

THESES OF DOCTORAL DISSERTATION

Library Management in the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CHOSEN TOPIC

During the 20th century, two occasions brought forth extreme changes in the status of Hungarian monastic libraries. Firstly the decline after the secularization in the 1950s, secondly the restart after the regime change of 1989. The Reorganization of the religious orders and the reconstruction of their previous collections posed a difficult challenge to church communities.

After 1950 the books of the Dominican order were partly destroyed, partly ended up in the Centre of the People's Library (Népkönyvtári Központ). Many Dominican friars escaped abroad, from those staying many were sentenced to prison; some could continue their vocation as priests in smaller parishes. The library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order in Vasvár was established by the reorganizing order based on volumes recovered from the storages of the National Széchényi Library (Országos Széchényi Könyvtár) and other hiding places at parishes.

For ecclesiastical libraries, in order to survive, it is vital to apply those methods of management and marketing that ensure the demand towards their collection, and enable the planned collection development, organization, cataloguing and high quality service of their special holdings. Due to their spiritual nature, these libraries, despite the presence of academic researches, are not among those interested in gaining profit.

Ecclesiastical collections are in a distinctive situation due not only to their holdings but because of their maintainers: a way must be found to widen the circle of their clients and visitors while keeping their peculiarities.

1.2. BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC'S PRELIMINARIES, HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The reorganization and modernization of Hungarian ecclesiastical libraries began after the regime change of 1989, while the local library science recognised and started to implement the adaptable management and marketing methods seen in Western libraries.

In the 1990's churches could once again establish and operate cultural institutions, thus being able to be an integral part of Hungarian culture. The state

ensured the support and tendering participation of ecclesiastical collections via laws and regulations, but despite the resources, it took a long time till these collections could establish services able to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

In Hungarian libraries – regardless of type – the management approach comes more and more into the limelight. Nowadays it has become accepted that the institutions have certain basic documents at their disposal, like the articles of foundation, the organizational and operational rules etc. In order to ensure a long and fruitful existence, librarians create a *strategic plan* that contains their aims and the steps necessary to achieve them.

The certain types of libraries – academic, special and public libraries – as part of the deliberate management approach, aspire to achieve the title *certified library*, which guarantees that the user can expect exceptional and reliable services from the institution.

In international¹ and Hungarian² specialised literature several volumes and publications were written about how methods of management and marketing are applied in the libraries. However, surprisingly few of them focus on the management of ecclesiastical libraries. In Hungary, the Association of Ecclesiastical Libraries (EKE), which was founded in 1994, chose the possibility of adapting management and marketing methods in the library as the main topic of their general meeting for 2012. That shows that even these institutions are gradually admitting that previous practices can no longer successfully continue.

There are shining examples of successful projects by ecclesiastical collections and monasteries, such as the Pannonhalma Archabbey operating as the Hungarian centre of the Benedictine order, or the Franciscan Visitor Centre at Alsóváros, Szeged. Both institutions are exemplary in their services, webpage and media presence for monastic communities with similar collections and history.

¹ Pl. BUCKLAND, Michael: Redesigning library services: a manifesto. Chicago [u.a.] : American Library Association, 1992. X, 82 p. - CORRALL, Sheila: Strategic Planning Library and Information Services. London: Aslib, 1994. 50 p. - LINE, Maurice B.: Strategic planning as an instrument of improving library quality In: INSPEL, 25. vol. 1991. 1. no. 7-16.p – WORMELL, Irene: Success factors for fee-based information services. Esbo : NORDINFO, 1996. 134. p.

² Pl. ALFÖLDINÉ DÁN Gabriella: Könyvtárfinanszírozás és –működés. Budapest: OSZK, 1996. 58 p. - SKALICZKI Judit: Stratégiai tervezés. Budapest: OSZK, 1996. 86 p. – SKALICZKI Judit – ZALAINÉ KOVÁCS Éva: Minőségmenedzsment a könyvtárban. Veszprém: VEK; Budapest: IKSZ, 2001. 193 p. – TÉGLÁSI Ágnes (szerk.): A könyvtári menedzsment időszzerű kérdései. Budapest: OSZK, 1999. 178 p.

