



68th IFLA Council and General Conference August 18-24, 2002

Code Number: 164-154(WS)-F
Division Number: III
Professional Group: Public Libraries - Workshop
Joint Meeting with: -
Meeting Number: 154.
Simultaneous Interpretation: -

Central and Eastern Europe Struggling for Computer Literacy - a Czech experience

Jarmila Burgetová

Association of Library and Information Professionals of Czech Republic
Prague, Czech Republic

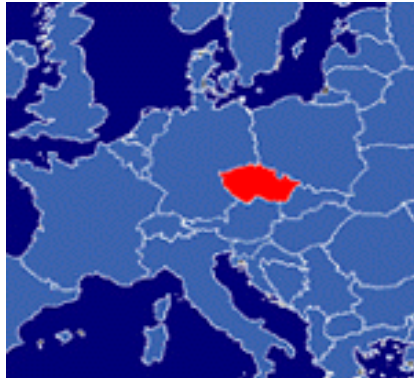
Dear colleagues! At the beginning of my presentation I would like to introduce me. My name is Jarmila Burgetova. I am Honorary President of the Association of Library and Information Professionals of the Czech Republic and member of the IFLA standing committee for public libraries. My task today is to share with you the experiences of Czech public libraries of introducing access to Internet and using its advantages. Before I begin I would like briefly introduce my country especially for those participants who are not Europeans.

Czech Republic

- **The Czech Republic is a small country situated approximately in the geographical centre of Europe and has an area of 78 866 sq. km.**
- **It shares borders with Germany (810 km), Poland (762 km), Austria (466 km) and Slovakia (265 km)**
- **It has 10 230 060 inhabitants**

The Czech Republic is a small country in the centre of Europe (10 293 060 inhabitants, territory 78 866 sq km). It might have been better known Czechoslovakia - a state that came into being in 1918, at the end of the World War I on the debris of Austro-Hungarian monarchy.

Central Europe



As you see, the neighbors of the Czech Republic are Germany, Poland, Slovakia and Austria.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Map of the Czech Republic



The capital of the country is Prague – in Czech we say Praha - with one million and two hundred thousand inhabitants.

The very new history: The Velvet Revolution in 1989

Called "The Velvet Revolution" because no one was killed. On the 17th November, as the Berlin Wall was coming down, a student demonstration confronted the police. There were larger demonstrations, with Havel at the forefront, until the Communist government resigned on the 3rd December.

Vaclav Havel was elected on the 29th of December President of Czech a Slovak Federal Republic.

Democratic development was renewed in November 1989, after the end of forty-year long Communist rule and subservience in the Soviet bloc.

Separation in 1993 - the start of the Czech Republic

Although the Czechs did not want the country to be separated from Slovakia, the economic realities of the new competitive capitalism were different for these two nations.

The Slovaks had the burden of many former state heavy industries that face closure and loss of employment. But, again, it was a peaceful evolution in the Czech history.

Havel had resigned his post rather than preside over the break up of Czechoslovakia, but he was re-elected as the first president of the Czech Republic.

The partition of Czechoslovakia was effected as of January 1, 1993 , and accordingly, even if it sounds quite unbelievable, we shall remember a decennium since creation of this new state entity (whose roots, however, go as far back as to the early 9th century).

Statistics of citizens in the Czech Republic

- **CZECH STATISTICAL OFFICE - on the base of the Population and Housing Census on the 1st of March 2001**

- **Population in the CR: 10 230 060 inhabitants**

- **Population by sex :**
 - males: **4 982 071 48.7 %**
 - females: **5 247 989 51.3 %**

- **Population by nationality :**
 - Czech **9 249 777 90.4 %**
 - Moravian **380 474 3.7 %**
 - Silesian **10 878 0.1 %**
 - Slovak **193 190 1.9 %**
 - Polish **51 968 0.5 %**
 - German **39 106 0.4 %**

At the beginning I would like to inform you also about some fundamental statistical dates: So I repeat – the total number of population (we are a very small country) – Population by sex – Population by nationality. As you see Czech Republic is - as a matter of fact - a national state practically without minorities.

