




Agnieszka Łuszek
Uniwersytet Wrocławski, Wrocław, Polska
agnieszka.luszek@uwr.edu.pl
 0000-0002-2926-5745

Library and book studies journals of the first half of the twentieth century within the Czech lands

Abstract: Professional and scientific periodicals dedicated to the library workers definitely contribute to the development of librarianship and evolution of the book studies. Therefore, the aim of this article was to draw a landscape of the journals for the library community within the Czech lands in the first half of the twentieth century. The reasons of establishing individual titles, their authors, structure, and other formal features were presented. The subjects of four professional journals were also discussed, namely: ‘Česke knihovnictví’, ‘Kniha’, ‘Knihy a knihovny’, and ‘Časopis československých knihovníků’, and one scientific journal – ‘Slovanska knihověda’.

Keywords: librarianship, library journals, book studies journals, the First Republic period, the years 1900–1939, Czech lands

Introduction

Professional library journals emerging at the beginning of the twentieth century are definitely an important element of institutionalization of the book and library science. The First Republic period is the time of very intensive development of librarianship, specifically public. Professional journals offered to the professional associations emerging in the same period a space for development of theoretical concepts and presentation of practical solutions in the library field. Nevertheless, the library and book press is rather seldom discussed in the Czech literature. All the more so in Polish publications, this topic appears sporadically. Journals of the book community is worth looking at, because an interesting image of the level of library science of that time, relationships within the book community, or reflection of library practice can be found in such periodicals. Moreover, they are an interesting material to observe the meritorious and formal development of professional journals.

The time framework of the article includes the period from the beginning of the 20th century until World War II. The first periodical dedicated to librarians was published in the year 1900, namely ‘Česke knihovnictví’. The following attempts of establishing a library journal had already been made in the interwar period. The titles such as ‘Kniha’, ‘Knihy a knihovny’, were published in that time, and ‘Časopis československých knihovníků’, the latter has existed for many years. The only book science journal was also published in that time, namely ‘Slovanska Knihověda’. The outbreak of World War II as well as political and social changes which took place after its ending, naturally ended a specific period of development of the Czech professional and scientific periodicals of the book people. ‘Slovanska Knihověda’ ceased to be published, and ‘Časopis’ significantly decreased its volume. The organisations which published these titles also ceased to operate, namely Ustředni spolek československých knihovníků and Československa společnost knihovědna. They were replaced by Svaz českých knihovníků established in 1945.

The beginnings of professional periodicals of the book people

The first attempts to publish a journal concerning library issues were made within the Czech lands when it was still a part of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. Even then, there was a relatively dense network of Czech public libraries.¹

1 Quite divergent data can be found in the literature. According to J. Cejpek, there were 3,883 Czech public libraries in the Czech lands in 1910 (cf. J. Cejpek, J. Činčera, I. Hlaváček, P. Kneidl, *Dějiny knihoven a knihovnictví*, Praha 2002, p. 181). And according to J.L. Živny’s calculations, there were 1,353 public libraries in the Czech and Slovak lands in 1910, established mainly by educational associations (cf. J.L. Živny, *On the rational organisation of public libraries*, “Bibliotekarz” 1936/37 no. 11–12 p. 121).

There was thus a potential audience for the professional press. This is why Zdenek V. Tobolka, a historian by training, who in 1927, became the first Czech to obtain an assistant professorship in 'knižověda', or library science, at the Charles University, created a magazine for librarians as early as 1900. He titled it 'Česke knihovnictví', with the subtitle 'Časopis věnovaný potřebám českých knihoven'. The magazine appeared for only one year, from October 1900 to October 1901. At the end of the last issue, there was an explanation as to why it only appeared after a six-month break. As expected, it was a matter of finance. The publisher, Dr. F. Bačkovský, decided to stop financing the unprofitable venture that 'Česke knihovnictví' turned out to be (it gained only 66 subscribers). However, according to Z. Tobolka, the publisher did not promote the periodical properly; in fact, immediately after the first issue was published, he decided to withdraw, contrary to the agreement, and Tobolka fought to keep the magazine. The price of the entire volume was 12 crowns and no single issues were sold.