The last twenty years of ecclesiastical libraries³ bears testimony to the necessity of a change of attitude, since, as it can be observed in the public libraries, instead of, or more likely beside the traditional duties of collecting, protecting and circulating, emphasis must be laid on servicing, the services' development and enlargement.

Though at the turn of the millennium ecclesiastical libraries in Hungary were characterised by narrow circumstances and the lack of an overall concept, still, they have managed to more or less renew, and with careful reconsideration of their situation and role they have managed to provide services that meet the demands of the 21th century:

- the up-to-date legal background, agreements with the churches as maintainers⁴ made it possible for the denominations to recover their properties seized in the 1950s, and a considerable amount of their movables as well; and for the ecclesiastical libraries to participate in tenders;
- services offered by ecclesiastical libraries operating beside institutions of higher education (database access, MTMT, digitization, etc.) are equally modern to their state-run competitors;
- collections located inside national monument buildings recognised how to use and combine the merits of their architectural environment with the possibilities of supplying their specialty holdings.

In many cases monastic libraries belonging to the European cultural heritage, apart from being the sources of academic research, possess considerable touristic appeal. Central collections of Hungarian religious orders are guarding incunabula and several examples of early printing, but they try to acquire new, relevant volumes as much as they can, which principally means books written by members of the order or books written about the order's history and current life.

³ ÁSVÁNYI Ilona: Az egyházi könyvtárak a XX. század utolsó évtizedében = Könyvtári levelező/lap, 14. évf. 2002. 9. sz. 23-32. p. - BÀNHEGYI B. Miksa: Az egyházi könyvtárakról. = Könyv, könyvtár, könyvtáros, 9. évf. 1999. 2. sz. 33-35. p. - BARANYA Péter - KÖVÉCS Ildikó: Az egyházi könyvtárak informatikai fejlettsége. Egy felmérés eredményei. = Könyvtári levelező/lap 17. évf. 2005. 5. sz. 3-5. p.

⁴ Act IV of 1990 on Freedom of Conscience and Religion and the Churches. – Act CXXXIV of 1997 on the Financial Conditions of Religious and Public Activities of Churches. – Act LXX of 1999 on the Agreement between the Republic of Hungary and the Holy See on the financing of public service and other particular religious activities undertaken in Hungary by the Catholic Church and on some issues of property ownership, signed on 20th June 1997 at Vatican City.

It is apparent in their collection development policy that they emphasize documents connected to their specific monastic community above all, but general works on church history and theology are represented in the libraries too.

In our increasingly globalized, accelerating world the number of ecclesiastical libraries' patrons is decreasing, whereas, according to *user surveys*, the scope of potential visitors could be broadened. Should these collections, planning their services, not only consider academic researchers, but with popularizing programmes and creative use of library- and museum pedagogy could address a wider public, on the long run it would be possible to increase the number of visitors. The implementation of *STP strategy*, accordingly with segmentation the selection of targeted specific markets and the positioning of the commodities, ecclesiastical libraries could also offer services aimed for a broader cycle of users.

Along with globalization, or rather as a counterpoint, interest towards local information and phenomena has increased in recent years, which is corroborated by a growth in the attendance of collections of local history. The public libraries maintained by the government are obliged by the Act CXL of 1997 on the Protection of Cultural Goods, Museum Institutions, Public Library Services and Community Culture to collect information and documents related to local history. According to surveys, the highest percentage of requests is linked to school assignments, but the number of requests originating from spontaneous curiosity or academic research is significant as well. Ecclesiastical collections often guard documents and archival records that can be additions to the resources of a town's or region's local history.

