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Agricultural Rural Libraries in Serbia in the Era of Information Technology

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Abstract :

This paper shows that in the era of rapid growth of technological advances (computerization and the Internet), in villages in Serbia, most farmers have neither computers at their homes nor Internet access. This fact indicates that farmers are excluded from the modern electronic flow of information and announcing, and a lot of important information does not reach them as end-users. Also, farmers are unable to educate and improve professionally, to visit fairs, seminars, lectures due to their poor financial situation.

Public Library Radislav Nikcevic in Jagodina, Serbia, having perceived the issue of rural population in villages of the municipality of Jagodina, learned the needs of agricultural producers for fundamental changes. Also, Public Library in Jagodina, based on the research conducted in 2008 and 2009 in the villages in the territory of Jagodina, generated the idea that rural libraries must take an active role in creating new models of changes in the local community. The need for modernization of agricultural production imposed the need to modernize rural libraries through introduction of new services which would be in the function of social, economic and cultural status of rural population.

Following the example of modern libraries of 21ˢᵗ century, the concept of modern rural libraries was designed. The Public Library in Jagodina decided to revitalize four rural libraries in the territory of Jagodina and introduce new library services which promoted rural libraries as information and cultural centers of local communities through the project called AgroLib-Ja (Agricultural Library in Jagodina). The project was funded by EIFL

(Electronic Information for Libraries) during 2010 and 2011 and since 2011 Serbian Ministry of Culture has continued funding it.

Farmers have learned to come to useful information, to exchange experiences and establish cooperation through certain websites and social networks. Also, they learnt that products could be sold and bought on the Internet.

This paper shows that the concept of working with innovative services in rural libraries is sustainable for sharing information and linking farmers, which was proved by the librarians in Latvia, Lithuania and FYROM Macedonia which have adapted the AgroLib project to the needs of their local communities, as well as a growing number of libraries in Serbia that are trying to provide funds for the revitalization of rural libraries in their municipalities. Also, we want to prove that the Internet and social networks have an important role in educating farmer and in agribusiness and marketing.

Keywords: rural libraries, library services and new services, Internet, farmers, project AgroLib-Ja

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Introduction

The Republic of Serbia covers an area of 88,361[2] km, and 65 952 km[2] are the rural areas. On the whole territory of the Republic of Serbia, 66.03% is agricultural land. Apart from 40% of arable land, 21% is covered by perennial crops, and 28% of the remaining land is under forests. The share of agriculture in gross domestic product of rural areas is about 30%, significantly higher than in other transition countries. Partial explanation may be found in valuable resources for agricultural production owned by the Republic of Serbia. On the other hand, agricultural productivity and intensity of the Republic of Serbia are considerably below the European average and the reason for that is unfavorable living standard of farmers[1].

Unfavorable demographic trends have resulted in unfavorable educational structure of rural labor force, which cannot meet the requirements of the labor market with their performance. Modest knowledge and lack of skills of the rural population in general, are confirmed by survey data on living standards: according to which 97% of rural population said they did not attend additional education courses and 54% had no additional knowledge and skills.[2]

Possibility of virtual library services is also more common in urban areas. The inhabitants of small rural settlements are deprived of this type of library services, because they, generally, do not have equipment for their use at home, and there is no library where

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[1] Agricultural development strategy of Serbia http://www.srbija.gov.rs/vesti/dokumenti_sekcija.php?id=45678 (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

[2] National Rural Development Program from 2011- 2013 http://www.ruralinfoserbia.rs/dokumenta/Nacionalni%20program%20ruralnog%20razvoja.pdf, (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

they live. This is supported by the data of the Statistical Office[3] a total of 50.4% of Serbian households own a computer, and internet connection has a total of 39% of households. Proportion of computers and Internet access in urban and rural areas are significantly different - 58.7% and 49.3% computers internet connections in urban areas, compared with 38.3% and 24.1% computers internet connections in rural areas.

When talking about the whole library network in Serbia, it should be noted that in urban areas it is fully developed, all types of libraries which can meet diverse cultural, educational professional, scientific research, entertainment and other purposes are at people's disposal meet their diverse cultural, educational,professional, scientificresearch, entertainment and other purposes. The problem of underdeveloped network of libraries and the inability to satisfy all needs of users exists in rural areas and, in particular, in small villages, where there are no any forms of public libraries, and often no schools. Other types of libraries, in accordance with their purpose do not exist in small rural settlements [4].