A total of 7 issues were published, bound together and numbered together, a total number of 204 pages. Active librarians of different professional background were publishing there, such as Dr. Jan Emler, a lawyer and historian by education; the poet and writer Antonín Sova; and the writer, translator, and diplomat Dr. Bořivoj Prusík, who soon formed the basis of modern librarianship in the now independent state.

The journal was divided into sections such as Articles (14 in the entire volume); Book Reviews (13); Literary Advices (titles that should be in libraries. It is interesting to note that the following were recommended: *Potop*, *Ogniem i mieczem*, *Quo vadis* by H. Sienkiewicz, *Chata za wsią*, *Czarna perła* by J.I. Kraszewski, and *Pan Tadeusz* by A. Mickiewicz); From our Libraries and Reading Rooms; News, Bibliographical News; Announcements and Discussions. Information on conferences, conventions, etc. was also published. Efforts were made to maintain a uniform layout of sections in each issue. The journal was illustrated.

In terms of content, contrary to the title, the Editorial Board's interest was not limited to Czech librarianship. The journal also had the ambition to report on libraries in Europe and the United States. Thus, even though each issue of the magazine is actually a description of different libraries, mainly Czech, when presenting foreign institutions, it was emphasised that they should serve as role models for Czech librarians. And when writing about their own home, reference was made to foreign libraries or reading rooms that should be taken as an example. The texts from the first issue on public libraries in England² or pub-

2 B. Prusík, *Lidove knihovny a verejne citarny v Anglii*, "Česke knihovnictví" 1900 no 1 pp. 8–13.

lic reading rooms³ can be cited here. In subsequent issues, other noteworthy institutions were presented, such as libraries in Denmark⁴ or Klementinum, the most important Czech library,⁵ but also the public library in Česká Budějovice.⁶ Some articles were quite long and appeared in parts in subsequent issues, for example Jan Emler's jubilee memoir on Gutenberg.⁷

Other articles of a different type, not descriptions of libraries, but helpful for librarians, have been published concerning the arrangement of libraries from the... health and hygiene perspective.⁸ The authors advised on the easiest way to keep a library clean, how often it should be aired, how much daylight it should have, what bacteria lurk in library rooms, and how in this regard to disinfect books most effectively. The review section published discussions of works not only from the Czech Republic but also from France and Germany. There was also a Polish accent, i.e., a review of the monthly 'Książki', dedicated to critical bibliography. It was written as 'a scientifically very good and much needed journal' ['bardzo dobre pod względem naukowym i bardzo potrzebne czasopismo'⁹].

It should also be noted that it was thanks to this journal that Czech librarians became familiar with decimal classification for the first time. Abbreviated UDC tables of 38 pages and an alphabetical index with instructions on how to use them in libraries and bibliographies were added to the periodical.

An analysis of the journal enables conclusion that it aimed to raise the level of Czech librarianship, primarily through the presentation of Anglo-Saxon ideas of public librarianship, in opposition to German models, orientated more towards scientific librarianship.

The professional journals of the book people in the period of the First Republic

Before World War I, there were no further attempts to publish a professional library journal in the Czech land. On 28 October 1918, the establishment of an independent Czechoslovakia was proclaimed. The Czech Republic regained its

3 F. Hauser, *Veřejne citarny*, "Českie knihovnictví" 1900 no. 1 pp. 1–7.

4 A.S. Steenberg, *Lidové knihovny v Dánsku*, "Českie knihovnictví" 1900 no. 5 pp. 127–129.

5 Z. Tobolka, *Veřejna a universitní knihovna w Praze*, "Českie knihovnictví" 1900 no. 1 pp. 14–15.

6 J. Müller, *Veřejna lidová knihovna v Českých Budějovicach*, "Českie knihovnictví" 1900 no. 1 pp. 16–17.

7 J. Emler, *Jan Gutenberg*, "Českie knihovnictví" 1900 no. 3, 1901 no. 4.

8 V. Krahulík, *O zařízení veřejných knihoven a čítaren se stanoviska zdravotnickeho*, "Českie knihovnictví" no. 5 pp. 129–131 and J. Květ, *Nakaza knihou*, "Českie knihovnictví" no. 7 pp. 170–173.

