



Book Review

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Social Libraries in Serbia in the 19th Century
by Desanka Stamatovic

Pancevo, 2011

374 pages

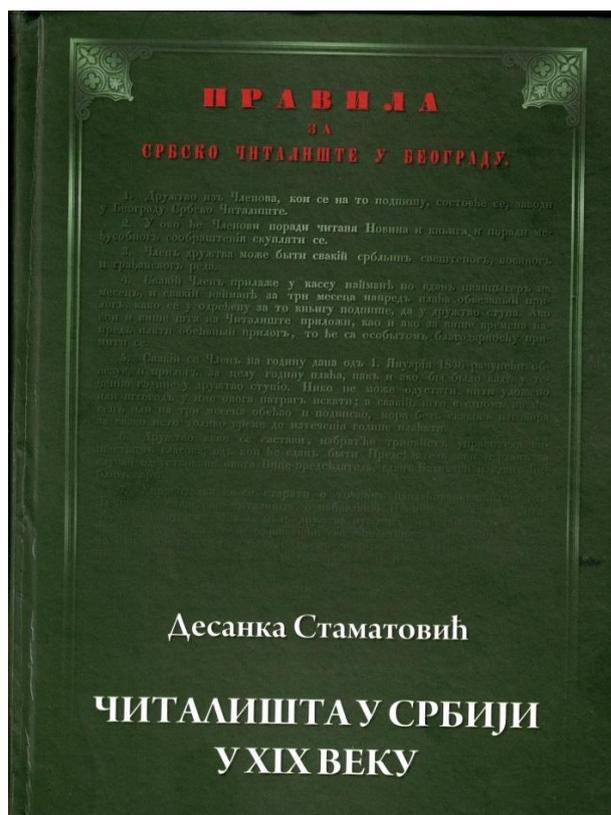
ISBN 9788685131172

Social Libraries in Serbia in the 19th Century is the book of great importance for the history of Serbian librarianship development. It was published for the first time in 1984. The publication of the second edition in 2011 was necessary, because this book has become required reading at all levels of Serbian librarianship studying.

This book has shed light on a part of cultural history, and the emergence of public libraries was recognized in the development of reading rooms. Exploring the rich archival documentation, the autor showed that the Serbian reading room as well as all the other reading rooms in Serbia were organized on the basis of certain rules and with the approval of competent ministries. The reading room opening was really a task of utmost importance. Their significance in the development of books and libraries is enhanced.

Reading room rules established the activities and objectives, work organization, financing as well as the rights and obligations of users. The reading rooms were educational and cultural centers in Serbia. The place where the newspapers were read and information exchanged between a small number of intellectuals eventually became the place for education and enlightenment of the people. There were 95 working reading rooms on the territory of Serbia from 1846 to 1900, as well as a number of reading rooms known only by name.

In 374 pages and 3 chapters we have a scientific and systematic theoretical study of the Serbian Reading room of the 19th century. Content is divided into the following sections: after the introduction there is the first chapter: Socio-political, economic, cultural and political situation in Serbia in the first half of the nineteenth century; Chapter two: Origin and Development of reading rooms



in Serbia; Chapter Three: A short history of particular reading rooms. At the end of the book there is a conclusion, adverbs, registers, literature, summary in German and English language, and a note about the author. This book is part of the reference collection of all public and academic libraries.