The total number of rural libraries in Serbia is the 326. The term *rural library* means public and local library branches in areas outside the municipal centers. For 2010 data was submitted by a total number of 296 rural libraries (272 branches and 24 local libraries) out of which 132 rural libraries own computers, 18 rural libraries have the Internet and 12 libraries have the Internet for users. These are computers with different kinds of configuration, and there are some libraries with completely outdated equipment.[5]

According to the IFLA / UNESCO Public Library Manifesto, a public library services are required to be physically accessible to all members of the community and tailored to their diverse needs in rural and urban areas. That means the "outreach services for those who cannot visit the library[6]

Problems in rural libraries in the municipality of Jagodina

During the implementation of parent functions in Pomoravski district, parent department of the Public Library in Jagodina, Serbia in early 2008 recorded following the situation in rural libraries in the municipality of Jagodina:

- For 20 years no book was bought for most libraries.
- Library premises are not maintained.
- Librarians do not get salaries
- At the beginning, a lot of librarians continue to volunteer waiting for better times. Later on, they give up one by one.

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[3] Драган Вукмировић, Кристина Павловић, Владимир Шутић, *Употреба информационо-комуникационих технологија у Републици Србији : домаћинства/појединци, предузећа*, Београд: Републички завод за статистику, 2010

[4] Марина Митрић, Мрежа јавних библиотека у насељеним местима Србије у 2009. години, http://www.nbss.rs/skup1.html (downloaded on15th April 2012)

[5] Data downloaded from the database of Library Network of Serbia for 2010 http://www.nb.rs/pages/article.php?id=1284 (downloaded on 16th April 2012)

[6] *IFLA/UNESCO Smernice za razvoj javnih biblioteka,* prevodilac Gordana Ljubanovic, Beograd : Narodna Biblioteka Srbije: Biblioteka grada Beograda, 2005.

- From places for gathering and fulfilment of needs for knowledge and culture, village libraries become abandoned places.

After dealing with this situation it is evident that the network of rural libraries will cease to exist if it does not take measures for its revitalization. The parent department of the National Library in Jagodina decided to investigate whether this environment is necessary libraries and whether rehabilitation could not solve or help solve the problems of the local population. Based on the existing situation, it was noted that the majority of rural population in Serbia are farmers and we identified the following problems of this population:

- This category of the population is neglected in the cultural, social and economic sense for several decades.
- A lot of information does not reach end-users, because the institutions and authorities in Serbia have moved to an electronic notification system, and some population groups, especially farmers, do not have the ability to use computers or the Internet.
- Most of the information on subsidized loans and other incentives to farmers are often posted on the websites of government ministries or RS, and often, either do not reach them, or are not sufficiently clear to farmers.
- In many villages there is no Intenret.
- No one, at the state level, dealt seriously and systematically with educating the rural population so that they could take advantage of the benefits of information technology for development and improvement of their activities.
- The rural population can learn only through the electronic media about agriculture development, agro-technical measures and facilities offered by the state.
- Many of them do not know who to turn to even if they find out some information.

In the mid 2008 the Public Library in Jagodina conducted a questionaire on a sample of 100 subjects in the rural population to identify the needs of farmers. They were between 30 and 50 years old (50% male and 50% female) and consisted of respondents from several villages in the municipality of Jagodina. Questions were related to the agricultural way of informing the rural population and the techniques and methods used to improve agricultural production. The offered answers were related to professional journals, agricultural literature, Internet or traditional methods and techniques to convey the experience and knowledge from generation to generation. Most of the respondents 82% said they did not have a computer and had no knowledge of the area, 90% had Internet at home, 72% used traditional methods of knowledge transfer, 88% wanted to attend a computer school, 84% wanted training through professional lectures, 100% would like to be in the library to find literature in the field of agriculture, and 92% said that their biggest problem was the lack of organized markets for agricultural products.

Jagodina municipality (town and the country), according to the 2002 census had a total population of 70.894. Urban population is 35.589 inhabitants, while the rural population is 35.305[7] inhabitants. This shows that half of the population lives in this municipality, city, and half in villages, which means that the rural population does not have the ability to use library services[8]. Agricultural area in the municipality of Jagodina takes 70.1% of its total area.[9]

The statistics tells us that almost 50% of the total population in the territory of Jagodina (rural population), had no ability to use library services. This information is contrary to the declared principle of libraries about equality in availability of information, as well as the fact that the public - the parent library organizes and improves the entire library network in the district, "taking into account the demographic, social and geographical conditions and trying to make library and information material available to people in their own villages"[10].

