years, and in Brno, after accreditation in 2001, the library and information science study course focused solely on information science.⁸⁷

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ P. Voit, *Osobní apel...*, pp. 96–97; idem, *Udržet pravý okraj...*, p. 248.

⁸⁶ Ústav bohemistiky a knihovnictví SLU v Opavě, <http://knihovnik.fpf.slu.cz/studium-knihovnictvi-opava/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁸⁷ M. Lorenz, “Mapování kurikula: vývoj oboru Informačních studií a knihovnictví v Brně”, *Proinfoflow: časopis pro informační vědy* 2016, no 1, https://is.muni.cz/repo/1344128/LORENZ_-_Mapovani_kurikula_-_vyvoj_oboru_Informacnich_studii_a_knihovnictvi_v_Brne.pdf [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

There was also some stasis in publishing periodicals and almanacs. Only the two oldest were regularly issued: *Sborník Národního muzea řada C, Literární historie* (1956–), which presently appears under its new title *Acta Musei nationalis Pragae. Seria C, Historia Litterarum*,⁸⁸ and the codicological *Studie o rukopisech* (1962–).⁸⁹ Since 1995 *Sborník Památníku národního písemnictví* (1966–1986) — complemented with *Slovník knihtiskařů v Československu od nejstarších dob do roku 1860* by Karel Chyba, 1966–1979/1980 (with supplements, 1983/1984) — has been issued as *Bibliotheca Strahoviensis*.⁹⁰ Only between 1995 and 1997 was it maintained as an annual periodical, its later volumes have been issued every third year or so (2001–).⁹¹ From 1971 to 1991 the National Library regularly issued *Miscellanea oddělení rukopisů a vzácných tisků*, which included reports on the activities of the manuscript and rare book division each previous year. Under a different title, *Miscellanea oddělení rukopisů a starých tisků* was continued as an annual until 1998 and since then published every second year as a double issue. After J. Kašparova, the editor-in-chief, left in 2006, only two issues appeared, in 2008 and 2011.⁹² At the beginning of the 21st century, *Knihy a dějiny* — since 1994 the periodical of the Library of Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV) — also encountered problems regarding regular publication. After a break of a few years, one issue appeared, covering the years from 2004 to 2008. Its editors managed to re-establish its annual publication only in 2013.

Only two museums dealing with book culture history performed their educational function for the public. Since 1963 the Memorial of Kralice Bible (Památník Bible Kralické) in Kralice nad Oslavou, nowadays part of the Moravian Museum in Brno, has provided its visitors with the information on the Unity of Brethren's publishing house, 1579–1619.⁹³ The Museum of the Book in Žďár nad Sázavou, founded in 1957, was much more active, disseminating the information on book culture history. Apart from its permanent exhibition, there were over fifty temporary ones, the last one in 2014, when the museum closed down.⁹⁴ Also, at the

⁸⁸ *Acta musei nationalis*, <https://www.nm.cz/knihovna-narodniho-muzea/vydani-noveho-cis-la-casopisu-acta-musei-nationalis-pragae-historia-litterarum> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁸⁹ *Studie o rukopisech*, <https://www.mua.cas.cz/cs/studie-o-rukopisech-112> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹⁰ B. Dokoupil, “Strahovská knihovna”, [in:] *Slovník české literatury po roce 1945*, <http://www.slovníkceskeliteratury.cz/showContent.jsp?docId=218> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹¹ *Publikace Strahovské knihovny*, <https://www.strahovskyclaster.cz/publikace> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹² *Knihy a dějiny*, <http://www.knihyadejiny.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹³ *Památník Bible kralické*, <http://www.mzm.cz/pamatnik-bible-kralicke/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹⁴ *Muzeum knihy Žďár nad Sázavou*, <https://zdarns.estranky.cz/clanky/muzeum-knihy.html> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

National Technical Museum (Národní technické muzeum) in Prague, thanks to the Typographers Association (Sdružení polygrafů), the exhibition “Printing” (“Tiskařství”) was prepared, 2000–2003, and opened to the public in 2011, after the renovation of the museum.⁹⁵

It is already clear that historical circumstances determined the development of the bibliographical and positivist direction of conducted research, and that this research focused mainly on books in the Czech language. It does not mean that in the 20th century Czech bibliography completely neglected other research issues but rather that, if researched, they resulted from the interests of individual scholars. Nevertheless, the reflection on the contemporary trends abroad, such as ignoring the demands of the so-called Konstanzer Schule (Constance School) in the reception of the book’s aesthetics, strongly encouraged by Polish bibliologists, was almost non-existent. This also resulted from the lack of Czech translations of professional literature, as well as from limited publishing activity of Czech bibliologists in foreign magazines.⁹⁶