9 *Zpravy bibliografické*, "Českie knihovnictví" no. 6 p. 180.

sovereignty and, at the same time, united with Slovakia. Very soon, on 22 July 1919, the *Zákon o veřejných knihovnách*, the first library law, was passed.¹⁰ It stipulated the obligation to create public libraries in every local community, and in communities where there were at least 400 representatives of national minorities, also special branches for these groups. Thus, the necessity to educate librarians arose, especially since in communities with more than 10,000 inhabitants the position of librarian could no longer be regarded as a side job, but was to be the main occupation. Despite the provisions of the law, as late as the mid-1920s professional librarians still ran only 0.64% of the libraries, and more than half of the public libraries were occupied by teachers, clerks, or writers.¹¹ Librarians therefore had to be educated and provided with professional support. There was a belief that it was the professional periodicals that should act as a support and guide to the world of books, especially since the staff of public libraries were largely engaged in educational work that required appropriate training. The professional journals were to constitute, in addition to the Prague library school and the two-year courses at the Faculty of Philosophy of Charles University or the conferences or workshops organised by the *Spolek československých knihovníků a jejich přátel* the main source of knowledge about library practice.

For this reason, already a year after the establishment of Czechoslovakia and a few months after the above-mentioned law was passed, Jan Ladislav Živny, a leading theoretician and practitioner of Czechoslovak librarianship, started publishing the journal '**Kniha**'. On 23 October 1919, the first issue was published, but the journal only came out for a year, until 1920, just like Z. Tobolka's earlier '*Českie knihovnictví*'. The publisher was St. Minařík. The magazine appeared irregularly, some of it as double issues. The entire volume of "Kniha", i.e., 10 issues, had 92 pages. The structure of the magazine was fairly typical: Articles, Bibliography, Literature, Information on the activities of the *Spolku československých knihovníků a jejich přátel*, Information from foreign library organisations, Library practice, News.

As for the content presented in the pages of "Kniha", the originator of the magazine promoted American, English, and Scandinavian models. He was the first of the Czech librarians to learn about public librarianship in Western Europe from autopsy. Already since his first trip to England in 1902, he had established contacts with professional organisations from other countries. His subsequent trips to Scandinavian countries were also a source of professional inspiration.

10 *Zákon ze dne 22. července 1919 o veřejných knihovnách obecním*, <https://www.aspi.cz/products/lawText/1/1331/0/2/zakon-c-430-1919-sb-o-verejnych-knihovnach-obecnich/zakon-c-430-1919-sb-o-verejnych-knihovnach-obecnich>.

11 Cf. J.L. Živny, *On the rational organisation of public libraries*, "Bibliotekarz" 1936/37 no. 11–12.

J.L. Živny became the organiser of public librarianship in Czech lands and its leading theorist. B. Koutnik even called him ‘the last librarian polyhistor’¹².

However, contrary to the broad interests of the magazine’s creator, the pages of ‘Kniha’ are dominated by fairly typical content, often being descriptions of various libraries that could serve as role models.¹³ Thus, the subject of the articles was specific for professional journals aimed at helping librarians in their daily work, especially employees without professional experience, running small, newly established institutions. Therefore, texts deal with very basic issues and practical matters. For example, information on ephemeras or brochures, how to deal with their processing, as they often pose problems, or an article on caring for books. These publications were often translations of works from the Western library press and were placed in the Library Practice section.

Obviously, some papers presented a slightly different approach, such as the article by the journal’s creator on the information service. It shows his modern approach to librarianship and his attempts to instil this attitude among the Czechs. He emphasised the great role that information about collections plays in the life of libraries: ‘modern bibliography has become the key that opens reservoirs of knowledge that, for various reasons, have not been accessible before’ [‘nowoczesna bibliografia stała się kluczem, który otwiera pokłady wiedzy, do której z różnych przyczyn nie było dotąd dostępu’¹⁴]. Libraries can – and should! – resurrect old, unused collections by providing information about them, as he stressed in his text. There were also texts on the history of libraries¹⁵ or postulates for the creation of a library museum-archive that would collect documents on the development of Czechoslovak librarianship.¹⁶

The journal included quite a lot of information from England and America regarding librarians’ conventions. The American Library Association programme was published, and in printed greetings from the British Library Association, information about the English Library School was included. There were also brief descriptions of foreign libraries, as well as information about the activities of the librarians’ own organisation, the Spolku československých knihovníků a jejich přátel. The ‘Kniha’ also published lists of recommended books of fiction to help small public libraries, and lists of recommended foreign professional literature for librarians.

