Libraries for All

The role of public libraries in a multicultural society

Prague 2005
Library of Multicultural Center Prague

The library stock focus on contemporary publications and periodicals in several well-defined thematic groups:

• National and ethnic minorities in Czech republic and abroad
• Intercultural education and learning
• Cultures and their interactions
• Migration and refugees
• Nation, nationalism and racism
• Cultural and social anthropology

Library stocks also include collection of multicultural films and press monitoring database. Publications are mainly in Czech, English, German, Spain and Roma.

Opening hours:
Monday 10AM – 15PM
Thursday 12AM -19PM

Online catalogue:
www.mkc.cz/knihovna

More information on:
www.mkc.cz.

Multicultural Center Prague
Vodičkova 36 (Lucerna Palace)
Prague 1, Czech Republic
Telephone/fax: + 420 296 325 345
Email: info@centrum-praha.cz
Libraries for All

The role of public libraries in a multicultural society

Prague 2005
Libraries for All

The Role of Public Libraries
in a Multicultural Society

The publication Libraries for All: The Role of Public Libraries in a Multicultural Society is a part of INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN LIBRARIES, a project of the Multicultural Center Prague. The project is supported by the European Community. The views presented herein are the views of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the European Community.

We would like to thank all contributors and sponsors.

Multicultural Center Prague
Vodičkova 36 (Lucerna Palace)
116 02 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Telephone/Fax: (+420) 296 325 345

WWW.MKC.CZ
infocentrum@mkc.cz

EDITED BY
Barbora Hořavová and Daniela Richterová

Published in 2005 by the Multicultural Center Prague
00 Libraries for All
(edited by Barbora Hořavová and Daniela Richterová)

01 How to create a multicultural library
Public libraries and their role in a multicultural society
(Zlata Houšková)

Ten reasons to offer multicultural library services
– recommendations of the IFLA Section on Library Services
to Multicultural Populations (Clara M. Chu) [www.ifla.org]

Diversity in Libraries – a project for libraries and
all their users (Barbora Hořavová)

How public libraries in the Czech Republic approach
multicultural issues – presentation of a survey (Daniela Richterová)

The needs of minorities and foreigners in libraries
– an opinion poll (Barbora Hořavová, Daniela Richterová)
[www.mkc.cz/en]

Library open to minorities – tips and recommendations
on how to create a multicultural library in the Czech Republic
(Daniela Richterová, Lenka Hanzlíková) [Czech version only]

Differences in communication – how to communicate
with minorities (Tatjana Šišková) [Czech version only]

02 Inspiration from abroad

International Library – a project of the Municipal Library
in Frankfurt am Main (Birgit Lotz) [www.mkc.cz/en]

A melting pot in Germany? Strategies of introducing successful
intercultural programs in German children's libraries.
(Susanne Krüeger) [www.mkc.cz/en]

Public library services for ethnic minorities
– the Danish strategy (Ann Kathrine Poulsen) [www.mkc.cz/en]
03 Multicultural activities in Czech public libraries

Blending cultures or do we know each other?
– Liberec Research Library (Blanka Konvalinková)  

Cooperation with the Vietnamese community
– Municipal Library in Cheb (Marie Mudrová)

Week of national minorities – Jiří Mahen Library in Brno
(Hana Vacková) Czech version only

The world meets in Prague 11 – Prague Municipal Library,
Jírovcovo náměstí branch (Iva Brožíková, Jitka Varyšová)

Literature unites nations – Karviná Regional Library
(Halina Molinová) Czech version only

Cooperation with the Roma community – Municipal Library
in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm (Jarmila Mikulášková)

04 Appendices

Multicultural Center Prague for libraries 42

Books and online resources dealing with foreigners
and national minorities in the Czech Republic Czech version only
Libraries for All

Libraries for All is a publication about multicultural librarianship in the Czech Republic. The term “multicultural librarianship” is fairly novel in the Czech milieu and public libraries are only beginning to grasp its meaning. The Czech Republic is not a country with a high rate of migration – official statistics show that foreigners and members of ethnic minorities make up only 2.5 percent of the country’s population. However, the opening up of borders after 1989 and the Czech Republic’s accession to the European Union in 2004 made it possible for many people from cultures that were unknown until then to enter the country.

The rising cultural and social diversity has an impact on the activities of numerous institutions including public libraries. According to the Strategy of Library Development in the Czech Republic in 2004 - 2010 (government resolution No. 679 dated 7 July 2004), the mission of public libraries is to offer equal access to services to all people including those coming from different cultural backgrounds and those who require more attention than “regular” library patrons.

It was Diversity in Libraries, an ongoing project launched by the Multicultural Center Prague in 2002, which for the first time pointed out the importance of public libraries in today’s multicultural society. The project aims at helping libraries build up multicultural book collections and enhancing their role as regards the acceptance of minorities through educating and informing librarians about intercultural issues.

In 2003, we organized the first conference for librarians that focused on multicultural library services and featured experienced professionals from the IFLA and the public library in Frankfurt, Germany. We followed up with the first round of regional training sessions aimed at teaching librarians various ways of making their library multicultural and opening it to minorities and foreigners. The annual conferences and training sessions should help librarians find answers to the following questions: what to do with a user who needs information about library services in a foreign language or wants a booklet dealing with employment opportunities in the Czech Republic or wants to read today’s paper on the Internet using Chinese characters? What can a library do for Czech users who are not satisfied with superficial information and wish to learn more about people from different cultures living in the Czech Republic? How should one deal with people whose behavior is apparently racist and xenophobic? How can a library become an open and friendly place for all people with no linguistic or cultural barriers? How should a library let it be known to both existing and potential users and donors that it is truly a multicultural and open institution?

In the course of the project, we were increasingly aware of the lack on the Czech market of a practical guide to introducing multicultural practices in libraries; in addition, we were conscious of the fact that Czech librarians lack comprehensive information about the subject. It is for these reasons that we decided to summarize the existing know-how and make use of our four-year experience from the project in creating the very first Czech guide to “becoming a multicultural library in the Czech Republic.” Apart from the guide, the publication contains important contributions from foreign authors as well as model examples of Czech libraries that are already involved in multicultural activities.
Our secondary objective was to provide information to foreign librarians and institutions about the developments in multicultural librarianship in Czech libraries. For this reason, we have produced an English version (in PDF format) containing selected chapters of the original Czech version of Libraries for All.

In the opening section, we attempt to answer the question of why libraries must be multicultural institutions and whether this requirement is justified. In the fall of 2004, we conducted a survey among 500 libraries to learn whether they use multilingual signs, acquire multicultural books, or cooperate with local minority organizations. The results of this survey, received from a total of 100 libraries, open the subsequent section. If libraries are to provide multicultural services, they must be aware of their users’ needs - libraries must know what users lack, what items they require and what prevents them from visiting the library on a regular basis. We have approached a number of foreigners living in Prague and present their reactions together with the first findings of a survey conducted among minorities.