Central libraries of Hungarian religious orders are diverse in location as well as holdings:

- Central Library of the Hungarian Jesuit Province – Szeged
- Hungarian Benedictine Congregation Pannonhalma Archabbey – Pannonhalma
- Magnae Dominae Hungarorum Hungarian Franciscan Province, Hungarian Franciscan Library and Archive – Budapest
- Central Library of the Hungarian Piarist Province – Budapest

Apart from those mentioned, the libraries of the Premonstratensian, Cistercian and Claretian orders are also located in settlements where the monasteries and cloisters are still occupied by monks or friars, thus making them the main users of the collections. Correspondingly they collect documents of the

following fields: theology, books and periodicals regarding the particular order, its spirituality and history, as well as church history.

The Hungarian Dominican Province was reorganized with Polish help; from 1996-2004 its general vicar, József Pucilowski, was of Polish-Hungarian origins. Relations between Dominicans of these two nations are still lucrative, joint research projects and publications on the history of the order are of great significance in the life of the order.

Dominican monks currently live in three cities, Szentendre, Sopron and Debrecen, thus the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order in the Vasvár monastery, which is the central library and archive of the order, need to open towards other potential clients. The eight-hundred-years jubilee is a perfect opportunity to acquaint a wider public with the Dominican order and its significance in cultural history, as well as focus attention to the library and its bibliographical rarities.

In my dissertation methods of library management and marketing are adapted to the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order, demonstrating that even in theological libraries, the up-to-date management approach is indispensable.

2. THE ACCOMPLISHED RESEARCH, SUMMARY OF THE DISSERTATION

I have been visiting ecclesiastical libraries and observing their work for more than a decade, paying special attention to monastic libraries. During the last few years many questions have been formulated in me, which I have attempted to answer in this paper.

In the first few chapters I would like to present the history of the Dominican order in Hungary as well as its literary culture; than the establishment and peculiarities of the *Town Museum* operating inside the Dominican monastery, and the *Historical Collections of the Dominican Order* founded in connection with a series of programmes celebrating the turn of the millennium. Already in the second chapter, during the analysis of the library's material, the difficulties and questions resulting from the special nature of the collection development are mentioned.

I have briefly reviewed, emphasizing catholic libraries, the significant events in the history of Hungarian ecclesiastical libraries relevant to this dissertation, and those associations assisting their work. Even at the general study of the ecclesiastical collections, I felt it necessary to mention potential applications of service management and marketing, since both the experiences of recent years and the analysis of the specialized literature supported the hypothesis that the low attendance figures can only be raised by a change of attitude.

The position and role of culture, cultural heritage and the institutions transmitting them must be discussed, since, as it can be seen in the later chapters of the dissertation, without the right cultural background and attitude it is impossible to expect long-term interest in the special ecclesiastical collections. A very small percentage of the population possesses the knowledge – language knowledge, proficiency in matters of theology and church history – , that enables one to properly use the books of ecclesiastical libraries.

The dissertation presents a possible scenario for the *strategic plan* of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order. Following the *utilization plan* constructed before the establishment of the Collections there was no extensive strategic plan prepared, which would have drafted the main objectives, although libraries have recognised by now that with the help of concrete tasks and plans the developments are more efficiently implemented. Several changes took place

in the life of the Historical Collections during the writing of the dissertation, most notably, the change of maintainers on 1st January 2013.

In later chapters of this paper it has been important to provide details concerning some elements of the strategic plan; therefore special attention has been paid to the library adaptation of *Customer Relationship Management* and the analysis of the Historical Collections' user segments. I have described how to address future groups of visitors and pique their interest.

Among the visitors of the Vasvár Town Museum and the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order children and school groups are of a significant percentage; therefore it was necessary to devote a chapter to the summary of the most significant results concerning *library- and museum pedagogy*. Participating in many successful tenders, which supported the creation of the necessary place and equipment, the Vasvár Town Museum was enabled to offer high quality, noteworthy activities and programmes to elementary and high school children, thus expanding the number of visitors.

The last chapter deals with a field a little distant from library science, tourism. In recent years many local attempts had been made to strengthen the touristic attraction of Vasvár and its vicinity. Several cultural and natural sights invite visitors longing to relax and rest, and may wish to explore sights of cultural heritage. Hungary's oldest, still standing monastery of a mendicant order is a worthy example of exhibiting both local and church history.