12 B. Koutnik, *Sedemsatka Jana Ladislava Živný*, “Časopis československých knihovníků” 1942 no. 1 p. 7.

13 For example, V. Vojtišek, *Knihovna Archivu města Prahy*; V.F. Suk, *Knihovna Společnosti Pedagogického Musea Komenského v Praze*; F. Vlasek, *O knihovne Karla Havlíčka Borovského*; A. Rambousek, *Pražská periodni učitel'ska knihovna*, etc.

14 J.L. Živny, *Biblioteky a ustavy informační*, “Kniha” 1919 no. 9–10 pp. 85–86.

15 J. Volf, *K dějinám veřejných půjčoven knih v Čechách do r. 1848*, “Kniha” 1919 no. 1 pp. 1–3.

16 J. Thon, *Knihovnické museum*, “Kniha” 1919 no. 1 pp. 4–5.

Almost simultaneously with the “Kniha” journal, another periodical began to appear, entitled ‘**Knihy a knihovny**’, with the subtitle ‘Revue venovány knihovnictví, knihopisu a knihomilství’. The editors of this periodical were Zdenek Tobolka (founder of the prewar journal ‘Česke knihovnictví’) and Josef Volf. The publisher was the well-known bookseller and publisher František Řivnáč. This quarterly, like the previously described journals, also appeared for only one year, from January 1920 to October 1921. The total number of pages was 188.

Why was another journal established, even though the simultaneous existence of two periodicals of a very similar nature, with similar topics and the same target group could not be expected? Z. Tobolka and J. Volf started their publishing activities not much later than *Živny*, and it was quite obvious that the librarianship community was not so numerous that two professional journals could sustain themselves. In fact, both periodicals collapsed after only their first year of operation.

In his journal, *Živny* did not forget to mention the new magazine founded in January. He wrote that after the enactment of the Library Act, a lot started to happen in librarianship, and one can also notice an increased publication activity. He felt that the profile of the two magazines was a little different, however, so perhaps there was a chance for them to co-exist, reaching a slightly different audience.¹⁷ The editors of ‘Knihy’ were focused on solving practical, everyday professional problems, and – judging from the first issue – ‘Knihy a knihovny’ had ambitions to become a rather scientific periodical.

Indeed, the journal published the text entitled *Zákon o veřejných knihovnách*, which emphasised that in modern countries, a library means not only lending libraries, but also reading rooms, and that children must be taught to use a library from an early age, because if they become fond of books in childhood, they will always read them.¹⁸ Or the text *Poslani veřejnych knihoven*.¹⁹ However, an analysis of the journal reveals that it was not so different from ‘Knihy’ at all. Quite a lot of space was devoted to issues of library practice and current affairs. For example, Z. Tobolka included a series of specific pieces of advice for novice librarians, such as: the floor in the library should be covered with linoleum, because it is easy to keep clean and dampens noise; a separate reading room for women is unnecessary, a separate table is enough if they do not want to sit at one with the men; library rooms need to be aired regularly, etc.²⁰ A text

17 Zpravy, “Knihy” 1920 no. 4–5 p. 51.

18 K. Velemínský, *Zákon o veřejných knihovnách*, “Knihy a knihovny” 1920 no. 1 pp. 1–5.

19 F. Sumbal, *Poslani veřejnych knihoven*, “Knihy a knihovny” 1920 no. 1 pp. 7–9.

20 Z. Tobolka, *Praktické rady knihovníkovi*, “Knihy a knihovny” 1920 no. 1 pp. 27–36, no. 2–3 pp. 75–81.

by J.L. Živný, after all the editor of a rival journal, in which he proposed a revision of many of the decimal classification symbols due to post-war political and geographical changes,²¹ certainly was also helpful to librarians.

‘*Knihy a knihovny*’ also reported on book institutions, for example on the tasks of the reformed *Ustav bilbiograficky* or on postal libraries, sometimes also on the activities of the *Spolk*, on courses for library workers and the library school in Prague. The staff section was certainly interesting to the community, stating who changed jobs, who was appointed to what position, etc. The journal also featured library descriptions, as did ‘*Knihy*’, but here they were included mainly in the News, not as main articles. Besides, these were descriptions of scientific or monastic libraries with extensive collections, not public libraries that could serve as models for librarians in the provinces.