However, being aware of the needs of minorities and foreigners in libraries is not enough. For a library to become a truly multicultural institution, its staff must know how to communicate with potential users (be it the Roma, Vietnamese or Ukrainians) and in particular have at its disposal a marketing strategy aimed at opening doors and attracting potential users. The first section concludes with inspirational texts dealing with these issues. (The English version contains selected writings relevant for experts from abroad.)

For the second section of the publication, we have chosen several texts with the aim of introducing to Czech readers the ways in which foreign libraries cope with multicultural issues. We are very well aware that the situation in the Czech Republic is specific and it is therefore impractical to simply copy foreign approaches. Nevertheless, many ideas and initiatives can serve as an inspiration for Czech libraries and it is up to the individual librarians to make use of them. (The English version only contains references to these texts as we believe they are well known among those interested in multicultural librarianship.)

The final section is devoted to selected libraries in the Czech Republic that have already incorporated multicultural methods into their daily work. Multicultural activities implemented by such libraries are the pioneering work in this field in the country and range from public evenings about minority cultures, debates with members of minorities or tasting of national cuisines to presentations of traditional customs. When organizing such activities, one must be careful not to let them turn into a showcase of the “different” - rather, there must be time and space for explanation, communication and mutual understanding.

We hope that you will find our guide useful and that it will inspire you to start organizing interesting, culturally diverse activities in libraries. We also hope that it will provide you with a captivating overview of multicultural methods and activities implemented by Czech libraries. We look forward to receiving your feedback, experiences and ideas stemming from your own multicultural practice.

BARBORA HOŘAVOVÁ AND DANIELA RICHTEROVÁ
Multicultural Center Prague
How to create a multicultural library
The Czech Republic, long an ethnically homogenous country, is changing rapidly and immensely. The determinants of the changing social milieu are European integration and open borders. To what degree are Czech libraries prepared to cope with growing cultural diversity?

According to the Strategy of Library Development in the Czech Republic in 2004 - 2010 (government resolution No. 679 dated 7 July 2004), public libraries are an “instrument of putting in practice the fundamental human rights of equal access to information (for the rich and the poor, women and men, people from the city and the country, the handicapped and the healthy, minorities and the majority), free exchange of information, unimpeded betterment of knowledge and free development of ideas. Libraries are an instrument of the right to information which is enshrined in the constitution and therefore a pillar of democracy.”

Today, libraries can help the development of civil society in their communities. Their task is to support lifelong learning, independent decision-making and intellectual development. Furthermore, they must help satisfy the cultural needs of all without exception, offer active use of free time, entertainment and recreation and also promote social integration at local level, development of local communities and the countryside, provide information in support of SMEs (Small and Medium Sized Enterprises), disseminate human knowledge and protect cultural heritage.

In this respect, public libraries must be intensively involved in multicultural issues, broaden their services designed for minority users (the handicapped, national minorities, the unemployed and other disadvantaged social groups) and strengthen their role in this area.

Libraries are public, democratic and open institutions. Often, they serve as the cultural, information and growingly also as the educational center in their communities. They offer a safe and accommodating environment with qualified services. Thus far, however, Czech public libraries have not fully identified with their role of institutions functioning as a natural intercultural meeting point, a place where people can communicate freely and learn about each other and where members of ethnic and national minorities can learn about the majority society. As libraries have not made this one of their top priorities, they still need to transform their services and their character further.
When it comes to foreign-language literature, libraries primarily acquire books in one of the major languages without giving enough thought to the local minorities. Librarians who can speak (or communicate on a rudimentary level) Romany, Ukrainian, Vietnamese or Chinese are hard to find in spite of the growing number of members of these and other minorities in our country. Minorities, however, are not among regular users of public libraries (with the exception of Vietnamese children) and only a few people have tried to find out why this is the case and how to change the current situation. But to fulfill the basic requirement of equal access to information, libraries must seek ways to actually provide such access to those behind language or cultural barriers. In this search, libraries should make use of experience from foreign libraries that have been dealing with such issues for a long time.

Of course, there are libraries in the Czech Republic that can serve as model examples, especially with respect to helping new immigrants or existing minorities integrate on the local level (e.g. information services covering life in the given community, learning about other cultures and traditions, public events for the majority, educational activities, activities for children who may later bring their parents, etc.).
In general, however, the use of websites is unsatisfactory (multiple language versions, special information in minority languages, tips, important and useful links), the state of collections in foreign languages is lacking (difficulties related to financing, inadequate availability of books in required languages in the Czech Republic and insufficient attention given to the need to change collection profiling), there are no models of special educational programs and specific services, etc.

This book - published by the Multicultural Center Prague and intended not only for librarians - offers information about these and many other issues. It contains theory as well as practical examples from Czech and foreign libraries dealing with intercultural and multicultural issues. It should be a tool for libraries in their work with potential and existing users from ethnic and linguistic minorities.

Our society, influenced by the negative media frenzy over foreigners in the Czech Republic and individual negative experiences, needs the help of libraries to walk the road to cultural pluralism (tolerance to the other, crossing cultural boundaries and mutual understanding and enriching).
In 2002, the Multicultural Center Prague launched a project designed for libraries and entitled Diversity in Libraries. At that time, we could not imagine how successful and stimulating our cooperation with public libraries would be, nor could we fathom the warm reception that the project received from librarians and information officers working in public libraries. The project’s originality, the gradual broadening of activities (based on the needs of libraries) and the interest of librarians and grant providers have all helped us kick off the fourth year of Diversity in Libraries in 2005.

How was the project born? Our objective is to provide as much information as possible about different cultures, ethnic groups and national minorities living in the Czech Republic. We believe that only informed individuals are open to discussion about peaceful coexistence of people with different languages, religions, customs or family traditions in one country. It is for this reason that we have built our own library which collects books and media covering all relevant topics. However, there is no other library similar to ours and many readers cannot use its services. After some thinking, we realized that the easiest way to inform and educate readers across the country is to distribute books about minorities into public libraries.

In the beginning, we selected 500 public libraries from different parts of the country to which to distribute, free of charge, a package of books covering or related to multicultural issues once a year. When selecting the books to be distributed, we always think of children and students, laymen and experts.

Thanks to Diversity in Libraries, readers are now able to go to their local library and borrow unusual and often inaccessible books about the past, present, customs and traditions of different cultures, ethnic groups and national minorities as well as about current issues relevant to today’s multicultural society (e.g. multicultural education, intercultural communication or racism).
From the project’s first year, we organize in cooperation with public libraries cultural and educational programs and events about minorities aimed at promoting the books being distributed and above all inspiring both children and adults to be active in searching for more information through reading the right books. Some of the most popular programs were Roma and Vietnamese workshops for children, readings from Ukrainian and African books, Japanese kyogen theater performance or a Roma fashion show. The project also includes a painting and literature contest for children inspiring them to think about a possible cure for racism or to ask whether they can learn something new from their friends from different countries.