My dissertation demonstrates that applying processes of management and marketing is just as unavoidable in ecclesiastical collections as in other types of libraries, and that a specific theological collection needs to implement a strategic plan fitting its circumstances to become up-to-date and meet the challenges of the 21th century, while also preserving the treasures of the past.

3. SOURCES AND METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

Writing this dissertation, I aspired to the complete exploration of the theoretical background, while also emphasizing the inspection of practical experiences.

Familiarizing with the theoretical background starts with an overview of Hungarian and international information and library science specialised literature and media, including the analysis of traditional and electronic sources. The topic and multidisciplinary nature of this work demanded the extension of sources to the following areas: *management and marketing, museum pedagogy, tourism*.

Practical information originates primarily from personal experiences. Internships spent in libraries, participation in conferences, discussions with professionals working in libraries, museums and religious institutions offered an invaluable help in forming the conclusions of this dissertation. Analyzing web pages, programs provided specific ideas for the development strategy of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order.

4. THE ACADEMIC RESULTS OF RESEARCH. SUMMARY, RECOMMENDATIONS

I. Thesis: Despite the development of recent years, Hungarian ecclesiastical libraries have not managed to apply the management-centred attitude already typical of national, academic and public Hungarian libraries. The cataloguing of the holdings, digitization, active participation in tenders, and an as conscious collection development policy as possible may have slightly improved the judgement of ecclesiastical libraries, but the user- and service-centred mentality is still largely absent in most collections. Only a few ecclesiastical collections prepare a *strategic plan*, and overall it can be said that librarians lack the management attitude.

Our ecclesiastical establishments greatly contribute to the preservation of our cultural heritage, with their buildings and holdings, which contain materials accumulated through centuries and handled together. In the nineties finding a proper integrated library system to process the special holdings presented a problem. Nowadays, however, in most institutions the establishment of an electronic catalogue has begun, and in many cases already finished.

Ecclesiastical libraries usually do not allow the loaning of the documents, however there are several tools at their disposal, such as digitization, to aid researchers' work and facilitate availability. Access to certain parts of the holdings is restricted – which also reinforces the holdings-centred approach –, but these restrictions are reasonable and acceptable to the users.

Among the library's patrons, researchers and university students are a majority, although it would be necessary to address other potential user groups as well, which must be preceded by *user surveys*. From professionals working in an ecclesiastical institution exceptional general knowledge, familiarity with theology and through grounding in Biblical languages can be expected. In major collections the requirements are fulfilled, but employing specialists on the field of management, marketing and library quality development would be equally important; finding them is the duty of *human resources management*.

The Act CXL of 1997 enabled ecclesiastical libraries to request the public library status, which made a wider range of possible tenders available, thus their *budget* obtained more resources.

Due to several financial applications, many infrastructural developments succeeded, most of the damaged volumes were restored and certain documents were digitized. The latter projects are usually organized by the institutions themselves, without cooperation or agreement.

Observing practices of the last twenty years it can be ascertained that the aforementioned developments were usually the results of single tenders, rather than parts of one carefully considered strategy. The analysis of the macro- and micro environment, drafts of concrete aims based on the results, and most importantly, the user surveys were absent, or, at most, only complied with the requirements of tenders.

Certain ecclesiastical libraries, the Szombathely Diocese Library (Szombathelyi Egyházmegyei Könyvtár) and the Evangelical-Lutheran Theological University Library (Evangélikus Hittudományi Egyetem Könyvtára) for instance, visibly aspire to formulate a *mission statement*, where the dominance of the special holdings and services connected to them can be observed.

One of the main bases of proper collection development and service expansion is assuring financial resources. In order to increase the amount of the income gained via tenders or from the institution's maintainer, a search for supporters and sponsors is required. Although the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order receive support from many sources, it only partially covers the costs of the library, museum and archive. Therefore, apart from the Vasvár Dominican Monastery Foundation, other sources and types of income are needed.