Scientific infrastructure in the area of book culture history research was based on institutions holding historical collections, which themselves barely carried out their own tasks (connected with preserving and describing their collections). For a long time, there was no methodological coordinating centre. Unfortunately, neither the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague (PNP) nor the National Library were able to assume and successfully perform this role, and at neither the Charles University in Prague nor the Czech Academy of Sciences were there conditions which would make it possible to open such a centre. In 1945, when the Czech Library Association was founded, the Czechoslovak Bibliological Society was dissolved, depriving Czech bibliologists of their independent professional association. Its follower, the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (Svaz knihovníků a informačních pracovníků, further referred to as: the SKIP), does not have any division which would deal with bibliological issues.⁹⁷

The inner section of historical library collections was established within the Association of Libraries of the Czech Republic (Sdružení knihoven ČR), which, similarly to the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic (SKIP), was founded at the beginning of the 1990s. However, its role is to support the organisation of libraries; it does not get involved in methodological ac-

⁹⁵ Expozice Tiskařství v Národním technickém muzeu v Praze, <http://www.ntm.cz/expozice/tiskarstvi> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹⁶ P. Voit, *Nesnadná cesta...*, pp. 588–589.

⁹⁷ Svaz knihovníků a informačních pracovníků České republiky, <https://www.skipcr.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

tivities.⁹⁸ The need for the introduction of methodological guidelines is suggested by the Working Group for Old Prints at the National Library (Pracovní skupina pro staré tisky) set up in 2003. This group initially consisted of representatives of about twenty institutions, including regional libraries and museums.⁹⁹ In 2017, only institutions from Prague, Brno, Olomouc and České Budějovice were represented.¹⁰⁰

An independent activity was developed by the Museum Libraries Section at the Central Library Council (Sekce muzejních knihoven při Ústřední knihovnické radě), which, since 1973, organised regular meetings of librarians working in museums and art galleries.¹⁰¹ Today it continues its work as the Czech Association of Museums and Galleries (Knihovnická komise Asociace muzeí a galerií).¹⁰² Although these seminars do not focus directly on bibliography, besides the conferences *Bibliotheca antiqua* in Olomouc and *Archivy, knihovny, muzea v digitálním* in Prague, they are among few annual events which host lectures on bibliographical issues. Until recently the only event of this kind was the aforementioned conference *Problematika výzkumu zámeckých, měšťanských a církevních knihoven*, organised every third year by the Institute of Romance Languages of the Faculty of Arts at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, 2000–2015. The proceedings of each conference were published in the series *Opera romanica*.¹⁰³ In 2017 this conference was organised by the Moravian Library (MZK) committee,¹⁰⁴ the next edition is going to be organised by the Silesian University in Opava.

Better prospects for bibliography appeared after 2005. The leading researcher responsible for this gradual but purposeful revival is P. Voit, one of the most outstanding representatives of modern Czech bibliography. In 2006 his compendium of bibliographical knowledge *Encyklopedie knihy: starší knihtisk a příbuzné obory mezi polovinou 15. a počátkem 19. století* [*The Encyclopaedia of the Book: Older Printing Press and Related Fields between the 15th and the Beginning of the 19th*

⁹⁸ Sdružení knihoven, sekce pro historické fondy, <https://sdruk.cz/odborne-sekce/sekce-pro-historicke-fondy/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

⁹⁹ Soupis členů Pracovní skupiny pro staré tisky v roce 2003, <https://www.nkp.cz/o-knihovne/odborne-cinnosti/zpracovani-fondu/pracovni-skupiny/adrst> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰⁰ Soupis členů téže skupiny v roce 2017, <https://www.nkp.cz/o-knihovne/odborne-cinnosti/oddeleni-rukopisu-a-starych-tisku/prac-skup> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰¹ A. Petruželková, Š. Běhalová, “Od Teplic do Hradce Králové (1973–2016): Čtyřicet let setkávání knihovníků muzeí a galerií ČR”, *Čtenář* 2017, <https://www.svkk1.cz/ctenar/clanek/160> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰² Knihovnická komise AMG, <https://www.cz-museums.cz/web/amg/organy-amg/komise/knihovnicka-komise> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰³ *Opera romanica*, <https://www.ff.jcu.cz/ustavy/uro/publikacni-cinnost/opera-romanica> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰⁴ For more information on this conference see: <https://www.mzk.cz/o-knihovne/odborne-cinnosti/konference-Libri-speculum-vitae> [retrieved: 3.11.2020].