After the first year, we began to put more emphasis on educating librarians and information officers. We conducted a regional educational series under the title Intercultural Dialogue in Libraries covering many topics ranging from services of Czech public libraries tailored for foreigners and members of minorities, multicultural education in libraries and acquisition of multicultural literature to practical tips on organizing cultural events about minorities. Every year, we organize an international conference of librarians with speakers from home and abroad talking about a multitude of issues, from experience of foreign libraries with introducing a multicultural approach to inspiring examples from Czech libraries.

In 2004, we have created www.rozmanitost.cz, a website devoted to multiculturalism, multicultural literature and librarianship. Aside from providing news about the Diversity in Libraries project, the site functions as a major source of information for librarians and information officers on multicultural education and practice in libraries (it offers studies and articles on interculturalism in libraries, tips for acquisition of multicultural literature, documents from conferences and training sessions for librarians as well as translations of studies and articles about interculturalism).

All project activities - distribution of multicultural literature, intercultural workshops for children in libraries, educational seminars for librarians and the website www.rozmanitost.cz – have been welcomed and praised by librarians and library users alike. Libraries are increasingly aware that there is a need to respond to the changing structure and demands of library users and to the emerging multicultural society. The great interest on the part of librarians from regional libraries and the support we receive from SKIP (the Association of Librarians and Information Officers) both attest to the inadequate supply of similar educational seminars. The Multicultural Center Prague plans to organize more training sessions for librarians focusing on library services for minorities and taking into account specific requirements, suggestions and ideas from librarians in the preparation of the right curriculum.
Between 2002 and 2004, the project had been a part of the government’s Campaign against Racism and received support from the Office of the Government of the Czech Republic, the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, the Czech-German Future Fund, the Royal Netherlands Embassy and the European Union. We have implemented the individual parts of the project in cooperation with SKIP, Youth for Intercultural Understanding and Partners Czech.

The Multicultural Center Prague believes that public libraries play an important role in developing the civil society and it is therefore necessary to continue strengthening their role as centers of information, education and culture open to all. All activities have one common goal: to create in public libraries a unique meeting point for diverse cultures. Focus of the development of multicultural collections in Czech public libraries makes Diversity in Libraries a project that is unique in the Czech Republic. We hope that in the following years, the project will mature to the satisfaction of Czech librarians and library users.
How to create a multicultural library

Daniela Richterová

How public libraries in the Czech Republic approach multicultural issues – presentation of a survey

Do Czech libraries have something to offer to foreigners and members of national minorities? What sources of information libraries use to keep up-to-date with new multicultural fiction and non-fiction? Are Czech librarians willing to learn more about multiculturalism and then use their experience in serving the public? The Multicultural Center Prague has tried to answer these and other questions in a survey conducted in the fall 2004 among 500 selected public libraries across the Czech Republic.

We have based the survey on Strategy of Library Development in the Czech Republic in 2004-2010 and on Public Library Services - IFLA/UNESCO Development Guidelines. These two documents declare that public libraries must guarantee equal access to information and provide services to all without exceptions. The primary aim of the questionnaire survey was to find out what services are available in libraries to foreigners and users from ethnic and national minorities, how libraries react to the society’s growing cultural diversity, and how much Czech librarians are interested in multicultural issues. The Multicultural Center Prague believes that multiculturalism is increasingly important for Czech librarians and it is therefore essential to collect information to appraise the current situation.

Our questionnaire contained a total of 16 questions covering a wide range of issues from the tools that make it easier for librarians to work with minorities to cultural and educational programs organized by libraries for minorities to cooperation between libraries and local organizations. Our survey targeted public libraries in smaller cities in the Czech Republic as well as public libraries in areas with a higher proportion of ethnic groups and national minorities. 100 respondents, i.e. one-fifth of the libraries approached, actually returned their questionnaires. The largest number of respondents (34) worked in libraries with 1,000-5,000 registered users, while 26 respondents worked in smaller libraries with less than 500 registered users. The Multicultural Center Prague has processed the questionnaires in cooperation with Partners Czech as a part of the Diversity in Libraries project (www.rozmanitost.cz).
In this paper, we present the highlights of the survey as well as some interesting charts. The unabridged version of the survey is available from our library or at www.mkc.cz.

**CHART 1 – WORKING WITH MINORITIES IN LIBRARIES**

**In your library, do you use aids and tools in some way related to working with national minorities?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Multilingual website</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information service for minorities</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language magazines</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign language publications</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational programs for minorities</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultural programs for minorities</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debates and programs about minorities</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration form in other language</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents answering “yes”

The prevalent service provided by libraries to national minorities and foreigners is lending foreign magazines. Almost one-half of respondents said they provided information services for minorities and over one-third said they organized cultural programs and events for minorities. However, we have been monitoring multicultural activities of Czech public libraries for some time now, and based on our practical experience feel that the data are exaggerated and do not reflect reality. Only in some cases are foreign language magazines provided by libraries as a service targeting minorities because such magazines are predominantly in one of the world’s commonest languages. The statement to the effect that information services are provided to minorities made by almost one-half of the respondents may be similarly misleading. On the contrary, librarians very often state that their language skills are insufficient. Disturbing is also the fact that just one library provided users with a registration form in a language different from Czech.

**CHART 2 – HOW AND WHERE TO BUY BOOKS FOR MINORITIES?**

**Where does your library obtain information about publications for minorities and about minorities?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Number of Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Other source</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colleagues</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acquisition Service of MKC Prague</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishers’ newsletters</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of respondents answering “yes”
When libraries wish to complement their collections with new books about or for minorities, they most often turn to the Internet or newsletters featuring upcoming books from publishers. It is rewarding that one of the most popular sources of information in this respect is the Multicultural Literature Acquisition Service, a monthly electronic newsletter distributed by the Multicultural Center Prague. The service, used by 73 respondents, covers new multicultural books to be published in the Czech Republic. If you are interested in receiving the newsletter, please write to us at infocentrum@mkc.cz.

**CHART 3 – A MULTICULTURAL LIBRARIAN**

Is there a librarian in your library who...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>(N=100)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Has been trained to work with minorities?</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is a member of an ethnic minority?</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is actively interested in minority issues?</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of respondents answering “yes”*

Less than one-third of respondents said their library has a librarian who is actively pursuing issues related to minorities. Judging by the number, it seems that librarians still do not consider work with national minorities and foreigners and development of services for them as one of their priorities. Only 15 percent of respondents backed their active interest in working with minorities with actual training. It is positive, however, that there are people from ethnic minorities working in three libraries. Such a librarian is a great asset for any library because he or she represents the needs of the given minority within the library.