III. Thesis: Analyzing the macro- and micro environment of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order, it can be said that in the development strategy of the Dominican library the cataloguing of the holdings and the increase of attendance are needed to be pointed out as the most urgent key tasks.

- **The bibliographic description and the subject analysis of the holdings are essential:**
 - developing an appropriate system of subject headings,
 - the presence of the records in shared cataloguing services.
- **Knowledge of the holdings stimulates user activity:**
 - the detailed online catalogue contributes to the knowledge of the holdings,
 - the shaping of further services in order to increase visitors' interest.

Data of materials protected in ecclesiastical libraries are more and more accessible via online catalogues. Therefore it is understandable that the bibliographic description and the subject analysis of the holdings of the Dominican library have begun. It is of considerable importance that the depth and quality of the cataloguing would be as accurate as possible, which presumes the employment of qualified librarians.

Since the users do not always know the author or title of a desired document, and often would like to gain previous information about a certain topic, developing an appropriate system of subject headings is paramount. A list of subject headings referring to the Order of Preachers must be constructed, which then can be used by anyone to find the requested volumes, and, based on the new list, previous records could be standardized, corrected.

Many among the ecclesiastical libraries have already made detailed data of their holdings available in shared catalogues, where the library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order might join as well. Records processed by the SZIKLA integrated library system, for instance, must be uploaded to the Unitas portal, while entries of old books, according to the Decree No. 22/2005. (VII. 18.) NKÖM, must be secured in the registry titled Muzeális Könyvtári Dokumentumok Nyilvántartása (MKDNY) and the shared catalogue called Régi Magyarországi Nyomtatványok Közös Katalógusa (MOKKA-R).

PR materials about the Dominican library could contain a brief summary of the holdings and the access to the online catalogue, in which more detailed data is available for those interested. The subject heading search, knowledge about the holdings and collection development policy suggests to the user whether or not the library is able to offer new information.

***III. Thesis:* Two major strengths of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order operating in the Vasvár Town Museum are the contents of the holdings and the circumstances of its placement. The strategic plan of the Dominican library should take into consideration those peculiarities that define and distinguish the access to documents and information.**

***a.) Sub-thesis:* The library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order is the only Hungarian library that aspires to collect every volume written about the history of the Dominican order in Hungary or written by a Hungarian member of the order.**

Central libraries of Hungarian religious orders' collections are intended to be *exhaustive* in collecting material relevant to the order, they catalogue and guard library material, and make it available. The library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order – irrespective of the fact that Dominican friars do not live in the town –, as the central library of the order has to fulfil the same role; for which it is in need of collection development funds from the budget.

With specific examples, potential users could be made aware of how having the peculiar selection criteria offers research material for many disciplines: historiography, cultural history, library history, theology, church history, etc. Conferences, temporary exhibitions could be based later on these branches of learning.

In the holdings there are several unpublished volumes written by Dominicans, with applied funding these could be released. Publication of a series of academic Dominican manuscripts has already started under the title Hungarian History of the Dominican Order (Magyar Domonkos Rendtörténet), which could be followed by other curiosities, travel books for example.

During processing, rare and unique publications were discovered, and their numbers are rising as monastic libraries and inheritances are being organized. Following the footsteps and life of members of the order, dissolved in the 1950s, could be the topic and task of research groups, and might lead to undiscovered documents connected to the order.

***b.) Sub-thesis:* The stock of the Dominican library has been placed in an authentic environment, in Hungary's oldest monastery of a mendicant order, at the former centre of county Vas.**

Central libraries of monastic orders are usually built in central locations, in major cities (e.g. Budapest, Szeged). A significant exception is the Benedictine library, which is a World Heritage Site, and as a consequence, its attendance numbers are bigger. Vasvár is in a county of western Hungary; approaching it even from the neighbouring counties is time-and cost-consuming. Therefore it is necessary to emphasize in the strategic plan of the Dominican library to complete the material's full-scale cataloguing, with the results being available online as well. Some of the documents should be digitized, and stress must be laid upon the various forms of photocopy services, which enable remote access to information.