Century] appeared.¹⁰⁵ Having been awarded his habilitation degree, he became the head of the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship at the Faculty of Arts of the Bibliological Section of the Charles University in Prague. In the academic year 2007/2008 bibliology once again became part of a full time master's study programme.¹⁰⁶

This new two-year-long programme of postgraduate studies was very broadly designed. The main courses dealt with the problems of older printed books, including the history of printing books, book history, illustrations and binding, the history of publishing and bookselling. Codicology and the history of manuscripts were not neglected — they became complemented with the basics of auxiliary historical sciences on the one hand and on the other hand, with the knowledge of the book of the 19th and 20th centuries and of modern editing. There were also courses in the history of libraries from ancient to modern times or in aspects of practical activities of librarians managing historical collections. The latter taught how to catalogue, preserve, digitise, and logistically manage library collections as well as how to use both traditional bibliographic sources and modern electronic systems. Students also learnt foreign languages (German and Latin were made compulsory), went on excursions and, last but not least, had compulsory library internships.¹⁰⁷

Future bibliologists were taught by internal and external teachers, which, with an initially low number of students, made it possible to teach them directly at the most important “institutions of memory” and research institutions in Prague, such as the Strahov Library (P. Voit), the National Library (V. Procházková, A. Richtrová, M. Hejnová), the National Museum Library (KNM) (R. Šípek, P. Mašek), the Museum of Czech Literature (PNP) Library in Prague (A. Petruželková, O. Čípeřová), the Library of Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV) (A. Baďurová), and the Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences (P. Brodský, M. Tošnerová).¹⁰⁸

The first graduate completed his studies in the academic year 2009/2010, defending his master's thesis devoted — almost symbolically — to the history and development of Czech bibliology from its beginning to the Second World War. However, as already mentioned, there were not enough students. Relatively high demands caused many of them not to complete their studies so the next master's theses were defended as late as at the beginning of the following decade.

¹⁰⁵ E. Sošková, “Encyklopedie knihy”, *Ikaros* 12, 2008, no 2, <https://ikaros.cz/encyklopedie-knihy> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰⁶ P. Večeřová, “Knihověda?! — Představení studijního oboru na Filozofické fakultě Univerzity Karlovy”, *Ikaros* 11, 2007, no 2, <https://ikaros.cz/knihoveda> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁸ “Knihovědné zaměření UISK 2012, ed. P. Voit”, *Knihovna* 23, 2012, no 1, http://oldknihovna.nkp.cz/knihovna121/12_105.htm [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

If we examine the development of bibliography as a discipline over the last ten years, we will notice it being somehow more active (especially in the second half of the decade) in several respects. In relation to the constantly modernised Concept of the Development of Libraries (Koncepce rozvoje knihoven), which, since 1998 has been developed for the Czech Ministry of Culture by the Central Library Council as a recommended methodical material, the efforts to systematise digital processes in “institutions of memory” have been significantly supported.¹⁰⁹ More emphasis has also been put on the protection and maintenance as well as provision of access to collections of old books. Because the discussed concept concerns the whole complexity of the library sector, in which library collections are only a part of a much bigger whole, theoretical considerations are less important than practical solutions. Nevertheless, we can keep ourselves updated on the changing ideas of recommendations, in which the issue of describing, protecting and maintaining national heritage is replaced with the issue of online public access to historical documents. Therefore it has been followed by a separate strategy of digitising cultural memorials developed for the years 2013–2020.¹¹⁰

There has also been a considerable change in the state’s financial policies, which results in new long-term grant programmes whose aim is to support research and development in humanities. Besides financial aids provided through competition by the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), since 2000 it has been possible to apply for subsidies within the Public Information Library Services programme (Veřejné informační služby knihoven, VISK), whose three sub-programmes focus on digitising and providing access to endangered or rare books.¹¹¹ With the support of the Czech Ministry of Culture a few research projects aiming at providing access to digitised historical collections have been carried out, and a lot of Czech libraries gradually involved in the international project EOD (eBooks on Demand).¹¹² Circa the mid-2010s the Czech Ministry of Culture launched the Programme for the Support of Applied Research and Development of National and Cultural Identity (Program na podporu aplikovaného výzkumu a vývoje národní

¹⁰⁹ Strategie knihoven 1999–2003; Koncepce rozvoje knihoven v ČR 2004–2010; 2011–2015 <https://www.ukr.knihovna.cz/koncepce-rozvoje-knihoven-cr-na-leta-2011-2015-/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020]; 2017–2020, <https://www.ukr.knihovna.cz/koncepce-rozvoje-knihoven-cr-na-leta-2017-2020/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁰ Strategie digitalizace kulturního obsahu na léta 2013–2020, <https://irop.mmr.cz/cs/zadatele-a-prijemci/dokumenty/dokumenty/ostatni-dokumenty/informacni-a-komunikacni-technologie/strategie-digitalizace-kulturniho-obsahu-na-leta-2013-2020> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹¹ VISK, <https://visk.nkp.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹² Within the project “Historical collections of the Moravian Library in Brno”, 2004–2010, the historical collections of the Moravian Library in Brno were catalogued, <https://www.mzk.cz/o-knihovne/vyzkum-projekty/archiv-projektu/historicke-fondy-mzk-2004-2010> [retrieved: 4.09.2020]; EOD, <https://books2ebooks.eu/> [retrieved: 4.09.2020].