**CHART 4 – DIFFERENCE MADE BY DIVERSITY IN LIBRARIES**

In what way did the Diversity in Libraries project influence your library’s approach to national minorities and multicultural issues?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>(N=90)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We have long been interested in minorities and other cultures and the project was an inspiration for new activities and approaches</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The project introduced a completely new topic to us and we are now actively involved in multicultural issues thanks to the project</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We have long been interested in minorities and other cultures, but have not taken advantage of the project’s activities</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The project introduced a completely new topic to us, but we do not pursue it any further</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The topic is not interesting for us now</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Number of respondents answering “yes”*
One of the objectives of the survey was to measure the contribution made by Diversity in Libraries, a project implemented by the Multicultural Center Prague which is now in its fourth year. The project aims at introducing multicultural issues to public libraries, helping them acquire books for and about minorities and strengthening the range of library services for ethnic minorities and foreigners (for more information about the project, please visit www.rozmanitost.cz.) About one-half of respondents viewed the project positively – libraries consider it inspirational and use it to develop new services for minorities. Unfortunately, many libraries still perceive multicultural issues as irrelevant and feel no need to be more active in this area. Reasons for this vary from lack of time and money to unawareness.

CONCLUSION
The survey’s results show that working with books on or about national minorities, theme-specific programs or direct cooperation with minorities are activities that are still far from the ordinary in public libraries. Libraries lack adequate tools and cooperation with local minority organizations is still just an exception to the rule. It is rather distressing that many libraries do not see improving services for minorities and foreigners as an important part of their function (9 percent of libraries in the survey do not see multiculturalism as a topical issue and 27 percent of libraries are not interested in multicultural activities at all).
How to create a multicultural library

On the other hand, results show that some libraries have taken a very proactive and creative approach, organizing programs about different cultures, procuring books for minorities or creating multilingual library websites. For the most part, libraries have a very good idea about where to get information about suitable upcoming books. As regards education, libraries would like to see more information covering life of minorities, ways of intercultural communication and organization of educational programs about minorities.

The survey has provided the Multicultural Center Prague with important feedback as well as inspiration for the future of Diversity in Libraries. We see the results as a lesson and an impulse to provide Czech librarians with more and better information about minorities, foreigners and other cultures. If libraries adapt their services to the needs of today’s culturally diverse society, they may become an inspiring, creative, attractive and essential institution both for minorities and the majority. If readers of different nationalities are not among the patrons of a certain library, maybe it is because they are not aware of its existence or because they find its services lacking. Whatever the reason, it is a sign for librarians to change and act!

NOTE:

Multicultural activities in Czech public libraries
Blending cultures or do we know each other?
Liberec Research Library

ABOUT THE LIBEREC RESEARCH LIBRARY
The Regional Research Library in Liberec is a universal public research library and a municipal public library providing services that help improve professional skills, foster general education and support culture in the city of Liberec and the surrounding region. Since 2002, the library has been systematically involved in working with minorities and groups speaking different languages.
THE LIBRARY’S MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

- In cooperation with German and Polish librarians, the library has published a trilingual Library Guidebook designed for members of the German and Polish minorities in which users can find important phrases and words in all three languages.
- In 2002, we begun to actually deal with issues related to minorities and various language groups, in the beginning by acquiring Slovak and Russian books (unfortunately, we were not able to obtain books in Ukrainian).
- The library cooperates with the Goethe Institute so the German language collection is fairly substantial. We also offer books in other major languages including English but also in Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian, Hebrew or Slovenian. In 2005, we plan to acquire our first Vietnamese books.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE LITERATURE IN THE COLLECTION OF THE LIBEREC RESEARCH LIBRARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>27272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovak</td>
<td>15388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>14388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>2131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>1658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>275</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hungarian</td>
<td>140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgarian</td>
<td>67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roma</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ukrainian</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hebrew</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romanian</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slovenian</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Our website and online catalogue feature English and German versions and we plan to provide more language options in the future.
- In 2003, the library started organizing programs for and about minorities including the series Blending Cultures.
- In 2004, the library published a bilingual Czech-Roma book of fairytales Rainbow Bridge - Le Devleskeri phurť.

MULTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Blending cultures or do we know each other? A series for and about minorities.

The series aims at introducing to participants the life, history, culture, customs, religious rituals, traditions, music and cuisine of various minorities and language groups. Through their participation in the series, members of minorities should find it
easier to adapt in the new society: they are offered a great opportunity to learn about others and to be a part of a tolerant and friendly milieu. The library believes that a practical experience is the best way of getting to know other people.

The series is open to all people willing to come and learn something new, be it high school and university students, library users, members of the general public or members of minorities.

The series is not composed only of boring lectures, each evening has a different program. The program moves from 'serious' topics (history, geography, culture) to 'lighter' topics (family, food, music, theater or hobbies) and then to specific examples and illustrations: singing, music, dance, film, photos, entertainment or food sampling. Of course, there is always time for questions and answers. Each evening’s host is experienced in the discussed topic and is resourceful enough to improvise and handle unexpected situations. Each evening is a small adventure. If some guests do not speak Czech, we have an interpreter. There is always an accompanying exhibition presenting books related to the given minority. The series is advertised on the Internet, in the regional newspaper and on posters.

**PROGRAMS ORGANIZED IN 2003 AND 2004**

**AFRICA (October 2003)**

The series kicked off with an African program because we felt the opening topic must be attractive for the public and because Liberec has always had African population. Thanks to our contacts with the university library, we were able to invite seven people from Benin, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, Sudan and Ethiopia. Some of them brought their Czech partners. Visitors have learned that the guest speakers originally came to the Czech Republic to study but remained and today work as respected journalists, doctors or librarians.

Topics discussed during the evening included religion, marriage, education, language as well as food, drinks and customs. The issue of racism in the Czech Republic was discussed openly. Petr Komers, the Czech editor of the African Reader and translator of Ahmadou Kourouma’s Allah Is not Obliged, spoke about the multitude of African tongues. In the course of the evening, guests not only talked, but also danced and used African tom-tom drums. When the evening was over, people had a chance to see African musical instruments, clothes, toys and utensils.

**HOW TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS ABROAD (December 2003)**

The goal was to compare customs of different countries. People from various cultures talked about Christmas celebrations in Germany, Poland, France, Slovakia, South
Jewish culture (April 2004)
Because a synagogue is a part of the library, the evening was co-organized together with the Jewish Community. Topics discussed included the history of the Jewish people or Jewish holidays (e.g. Passover) and their significance. The audience had an opportunity to see a manuscript of the Book of Esther (paper scroll) and to hear excerpts from it in Hebrew. The dance company Mayim performed traditional and modern Jewish dances. During the second half of the evening, the Jewish Community in Liberec presented its activities while the final discussion opened issues and problems ranging from conversion to Judaism, teaching of Hebrew and Israeli dance in the local synagogue, kosher food and causes of anti-Semitism to the current political situation in Israel. The evening ended on a lighter note with a few Jewish anecdotes.

The Roma (June 2004)
The Roma Community Center in Liberec has actively helped to organize the evening which kicked off with a presentation by Miroslav Kotlář Jr. (a coordinator for the Center) covering the voyage of the Roma from India to Europe and the people’s past and present. The translator and writer Emil Cina talked about the Romany language (and the 60 dialects spoken in Europe) and read some of his poems in Czech and Romany (including The Apple Tree and Gypsy Violin). Five extraordinary musicians then performed a variety of czardases from Slovakia, Hungary and Romania together with Roma dancers in colorful costumes. Visitors learned how to cook goya, gnocchi, lokshe, holubki or marikle, simple meals made from potatoes, flour and milk.

