

Legal regulation of public librarianship

Abstract:

This diploma thesis focuses on legal regulation of public librarianship. It is divided into two main parts.

Part I deals with the actual state of legal regulation in this field. It presents an overview, a detailed analysis and evaluation of all librarianship-related legislation. Following chapters are dedicated to copyright aspects of library services, personal data protection and the institute of obligatory copy. This first part concludes with suggestions where and how the current regulation could be improved.

Part II brings historical comparison of three library acts. Czech librarianship was from the very beginning of the existence of independent Czechoslovakia influenced by special legal regulations - library legislation. Fundamental directives, which were adopted in the course of approx. 80 years [Law No. 430/1919 Coll. - The General Public Libraries Act, Law No. 53/1959 Coll. - the Unified System of Libraries Act (Librarian Act) and Law No. 257/2001 Coll., on Libraries and Terms of Operating Public Library and Information Services (Library Act)] were very dissimilar; each addressed the issue differently and from a different perspective depending on the political and social situation of the time. The circumstances under which the particular laws were adopted are described (from the viewpoint of social development) and the laws including subordinate legislation are contrasted and assessed.