In Vasvár, the buildings of the nearly eight hundred years of monastery found in the heart of the city are a worthy environment for the documents of

the Dominican library, of which the oldest volumes are located in a room furnished in the Baroque style, fashioned for this specific purpose.

The placement in the monastery, or more precisely the three unities of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order – the collections of the library, archive and museum – offer a chance to get to know the history and life of the Order of Preachers in a comprehensive way. While planning its services, the library's capacities shall be joined with those of the other parts of the Collection and the Town Museum.

Libraries, being part of the Hungarian and international information networks, provide a basis of information for education and research. With their cultural activities they contribute to the collection and supply of documents of accumulated human knowledge and culture; as well as they dutifully cultivate and present professional achievements and traditions formulated over time.

The Vasvár Town Museum, which also possesses a collection of church history, together with the material of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order offers an extraordinary collective concerning a significant segment of cultural heritages and cultural history.

***IV. Thesis:* The primary users of the library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order are the Dominican friars. To widen the circle of clients it is inevitable to search for and address a new, more numerous segment. With tools of library- and museum pedagogy, young people must be urged to frequent libraries more often, as well as demand for lifelong learning must be cultivated.**

There are 10-20 Dominican friars at three monasteries living in Hungary today (in 2012 that number was 15), thus the Dominican Historical Collection, apart from providing them with documents and services, has to address other segments of users as well. Beside presenting the volumes, the Dominican library could be a communal place, and a location of various programmes.

Successfully applying to the programme titled New Hungary Development Plan, "*Developing School-friendly Museums*" ("*Múzeumok iskolabarát fejlesztése*"), the Vasvár Museum received considerable financial support to form and furnish places of education. As a result, they have managed to uniformly furnish and convert the loft into an attic, where among other things the storerooms of the Dominican Collection's library and archive are currently located. During the museum's conversion some of the exhibited objects were replaced by copies; and a new, family-friendly design was prepared, which, in addition to keeping the

original function, faithfully showcasing the county's history, is able to address every member of the family.

Great emphasis has been laid on interactive programmes and the participation of children and schools in the Vasvár Museum. In 2009, for example, students of the Béri Balogh Ádám Elementary School of Győrvar could spend a week in Vasvár with the help of the French-based "*Monastic School*" („*Kolostori iskola*") project. Older students could try to create illuminated manuscripts and write charters, they got to know the monastery while playfully learning about the history of the county, the town and the friars, with the help of nearby traditional and folk groups. The aim was to attract children's attention to the preservation of architectural heritage, show them the past, and let them have a glimpse of the duties of the library and the museum.

In the scope of the programme titled "*From the Vasvár Chapter to the Diocese of Szombathely. Church and Culture in Western Transdanubia from the Middle Ages to the present day.*" a textbook, a workbook and a series of worksheets were published introducing the history of the Diocese of Szombathely. The beautiful, illustrated books also serve the purpose of making the study of the diocese, with the help of the library and the museum, a more effective and enjoyable experience for school groups.

The ad hoc nature of publications and programmes relating to certain tenders should be changed; the well-proven precedents should be further developed. Getting in contact with the surrounding schools, proposing the organization of field trips, and seeking sponsors would help to increase the number of visitors.

More and more experts mention andragogy in the library and museum as a component of lifelong learning. Not only children need the library user training courses and museum classes; these have a place in adult education as well, with the library and museum as their location. It is important to emphasize the role of continuous learning and training, since that is how the special holdings of ecclesiastical collections become more easily comprehensible.

The special terminology, vocabulary, background knowledge and linguistic diversity hinder the usage of the ecclesiastical libraries' volumes, which assures that their clients are primarily researchers. Religious culture in the 21st century is not universally understandable, although it was the grounding of European art and literature for centuries. The symbolism of a cathedral, the poetry of Babits also presupposes some background knowledge, which can be easily acquired by

a youth or an adult in a practical or playful way. Thus later, overcoming their fear, they can gallantly use the services of ecclesiastical libraries.