Czechs on Vietnam (November 2004)
The goal of the evening was to offer an informal look at the homeland of many of our fellow citizens. Visitors learned a lot of interesting things about life in Vietnam and the country’s history, customs and traditions from true experts - people from the Hanoi Club as well as the translator and expert on Vietnam Petr Komers). Then, the explorer Jana Patková talked about her travels in Vietnam and presented slides. Vietnamese tea and specialties were served during the break. The audience included young Vietnamese students of the Technical University in Liberec.
**What’s the life of Vietnamese people like in the Czech Republic?** (March 2005)

The audience found out how different life in the Czech Republic is from life in Vietnam, learning about the culture of the Vietnamese people, their customs, traditions, literature and art. The evening was hosted and also interpreted by Petr Komers and Ján Ičo, two Czech experts on Vietnam. Inspiring was the participation of a major Vietnamese artist, the academic painter Vu Quoc Chinh, who presented some of his paintings and talked about his first years in the Czech Republic, his art, inspirations and family. The second part of the evening belonged to future students of the Technical University in Liberec who arrived to the Czech Republic only in October in order to get ready for entrance exams by taking an intensive course in Czech. When asked what they missed most in Liberec, they said it was the sun (summer), family, Vietnamese cuisine (and especially crab soup), scooters and - as we were to find out later in the evening – Vietnam’s favorite pastime, karaoke. Everybody joined in at the end to sing Vietnamese songs. It was interesting to see how the Vietnamese guests cope with Czech: the older generation knows only little, while the youngest children can read Vietnamese fairytales in perfect Czech.
EVALUATION

The Blending Cultures series started in October 2003 and is scheduled to continue. The audience is always fairly large (80-100 people). In 2005, the library is going to focus on two new topics: the Arab world and mixed marriages.

COOPERATION

Because we view cooperation as very important, we persuaded the following organizations and individuals to take part in our series: the library of the Technical University, the Multicultural Center Prague, the Roma Community Center in Liberec, the Jewish Community in Liberec, the Union of Germans in Liberec, the Technical University’s Department of Czech and Geography, the Museum of North Bohemia, the Hanoi Club of Prague, foreign teachers from the Technical University, etc.

FUNDING

The library is funded by the Regional Authority of the Liberec Region, which also provides some of the funding required to organize the series (Department of social affairs, security and national minorities). The Multicultural Center Prague has co-financed some of the evenings.

TIPS

• The concept of the series about and for minorities must allow for continuity so that similar programs can be organized in the following years.
• Topics of the individual evenings must be interesting enough to attract attention.
• It is a good idea to involve as many organizations and individuals as possible in organizing and staging the evening – the more people in the audience the better.

CONTACT

Regional Research Library
Rumjancevova 1362/1
460 53 Liberec, Czech Republic
Telephone: +420 482 412 111
www.kvkli.cz

Blanka Konvalinková
Head of Cataloguing Department
konvalinkova@kvkli.cz
Cooperation with the Vietnamese community – the Municipal Library in Cheb

ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY
The library has an extensive collection of books (over 200,000 volumes) which is regularly enlarged taking into consideration the needs of minorities living in Cheb.

THE LIBRARY’S MULTICULTURAL SERVICES
• The Acquisition Department uses newsletters of booksellers and publishers and also likes to use the Multicultural Literature Acquisition Service newsletter published by the Multicultural Center Prague. What’s more, we print out this
newsletter and make it available to readers. If readers show interest in one of the recommended books, the library buys it.

- Users have access to up-to-date lists of books translated from various languages as well as books about the life and culture of various nations.
- There is a bulletin board showing information about websites and activities of minority organizations (e.g. the Hanoi Club).
- The library’s computers enable users to view pages not only in the Cyrillic alphabet, but also in Chinese and Japanese.

**MULTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

*From recognition to understanding, from understanding to coexistence*

The library started off by offering services to Cheb’s largest minority – the Vietnamese. However, there are also Chinese, Mongolian and Ukrainian communities living in and around Cheb. Throughout the year, we organize exhibitions, debates, lectures or fairytale children readings for and about these minorities. Since 2000, our multicultural activities take place under the joint heading From recognition to understanding, from understanding to coexistence.

We have decided to introduce the Vietnamese minority in a slightly different light. Our decision stemmed from the unacceptable behavior on the part of certain people from Cheb who had blatantly disrespected Vietnamese vendors and maliciously commented on their selling aptitude. We thought it would be best to reach out to general library users and present the Vietnamese not as market vendors, but rather as people with rich history and culture whose hard work, patience, modesty and persistence is an example for us, members of the majority society to follow.

To start with, we visited the relevant embassies, established friendly relations and obtained necessary information. Having done that, it is not too difficult to agree on a visit to the library based on personal contacts with ambassadors or cultural attaches.

Our staff members attended lectures on the history and culture of Vietnam organized by the School of Economics of the University of West Bohemia. Selected staff also attended an introductory course in the Vietnamese language and writing in order to be able to read and spell the names of the library’s Vietnamese users. Of the total 1,400 children readers, two hundred are from the Vietnamese community. We also have around one hundred adult Vietnamese readers. Our cooperation with the School of Economics is very good. The City Hall has welcomed our efforts to improve the quality of coexistence and its representatives began attending events organized by the library. We invite school children and people from retirement homes to all our opening nights, lectures, exhibitions and readings which we
advertise on posters. This promotion is inexpensive and rather effective because we have confirmed that people read street posters, especially when waiting for public transit.

In five years, the library has organized a number of events: an exhibition of photographs from Vietnam made by travelers as well as by Vietnamese people who tend to see their homeland in a different light. Each year, we commemorate the Vietnamese New Year with a lecture, a fashion show featuring ceremonial dresses, a presentation of traditions or a sampling of Vietnamese cuisine. We also organize book fairs featuring books on Vietnam as well as original and translated fiction. After some time, Vietnamese students started coming to our events, often accompanied by their parents.

Sampling of Vietnamese food to celebrate the Vietnamese New Year led us to the idea of teaching Czechs to cook Vietnamese delicacies. Although the library is far from being an ideal place for such an activity, a little bit of goodwill goes a long way. Later – during an informal meeting over Vietnamese tea (tea so strong that some people were not able to sleep until the wee hours) – a lively debate developed during which we learned that Vietnamese people living in the West are often very successful as outstanding tailors and that those living in the Czech Republic would like to work as tailors in the future.
We augmented our book collection with Vietnamese dictionaries and fiction that we received as a gift. However, Vietnamese readers want to read in Czech and integrate. Vietnamese people from the older generation who have the greatest problems with mastering the Czech language established a genuine Vietnamese library and an Internet café in Cheb.

In 2000, we decided to go east. Based on our experience with culture and life in the east that we have gained in the course of five years, it is safe to say that we have contributed to a better coexistence of Czechs and our new compatriots. We are richer now and that is something we can build on. Only he who has something can give to others.