a kulturní identity, further referred to as: NAKI). The first public tender was announced for the period 2011–2015, the next one for 2016–2022.¹¹³

In the case of larger projects, particular institutions have also sought financial aid in the private sector. So far the most fruitful collaboration of this kind has been that in which the National Library engaged in 2010.¹¹⁴ Within the Public-Private Partnership project (PPP), on the basis of a mutual agreement with Google, the collection of Old Prints held in the National Library as well as part of the collections of the Slavonic Library (over 200,000 items) were digitised in the period 2014–2019.¹¹⁵

Over time one can see that the sustained effort devoted to the concept of the development of Czech, Moravian and Silesian libraries, new opportunities for receiving financial support in the form of perennial grants as well as reactivating the university programme of bibliological studies, have produced interesting synergistic effects, which — particularly after five years — were evident both in the area of historical collections and in the field of bibliological research.

Out of the three projects carried out within the first stage of the NAKI programme, 2012–2015, two were realised (“PROVENIO: Metodika výzkumu knižních proveniencí/PROVENIO: The method of the book provenance research”)¹¹⁶ or co-realised by the staff of the National Museum Library (KNM) department in cooperation with the National Library and the National Heritage Institute (Národní památkový ústav) (“Tisky 16. století v zámeckých knihovnách České republiky/The 16th-century prints in the castle libraries of the Czech Republic”).¹¹⁷ In the case of the third project, the Moravian Library in Brno collaborated with Masaryk University and the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem (“Benediktinský klášter Rajhrad jako kulturní fenomén/The Benedictine Monastery in Rajhrad as a cultural phenomenon”).¹¹⁸

Three other projects have been carried out since 2016 (to be completed by the end of 2020) and include: the project of the Moravian Library in Brno in collaboration with the University of Hradec Králové and the University of Pardubice concerning the Benedictine Monasteries in Broumov and Rajhrad (“Brána moudrosti

¹¹³ NAKI, <https://www.mkr.cz/program-na-podporu-aplikovaneho-vyzkumu-a-vyvoje-narodni-a-kulturni-identity-na-leta-2016-az-2022-naki-ii-857.html> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁴ M. Hejnová, “Digitalizace starých a vzácných tisků v Národní knihovně společnosti Google”, *Duha* 2011, nr 3, <https://duha.mzk.cz/clanky/digitalizace-starych-vzacnych-tisku-v-narodni-knihovne-spolecnosti-google> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁵ Výroční zpráva Národní knihovny za rok 2019, <https://www.nkp.cz/soubory/ostatni/vz2019.pdf> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁶ Provenio, <https://www.provenio.net/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁷ Webový portál historických fondů, <https://histfondy.npu.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹¹⁸ Benediktinský klášter Rajhrad jako kulturní fenomén, <http://www.rajhradskyklaster.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

otevřená. Barokní kulturní dědictví klášterů Broumov a Rajhrad: ochrana, restaurování, prezentace/Opening the gates of wisdom to Baroque cultural heritage of the monasteries in Broumov and Rajhrad: preservation, restoration, presentation”);¹¹⁹ the project of the Strahov Library and the Institute of the Czech Literature of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic concerning the provision of access to archival collections (“Od pramene k edici. Zpřístupnění archivních fondů české literatury a jejich využití v ediční praxi/From source to edition: the provision of access to the archival resources of Czech literature and their use in publishing practice”);¹²⁰ the cooperative important infrastructural project of the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV) and the Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, whose goal is to merge the previously separate databases of the national retrospective bibliography of publications printed by 1800.¹²¹ The list of projects also includes one which focuses on the history of the town of Telč in the Baroque period. Attention has been paid to the library of its former Jesuit College in the project “Telč a jezuité, řád a jeho mecenáši/Telč and Jesuits, the order and its patrons”, which is a collaboration of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the National Heritage Institute and the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Czech Academy of Sciences.¹²²

Since 2018, the Department of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books of the National Museum Library (KNM) together with the National Library of the Czech Republic and the National Heritage Institute have carried out the project “Virtuální rekonstrukce rozptýlených provenienčně bohemikálních knižních celků v tuzemských i zahraničních knihovnách/Virtual reconstruction of scattered provenance Bohemical book groups in domestic and foreign libraries”, whose results will continue to be regularly updated until 2022.¹²³ Masaryk University, the Moravian Library (MZK), and the Moravian Museum in Brno in cooperation with the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences have focused on the broadside ballads in the historical collections of Brno (“Kramářské písně v brněnských historických fondech/Broadside ballads in the Brno historical col-

¹¹⁹ Brána moudrosti otevřená. Barokní kulturní dědictví klášterů Broumov a Rajhrad: ochrana, restaurování, prezentace, <http://www.branamoudrosti.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²⁰ Od pramene k edici. Zpřístupnění fondů české literatury a jejich využití v ediční praxi, <http://pamatniknarodnihopisemnictvi.cz/od-pramene-k-edici-zpristupneni-fondu-ceske-literatury-a-jejich-vyuziti-v-edicni-praxi/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²¹ Knihověda.cz: Portál k dějinám české knižní kultury do roku 1800, <https://www.knihoveda.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²² Telč a jezuité, řád a jeho mecenáši, <https://jezuitetelc.cz/> [retrieved: 4.11.2020].