Reviews of both Czech and foreign publications were included. There were also lists of recommended works, published separately, some very critical, by Z. Tobolka. There were also very flattering reviews of Živný’s work *Trídění bibliologické*, about which it was written as follows: ‘I consider Živný’s current book to be his best book in the field of library science’ [‘Aktualną książkę Živneho uważam za najlepszą jego książkę z dziedziny bibliotekoznawstwa’]. Tobolka wrote in a similarly complimentary way about Volf’s book *Veřejne knihovny*, stating that this work is an essential textbook for every librarian.

However, as J. Cejpek concluded that this periodical, ‘although it dealt primarily with practical issues of our librarianship, did not arouse sufficient interest among librarians’ [‘choć zajmował się przeważnie praktycznymi zagadnieniami naszego bibliotekarstwa, nie wzbudził dostatecznego zainteresowania wśród bibliotekarzy’²²]. Consequently, it disappeared from the market rather quickly.

The first library journal that did not turn out to be an ephemera was ‘**Časopis československých knihovníků**’. Published between 1922 and 1944, it was the organ of the *Spolek československých knihovníků a jejich přátel*, the first Czech professional organisation of library workers. From 1935 onwards, *Časopis* was published by the *Ustředni spolek československých knihovníků*, which was formed by the merger of the aforementioned *Spolek* and the *Spolek veřejných obecních knihovníků* in 1927. This certainly helped it stay in business, as it immediately had a guaranteed audience among *Spolek* members (in 1921 it had 130 members).

How did *Časopis* come into being? As early as October 1920, the congress of graduates of the 1st *Státní knihovnické škola* discussed the need for a professional journal for library workers, as well as for students at library schools

21 J.L. Živný, *K otazce revise desetinného trídění* “*Knihy a knihovny*” 1920 no. 2–3 pp. 52–55.

22 J. Cejpek, J. Činčera, I. Hlaváček, P. Kneidl, *Dějiny knihoven a knihovnictví*, Praha 2002, p. 190.

(‘*Knihy a knihovny*’ had just ceased to be published). There was still a lack of professional literature on the market, so the content published in the pages of such a magazine would be an invaluable aid to library work. It was also immediately assumed that such a journal should be published by the *Spolek československých knihovníků a jejich přátel*, at the same time promoting knowledge of it and its activities. Equally important was also that, being an organ of the *Spolek*, the magazine could receive state subsidies, which would at least to some extent secure the financial side of a risky venture, as previous attempts had shown.

On 13 June 1921. B. Koutník and other librarians discussed the design of the journal. It was planned to be a monthly. The calculation showed that financially this periodical had a chance to exist, especially with subsidies from MŠANO and provided that branch advertisements were included. It is clear that the experience of previous creators and editors of library journals, namely Z. Tobolka, J. Volf, and J.L. Zivný – who were present at the meeting, by the way – did not encourage risk taking. In the discussion, J. Volf pointed out that the cost of royalties had not been taken into account, and Z. Tobolka remarked that it was better to plan publication of an annual, as the monthly journal would quickly run out of material. Despite these reservations, it was decided to make another attempt to create a professional journal for librarians, and on 31 March 1922 the first issue of ‘*Časopis československých knihovníků*’ was published.

As the periodical had been on the shelf for 22 years, there were some changes in its design. For example, from the second year onwards, continuous numbering was used within the volume, and different layout and section names appeared. However, the journal essentially consisted of articles and bibliography. Information on the Library Act, *Spolk*, librarians’ training, descriptions of public and other libraries, obituaries, and personnel matters was also published. From the 13th volume in 1934, decimal classification symbols appeared under the titles of articles. The frequency of the journal also changed. Initially planned as a monthly, 10 issues per year were published (often double or even triple issues), and from volume 7 in 1928 it changed into a quarterly. Illustrations and trade ads were sometimes included in the magazine.

at the beginning of the first issue, Josef Volf explained to readers why it was decided to establish a new journal. After the introduction of the Public Libraries Act in 1919, librarianship was developing intensively, librarianship schools and courses were being established, and there was still a lack of a forum to discuss the profession and library work. The journal also aimed to establish contacts with the Slavic and Anglo-American libraries. The editors also assumed that the existence of a librarianship journal would allow one to raise the prestige of the profession in society by promoting the attitude of an active librarian-educator. Through their periodical, the librarians also wanted to establish closer

relations with representatives of related professions, i.e. museum professionals and archivists.²³

