

Practical Research Information

A Research Guide to Sarajevo Collections

Ahmed ZILDZIC*

Bosnia and Herzegovina today is an independent country born out of the former Yugoslavia in the early 1990s. Historically, the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the westernmost territory where, during the long centuries of Ottoman rule, precisely from the middle 15th to the late 18th centuries, an authentic Bosnian Muslim culture thrived and countless critical historical events took place. In more than one way, Bosnia was “serhat,” a frontier country, a meeting point of different cultures and traditions, and a bridge between them. Consequently, the capital city of Sarajevo hosts several academic and research institutions that are of considerable importance in studying a range of academic topics related to history and presence. No less than six repositories of Ottoman and Oriental primary sources such as Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish, Persian, and Bosnian, as well as a spectrum of other documents, exist in Sarajevo. This fact makes Sarajevo an inevitable research destination for all students of Ottoman political, cultural, and social history. What follows here is not more than a simple list of essential institutions whose identification card contains necessary information such as the address, working hours, contacts, other service information. Besides, a brief description of the institutions’ structure and funds at researchers’ disposal is provided. More essential institutions such as Gazi Husrev-beg/bey Library, the Bosniac Institute, and Oriental Institute are introduced in a more detailed manner, while for others, the description offered here is shorter and summary.

The text is supplemented by detailed maps showing the exact location of the institutions within the city proper. Bosnia-Herzegovina and its capital Sarajevo is reasonably well connected with neighboring countries and their respective capitals of Belgrade and Zagreb by daily land and air connections. Sarajevo is served by three direct flights from Istanbul, which makes the latter city possibly the best approach point to Bosnia, and research in Sarajevo, hopefully, a pleasant and useful extension to research activities conducted in Istanbul collections.

* * *

* Associate Professor of Islamic Culture and Civilization at Faculty of Philosophy, University of Sarajevo. e-mail: ahmed.zildzic@ff.unsa.ba

**1. GAZI HUSREV-BEGOVA BIBLIOTEKA U SARAJEVU /
GAZI HUSREV-BEG(BEY) LIBRARY IN SARAJEVO**

Address: Gazi Husrev-begova 46, 71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Web Page: <http://www.ghb.ba/eng>

Working Hours

Library: Mon.–Fri. 8:00 AM–4:00 PM

Reading Room: Mon.–Fri. 8:00 AM–6:00 PM

Sat. 8:00 AM–3:00 PM

Museum: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 AM–6:00 PM

Sat. 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Phone: +387-33-238-152

e-mail: info@ghb.ba

Director: Osman Lavić, MA

e-mail: olavic@ghb.ba

Public Relations Officer: Šahsena Đulović

e-mail: sdjulovic@ghb.ba



The Gazi Husrev-beg/bey Library (GHL) in Sarajevo is the oldest cultural institution in Bosnia-Herzegovina and has been serving its purpose ever since its foundation. In the endowment charter of his madrasa, then the Bosnian governor Gazi Husrev-beg/bey (d. 1541) stipulated that “whatever money remains from the construction of the madrasa shall be used for purchasing good books, which will be used in the madrasa by readers, and for copying from them by those who engage in science.” Gazi Husrev-beg/bey himself bequeathed several manuscripts to the madrasa library, some of which are still kept at the GHL. Thus, the year of the madrasa’s foundation (1537) is also considered as that of the library’s foundation. The library functioned within the madrasa until 1863 when, on the initiative of the Bosnian governor Topal Osman-pasha, the Gazi Husrev-beg/bey endowment built a large room next to the Gazi Husrev-beg/bey Mosque, right below its minaret, to which the Library was moved.

The Library remained there until 1935. Due to the increase in its holdings and the number of users, it was moved later to the basement of the Sarajevo Mufti’s office outside the Careva (Imperial) Mosque. The Library continued to grow while housed in the former Ulema-medžlis building, also located in front of the Careva Mosque. Soon, the whole building of the former mufti’s once was used for housing the library’s holdings. The library remained on these premises until April 1992, when it had to be moved out because of a concern for



(1) Gazi Husrev-Begova Biblioteka u Sarajevu

its safety following the launch of the attack on Bosnia. The printed books were transferred to the Careva Mosque, and the manuscripts were moved eight times throughout the siege of 1992–1995 to various locations in the city. The 500 most valuable manuscripts were placed inside the vaults of the Privredna Banka, where they remained until the end of the siege. Thanks to these precautions, the Library's holdings were saved in their entirety.