Population by highest educational attainment

<u>Population total</u>	<u>8 571 710</u>	<u>100%</u>
• No education	37 922	0.4
• Basic	1 974 776	23.0
• Vocational	1 760 461	20.5
• Secondary	1 619 704	27.1
• Higher technical	108 111	1.3
• University	762 235	8.9

Of the number of adult inhabitants 23% have basic education, more than 20 % vocational education, more than 28 % have secondary and higher technical education and nearly 9 % are university graduates. No illiterates are officially registered.

The public library network 2001

Libraries*	Branches	Collections	Users	Loans	Library workers
6091	1089	60 191 490	1 512 717	69 864 356	4 844

The public library network*

National Library	1
Regional libraries	14
Libraries in district towns	69
Municipal libraries	670
Local public libraries	5337
Branches	1089

In the Czech Republic the public library network represents more than 6 000 libraries + more than 1000 branches and mobil libraries. The majority 5 337 libraries are situated out of town – sometimes in small villages. In these libraries are working only library volunteers – local teacher, pensioner, woman in household etc.

There are 6244 communities of all sizes in the Czech Republic. In 2001, exactly 6091 public libraries were active – or almost one public library at each community. That is a result of a tradition we have been keeping from the times of early Czechoslovak Republic, whose Parliament passed – as soon as in 1919 – a law on public local and municipal libraries which mandated local and municipal councils to establish a public library.

Transformation of public libraries

- Foundation of the Association of library and information Professionals (1990)
- Transfer from the central government to the local authorities – communities and municipalities (1994 -2000)
- The new Library Act - 2001

It is hard to say whether we were able to exploit duly, in the course of the past almost 13 years of life in freedom and democracy, all the new chances. What we can say, though, that we tried our best. We succeeded to change many things and to achieve a number of goals in Czech libraries also owing to and thanks to influence of the Association of Library and Information Professionals - a new Association we founded (or renewed) right in the spring of 1990 (under the Communist *régime* no such associations were allowed).

The transformation of public libraries into cultural, information, and educational centers as well as their transfer from the area of the central government to that of local one (to communities, municipalities, regional authorities) have been completed without big losses (here I have in mind closing down or liquidation of libraries). Last year, after a period of „struggles“, we saw the Czech Parliament passing a new bill on libraries - the third Library Act in the history of Czech librarianship.

The new Library Act

- „Law on Libraries and Terms of Operating Public Library and Information Services“ (Library Act)
- English translation of the new Czech Library Act on the Internet at URL:
http://www.nkp.cz/o_knihovnach/English/ZakonAng257.htm
- The Library Act entered into force on January 1, 2002

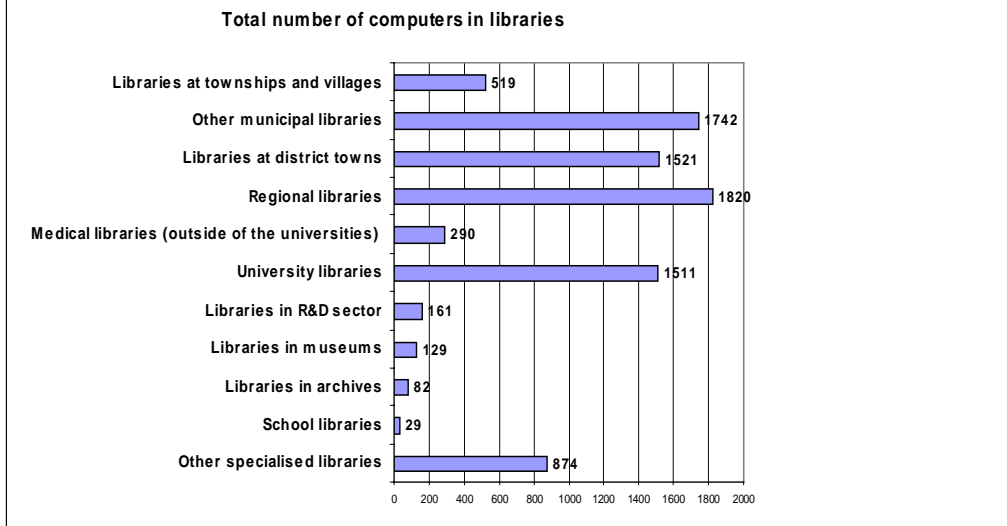
The official title of Library Act reads „Law on libraries and Terms of Operating Public Library and Information Services“ and it codifies a number of principles important for further development of libraries and their services to readers and users. English translation of the Law is available on the website of the National Library of the Czech Republic and also on IFLANET.