¹²³ Představení projektu Provenio — Virtuální rekonstrukce knižních celků, <https://www.nm.cz/o-nas/odborna-cinnost/projekty/virtualni-rekonstrukce-rozptylenych-provenienčne-bohemikalnich-kniznich-celku-v-tuzemskych-i-zahranicnich-knihovnach> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

lections”),¹²⁴ whereas the conservators from the National Library carry out the methodological project “Využití zobrazovacích metod pro studium skrytých informací v knihách/Use of imaging techniques for the study of hidden information in bookbinding”, which is to verify new non-invasive imaging technologies. The latest project “Slepí svědkové doby. Slepotisková výzdoba knižních vazeb/Blind witnesses of time: blind-print decorations on bookbindings”, carried out in 2020–2022 by the Faculty of Restoration of the University in Pardubice and the North Bohemian Museum in Liberec, is to record and research bookbindings.¹²⁵

Numerous other smaller or bigger projects have also been realised by various institutions with support from the Czech Science Foundation (GAČR) or with the help of other resources, often their own. Among the earlier ones were: “Eggenberská knižní sbírka a její čtenáři/The Eggenberg’s Book Collection and its readers” carried out by the Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, “Výzkum knihovny Ferdinanda Tyrolského — kulturně historické a umělecko-historické aspekty/The investigation of the Library of Ferdinand of Tyrol — cultural and art historical aspects” carried out by the Institute of the Art History of the Czech Academy of Sciences, and the National Museum Library’s (KNM) project “Vytvoření otevřeného badatelského prostředí pro kramářské tisky/Open database of broadside ballads, prayers and small prints”.¹²⁶ Other projects worthy of mention include: “Knihovna Hieronyma Becka z Leopoldsdorfu v kontextu středoevropských šlechtických knihoven 16. století, Švédská knižní kořist z Čech a Moravy 1646–1648/The Library of Hieronymus Beck of Leopoldsdorf in the context of central European noble libraries of the 16th century, the Swedish booty of books from Bohemia and Moravia, 1646–1648” of the Library of Czech Academy of Sciences; “Scriptores. Písemná kultura a její tvůrci v pozdně středověkých Čechách 1300–1350, Dějiny českého knihtisku první poloviny 16. století a Europa humanistica. Literární a jazyková recepce antických textů v českých zemích v letech 1470–1600/Scriptores: written culture and its creators in late medieval Bohemia, 1300–1350”, “Dějiny českého knihtisku první poloviny 16. století/The history of Czech book printing in the first half of the 16th century” and “Europa humanistica: literární a jazyková recepce antických textů v českých zemích v letech 1470–1600/Europa humanistica: the literary and language reception of ancient texts in the Czech lands from 1470 to 1600” — three projects carried out by the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University in Prague; “Europa

¹²⁴ *Kramářské písně v brněnských historických fondech*, <https://www.phil.muni.cz/kramarskepise> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²⁵ *Slepí svědkové doby. Slepotisková výzdoba knižních vazeb*, <https://www.upce.cz/projekt/1035061> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²⁶ *Špalíček — Digitální knihovna kramářských tisků*, <http://www.spalicek.net/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

humanistica II. Čeští a moravští editoři a překladatelé a antická tradice na přelomu 15. a 16. století/Europa Humanistica II: editing and translating ancient classics in the Czech lands at the turn of the 16th century” of the Institute of Philosophy of the Czech Academy of Sciences; “Konfesní pluralita a knižní kultura v prostřední jednoty bratrské na počátku 17. století/Confessional plurality and book culture in the milieu of the Unity of the Brethren at the beginning of the 17th century” of the Institute of History of the Czech Academy of Sciences; “Český knihtisk mezi pozdní gotikou a renesancí 1488–1557/Czech book printing between Late Gothic and Renaissance, 1488–1557” of the Association for Central European Cultural Studies (Nadace pro dějiny kultury ve střední Evropě). Other projects include the perennial research conducted at the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, i.e. the project “LIBRI CIVITATIS — dokumentace a zpřístupňování městských knih v České republice/LIBRI CIVITATIS — documentation and general accessibility of town books in the Czech Republic”, as well as research into late-mediaeval and modern Czech book culture and the constant development of the Manuscriptorium database in the National Library. Since 2013 the joint on-line catalogue “Historic Book Collections” (“Historické fondy”) has been used, which provides access to the old book collections of the National Library, the Library of the Czech Academy of Sciences (KNAV), the Olomouc Research Library (VKOL), the National Museum Library and the Moravian Library (MZK) as well as those of the South Moravian monastic libraries, formerly managed by The Moravian Library (MZK).¹²⁷

Carrying out research projects, which in recent years have gradually involved all major “institutions of memory” in the Czech Republic, required more staff working for particular institutions. At that time, many students and recent graduates of bibliography had the perfect opportunity to immediately engage in practical activities. Some of them continued their collaboration with particular institutions even after the projects had been completed, often going on to become part of their permanent staff.