Possibilities to overcome problems in rural libraries

Research results and the situation on the site in libraries, were the starting point in creating the guidelines of the project AgroLib Ja (Agricultural Library in Jagodina).

The plan is that the main beneficiaries of the project AgroLib Ja are farmers from 52 villages in Jagodina municipality, to whom the library services would be available in four revitalized rural libraries (Bagrdan, Glogovac, Bunar, Glavinci). The planned objective of the AgroLib Ja was improving life in the country, with revitalized rural libraries to develop new services using information technology and the Internet.

The first assumption is that the village libraries should be intermediaries in connecting end-users with a source of information, in this case, linking farmers and the country, the farmers themselves in the exchange of knowledge and experience of the farmers with potential sellers or buyers of agricultural products, machinery and services. This connection can be made, if rural library becomes a place which attracts those who like farmers, meet and socialize, and can connect via the Internet and social networks. In order to achieve this, it was necessary to start Information literacy of rural agricultural population. The next assumption is that libraries are institutions that adjust their book funds and services to the needs of local people and that we should abandon the classical model of the library, which includes only work with a book in hands. Conclusion was made that libraries should pay attention to socially vulnerable groups and to assist them in adopting modern business concept. Libraries are recognized as places where the residents of rural areas will be taught computer skills and where a qualified person (librarian) will assist in information literacy.

According to IFLA's recommendation about media and information literacy, libraries should promote media and information literacy and lifelong learning. Media and information literacy covers knowledge, attitudes and skill that are needed in order to know when and what

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[7] Statistical Office of the Republic of Serbia http://webrzs.stat.gov.rs/WebSite/Default.aspx (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

[8] *www.jagodina.org.rs*

[9] http://www.nbss.rs/skup/023%20Vesna%20Crnkovic%20Suzana.pdf (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

[10] Serbian Library Association, Standards for public libraries in the Republic of Serbia, http://www.bds.rs/ (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

information is needed, where and how to obtain this information, how to evaluate it critically and organize it once it is there, and how to use it ethically. This concept goes beyond communication and information technologies and involves learning, critical thinking and interpretative skills within and outside the professional and educational boundaries. Media and information literacy encompasses all types of information resources: oral, print and digital.[11]

Libraries - information and communication centers of the local community

Modeled on modern libraries of 21st century the concept of a modern village library has been devised. The Public Library in Jagodina decided to revitalize four village libraries in the municipality of Jagodina and introduce new library services which would promote village libraries as cultural and informational centers of their local communities through the project AgroLib Ja (Agricultural Library in Jagodina). In 2010 the AgroLib Ja project at the PLIP (Public Library Innovation Programme) call for concept papers was awarded by the international nonprofit organization EIFL (Electronic Information for Libraries) with 30.000 dollars for the originality of ideas. The resulting funds are provided for the implementation of these ideas for a period of one year.

To agricultural population in rural libraries available are:

1. Agricultural magazines and literature

As the rural population is mainly engaged in agriculture, rural library funds are enriched with current monographic and serial publications in this field. For all four libraries a total of 185 current professional books in various fields of agriculture and 10 encyclopedia, also in the field of agriculture were purchased. The annual subscription for 8 titles of professional journals in the field of agriculture was completed, and one journal is obtained as a donation.

After a year of the project realization, agricultural literature was used in all four villages 1,655 times[12].

The analysis of these indicators shows that the current abundant supply of agricultural material contributed to the popularization of the library as a place that preserves knowledge.

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[11] IFLA's recommendation about media and information literacy, libraries should promote media and information literacy. http://bdsrs.blogspot.com/2012/04/prevod-ifla-preporuke-o-medijskoj-i.html (downloaded on 8th March 2012)

[12] http://www.eifl.net/service-areas-replication-case-studies (downloaded on 16th April 2012) This paper presents only data from the first year of funding the project. Town Council of Jagodina and the Ministry of Culture, Information and Information Society of the Republic of Serbia continued to fund the project. The project has been successfully implemented in all four libraries, and there are suggestions that the Town Council of Jagodina will set aside funds for the revitalization of one more village library. Report on the work and impact of the project on community development after two years of the project's implementation is not completed at the time of writing this paper.