**Survey on the state
of the Internet connectivity in libraries
November 2001**

- **Organized by the National Library of CR**
- **Funded by the central government**
- **Ensured the compatibility with the survey**
- **organized in 1997**
- **Number of participating libraries - 1144**
- **Data evaluated from 944 public libraries**

For this workshop I have prepared a short presentation of results of a survey on the state of the Internet connectivity of the Czech libraries according to the data as of late 2001. The survey was organized by the National Library of the Czech Republic in November 2001 and was funded by the central government. It was conceived in such a way as to ensure the compatibility of its results with the data of a similar survey organized by the National Library in 1997. The total number of libraries participating in the survey was 1144, out of which 200 libraries had neither computer equipment nor were connected to the internet, whence the data were processed for 944 libraries only.

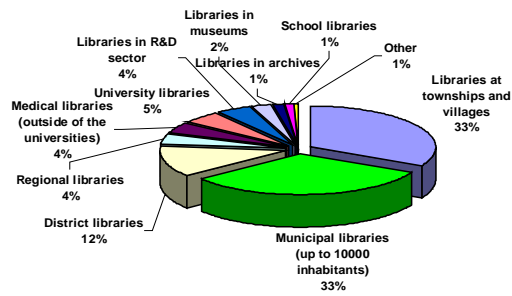
Total number computers in libraries



As of the late 2001, there were 8678 computers in 944 libraries surveyed. In public libraries participating in the survey there were 5602 computers.

Libraries and library branches with the Internet connectivity

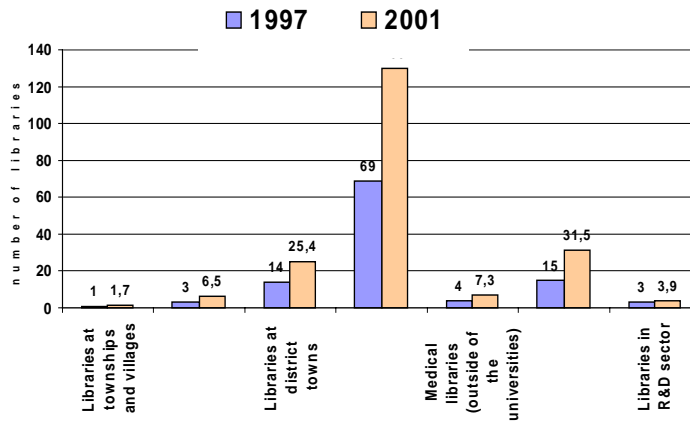
Libraries and library branches with the internet connectivity



