

# Lviv National Medical University Scientific Library – a history of the library

**Marta Nadraga**

LNMU Scientific Library

Lviv, Ukraine

### Abstract

*The history of the library began in 1939 when the Medical Faculty was separated from Lviv University and became the Lviv State Medical University. The history of the library is closely connected with the name of Stanislav Henry Badeni in whose house it is still situated. Today the library is being transformed from a subunit of the University which provides students and scientists with the necessary literature into a powerful research and information center.*

*Key words:* Lviv; scientific library; medicine; literature; history.

Libraries of higher educational institutions contribute greatly to the formation of cultural and scientific potential of our society. The Scientific Library of Danylo Halytskyi State Medical University in Lviv has earned its rightful place among them. The library is an educational, scientific, information, cultural and educational subunit of the University which provides literature and information for the University's educational and scientific research, assisting in the preparation of highly qualified professionals.

The history of the Scientific Library is part of our Alma Mater record. It is considered that the history of the library started in 1939 when the Medical faculty was separated from the Lviv University and became the State Medical University comprising the faculties of General Medicine and Pharmacy. On December 1, 1939, 27,000 volumes of medical literature mainly in Polish, German, English and French were transferred from the Library of the Lviv University to the Library of Lviv State Medical University (LSMU) which became the basic stock of the medical library. Charitable support from numerous donors who gave literature from their own book collections also contributed to the formation and replenishment of the stock. An important contribution was made by renowned doctors and researchers of that time: Prof. A. Yurash, H. Kadyy, Prof. L. Rydyher, B. Syeradski, F. Shteyer von Sebenitts, B. Zyembitski, A. Mars R.C. Prof. Weigl and G. Dobzhanska, E. Kamyenski, V. Vladzimirski, V. Seidl, D. Kowalski, A. Dornfest, G. Halleho, J. Hausberh and others. Medical institutions and societies also transferred their books to the library among them: the Seminarjum

Historji i Filozofii Medycyny U.J.K. we Lwowi;, Towarzystwo aptekarskie we Lwowie; Zaklad Historji Medycyny U.J.K. we Lwowie; Biblioteka Kliniki dziecięcej we Lwowie, Zaklad farmakologii Uniwersytetu Jana Kazimierza we Lwowie; Akademia Towarzystwa Medików Żydowskich we Lwowie; C.K. Krajowy referent spraw zdrowia; Biblioteka Zygmunta Leszczynskiego we Lwowie; Muzeum Historji Medycyny w Uniwersytecie Jagiellońskim; Towarzystwo Lekarzy Galicyjskich and others.

The subsequent history of the library is closely connected with the name of Stanislav Henry Badeni, a lawyer and patron, in whose house it is still situated. The house, which belonged to the family of Count, was built in 1860 by the architect E. Kohlera and was located in the downtown area. The building was decorated in the style of neo Rococo. In 1941 the library stock had increased to 35 thousand volumes.

The Second World War ceased all kinds of University activities until 20 May 1942. The spacious building of the library was converted into a hospital for infectious diseases and the Scientific Library of LSMU was eliminated. During the war period, part of the library collection was looted, burned and destroyed but almost 20 thousand volumes were saved thanks to the efforts of the librarians; these books were transferred back to the library of the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv. Library furnishings were preserved only in a small quantity, part of them being looted during the war while some went to the hospital for infectious diseases and to other libraries in the city because of decreasing medical funds.

*Address for correspondence:* Marta Nadraga, LNMU Scientific Library, Sichovych Strilciv 6, Lviv, 79000 Ukraine. E-mail: m.nadraga@gmail.com

It should be noted that during World War II the Scientific Library of the Lviv State Medical University, along with other libraries of higher educational institutions of the city, was part of the single administrative system the National Library (*Staatsbibliothek Lemberg*). In 1944, Lviv State Medical University together with the Scientific Library started their activities again and on the 20 August the general reading room opened its doors. Because of the lack of library equipment that had been destroyed during the war, most medical books (mostly literature published until 1939 in Polish, German, French and English) remained in storage at the library of the Ivan Franko National University in Lviv and was available for use. The reading room contained 639 volumes of the most valuable and most used books at that time, including foreign language material. It became the basis of the improvised stock of the general reading room of the library, which was constantly replenished with the latest medical books.