Cultural institutes, in order to ensure equal opportunity, need to be accessible for disabled and visually impaired people, and they also need to take into account the specific needs of those mentally disabled and disadvantaged as well. The building of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order has partially ensured the unhindered access; rooms and services accessible to disabled people must be created with the laws and regulations concerning national monuments in mind.

V. Thesis: Based on Hungarian and international specialized literature as well as on my personal experiences I have ascertained that the attendance and popularity of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order can be improved with active participation in *tourism*, and enhancing international relations and cooperation:

a.) Sub-thesis: Touristic developments of Vasvár and the Vas ridge positively affect the attendance and popularity of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order.

The Vasvár region, due to both its cultural and natural merits, can be a valuable touristic target; which was also insinuated in the cloister building's utilization plan, written in 2000. Infrastructural developments have also started in the town, thus not only the museum was renovated, but the main square got reconstructed as well, the cultural centre received a new building, and new accommodations, hotels were built.

- A part of the rampart of Vasvár, built in the late 10th century, has been reconstructed, which attracts the lovers of both history and nature.
- Those interested in the church architecture of the Middle Ages can visit the churches of Csemeszkopács, Alsóújlak and Magyarszecsőd.
- Folk architecture is on display at the rural heritage building of Hegyhátszentpéter and the vineyards of Petőmihályfa and Oszkó.
- For those looking for active relaxation, in addition to the Vasvár thermal baths, the Döröske and Gersekarát lakes as well as the Rába river guarantees the water experience.

Accordingly, everyone seeking an excursion to explore natural and cultural sites can find a programme in the Vasvár region. As an ultimate goal, the touristic components of the region could be linked with touristic values of the

Balaton and the Órség regions. Furthermore, certain monuments could be integrated into Europe-wide programmes, via for instance the Way of Soldiers (Katonák útja), the Way of Monasteries (Kolostorok útja), or the Way of Mary (Mária-út).

***b.) Sub-thesis:* Touristic advancements help the preservation of cultural heritage, and they call attention to cultural values.**

Cultural tourism is concerned with the cultural heritage of the past, our architecture, objects and pieces of art guarded in museums, as well as present cultural events, festivals, concerts, theatrical performances, folk art fairs. The Historical Collections of the Dominican Order offer both the written and objectified heritage of the past, and, with programmes, conferences, and acquainting visitors with the Dominican spirituality, they keep the eight hundred-year-old Dominican inheritance alive.

With the financial help of the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Slovenia-Hungary, European Territorial Programme, in the framework of the project titled “*Joint values of our past - living heritage*” (“*Múltunk közös értékei - élő örökségünk*”) the so-called “Way of Monasteries” programme was born, with the Dominican monastery at Vasvár as one of its locations.

The Way of Soldiers Cultural and Touristic Centre was formed by the Dominican Monastery of Vasvár Foundation and Vasvár Municipality with the financial help of tenders. By the Way of Soldiers, many programme packages were compiled, one of which, titled “*Architecture of the Middle Ages by the Way of Soldiers*” (“*Középkori építészet a Katonák Útja mentén*”) displays churches, monasteries and mansions found in Vas county and Slovenia.

The so-called Way of Mary, a network of pilgrimage routes and hiking trails crossing through Central Europe from Mariazell in Austria to Csíksomlyó in Transylvania unites religious pilgrimage with showcasing and protecting cultural relics. One of the Way’s North-South branches reaches a pilgrimage site near Vasvár, called Szentkút. During sacred events held at the shrine of St Mary, the Dominican monastery provides accommodations to the pilgrims, thus offering a chance for them to get acquainted with the spirituality and cultural significance of the Order of Preachers. These events would provide a perfect opportunity to raise awareness towards the library of the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order.

***c.) Sub-thesis:* As a part of touristic developments, further partnerships shall be cultivated with Hungarian and international associations, institutions.**

The Historical Collections of the Dominican Order, the Town Museum, the Nagy Gáspár Cultural Centre (rebuilt in the course of the main square's reconstruction), and the Dr Bendefy László Town Library offers a wide range of versatile programmes for Vasvár's inhabitants, visitors and pilgrims. Cooperation between institutions in town must be enhanced, and their programmes must be even more harmonised.