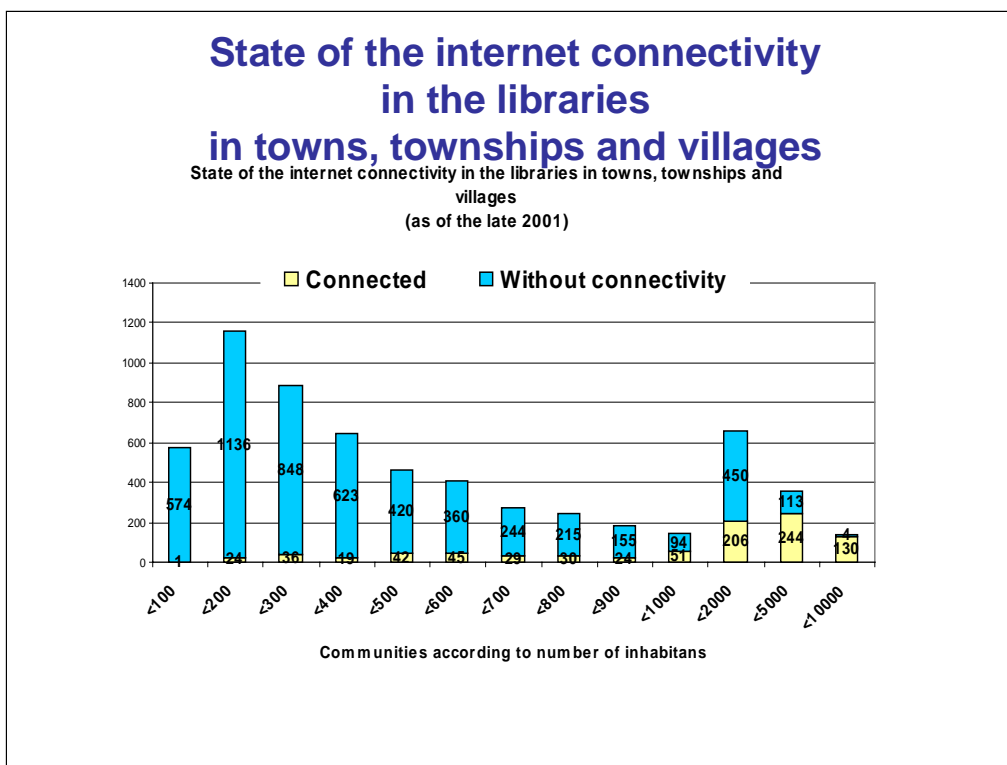
Out of the total number of computers, 77 % were connected to the Internet.

Comparison of average number of computers in selected types of libraries

Comparison of average number of computers in selected types of libraries in 1997 and 2001



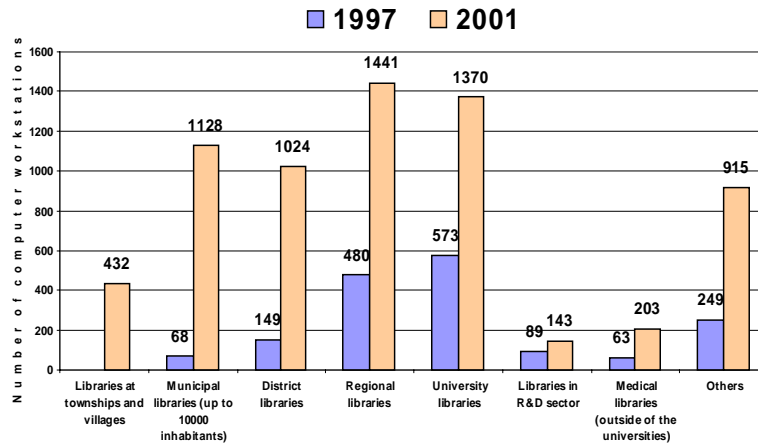
I would like to draw your attention to the vacant (empty) places where the descriptions by fault disappeared. On the second place there might be municipal libraries, on the fourth place regional libraries and on the sixth place university libraries. The average number of computers in the regional libraries is 130. While there are average 130 computers per regional library, it is mere 6,5 computers per municipal library and 1,7 computers per local library, only. Compared to 1997, a rise of more than 100 per cent was registered. The biggest progress was achieved in the category of local libraries in which not a single computer was connected to the Internet in 1997.



This picture shows the difficult and unsatisfactory state of the Internet connectivity in the small public libraries. In communities with less than 900 inhabitants the relation between the number of libraries which are connected to the Internet and those which are without connectivity is not convenient. The situation is changing only in communities with more than 5000 inhabitants and bigger ones.