Between 1944-1945 the Scientific Library received 18 medical journals, 7 scientific journals, 4 political journals and also 23 newspapers in Ukrainian, Polish and Russian. Stock replenishment was accomplished mainly through the buying of the new literature or exchange and with books from personal collections. The Scientific Library maintained a close relationship with the Central Republic Medical Library and the Kharkiv State Medical Library which also contributed to its stock enrichment. Kharkiv State Medical Library donated to the Scientific Library 4281 volumes of medical and political books, and periodicals. In turn the Scientific Libraries donated 178 volumes of medical literature in Polish to the Medical Faculty of the University in Lublin. Interlibrary loans were taking their first steps.

From 1944-1945 11,258 visitors benefited from the general reading room services and 15,503 books were circulated. 4068 visitors used the periodicals reading room services and circulation totalled 3407 while 7125 readers benefited from the loan department services, in total 9936 books were borrowed. The library users were faculty staff, students and other members of the medical school and also doctors and medical professionals from the city and region. The library started to use a system of double cataloguing – alphabetical and systematic which could be used by both readers and workers.

The library became structurally independent, providing reference services, regularly taking part in the organization of exhibitions and montages dedicated to significant anniversaries. At this time, some of the university departments also had their own libraries. The

purpose of these libraries was to serve the faculty of the departments and they offered scientific literature and specialized journals. In 1945 there were 20 departmental libraries all of them with a book stock of about one thousand volumes. At the command of the Director of the Scientific Library, Nestor Romanovych Rudnytsky, each Head of department was appointed to be in charge of the departmental libraries. In 1951 the Scientific Library was one of the largest libraries in Lviv with a stock of 91,144 printed items.

In 1952 interlibrary loans was initiated and close ties were formed with many university and medical libraries of the country. The Scientific Library was becoming a powerful educational information base and a treasury of scientific knowledge for future physicians. An important department of the library is that of education literature, which was established in 1971. For the student's convenience this subunit is situated in the theoretical building of the University on the street Schimseriv, 3 (formerly Side Pekarska str.). The aim of the department of education literature is to provide the students of the University with quality textbooks and teaching materials. There are 2 reading rooms and 2 loan departments. In September 2002 the lending department of English literature was established and in 2007 the reading room for foreign students started its work. The library has expanded its capabilities in providing access to Internet resources and the users of the library can have free unlimited use of WiFi Internet access from their laptops or gadgets in reading rooms and library catalogs.

In 2001 the Scientific Library of the Medical University was included in the number of libraries that are not taxed at the international book exchange. Since the beginning of its activity the library directors have been skilled professionals with high levels of educational and practical experience. Among them were Vitaliy Levitsky (1939-1940), Pauline Efymivna Sushko (1940), Ioannina Frantsyshkivna Berger (1940-1941), Nestor R. Rudnytsky (1941-1952), Abraham Hdalyevych Birman (1952-1961), Iryna Dmytrivna Ivanova (1961-1985), Natalia Mykolaivna Kurnat (1985-2011).

In August 2003 by the Decree of the President of Ukraine Danylo Halytskyi, the State Medical University in Lviv was granted the status of National. The new status has put new demands on the Scientific Library and the changes currently taking place in the library have improved the quality of the user services according to the rapidly changing demands of the users. Today's library users are professionals of a new level with a knowledge of foreign languages and computer technology.