2. A school of computers

In order for a librarian to be able to work as a librarian-guide through knowledge, they need to use computers and be able to guide users of websites that are useful for their work.

In one year, there were six schools computer, five for farmers and one for librarians. A total of 59 farmers were trained, four rural librarians and a partner in the project.

Computer school for farmers differed by the initial level of knowledge, different training needs and interests of various participants. In each school, the principle of computer training is based on an individual approach and adapting the teacher to the level and needs of each student. Number of classes varied depending on the interest of participants.

After successful trainings of farmers how to use new information technologies the number of library users who use the Internet increased. The total number of visits to the Internet in all four libraries is 3.524.[13]

Due to the great interest, not only of farmers, but also of all parts of population in Jagodina and its surroundings, who are unfamiliar with basic knowledge of computer skills, the Public Library in March 2012 organized a free training in computers for people over 60. This training involves learning basic computer skills such as opening a site, searching for the desired information, sending email, using social networks and Skype. The training lasts for a week, every day from 17.30 to 19.00. The interest is huge. Each group has 6 students and trainings will continue by the end of summer for not only the elderly but also farmers who do not have the opportunity to attend IT training because in their villages rural libraries are not revitalized.

3. Lectures in the field of agriculture

Lectures and panel discussions in the field of agriculture are another form of education where farmers, in discussion with prominent Serbian experts in various fields of agriculture, have the opportunity to learn first hand about innovations in agricultural production, examples of good practices of farmers and work of agricultural associations with us and in the world. Also, after lectures they have the option to ask for advice or present their problem in agricultural production, and after that, to obtain advice and expertise at the highest level.

Farmers were very interested in this type of education. There have been 1.249 visits farmers to lectures in all four villages. After lectures, a lively discussion followed and farmers asked lectures different questions. Each lecture that followed recorded more and more visitors from the host village and surrounding villages. Some farmers after attending lectures, decided to expand their agricultural work or to start new agro-business.

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[13] http://zajednica.nb.rs/files/biblionet/2011/vesnajagodina.pdf (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

4. Website www.agrolib.rs

The site contains:

Weather Forecast (http://www.agrolib.rs/?page_id=608&lang=en).

Digitized magazines and books (http://www.agrolib.rs/digital/zbirka/) Collections on the site by the end of May 2011 were made up of eleven agricultural journal Jutro and the old and rare books "Belica," which talks about genealogy of Morava population. It also contains old issues of agricultural journals that offer valuable information that are useful for a long time after the publication of these journals.

Agrolib market (**www.agrolib.rs/pijaca**) whose contents are edited by the users. AgroLib market is a place where users can advertise their products and share experiences from the field of agriculture, handicrafts and rural tourism.

The total number of visits to the sites www.agrolib.rs and www.agrolib/pijaca since their setting up 1ˢᵗ July-28ᵗʰ March 2011) is 6,158 visits.[14]

Website AgroLib market is for people seeking or offering products and services in the domain of agriculture, rural tourism and old crafts. All site users, including unregistered users have the ability to search the product database, database of registered users and the ability to view their profiles. After successful registration and account activation users are able to independently regulate certain activities. Users with an active account can edit their own data about themselves, their businesses and their products within their user profile. When entering a product the user must enter the product name, product type must be selected from chierarchicaly ordered structures and must enter the product description. As a part of the reach text editor, a user can use the program for file managing. With this program, they can upload a photo (jpg, png or gif) to the server and include it in the description. Each user has its own folder, available to them only.[15]

Examples of farmers who improved their sales or sold larger quantities of goods after advertizing on the sitew www.agrolib.rs/pijaca/ are recorded.

Zoran Milosevic, a graduate engineer, after placing his article about quince on the AgroLib website, made contacts with a farmer near Kragujevac, who deals with brandy production and sold 1.500kg of quince. Afterwards, he held two lectures in village libraries on fruit production and alternative fruit species. Lectures and articles on the site were of a great interest and a lot of people called him from all around Serbia asking for expert advice and information about fruit planting, and most of them were interested in quince.[16]

After advertising on the site, a number of buyers of dietary cheese produced by the family of a young farmer Dejan Stankovic increased. Cheese is made by the traditional family recipe and which is sold on the market in Jagodina.[17]