Number of computer workstations connected to the Internet 1997 to 2001 comparison

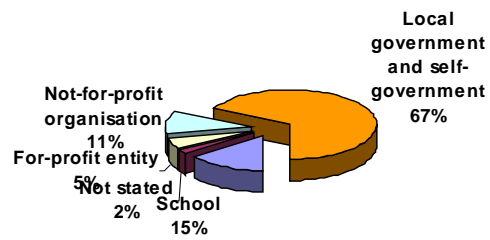
Number of computer workstations connected to the internet - 1997 to 2001 comparison



This picture shows objectively the enormous increase of computer workstations connected to the Internet in libraries during these five years.

Institutions with which the public libraries share their Internet connectivity most frequently

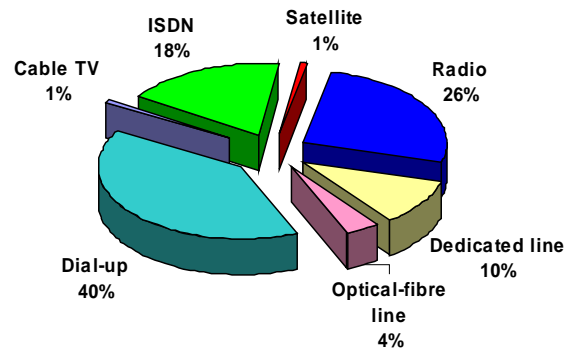
Institutions with which the public libraries share their internet connectivity most frequently



Other question was with which institutions the libraries share their Internet connectivity most frequently, of course, the majority are local authorities.

Technology of the Internet connectivity in public libraries

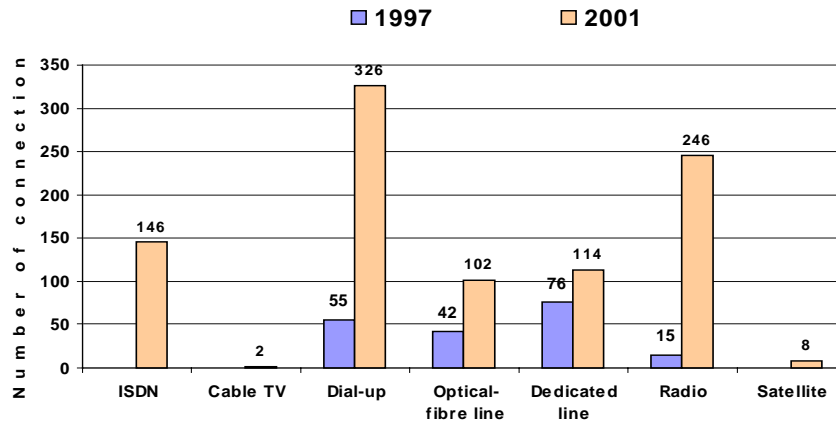
Technology of the internet connectivity in public libraries



What is the technology of Internet connectivity in public libraries like? The majority of libraries uses the dial-up – in other words the phone connection.

Technology of the Internet connectivity 1997 to 2001 comparison

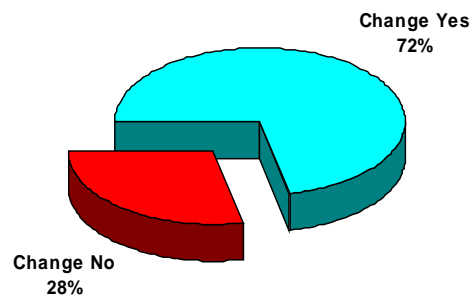
Technology of the internet connectivity - 1997 to 2001 comparison
(all types of libraries)



All types of Internet connectivity increased, the main increase registered radio and phone- connection.

