

Report
for the activity of the Biblical Library (Bibliotheca biblica) in Sofia, Bulgaria
Juli 2018 - Juli 2019

Last year was a different year for the Biblical Library at the Theological Faculty of Sofia University “St. Clement Ohridski”. It was the twentieth year from its establishing and therefore it was marked by some special events.

Impressive for the period was the sensitive increase in the number of visits. If in the last several years the usual number was about 500 visits per year, in this year we counted remarkably more visits – 716 and respectively a use of 1631 library units.

The number of books and periodicals in the Biblical Library, which are on disposal of the readers, is 10,901 units. They are divided into as follows: 54 CDs, 7961 books and 2940 volumes of periodicals.

During the last 12 months we received a total of 322 library units: 87 books and 235 volumes of periodicals. Very valuable is the donation from prof. Christoph Dohmen: the periodical “Biblische Notizen” in 143 volumes (from 1976 till 2009).

The new received library units are in different languages, as follows: German, English, French, Serbian, Nord-Macedonian, Russian, Romanian, Greek, and Bulgarian. Donators are: prof. dr. Christoph Dohmem, prof. dr. Ulrich Luz, prof. dr. Winfried Thiel, prof. dr. Konrad Huber, prof. dr. Peder Borgen, prof. dr. Gjoko Gjorgjevski, prof. dr. Rodolub Kubat, prof. dr. Predrag Dragutinovic, prof. dr. Ivan Zhelev Dimitrov, assoc. prof. dr. Ivaylo Naidenov, assoc. prof. dr. Ekaterina Damyanova, Rev. Fr. Victor Zimmer.

Initiatives of BB

In Octobre 2018 (10.10. – 14.10.) was held an international conference in Sofia, which has as motto the sentence of St. Augustine: “Novum Testamentum in Vetere latet, Vetus Testamentum in Novo patet”. In the conference took part friends of BB from abroad: prof. dr. Karl-Wilhelm Niebuhr; prof. dr. Christoph Dohmen; prof. dr. Manuel Vogel; prof. dr. Angelika Strotmann; prof. em. dr. Urs von Arx; prof. dr. Christos Karakolis; prof. dr. Sotirios Despotis; prof. dr. Predrag Dragutinovic; prof. dr. Gjoko Georgievski; prof. dr. Ratomir Grozdanoski, and several Bulgarian biblical scholars. Soon will be published a collection of papers from the conference.

Last year the Internet portal “Pravoslavie.bg” in cooperation with the Biblical library organized a national competition for writing an essay, dedicated to the Bible: “The eternal Book and we“. For the preparation of the essays, participants used the Biblical Library resources. The award ceremony took place on October 12, 2018, at the aula of the Faculty of Theology of the Sofia University, during the conference dedicated to the Biblical library's anniversary.

The chair of Biblical Studies at the Faculty of Theology, works in 2019 on the project “Plants in the Bible”. For the implementation of the project the team uses the resource at the Biblical Library.

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(Assoc. prof. Ivailo Naidenov, Director
of the Bibliotheca biblica in Sofia)