There were also more and more master’s theses successfully defended at the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship in Prague, especially between 2014 and 2017, when as many as fifteen students graduated from the master’s course in bibliography.¹²⁸ The initial problem with the shortage of students, whereby graduates of bachelor’s courses other than in library studies were not interested in doing a master’s degree in bibliography, was overcome by the Institute by broadening the programme of undergraduate studies by adding a course in book theory and history to it. In 2012 there was a sudden increase in the number of bachelor’s

¹²⁷ Sdružený katalog Historické fondy, www.historickefondy.cz [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹²⁸ Repozitář závěrečných prací Univerzity Karlovy, <https://cuni.cz/UK-4427.html> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

theses in bibliography. Most of the graduates continued their education at the master's programme in bibliography. A few doctoral dissertations were defended as well. However, as in the 1990s, after 2017 the number of graduates in bibliography began to decrease again but, in contrast to the past — at least at the Charles University in Prague, two positive trends are observed, which allows us to look into the future with some optimism.

Firstly, since 2018 the number of bachelor's dissertations in bibliography has been increasing, which may indicate a growing interest in studying bibliography, and a lot of master's and doctoral theses in bibliography are soon to be defended. Secondly, the authorities of the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship in Prague have introduced innovations to the information and library sciences study programme. Accreditation has been given until 2028 to the programme Information, media and book culture (Informace, média a knižní kultura), in which students can specialise in two different fields.¹²⁹ One of them is book culture (knižní kultura); its integral parts are most of the main subjects taught at the bibliography course. In this way, the Charles University in Prague remains the only university in the Czech Republic offering complex courses in librarianship and book culture history.

It seems, however, that in the future the Charles University in Prague will have to rely on its own graduates. Neither the Department of Information and Library Studies in Brno (which until recently offered at least a one-semester study course in book culture history) nor the Institute of the Czech Language and Library Science at the Silesian University in Opava (which, besides a course in book culture history for undergraduate students, has offered a master's seminar in bibliography) do not seem likely to develop bibliography studies in the near future. Also, in the case of a new course in editing offered by the Department of Czech Studies of the Faculty of Arts in Olomouc, subjects from the field of bibliography, which are to broaden students' knowledge, are not crucial for the whole study programme.

The situation at other university faculties and institutes in the Czech Republic is similar: subjects from the area of book history or culture usually play only a minor part in teaching history, auxiliary sciences of historical and archive studies, philology and other more or less related disciplines. Nevertheless, the extent of realised projects shows that the significance of regional bibliography and research into it has been increasing.

In this context, the engagement of private entities in the field of museology seems to have increased as well. Since the Museum of the Book in Žďár nad Sázavou was closed down in 2014, only the National Technical Museum in Prague (the

¹²⁹ Náplň nového zaměření navazujícího magisterského programu UISK FFUK Informace, média a knižní kultura, <https://uisk.ff.cuni.cz/cs/studium/magisterske-studium/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

exhibition of the history of printing) and the Memorial of Kralice Bible have provided information on book culture history. However, there are three private museums focused on the history of printing: in Litomyšl, Pilsen and Kutná Hora.¹³⁰ In the future, the continuation of the Museum of the Book could be the Museum of Communication, whose establishment is being considered.¹³¹

CONCLUSION — ASSUMPTIONS AND PROSPECTS FOR THE FUTURE

When almost ten years ago P. Voit discussed the state of contemporary Czech bibliography and explained why the condition of this discipline was rather poor, he postulated possible prospects for its development referring to the three following terms: concept, complexity and interdisciplinarity. He also indicated suitable procedures which, in his opinion, could help to grow the appreciation of bibliography, and anchor it as an independent scientific discipline, so in time it would be possible to think of gradually broadening the concept of research into the history of book culture.¹³² Let us view it from a distance to find out whether these premises have been fulfilled and what kind of changes have occurred in the field of modern bibliography, what we can expect, both short- and long-term, and how and by what means the set goals can be achieved.