Availability of interest in change of Internet provider

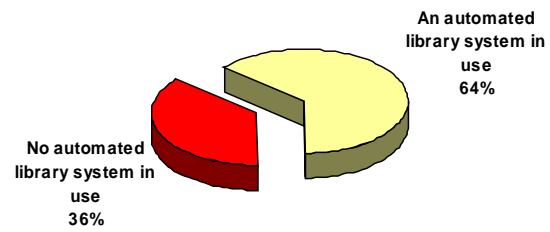
Availability of and interest in change of internet provider - attitude
with all libraries



The picture presents degree of satisfaction, or dissatisfaction - and, accordingly, interest in change of Internet provider.

Use of an automated system in all libraries

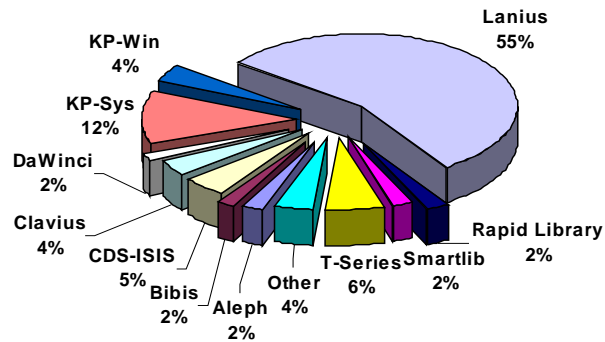
Use of an automated library system - all libraries



An interesting chapter of the survey posted an examination on how many libraries use an automated library system and if yes, which one.

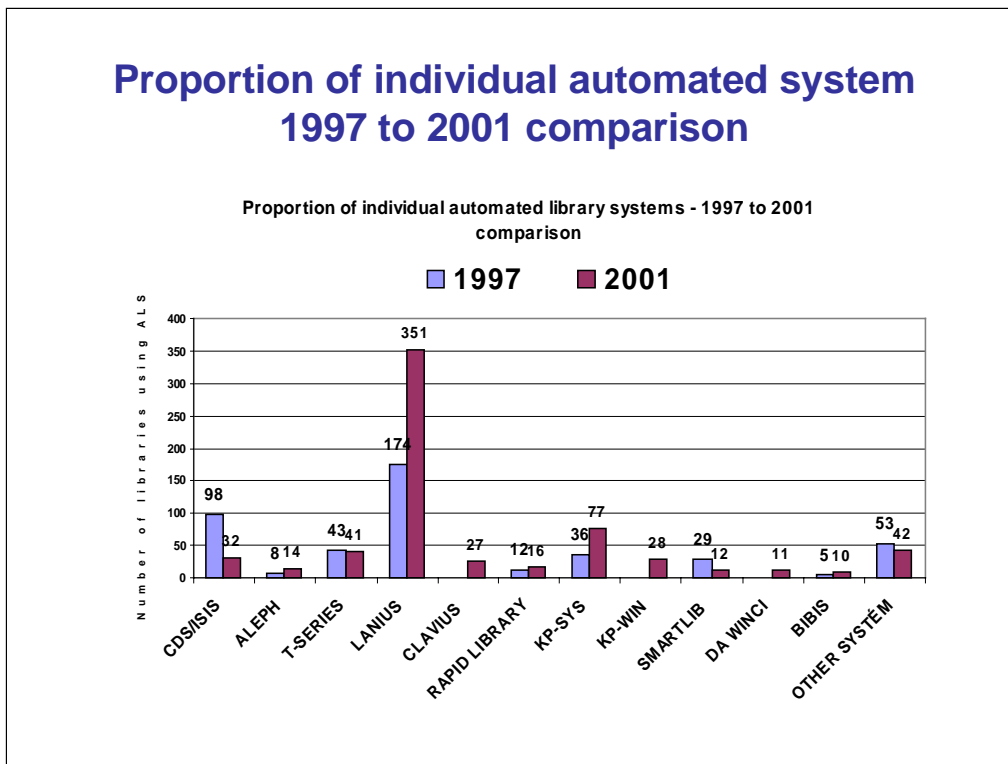
Proportion of individual library system in all libraries