Affiliating with Austrian territories under the Cross-Border Cooperation Programme Austria-Hungary 2007-2013 enabled the planning and execution of projects exhibiting touristic and cultural values of both countries. The objective of the partnership is to deepen economic, social, cultural and ecological ties by the Austrian-Hungarian border.

The Institute of Dominican History in Krakow and the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order in Vasvár published a book in honour of fr József Pucilowski OP, the vicar of the General Vicariate of Hungary between 1996-2004, on the occasion of his 70s birthday. The volume⁵ summarizes the current results of Polish and Hungarian Dominican historical research.

Preparing for the 800th anniversary of the confirmation of the Order of Preachers in the following years, it will be possible, with a series of programmes across country and beyond the borders, to enlist new visitors and patrons as well as raise awareness to the existence and services of the Dominican library and museum. Cooperation with Polish Dominicans is still continuous, many friars living in Hungary are of Polish origin, and Hungarian novices are sent to study in Krakow. Organizing the international conference announced for 2016 will also doubtlessly bring Polish-Hungarian collaboration.

⁵ *Historicus Polonus-Hungarus: emlékkönyv Pucilowski József atya tiszteletére hetvenedik születésnapja alkalmából.* Krakkó: Espirit, 2010.

5. UTILIZING THE RESULTS

The results of this paper supply specific ideas and suggestions of development directly to the Historical Collections of the Dominican Order and the Vasvár Town Museum. However, other ecclesiastical collections can utilize the results as well, to expand their services and improve the number of their patrons. Particularly libraries and museums with peculiar collections and few visitors, primarily located in the countryside, can draw on the chapters of the dissertation.

The dissertation proposes several potential research topics, such as, for example, the fate of books seized during the secularization from monastic libraries up to the regime change in 1989, the role and function of library- and museum pedagogy in ecclesiastical collections, or library- and museum pedagogy in organizing lifelong learning.

The Historical Collections of the Dominican Order have accomplished an exemplary task during the last few years with collecting and organizing material connected to the order, in spite of limited resources, depending on the work of volunteers and civilian helpers. Issues of collection development and difficulties of subject analysis in the library allowed specific observations to emerge, on which future services and tasks of library management can be based.

6. PUBLICATIONS CONNECTED TO THE TOPIC OF THE DISSERTATION

- NÉMETH Katalin: *Könyvtári feladatok a Domonkos Örökségvédelmi Táborokban* In: Könyvtári Figyelő, 2012. 58. évf. 2. sz. (online only)
- NÉMETH Katalin: *Könyvtári menedzsment a Domonkos Rendtörténeti Gyűjtemény könyvtárában*, Az ELTE Irodalomtudományi Doktori Iskola hallgatóinak publikációs fóruma, 2012. <http://doktori-publik.freeblog.hu/>
- NÉMETH Katalin: *A vasvári Domonkos Rendtörténeti Gyűjtemény* In: Könyvtári figyelő, 2011. 57. évf. 4. sz. 774-778. p.

7. LECTURES CONNECTED TO THE TOPIC OF THE DISSERTATION

- NÉMETH Katalin: *A domonkos rend művelődéstörténeti szerepe a 17. században.* [Konferencia előadás.] Pázmány – kultúra - könyvtárügy. Budapest, Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem. 2010. november 17.
- NÉMETH Katalin: *Könyvtári örökségvédelem a vasvári Domonkos Rendtörténeti Gyűjteményben.* [Konferencia előadás.] Prof. Dr. Sebestyén György 65 éves - ünnepi tudományos tanácskozás. Budapest, Eötvös Loránd Tudományegyetem. 2011. november 29.
- NÉMETH Katalin: *A Domonkos Rendtörténeti Gyűjtemény könyvtára.* [Konferencia előadás]. Domonkos jubileum 1216-2016: értékelés és felkészülés. Vasvár, 2013. május 23-24.