COOPERATION
The library is a member of several associations (Czech-Vietnamese, Czech-Chinese, Czech-Japanese, Czech-Mongolian and Czech-Korean). Newsletters published by these associations help us organize exhibitions and be better informed about the life of minorities. Of course, the newsletters are available to our readers.

TIPS
• The library is consistent in promoting its activities. All events are advertised in the local press, the City Hall Gazette and the Cheb News, and we also try to get our events a mention on cable television and radio.
• We have set a beginning but not an end. We think that the well of good ideas is bottomless and we are happy that readers themselves now come with their own ideas for future events.

CONTACT
Municipal Library
Obrněné brigády 18
350 37 Cheb, Czech Republic
Telephone: + 420 354 422 368
www.knih-cheb.cz

MARIE MUDROVÁ
Head of the Adults Department and Deputy Director
MARIE.MUDROVA@KNIH-CHEB.CZ
The world meets in Prague 11 – Prague Municipal Library, Jírovčovo náměstí branch

ABOUT THE JÍROVČOVO NÁMĚSTÍ LIBRARY
The library is a smaller, automated branch of the Municipal Library of Prague located in Jižní Město, Prague’s largest housing development. The Municipal Library has a central library, 48 branches and 3 mobile libraries. Our branch has about 2,500 registered users. We know from our day-to-day operation that the nationality makeup of our users is no longer homogenous: we have Vietnamese, Russian, Ukrainian and Bulgarian readers, especially among children.
THE LIBRARY’S MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

- We are building collections in the languages of our largest foreign language groups, i.e. Vietnamese, Ukrainian and Russian (in cooperation with the Municipal Library headquarters).
- The library regularly updates lists of relevant books available to all readers. With the help of our small readers, we distribute these lists into their families.
- When it is clear that a particular reader is not Czech, librarians try to work with him or her on an individual basis and help them in any way necessary right from the first visit. It is crucial to assist such readers when they are getting to know the collection or searching for particular books, important information about our country or data on the Internet.

MULTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The world meets in Prague 11 (2003 and 2004)

We realize that we should serve to all readers as a gateway to today’s multicultural society, a mediator of mutual understanding and an extinguisher of possible mistrust which is often caused by ignorance or misunderstanding. This lies at the heart of all our multicultural activities.

Our initial objective was to combine, in a convenient and natural way, two annual events taking place in the fall - Days of Prague 11 and the nationwide Week of Libraries. Both events target the people of Jižní Město of all nationalities which the library would like to turn into readers.

Vietnam – a country of junks and hardworking people

The series World meets in Prague 11 began in October 2003 with an evening titled Vietnam - a country of junks and hardworking people. In cooperation with the Czech-Vietnamese Society and the Friends of Asia Club, we have organized a theme day for children and adults (advertised on posters and in the local newsletter Klíč). People from the Czech-Vietnamese Society and the Friends of Asia Club held a lecture on life in Vietnam, which was followed by debate, competition and presentation of traditional clothing and artifacts that Vietnamese children brought from home. A representative of the Embassy of Vietnam and the former consul general of the Czech Republic in Ho Chi Min City were the guests of honor.

For the evening, we have decorated the entire library with Vietnamese motifs and presented Czech and Vietnamese books from our collection, played Vietnamese music and offered Vietnamese refreshments. The audience was also introduced to the activities of the Friends of Asia Club Prague Yurt and cordially invited for a visit. The library regularly makes the club's program available to its readers.
Ukrainian vergunas

In a similar fashion, we later organized an evening entitled Ukrainian vergunas (a type of desert). We invited a children’s choir from the Ukrainian-Czech Society to present the folklore of their homeland in songs and dance. Children competed in a contest and could win assorted prizes. At the end, everybody could sample genuine Ukrainian vergunas baked for the occasion according to the original recipe.

New Year in Asia

At the end of January 2004, we took advantage of our good relationship with the Friends of Asia Club and organized a debate about the celebration of the New Year in selected countries of Asia. The library was decorated with colorful lanterns, typical Chinese cutouts and pictures related to the New Year painted by Vietnamese, Chinese, Mongolian and Korean children.

Jiří Šíma, the club’s chairman, introduced a Mongolian student living and studying in Prague and together they proceeded to make the lecture more interesting by showing traditional Mongolian costumes as well as the country’s traditional greeting, which all children loved. Again, there was a contest for children with the right answers being incorporated into the presentations. The atmosphere was full of the scent of aromatic sticks and teas with refreshments were served at the end.

Bulgaria – a land of rose oil

In 2004, we organized evenings focusing on Bulgaria and Slovakia with the help of the Bulgarian Institute, the Slovak Institute and the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of the Charles University. A large part of the cost was covered by the Borough of Prague 11.

Some of the successful concepts from the previous year were adapted and used again, including an introduction to the past and present of the selected country, contest for children (a simple contest during the evening and a long-term contest presented for a month on the library’s bulletin board), bilingual reading as a part of the Great October Joint Reading (Bulgarian-Czech, Slovak-Czech) as well as the popular sampling of national cuisine presented on tables decorated in the traditional styles of Bulgaria and Slovakia.

We made our second year’s events one step better with the help of richer decorations in the library, focusing on Bulgaria in the first week and on Slovakia in the second, more attractive promotion and a four-week contest for adults under the title What do you know about Bulgaria and Slovakia? The terms of the contest were announced in the library and in Klíč, the local newsletter. A large number of readers took part in the contest and its ten winners received valuable prizes from a representative of the Borough of Prague 11.
The two hosts of Bulgaria – a land of rose oil - Silvia, a Czech student of Slavic Studies at the Charles University, and Bogdan, a Bulgarian-born teacher of Bulgarian language and literature from Sofia and now a student of Czech for foreigners – were a tremendous success. The audience also loved a reading of folk tales about Nasredin in Bulgarian with a simultaneous Czech translation by a 9-year old Bulgarian reader and a Czech librarian. This, however, was later topped by a Bulgarian elementary school children’s choir, folk dancing including a lesson in the traditional Bulgarian dance of chora, and Bulgarian hip-hop.

Slovakia – our closest neighbor

Our next evening was Slovakia - our closest neighbor, so entitled because Slovakia is not only our closest regional partner in the heart of Europe with which we share our history, but also has a very similar language. Yet in spite of our geographical and linguistic proximity, our youngest generation is losing its ability to understand the Slovak language.

“The Brave Clown,” a Slovak tale performed by Viera Kučerová and Vladimír Štancl with marionettes, was for us a natural way of presenting Slovak to children. Members of the Club of Slovak Culture, using both languages and huge marionettes, scored high marks with the children audience. Children who were able to remember the largest number of Slovak words went home with a CD recording of a Slovak fairytale and Slovak books.

In the course of Days of Prague 11, the library hosted an exhibition of Slovakia’s Most Beautiful Book for the years 2000, 2001 and 2002, on loan from the Slovak Institute in Prague.

EVALUATION

The listed events were successful and well received by the public as well as by a representative of the Department of Culture from the Borough of Prague 11 who promised to continue providing support to our series next year. When sharing information and experience at last year’s conference for librarians organized by the Multicultural Center Prague, we were reassured that it is well worth continuing in what we do. The conference was a great impulse for us.