Proportion of individual automated library system in all libraries



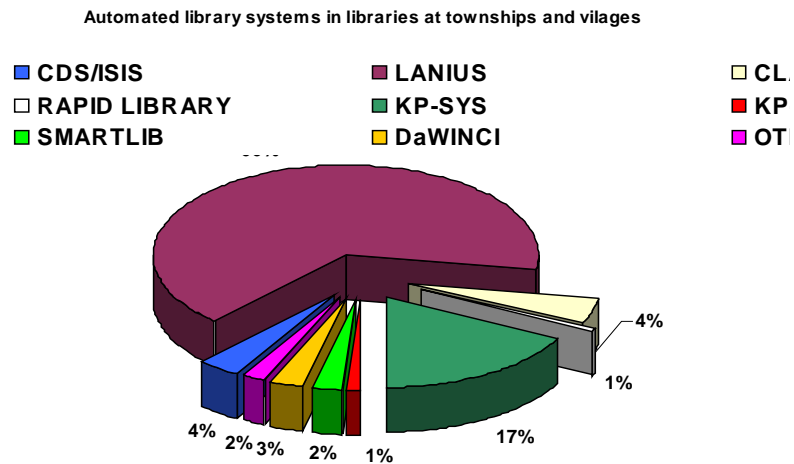
To buy an automated library system is a very expensive matter. So you see that the majority of public libraries is using the inland system called LANIUS – which is cheap and elaborated according to the needs of public libraries.

Proportion of individual automated system 1997 to 2001 comparison



All the same the comparison showed the essential increase of the inland system LANIUS.

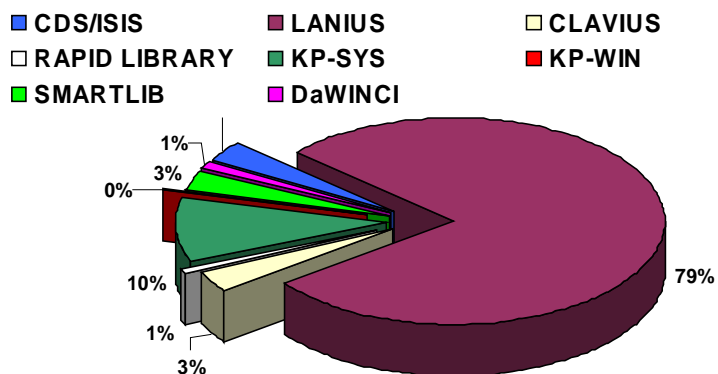
Automated library systems in libraries at townships and vilages



In small communities there is the majority of libraries using the Czech automated library system LANIUS (66 %) even more evident.

Automated library systems in municipal libraries (towns upto 10 000 inhabitants)

Automated library systems in municipal libraries (towns up to 10 000 inhabitants)

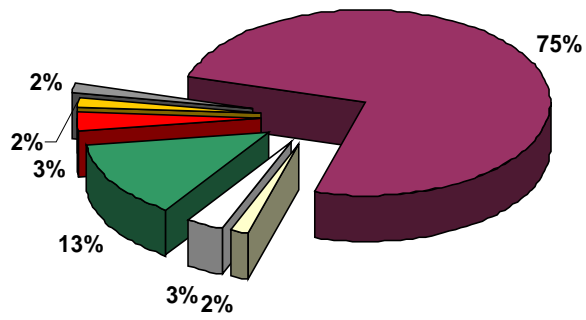


In the majority of the Czech municipal libraries (79%) is LANIUS very popular.