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[14] http://zajednica.nb.rs/files/biblionet/2011/vesnajagodina.pdf (downloaded on 15ᵗʰ April 2012)
[15] http://www.agrolib.rs/pijaca (downloaded on 16ᵗʰ April 2012)
[16] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWbGt54pXTw&feature=player_embedded (downloaded on 16ᵗʰ April 2012)
[17] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=44MZ-cNN6xI&feature=player_embedded (downloaded on 16tᵗʰ April 2012)

One of the site users is Ljiljana Vulic from Staro Laniste, who weaves mats. After several years of a standstill, Ljiljana's professional life started moving upward due to her advertising published on the Agrolib market by the coordinator and editor of the site. She learned the craft from her father-in-law. When after 25 years of service, she became redundant in her company, Ljiljana Vulić from Staro Lanište near Jagodine dedicated completely to mat-making. She got a subsidy from the state (thanks to the help of the Agency for Small and Medium Enterprises and Registered Households, the partner of the Public Library in Jagodina on AgroLib Ja project). She started handicraft shop and at the moment she is the only mat-maker with a certificate in Serbia. Thanks to the advertising on the site www.agrolib.rs/pijaca she gets orders from all over Serbia and thanks to the business cards and advertising material funded by the Public Library from means intended for the project AgroLib Ja. Ljiljana is known as the only mat-maker in Serbia with a certificate and earning from mat-making.[18]

Lanište has always been known for mat-makers. It used to be hundreds of them, and the goods were transported in wagons. Now there are just a few of them, just to say that the craft still exists. Mat-making used to be very valuable and the products a knitted or woven from marsh plants are in high demand. In Staro Lanište, a village near Jagodina it is believed that this will again be able to earn well from this craft.[19]

Computer school, lectures and use of sites contributed to the popularization of the library as an information and communication center of the local community. For many examples of cooperation and contacts among farmers, consumers crafts and rural tourism, we hear quite by accident on some manifestations or when someone give us a call to thank us. For a number of examples and contacts, of course, we do not know, but we can assume, judging by the increased number of visits on the site. From 1st January 2012 to 18th April 2012, visits to the site http://www.agrolib.rs/pijaca was 16.179; the number of people who visited the site was 12.334 and the number of shown pages was 46. 286. This means that from the beginning of 2012 there were 165 daily site visits, 126 people visited the site a day and there were 479,3 average page views a day.

Librarians, also, had a large contribution to the realization of the AgroLib Ja project ideas. Examples of farmers who made significant decisions about agriculture after the help of librarians were recorded. The librarian in Bagrdan helped a farmer from Batocina to find out what type of nuts is the best to be grown in that part of Serbia. These examples show that librarians adopt the concept of librarians's work as guides through knowledge, who in addition to using books and magazines, use websites to help library users.[20]

After a year's realization of the project the number of members in village libraries was the following (surveys from the end of March 2011):

Bagrdan-137(until November)-53 (from December until 20-th March) = Total 190
Bunar-81(until November)-65 (from December until 20-th March) = Total 146

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[18] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IE4DS-7S--8 (downloaded on 16th April 2012)

[19] http://www.rts.rs/page/stories/sr/story/57/Srbija+danas/1082924/Asura+od+%C5%A1evara+.html (downloaded on 16th April 2012)

[20] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rvQaVE4RNZU&feature=relmfu (downloaded on 16th April 2012)

Glavinci-113 (until November)-26 (from December until 20-th March) = Total 139
Glogovac-145(until November)-75 (from December until 20-th March) = Total 220[21]

Second year the project funding – replicants

PLIP Program is designed as a three-year grant program to assist public libraries in developing countries and countries in transition to become centers of life in their local communities. The program for the innovation of public libraries aims to encourage libraries to get closer to their local communities, to cooperate with local authorities, business and other organizations, to develop new services and to strengthen communities and reduce poverty.

The program is being implemented in three phases. In the first round 12 innovative ideas were rewarded with $30.000 and the funding for these programs would last for a year. In the second round, PLIP awarded $15.000 a library that would use one of 12 innovative programs offered in the first year in the best manner for the solution of existing problems in their local community. Libraries had the opportunity to apply for the program that was already implemented in some of the libraries in their country, but for programs from other countries. In the third round with $1.000, the most successful projects from the first and second rounds will be awarded and published in all major world publications.

Three libraries from three different countries Latvia, Lithuania and FYR Macedonia adapted the project AgroLib Ja to the needs of farmers in their local communities and since 2012 have been implementing the idea of rural libraries as information and communication centers of the local communities.