It is, of course, impossible to perform a detailed content analysis of so many volumes of the periodical here. However, it can be certain that 'Časopis' was a forum for library life. In addition to professional or scientific articles or descriptions of various libraries, it provided information about librarians' congresses (for example, in Prague, Plzeň, Olomouc, or České Budějovice); scientific meetings of librarians belonging to the Association or workshops; it discussed the Association's plans, financial matters, etc. News about such activities can be found in almost every issue of the journal.

Furthermore, the 'Časopis' included a bibliography of Czechoslovak and then (from 1939) Czech book science. A total of 15 volumes were published between 1929 and 1942, covering the years 1928–1942, with occasional thematic issues, such as *Sborník věnovaný oslavě L.J. Živného* in 1933.

The periodical was highly regarded by librarians. On the tenth anniversary of its existence, a text was published by B. Koutník, who stated that the fact that the periodical had already survived for 10 years was proof of the idealism of its creators, as they were still struggling with a lack of funding.²⁴ However, there were also accusations from part of the community that it wrote too much about academic librarianship and not enough space and attention was devoted to public librarianship. B. Koutník explained that more than 34% of the space in the journal pages was devoted by the editors to public librarianship. Thus, allegations of favoritism towards academic librarians, as discussed by Jiří Mahen and other Moravian librarians, are unfounded. Especially since they even appointed Dr. František Kroupa, director of the Tabor City Library, as coeditor, who took charge of editing the articles on public librarianship.²⁵

As summarised by Jiří Cejpek, 'Časopis československých knihovníků' was continuously published until 1944 and became a fairly accurate reflection of the development of our librarianship during those 22 years' ['Časopis československých knihovníků ukazywał się nieprzerwanie aż do 1944 r. i stał się dość dokładnym odbiciem rozwoju naszego bibliotekarstwa w przeciągu tych 22 lat'²⁶].

Another periodical that remained in existence for many years was '**Slovan-ska Knihověda**', published between 1931 and 1947 (actually until 1938, then, after a break of several years, the last issue came out in 1947). It was also the

23 J. Volf, Úvodem, "Časopis československých knihovníků" 1922 no. 1–3 p. 2.

24 B. Koutník, Deset let, "Časopis československých knihovníků" 1931 no. 1–2 pp. 4–9.

25 B. Koutník, *Spolka knihovníků veřejných knihoven RČS*, "Časopis československých knihovníků" 1927 no. 1 pp. 13–15. In fact, this had already been written about earlier, explaining the misunderstandings, for example in the preface to Yearbook 4 of 1925.

26 «Časopis československých knihovníků» pp. 190–191.

press organ of a society, but this time decidedly scientific, not professional, the *Československá společnost knihovědna*. It was the first and only scientific journal of book people in Czechoslovakia at that time. The creation of this periodical was initiated by Z. Tobolka, who also created the *Společnost*. The periodical was financed by the state.

Československa společnost knihovědna was founded on 15 January 1930. Its members wanted to ‘ask all bibliological questions about the book as a cultural object, to address bibliographical and library science issues, leaving aside the technical and professional side of these questions, and to focus on the theoretical aspect of book studies [‘zadawać wszelkie pytania bibliologiczne dotyczące książki jako obiektu kultury, poruszać kwestie bibliograficzne i bibliotekoznawcze, pomijając techniczną, zawodową stronę tych zagadnień, a skupiać się na aspekcie teoretycznym badań księgoznawczych’²⁷]. *Časopis* also reported on the establishment of the *Společnost*’s press organ, the ‘*Slovanská Knihověda*’. This was in March 1931. The creation of another journal caused controversy in the community. The voices were raised that even if bibliologists wanted to publish more theoretical dissertations, there was nothing to prevent them from using the pages of ‘*Časopis*’, a periodical with an already established position on the market, to do so, instead of splitting forces.²⁸ B. Koutník reproached Z. Tobolka that before founding ‘*Časopis*’ he doubted that there would be enough material for one periodical, and after nine years he founded another journal aimed at book people. In addition, it was quite niche, intended to be scientific, bibliological, and not librarianship.