Minorities will be the subject of World meets in Prague 11 also in 2005. The name of the series and its focus more and more correspond with the changing reality of Jižní Město – the national makeup of residents and consequently of our readers is increasingly diverse. Our goal is to help members of minorities find their way around the majority society and show others the rich culture that our new compatriots bring with them to our country.
COOPERATION
We cooperate with many organizations, including the Slovak Institute in Prague, the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts of the Charles University, the Bulgarian Institute, the Friends of Asia Club and the Czech-Vietnamese Society.

FUNDING
The Borough of Prague 11 covered a large part of the cost of organizing the events.

TIPS
• Children of foreigners have fewer problems with integrating into the majority society than their parents. Based on their experience, librarians say that it is very important to motivate them properly to work together with the library, for example through debates or contests. We should not forget to honor their achievements and present their results, saving some praise for their families and Czech classmates.

CONTACT
Prague Municipal Library
Jírovcovo náměstí Branch
Jírovcovo nám. 1782
148 00 Prague 4 - Chodov
Czech Republic
Telephone: + 420 271 913 593
www.mlp.cz

Iva Brožíková and Jitka Varyšová
Librarians
jirovcovo@mlp.cz
Cooperation with the Roma community – Municipal Library in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm

ABOUT THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY IN ROŽNOV POD RADHOŠTĚM

The library’s location in a villa on the right bank of Bečva is great for its easy accessibility. On the ground floor, we have the adult and children departments and a small music corner. On the first floor, there is a study hall and a reading room offering around one hundred different periodicals. There is also our regional collection, audio library and two computer workstations with Internet access. In the wooden attic, there is a gallery.
THE LIBRARY'S MULTICULTURAL SERVICES

- Regular debates and library lessons for a special-needs school which has some Roma students.
- Entertaining afternoons for a foster home club. There are children of different nationalities in the foster home, including Roma children.
- The library’s website is available in Dutch – Rožnov is a popular tourist destination and often, Dutch is more frequent than German.
- The library has books in German, French, English, Polish, Russian, Slovak and Dutch. Thanks to a Dutch couple living in Rožnov, we had a visit from the Dutch city of Bussum and received as a gift a box of fiction books in Dutch. We also received a gift of Polish books.
- The main door to the library features flags of countries the literature of which we offer. The flags are also a sign of respect for those entering, be it tourists or Czechs wishing to improve their language skills.
MULTICULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Three years ago, we still had a large Roma community in our city. We established a regular contact with Roma children through a community worker from the People in Need foundation.

For two years, the library organized a monthly afternoon program full of entertainment and competitions for the foster home club as well as the general public. We have been organizing events for the foster home club for over 25 years. Sometimes, it was necessary to slightly adapt the rules of competitions for Rožnov’s Roma children or the children from the foster home. Foster home children are visibly more educated and active than others, even compared to children from the majority society. However, adaptation of rules was not required every time: the Great Marbles Day saw children mixing in a completely natural way. The individuality of both groups was most visible in competitions organized as a part of the Witch Day (throwing the broom, cooking a healing potion, costume parade).

We used to grant special treatment to older Roma children aged 12-15. One hour a week, they had the right of way when using computers connected to the Internet. This opportunity was mostly seized by boys. The library also initiated a debate between the city authorities and Mr. Kumar Vishwanathan from India, who has great experience with working with the Roma community in Ostrava. He shared a lot of his experience with our librarians and provided motivation for our future work.

Together with the citizens’ group Healthy Rožnov, we took Roma children on a number of trips to the nature, celebrating the solstice at the ruins of Hradisko or cleaning up tourist trails near our city.

Week of Roma culture in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm

A staff member of the Roma Society of Moravia, born in Rožnov and from her early childhood an avid reader and user of the library, approached us with the offer to take part in the Week of Roma Culture in Rožnov. The goal is to present various aspects of life of a minority in general and support culture and integration of the Roma community in particular. The event is a follow up to last year’s successful Week of Jewish Culture which we organized in cooperation with the Foundation for the Victims of the Holocaust. This year, the library provided a part of its premises to display an exhibition of children’s drawings and hosted an accompanying concert of Rožnov’s Roma choir. The Week of Roma Culture is a part of a project organized by Romane Dzhaja.
As a part of the Week of Roma Culture, the library takes part in the following:
• Who are the Roma? – An exhibition of children’s drawings
• Who are the Roma? – A debate with members of the Roma Society of Moravia about history, ethnic composition and mutual coexistence. Performance of the dance company Romane Dzhaja from Rožnov.

EVALUATION
Three years ago, the city hall had approved the removal of most Roma from the city and our two years of work with Roma children came to an end. The Roma people moved to different places and the community worker left with them. Today, we are trying hard to establish contact with the few remaining Roma children in Rožnov. However, we need a contact person for that. But the foster home club continues to work well and as mentioned earlier, its members include Roma children. This year, we succeeded in getting the city to build a halfway house and we have heard that Roma families would like to return to Rožnov.

COOPERATION
We cooperate with the Roma Society of Moravia and the Rožnov-based organization Romane Dzhaja. In our border region, our library cooperates with two Slovak libraries, one Polish library, and we are about to sign an agreement with a library from Hungary.

We work closely with the Slovak town of Šrem and have organized a literary competition for children from Rožnov and Šrem calling for invented legends from their respective home towns. The competition led to the publication of a bilingual book containing the collected stories. Winners of the competition met with their counterparts on the Czech-Slovak border as a part of the annual festive opening of old smuggling routes. The library also cooperates with other libraries in Slovakia and Hungary.

Rožnov is interested in developing tourism and is therefore very actively looking for foreign partners.

CONTACT
Municipal Library in Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
Bezručova 519, 756 61 Rožnov pod Radhoštěm
Czech Republic
Telephone: + 420 571 654 747
www.knir.cz

Jarmila Mikulášková
Director
jarhal@knir.cz

Libraries for All: The Role of Public Libraries in a Multicultural Society
CONFERENCES

Every year, the Multicultural Center Prague organizes an international conference for librarians and information officers focusing on the relationship between public libraries and national minorities and foreigners. The conferences are a platform for exchange of experience related to work with minorities in libraries and serve as an important source of worthy information. Czech librarians can find inspiration in lectures by librarians from abroad presenting their experience with introducing a multicultural approach in their home libraries. For more information about past conferences, please visit www.mkc.cz or write to infocentrum@mkc.cz.

REGIONAL WORKSHOPS INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE IN LIBRARIES

The Multicultural Center Prague organizes one-day training workshops for librarians titled Intercultural Dialogue in Libraries. The training aims at developing intercultural competencies of librarians related to working with minorities, multicultural education, acquisition of multicultural literature, multicultural marketing in libraries, etc. Workshops can be tailored to a library’s particular needs. For more information, write to infocentrum@mkc.cz.