At first glance it is clear that it was easier (although obviously not easy) to impose the concept of educating future librarians in the university environment. It is an advantage that the only university institute which presently teaches bibliography is the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship in Prague. For this reason there was no need to coordinate any activities at the intercollegiate level. Although most academic teachers agree that a five-year-long study programme would be the most suitable solution because of the complexity and scope of the studies, the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship offers bibliological courses only within the two-year-long master's studies. One of the main reasons for this solution is the constant lack of academic teachers. Some problems of bibliography have, however, been taken into account in the programme of undergraduate studies, which, judging by the topics of master's theses, gives quite satisfactory results.

Since bibliography began to be taught in 2008, all its basic aspects have been taken into consideration — from the problems of manuscripts to the reception and distribution of modern books. At present, bibliological courses at the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship are taught by a group of four internal

¹³⁰ Litomyšl, <http://www.muzeumtisku.cz/> [retrieved: 4.11.2020]; Pilsen, <http://www.mkkp.cz/> [retrieved: 1.9.2020]; Kutná Hora, <https://www.knihtiskarna.cz/> [retrieved: 1.9.2020].

¹³¹ A. Baďurová, J. Burgetová, *Rozhovor...*

¹³² P. Voit, "Nesnadná cesta...", *passim*.

teachers (P. Voit, R. Šípek, J. Šmejkalová, J. Marek). The history of printing and the study of old prints, illustrations, binding and paper, together with bookmaking and graphic techniques and the history of book culture, remain the primary subject. The issues of the history of libraries, readership and old book culture as well as specialist terminology in foreign languages, the reception and distribution of books in the 20th and 21st centuries, and the development of the media in relation to the development of culture, have also become part of the program. The subjects teaching the basic knowledge of auxiliary historical sciences, especially palaeontology and codicology, and modern techniques of digitisation as well as new possibilities of using the tools of digital humanities, are equally important.¹³³

Thus, to a certain extent the limits of what is possible have been reached, but at the expense of practical classes, for which there is neither time nor staff. There is very little collaboration with other universities, which is a consequence of the fact that there are no bibliological courses there. So far, there is no problem with the interdisciplinary character of these studies. With little interest among graduates of other subjects in studying bibliology, the authorities depend on the graduates of the undergraduate library science studies in the same institute. This, in turn, often inevitably limits the scope of bibliological research to the problems of libraries and librarianship. In this context, from time to time, a discussion of the relationship of bibliology with other academic disciplines arises. In the future, this challenge should be accepted by researchers and doctoral students at the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship.

Bibliologists managing historical libraries have the opportunity to undertake interdisciplinary research. Their main advantage is the knowledge of the collections they take care of, to which they have unlimited access. In this case, managing particular institutions and the priorities of this kind of activity are significant. Despite large interdisciplinary projects being successfully completed, in practice there remains an almost unsolvable problem which occurs whenever research is supported or even demanded, but day-to-day library activities consume all the time of individual researchers. One solution might be cooperative projects, in which bibliological issues are only complimentary. It is easier to realise projects directly connected with the collections one manages or with the materials collected earlier. Such projects, however, are often of a predominantly infrastructural character and, as such, shall be treated only as a basis for future truly interdisciplinary research.

Although the selection of a research topic closely depends on the possibilities and needs of a particular institution, the gaps in research in the field of bibliology seem to be gradually filled, which helps to satisfy the demand of adopting a sys-

¹³³ Soupis vyučujících UISK FFUK, <https://uisk.ff.cuni.cz/cs/o-ustavu/vyucujici/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

tematic approach to research issues. The overview of the projects indicates that, apart from the constant work on compiling the national retrospective bibliography of works published by 1800, more and more attention is devoted to the examination of provenances, the aspects of the parallel existence of manuscripts and printed books, and, presently, the issues of bookbinding. The project of recording and creating access to earlier Czech book illustrations is also being discussed, while historical book collections continue to be described and digitised.

From the perspective of a general concept of bibliological development the situation seems enormously complex because the Czech Republic does not have any institutions that could play the role of a methodological coordinating centre. Individual institutions, together with their specialists, execute the missions specified by their founders and fulfil the tasks which result from these missions and only then can they devote time to possible research, which would contribute to the development of their discipline.

However, without defining a general frame of conduct and sharing results, bibliologists cannot expect social or financial appreciation. Only a clearly-defined scientific discipline can obtain support at the political level and evoke more interest of private investors ready to collaborate. This opinion, expressed by Petr Voit almost ten years ago, is still valid.¹³⁴

If bibliography does not have any complex plan of its future development yet, at least the concept formulated by the Central Library Council can be referred to. The recently published *Koncepce rozvoje knihoven v České republice na léta 2021–2027 s výhledem do roku 2030* [*Concept of Library Development in the Czech Republic for the Years 2021–2027 with a View to 2030*] takes into consideration historical collections.¹³⁵ Some of its points, such as the one concerning retroconversion and re-cataloguing of library collections, particularly those of the central and unique libraries (historical collections), are very broadly formulated and, although they are important, it is difficult to expect that they will be fulfilled in the near future, especially when they need to be financed within grant programmes and when establishing the standards of describing manuscripts and old prints is discussed. Special attention is devoted to the development of digital libraries and creating the tools useful in the field of digital humanities research.