Obviously, the first issue featured the Editor’s credo, in 14 [sic!] language versions, including Polish. It reads as follows: ‘The task of the journal »SLOVANSKA KNIHOVĚDA« is twofold: it intends to familiarise foreign specialists with scientific advances in Slavic bibliography and, at the same time, the Slavic world with advances in bibliography among non-Slavic peoples. From this it follows that it will be interested in bibliography only insofar as its fruits meet the basic requirements of scientific method, and that it will use some of the non-Slavic languages – English, French and German – to inform the non-Slavic world about the most prominent subjects of the Slavic world, and some of the Slavic languages to inform the Slavic world about the more prominent non-Slavic bibliographies [‘Zadaniem czasopisma »SLOVANSKA KNIHOVĚDA« jest dwojakie: zamierza ono zaznajamiać specjalistów zagranicznych o postępach naukowych w zakresie bibliografii słowiańskiej a jednocześnie świat słowiański o postępach bibliografii wśród ludów niesłowiańskich. Z tego zagadnienia

27 J.L. Živny, *Československa společnost knihovědna*, “*Časopis československých knihovníků*” 1930 no. 3 pp. 101–102.

28 «*Časopis československých knihovníků*» 1932 no. 2–4 pp. 67.

wyżywa, że interesować się będzie bibliografią o tyle tylko, o ile owoce jej odpowiadać będą podstawowym wymaganiom metody naukowej oraz że przy informowaniu świata nie-słowiańskiego o wybitniejszych zagadnieniach świata słowiańskiego posługiwać się będzie niektórymi z języków niesłowiańskich: angielskim, francuzkim i niemieckim; przy informowaniu zaś świata słowiańskiego o wybitniejszych bibliografjach niesłowiańskich – niektórymi z języków słowiańskich²⁹]. In a brochure published on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of *Společnost*, the editors explained why they decided to establish another journal. They simply believed that professional organisations dealing with many practical issues have neither the time nor the strength to be able to deal with book science yet. According to the journal's founders, this practical approach is perfectly evident in the subject matter of the articles and materials on the pages of 'Časopis'. Therefore, a different periodical is needed, a typically scientific one.³⁰

The page numbering was continuous within the volume. Several foreign authors, including Polish scholars, such as S. Vrtel-Wierczyński and W.T. Wisłocki, published in the pages of 'Slovanská Knihověda'. And, as announced, articles were published there not only in Czech, but also in German, French, English, Bulgarian, etc. The articles were accompanied by foreign-language summaries and sometimes the introductions to the volume also appeared in several languages. Generally, the issues were divided into: Articles, Literature, Mentions and News, but some volumes were monographic. Volume 3 of 'Slovanská Knihověda' was dedicated to Z. Tobolka,³¹ volume 5 to the achievements of J. Emler,³² and volume 6, which did not appear until 10 years later, after the war break, was published on the occasion of the centenary of the death of Josef Jungmann – writer, linguist, lexicographer, and translator.

As far as the subject matter and nature of the articles in this journal are concerned, most of the papers are quite long and theoretical or historical in nature. It is, of course, impossible to cite all the topics covered, as there would be an annotated bibliography of the contents, but an analysis of successive volumes allows one to conclude that in the pages of 'Slovanska Knihověda', papers of a scientific nature were indeed published, as intended, on, for example, bibliography in Soviet Russia; the emergence of the national library in Sofia; subject catalogues in Czechoslovakia; bohemia in the Uppsala library; the structure of scientific libraries; the evolution of library construction; the differences

29 "Slovanska Knihověda" 1931 no. 1. The original spelling has been retained.

30 *Československa společnost knihovědna*, Praha 1935.

31 *Zdenkovi Vaclavu Tobolkovi k sedesatce z domova i z ciziny*, ed. Jan Emler, Slovanska Knihověda III.

32 *Kapitoly knihovědne a knihovnicke Janu Emlerovi k šedesatce*, ed. Josef Bečka, Flora Kleinschnitzova, Jan Thon, Slovanska Knihověda V.

between libraries and archives; the development of papermaking in Europe; a sociological approach to bibliography; Ukrainian bibliography. Even from this brief overview, it is clear that these topics, although they could of course also be of interest to public librarians, were unlikely to be helpful to them in their daily work.