Klintaine Public Library, Latvia made a network of rural libraries. To save costs of arriving at the seminars and lectures, the library makes webinars for farmers. Librarians in Klintaine Public Library would like to have as many as possible farmers attending lectures and seminars, but majority of them cannot financially afford to pay for the journey to where the lectures takes place. The goal of this library is to enable to farmers to reach information related to agriculture by the Ministry of Agriculture through webinars. Through webinars, farmers will gathered in libraries and will be able to communicate with some of the representatives of government agencies and agricultural experts, and in that way they will get first hand information.

Pasvalys Marius Katiliskis Public Library, Lithuania is developing a service with so-called smart phones, because their farmers are already familiar with computer skills. Through smart phones, farmers will be able to access the Internet, have cameras and media players. They will have a web portal where they will be able to track information related to agriculture, and a service of printing business cards, flyers for farmers..

Farmerss will be trained how to use QR codes (bar codes) that will enable them to identify their business cards and various bar codes on products, etc.. By using smart phones and certain software, a phone camera reads a code and leads users directly to the built URL address where they can find the desired information. In this way, the library connects farmers

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[21] http://zajednica.nb.rs/files/biblionet/2011/vesnajagodina.pdf (downloaded on 15th April 2012)

and makes knowledge and useful information available to them. This library develops a site that will be helpful to farmers' communication.

Madeconians copied the AgroLib project completely, which is not surprising given that the situation in their country is alsmost identical to the one in Serbia. The only difference is they do not revitalize rural libraries, because they have Infobus, and they inform farmers through text messages about trainings and on various types of financing that are intended for them..[22]

The real effects library projects that replicated the AgroLib Ja project will be visible at the end of 2012.

Changes in the local community

The relationship between village-agricultural population and the library changed due to new information technologies. Farmers became members of village libraries and started using the Internet, professional books and magazines in the domain of agriculture and AgroLib Internet market for advertising their agricultural products and services, as well as other websites for agricultural business. Also, they are interested in connecting through social networks like Facebook. They became aware that only those farmers who are willing to acquire new knowledge and skills and who are trained to use information technology will be successful. Radovan Tasic, farmer from a village near Jagodina- Bunar said that a literate person in the village was considered to be someone who can read and write, and now it is a person who knows how to use the Internet.[23]

The profile of users in the town library Radislav Nikcevic in Jagodina changed. Until 2010 there were no farmers members of the library. At the end of March 2011 there were 46 of them, and due to the AgroLib market the library became a place visited by farmers on a daily basis (for information or mediation in resolving problems).

Farmers learned that through certain sites they could obtain useful information, exchange experiences and establish cooperation. Also, they learned that the products can be sold and advertised on the Internet.

After the revitalization of the four rural libraries in the municipality of Jagodina and successful application of new services in rural libraries, there is an interest of the representatives of many local village communities to open (if there are no) and revitalize (if there are some) rural libraries. All of the above shows that the people who make power in Jagodina, and government representatives in the villages, are aware of the importance that libraries have for the information literacy of agricultural population, which leads to the development of agriculture and society in general.

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[22] http://www.eifl.net/our-current-grantees (downloaded on 16 th April 2012)
[23] http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fJUQBQwBr7U&feature=relmfu (downloaded on 17th April2012)

Conclusion

Today libraries promote and support social equity and are the most relevant factor in the search and selection of required information. Modern libraries of 21st century are places where people's needs for knowledge and culture are met, a space where they socialize. They are centers of local communities, particularly in small communities. They promote personal development; support all forms of learning and literacy, and quality leisure time. They support equality, encourage reading, dissemination of knowledge, contribute to improving learning skills, and foster community identity, develop a sense of community. Modern libraries are interesting and good places for people of all ages, backgrounds and cultures.[24]

Libraries should have services for all types of users and adapt their funds and activities to the needs of users in their local community. AgroLib project and the projects of other libraries that implement similar ideas show that rural libraries should not be abandoned places full of dust. They should become information, communication and cultural centers of their local communities. Also, these projects show that libraries are places that have an important role in the information literacy of all its users, particularly rural residents who do not have financial resources to pay for expensive courses and equipment, and that libraries are pleasant and interesting places where people spend their time, where they socialize, acquire new skills and team up.

For libraries of 21st century there must be no unreached users.

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