The virtual development of research environment in the fields of both humanities and sciences, which should be based on the specialist sources of data, is emphasised. These sources should be used the way in which resources are used in digital humanities — not only to conduct research, but also to teach. The *Koncepce rozvoje knihoven v České republice* considers also the collaboration in terms of

¹³⁴ P. Voit, “Nesnadná cesta...”, p. 592.

¹³⁵ *Koncepce rozvoje knihoven České republiky na léta 2017–2020*, <https://ukr.knihovna.cz/koncepce-rozvoje-knihoven-cr-na-leta-2017-2020/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

presenting historical collections, the involvement of librarians in teaching at all educational levels as well as the strengthening of collaboration with professional organisations. In brief, the emphasis is put on the development of infrastructure.

As has been already demonstrated, it is exactly in this direction that bibliology has developed — more or less spontaneously — in recent years. In my opinion, the continued intensive collaboration in terms of building up infrastructure is one of the possible ways to initiate new interdisciplinary research. Not only the engagement of important experts in separate sub-projects, but also the provision of researchers in other scientific disciplines with verified data can form the basis for closer scientific cooperation in modern times.

However, the development of infrastructure also requires a concept, and that is why efforts should be intensified to establish a methodological coordinating centre. It could be inspired by the foundation of the Methodical Centre for Book Culture and Literary Museums at the National Literature Memorial (Metodické centrum pro knižní kulturu a literární muzea PNP) in 2014.¹³⁶ It performs documentary, methodological, consultation and training activities in museums; however, accordant to a main mission of PNP, primarily focuses on manifestations of book culture in the Czech territories from the 18th century until the present. A question arises as to whether the scope of research topics could be broadened and, in consequence, encompass research into book culture in previous centuries. I can see some potential in possibly broadening the scope of research and competencies of the Working Group for Old Prints at the National Library, which consists of representatives of the most important libraries holding historical collections in the whole country. Their activity, however, is still of a rather internal character and, as far as I know, this group is not regarded as an advisory body, even for the head of the National Library.

Another issue concerns the possible establishment of a professional organisation that could, while being independent of state institutions, provide a venue for all those interested in book culture, in various disciplines. Its mission — as in the case of the recently founded Czech Association for Digital Humanities (*Česká asociace pro digitální humanitní vědy*) — should be supporting scientific cooperation, organising professional events, activating the general public and popularising bibliological research.¹³⁷ Last but not least, it should perform the role of a discussion platform and a contact point for foreign researchers.

In my opinion, Czech bibliology can look to the future with some optimism, mainly because it still faces many challenges and unexplored research areas, which will sooner or later attract the interest of enthusiastic researchers. If contemporary

¹³⁶ PNP-Metodické centrum pro knižní kulturu a literární muzea, <http://pamatniknarodniho-pisemnictvi.cz/o-metodickem-centru/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

¹³⁷ Česká asociace pro digitální humanitní vědy, <https://www.czadh.cz/> [retrieved: 1.09.2020].

representatives of this discipline continue working on developing and cultivating the education and research environment as tirelessly as before, they will become part of the vibrant international community of bibliologists.

Translated by Anna Cisló

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VOJTĚCH ŠÍCHA

CZECH BIBLIOLOGY IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY — ITS HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT STATE

Summary

The assessment of the current state of bibliography in Czechia, i.e. directions of its development and research accomplishments as well as staff training, is impossible without a historical overview of the evolution of bibliography as a more or less independent scholarly discipline. A study has recently been devoted to the subject, but only for the period until the beginning of the Second World War. That is why the author of the article, drawing on the literature on the subject, internet sources and information obtained from the staff of relevant research institutions, focuses first of all on the second half of the twentieth century, i.e. the role and accomplishments of the most important figures involved in the development of the discipline, the position of bibliography in the higher education system at the time as well as the changes which occurred in it in connection with the political breakthrough of 1989 and the emergence of computerised systems towards the end of the twentieth century. A substantial part of the article is devoted to the events from the last two decades. The author notes the rather difficult situation of the discipline at the turn of the millennium as well as attempts to rebuild it, manifested primarily in its restoration to the curriculum in the 2007/2008 academic year, increasingly successful efforts of libraries and museums (“institutions of memory”) to obtain funds for scholarly activities, and attempts to formulate a concept of further development of the discipline. In the conclusion the author reflects on the prospects for the development of bibliography in the nearest future, as well as measures that may lead to its further evolution and revival in broad research into the history of book culture in Czechia.

KEY WORDS: bibliography, history of book culture, Czechia, higher education, historic book collections, digitisation and protection of historic documents