However, 'Slovanska Knihověda' did not limit itself to purely scientific issues. It informed about Czech and foreign libraries, wrote about librarian conventions. Reviews of interesting publications in the field of book science were published. There was also a separate section called 'Notes', which contained, for example, information on how to protect paper from the harmful effects of light, how to catalogue maps, or learn about M. Dewey. The News section contained, for example, reflections on the possibility of using the Latin alphabet in Russia and other countries using the Cyrillic alphabet; information on Belarusian bibliography or on the Polish Librarians' Union.

This was the specifics of the 'Slovanská Knihověda', on the one hand, it contained theoretical dissertations, provoking discussions on the discipline and the subject of bibliological research, setting trends. However, in addition to extensive research articles, it offered a variety of information from the world of books to broaden one's horizons.

Conclusions

This article presents typical professional journals dedicated to the librarians and the only bibliological scientific periodical published at the time. While each of these journals undoubtedly had its own individual character, due to the person of the editor, his or her interests, or the body publishing them, a common feature is also evident. These journals strongly emphasised the educational character of the public library and its mission to educate citizens.

The periodicals presented here are, of course, only a part of the journalistic picture of the world of book culture at the time. They were not the only periodicals, but undoubtedly the most important ones, also known abroad, produced by the most renowned and recognised theorists and practitioners of librarianship. It is worth mentioning that the prago-centric optics dominate them. Both before World War I and during the First Republic, Prague was the undisputed centre of scholarly life.

At the beginning of the twentieth century, articles on librarianship were also published in journals of a fundamentally different profile. For example, *Věstník samosprávný a národohospodářský* edited by K. Harmach was used by Z. To-bolka after the closure of the journal 'Česke knihovnictví' to present library content. Also 'Česka Osvěta', founded back in the time of the Austro-Hun-garian monarchy by J.L. Živný, although it did not have a purely librarianship

character, let alone book studies, it provided a forum for the publication of book and library culture content. Živny wrote: ‘we have decided to try to publish a new journal, which we do not yet have in Czech journalism, and which – after the closure of the well-known journals on similar topics, Lidové osvěty and Českeho knihovnictví, voices are heard from many sides that it is needed’ [‘zdecydowaliśmy się na próbę wydawania nowego pisma, jakiego do tej pory w czeskim czasopiśmiennictwie jeszcze nie mamy, a o jakie – po zamknięciu powszechnie znanych czasopism o podobnej tematyce Lidové osvěty i Českeho knihovnictví – z wielu stron słyhać głosy, że jest potrzebne³³]. The journal continued to come out until 1948, but only retained its library science character for the first few years of its existence.

During the period under review, bibliophile magazines were also published, such as ‘Bibliofil – časopis pro pěknou knihu a její úpravu’ or ‘Český bibliofil. Časopis SČB a Odboru ex libris’ or ‘Knihomol – bibliofilsky sborník’. Quite numerous professional journals of booksellers or publishers are also worth mentioning: Grafický obzor – odborný list moravských knihtiskařů, ‘Zprávy nakladatelů a knihkupců’, ‘Redaktor a vydavatel’ or ‘Slovenská grafika – odborný časopis slovenských typografov’ and ‘Kníhkupec a papiernický obchodník’. The periodicals published by libraries, which usually inform about new acquisitions or book news in general, are also interesting to library researchers, such as ‘Čtenář – informační a propagační časopis pro čtenáře a přátele Husovy veřejné knihovny v Třebíči’, ‘Knížní novinky Ústřední pedagogické knihovny v Brně’ or ‘Zprávy městské knihovny v Uherském Hradišti’.³⁴ However, the presentation of these titles is already a topic for a separate and very extensive study.

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34 Cf. J. Kubiček, *Noviny České Republiky 1919–1945. Část 1. Bibliografie*, Brno 2004; thatz, *Bibliografie novin a časopisů na Moravě a ve Slezsku v letech 1918–1945*, Brno 1989, as well as the chapter of the monumental work by M. Bohatcová, *Česká kniha v proměnách staletí*, Praha 1990, p. 425 et seq. and J. Moravec, *Česká bibliofilie 1918–1939*, “Bibliofil” 1939 XVI no. 2 pp. 62–65.

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