In 2007, the Scientific Library was the venue of the conference *Medical Libraries of Ukraine* on the way to the Knowledge Society that was organized by Ministry of Health of Ukraine together with the National Scientific Medical Library and Ukrainian Library Association. Problems of the current state of medical libraries and development trends towards the formation of a knowledge society, methods of providing data in medicine and pharmacy, prospects for the formation of a multifunctional medical electronic library were all discussed.

Today the diversified stock of the Scientific Library numbers 582,297 including 283 thousand textbooks, 276 thousand items of scientific literature, 23 thousand copies of fiction, textbooks and scientific literature in foreign languages –53 thousand copies. It is currently building its stock of electronic publications. The creation of an electronic catalog contributes to the formation of electronic resources with fast access to funds of the library. Accessing the information environment, permanent renewing of the library site, using a special library information system, *Irbis-64*, all of these factors have determined a new strategy for the further development of the library.

Searching and ordering materials on the history of medicine and health care of Galicia are one of the main areas of research activity of the library. The library is researching the development of medicine in Galicia and scientists (doctors, biologists, pharmacists) who worked in the XV-XIX centuries. Much attention is given to the life and activity of the prominent personalities whose career has enriched medical science. Among the achievements, it is worth mentioning the creation of bibliographies and virtual exhibitions, as well as lists of recommended literature. The last fundamental modifications in this area were bibliographies dedicated to Marian Ivanovych Panchyshyn, Mychajlo Kos and Adolf Beck.

As part of the cooperation agreement between the Lviv National Medical University and Austrian Academy of Sciences, in 2012, some articles about famous Ukrainian, Austrian, Polish scientists were published during this year in the Austrian Biographical Lexicon – the scientific publication of Austrian Academy of Sciences.

The library continues to work on the state program *Regarding the organization of the medical Ucrainica Fund as part of the documentary memory of Ukraine*. Among the most important and rare books are:

- *Octavvs Tomvs In Qvo Insunt Libri Galeno Ascripti: Artis Totivs Farrago Varia. : eorum catalogum uerfa pagina oftendet. – Basileae, 1549.*
- *Dispensatorium pharmaceuticum Austriaco-Viennese, in quo hodierna die usualiora medicamenta secundum artis regulas componenda visuntur. Cum Sacrae Cæsareæ Regiæque Catholicae Majestatis privilegio. Sumptibus Collegii Pharmaceutici Viennensis. – 1729.*
- *Pharmacopoeia augustana renovata, revisa et appendice aliquot medicamentorum selectiorum aucta. – 1734.*
- *Theden, Johann Christian Anton. Neue Bemerkungen und Erfahrungen zur Bereicherung der Wundarzneykunst und Arzneygelahrheit : Zweiter Theil. – Berlin, 1782.*
- *Barth, Joseph. Anfangsgründe der Muskellehre. – Wien, 1786.*
- *Vogel, Samuel Gottlieb. Handbuch der praktischen Arzneywissenschaft Zum Gebrauche für angehende Aerzte : Dritter Theil. – 1791.*
- *Metzger, Johann Daniel. Kurzgefaßtes System der gerichtlichen Arzneywissenschaft. – Wien, 1811.*
- *Gąsiorowski, Ludwik. Zbiór wiadomości do historii sztuki lekarskiej w Polsce od czasów najdawniejszych, aż do najnowszych. T. 1. – Poznań, 1839.*

The library is always looking for partnerships that would contribute to the formation of creative individuals and professional growth of its employees. Professional communication and partnership exchanges give new spirit to the work process and also contributes to solving pressing issues and developing future goals of the medical library. The Scientific Library is a member of the Ukrainian Library Association, *Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Bibliotheken und Dokumentationsstellen der Ost-, Ostmittel-und Südosteuropaforschung (ABDOS)* and partner of the NGO Forum of Publishers.

Today the library has transformed from the subunit of the University which provides students and scientists with the necessary literature into a powerful research and information center.

*Received 18.02.2014 Accepted 28.02.2014*