Automated library systems in libraires at district towns

Automated library systems in libraries at district towns

■ T-SERIES	■ LANIUS	■ CLAVIUS
■ RAPID LIBRARY	■ KP-SYS	■ KP-WIN
■ DaWINCI		

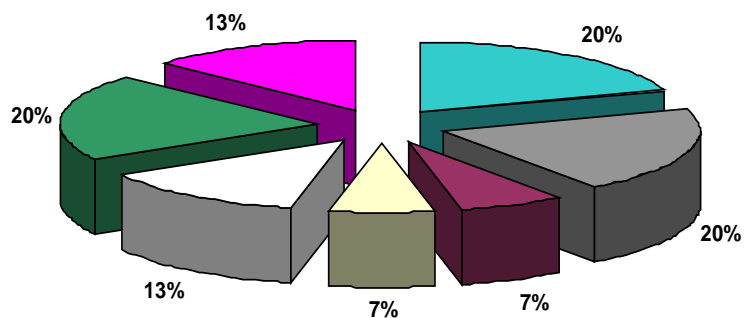


The same situation in the libraries at district towns.

Automated library system in regional libraries

Automated library system in regional libraries

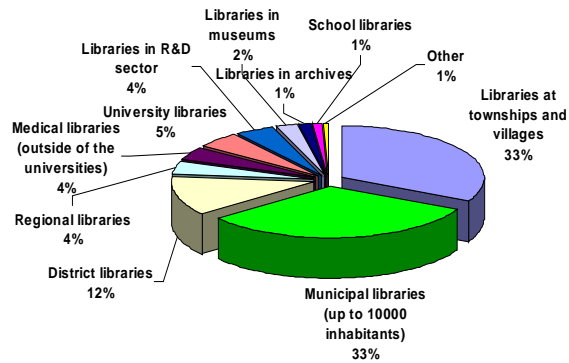
■ ALEPH ■ T-SERIES ■ LANIUS
■ CLAVIUS ■ RAPID LIBRARY ■ KP-SYS
■ OTHER SYSTÉM



Only in 14 new regional libraries – among which 9 are former state scientific libraries – it concerns the largest public libraries in the country - is the situation a little bit other - diverse and varied.

Libraries and library branches with Internet connectivity

Libraries and library branches with the internet connectivity



In our circumstances we achieved a good result: 82% from the total number of libraries connected to Internet are public libraries serving the general public. In recent years we reached these positive results thanks to the National Information Policy favorable towards libraries.

National Information Policy
Public Information Services of Libraries
Programme 2000 - 2003

- **Provision of public access ICT sites with skilled assistance guaranteeing equal access to information sources and networks for all groups of citizens**
- **Support for life-long education and meeting the cultural needs of citizens**
- **Access to information from the public administration domain as stipulated by Free Access to Information Act No 106/1999 Coll.**
- **Information supply supporting tourism, enterprise, legal conscience, independent decision, including provision of special library and information services to social and ethnic minorities**
- **Information and document supply for research and development**
- **Preservation of and access to the national cultural heritage in library collections**

The national program called „Public Information Services of Libraries“ totally changed the situation which existed before 2000. At the end of the last year 3 218 public libraries were equipped with computers - nearly threefold of the state two years ago. 2146 computers were in the same time (at the end of 2001) connected to Internet. On the screen you can see the main goals of this program which is one of the programs out-going of the National Information Policy, financed of the state budget.

Prospectives

Public Information Services of Libraries Programme

– to innovate public information services in the libraries on the platform of information and communication technologies

– to provide ***till the end of 2003*** access to Internet through residential public library for approx.90 % of citizens of the Czech Republic

Library Act

– to connect ***till the end of 2006*** (at the latest) all public libraries to the Internet

What we expect from the future? We have two good reasons for a relative optimism: 1) the national program „Public Information Services of Libraries“ which presumes to provide access to Internet till the end of 2003 through public libraries 90% citizens of the country and 2) the „Library Act“ which fixed that all public libraries according to the Law must be connected to the Internet till the end of 2006.

My rather optimistic prospects have been unfortunately considerably changed during the recent flood that devastated large areas of the Czech Republic last week. There were also affected collections of the libraries, archives and museums.

Thank you for your attention

For more details contact me – please!

Jarmila.Burgetova@seznam.cz

Thank you for your attention. I am prepared to answer your questions, or if you want to know more details, please, contact me per e-mail.