LIBRARY OF THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER PRAGUE

Our library serves both specialists and the general public. Our multilingual collection covers a wide range of topics including minorities in the Czech Republic and...
abroad, intercultural education, cultures and their interaction, migration and refugees, nation and nationalism, cultural and social anthropology and multicultural librarianship.

The catalogue is available online at www.mkc.cz/knihovna and half of the library stock is in English.

The library is open twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays. We are looking forward to seeing you.

[MULTIKULT] NEWSLETTER

The [multikulti] newsletter is designed for people who are interested in receiving and sharing information about multiculturalism and want to be kept up-to-date with multicultural events and activities within the Czech Republic and abroad. The weekly [multikulti] newsletter, which is distributed electronically and free of charge, currently reaches over 900 subscribers from all walks of life, from NGOs, cultural centers, activists, research institutions, journalists, students, writers, government officials to teachers and librarians.
Using [multikulti], you can distribute invitations and notices from your organization or disseminate interesting multicultural news (lectures, conferences, seminars, books, projects, research, exhibitions, concerts, grants, etc.) To subscribe, please write to infocentrum@mkc.cz.

The service is only in Czech.

**CALENDAR OF MULTICULTURAL EVENTS ON OUR WEBSITE – WWW.MKC.CZ**

A calendar of multicultural events organized by the Multicultural Center Prague and others. If you wish to add your multicultural event that is held within the Czech Republic or abroad to the calendar, please write to infocentrum@mkc.cz. The service is only in Czech.

**WWW.ROZMANITOST.CZ**

The website devoted to multiculturalism, multicultural literature and librarianship has been created as a part of Diversity in Libraries. Apart from news about Diversity in Libraries, the website offers librarians and information officers a source of information about multicultural education and practice in libraries. You can access studies and articles about interculturalism in libraries, acquisition tips for procurement of new multicultural literature, documents from conferences and workshops for librarians, calendar of multicultural events or tips on how to organize them. The website is created in Czech version only.

**MULTICULTURAL LITERATURE ACQUISITION SERVICE**

This service has been designed to regularly and fully inform libraries about new literature related to multicultural issues published in the Czech Republic. Subscribers receive a monthly electronic newsletter containing a selection of fiction and non-fiction material recently published by Czech publishers. The selection includes recommended fiction by authors from different cultures and of various colors of skin and languages, popular non-fiction about ethnic groups and national minorities or interesting scientific publications covering multicultural issues.

The service is provided in partnership with Kosmas (www.kosmas.cz), the Czech Internet bookstore, and the selection is also available at www.rozmanitost.cz.
INTERCULTURAL WORKSHOPS

Libraries may choose to organize on their premises intercultural workshops for children put together by the Multicultural Center Prague. The workshops are designed to stir children’s interest in discovering different cultures, the representatives of which they meet every day on the street, in school or in the neighborhood store without knowing much about them.

The workshops cover the following nations and groups: Vietnamese; Roma; Chinese; nations and nationalities of the former USSR; and monotheistic religions.

The intercultural workshops aim at developing interest in getting to know other people, freeing people of stereotypes and prejudices, and exploring one’s attitudes. The workshops utilize an original methodology developed by MKC Prague. For more information, please visit www.mkc.cz.

KOSMAS.CZ/MKC

Kosmas.cz, a leading Czech online bookstore, is a long-term partner and supporter of the Multicultural Center Prague.

If you choose to buy books from Kosmas.cz using the link www.kosmas.cz/mkc, you will be supporting the activities of the Multicultural Center Prague (Kosmas.cz will transfer 6% of the total invoiced amount to MKC Prague as a gift). Of course, your wallet will not be any emptier as you pay the regular price charged by Kosmas.cz. Thank you for your support!

BOOKS PUBLISHED BY THE MULTICULTURAL CENTER PRAGUE

Books published by the Multicultural Center Prague are available from our office (Vodičkova 36, Palác Lucerna, Prague) or you can order them by phone (+420 296 325 345) or by e-mail (infocentrum@mkc.cz). If you wish to order some book, please contact infocentrum@mkc.cz.
**Social and Cultural Diversity in Central and Eastern Europe: Old Factors and New**

Prague: Multicultural Center: 2004. Proceedings from the 1st grade seminar Social and Cultural Diversity in Central and Eastern Europe, which proceeded on October 2004 in Prague by Multicultural Center Prague. The text contains important contributions about ethnic, religion and cultural differences, cultural and migration politics etc. PDF version (in English).

**We and the Others: A Guidebook for Multicultural Education in Elementary Schools**

Prague: Multicultural Center, 2003. ISBN 80-239-2099-5. 1st edition, 83 pages. The objective of this publication is to facilitate integration of people of different persuasions, lifestyles, skin colors or sexual orientations who meet today in the Czech Republic’s schools. The guidebook contains a theoretical introduction and specific activities. There is a CD-Rom version and a printed version of the guidebook. Czech version only. Price: CZK 290 (guidebook + CD) Price: CZK 100 (CD only)

**Hard to Make Out foreigners: How foreigners are (not) written about in the Czech press**


A Czech-English publication that tries to answer the question of what we think about foreigners and minorities living in the Czech Republic and what information we have about them from the media. You can pick up a free copy from our office.

**Jurková, Zuzana; Horáková, Kateřina. Ethnic music in school: A methodology for getting to know non-European music in elementary and secondary schools.**


Music can be the right and efficient tool to learn about the cultural, musical, religious and social history of regions and nations. The publication (only in Czech version), which is a result of an educational project focusing on ethnic music, contains an accompanying audio CD. Manipulation fee: CZK 200 (publication + CD)

**What? Me? A racist?**


This comic book is an attractive and funny educational aid commenting on the everyday coexistence in a society of people with different skin color, gender, social status, age and religion. Czech version only. Price: CZK 90 (the comics is sold out but available from our library).
Libraries for All

The Role of Public Libraries in a Multicultural Society

Published by the Multicultural Center Prague

EDITED BY
Barbora Hořavová and Daniela Richterová

TRANSLATED BY
Daniel Urban

DESIGNED BY
Zita Navrátilová

© Multicultural Center Prague

Multicultural Center Prague
Vodičkova 36 (Lucerna Palace)
116 02 Prague 1, Czech Republic
Telephone/Fax: +420 296 325 345

WWW.MKC.CZ
infocentrum@mkc.cz

Prague 2005
Diversity in Libraries
Promotion materials sample

2003-2004
...a tolerant society, open to difference and making the most of cultural variety...

The mission of the Multicultural Center Prague is to prove that multicultural coexistence is possible and enriching on all levels.

The Multicultural Center Prague is a non-governmental non-profit organization. Ever since its activities began in 1999, it has attained its goals by means of public debates, a variety of educational, cultural and public informational activities, research, publications and the establishment of links between individuals and organizations with similar aims within the Czech Republic and abroad.

www.mkc.cz

Multicultural Center Prague
Vodičkova 36 (Lucerna Palace)
Prague 1, Czech Republic
Telephone/fax: + 420 296 325 345
infocentrum@mkc.cz