Islamic Manuscripts Fund

GHL holds some 10,190 codices with about 20,000 titles. A significant number of manuscripts originated either through writing or copying in various parts of the Islamic world, especially in main centers of learning such as Mecca, Medina, Cairo, Baghdad, and, especially, Istanbul. These manuscripts, some of which are unique or rare, came to Bosnia and the neighboring countries in different ways: through trade, Hajj, and Bosnian students who studied in those centers. They included works by Bosnian Muslim authors written or copied in parts of the Islamic world where these authors served in high scholarly and state positions.

A number of the madrasa and public libraries were also added to the GHL. Thus, the GHL acquired manuscripts from the following libraries:

- Hajj Mehmed-beg/bey Karagoz-beg/bey Library, from Mostar (est. 1557)
- Memi Shah-beg/bey Library, from Foca (est. 1569)
- Dervish-pasha Bajezidagic Library, from Mostar (est. 1592)
- Elchi Ibrahim-pasha madrasa Library, from Travnik (est. 1704)
- Mustafa-efendi Ejub(ov)ic, also known as ShaikhYuyo (d. 1707)
- Hajj Khalil-efendi Library, from Gracanica (lived in the middle of the 18th century)
- Osman Shehdi Library, from Sarajevo (est. 1760/61)
- Abdullah-efendi Kantamiri Library, from Sarajevo (est. 1774/75), and others.

More recently, the GHL purchased several important private libraries that belonged to Hajj Mehmed-efendi Handžic (d. 1944), the supreme Sharia judge Hilmi-efendi Hatibovic (d. 1944), Osman Asaf Sokolovic (d. 1971) and Dr. Muhamed Hadžijahic (d. 1986). Not long ago, several particularly valuable libraries were donated to GHL, such as the library of Sinanudin-efendi Sokolovic from Sarajevo, the Carsimamovic family from Zenica, the Djumusic sisters from Banja Luka, etc. Apart from manuscripts, these donations include printed works in

Arabic, Turkish, Persian, Bosnian, and other languages.¹

Mushafs (written and bound copies of the Qur'an) are distinguished by outstanding calligraphy and decoration. They usually consist of golden background, illustrations at the start of the Qur'an ('*unwān*'), and each sūra as well as decoration on the margins. Particular attention was paid to the binding so that covers were usually made from the most beautiful leather, in different colors, and with gilt embossed rosettes.

A significant part of the manuscript holdings originated in Bosnia and neighboring regions, testifying to the lively activities of writing and copying works from all the scholarly fields known at the time. Some of these works were initially composed by Bosnian Muslim authors and then reproduced in madrasas and copying centers.

GHL holds an essential collection of teaching licenses (Bosnian: *idżazetnama*), including the permits issued to Bosnian students:

- The teaching license for the memorization of the Qur'an for seven and ten readings (*qirā'at*) by Hafiz Salih Sidki Hadžihalilovic, son of Ahmad Nuri. The license was issued by Hafiz Ibrahim ibn Ali Dramali, the imam of Üçmihraplı mosque in Istanbul in 1885. (R-7734)
- The teaching license for rational and traditional sciences issued to Salih Rizai-efendi Nalic (Hadžihusejnovic) by al-Sayyid al-Hajj al-Hafiz Salih Nazim al-Erzurumi in 1904. (R-7733)

Most manuscripts have been cataloged, and their catalogs published in 18 volumes. They cover 10,200 manuscripts. In 1972 GHL launched its journal, *Anali Gazi Husrev-begove biblioteke*, dedicated mainly to study the holdings of the GHL, Gazi Husrev-beg/bey institutions, a cultural history of Bosnian Muslims, and Islamic studies.

GHL's most important holdings (manuscripts, archival materials, and early printed books) have been put on microfilm and digitalized. At the same time, damaged manuscripts, documents, and printed books are being restored. GHL has a modern centre for restoration and conservation of paper and leather. All library holdings are cataloged electronically and are available for search and use.

Fund of Printed Books

GHL holds 35,000 printed books in Bosnian and other European languages. Particularly important are the earliest printed books in Bosnia in Bosnian by Bosnian authors. *Risalei-ahlak* is the first Muslim book to be published in Roman script in Bosnia. The writer was

¹ For more information visit <<https://english.islamskazajednica.ba/mina-news/286-the-gazi-husrev-beg-library>>.

Mehmed-beg/bey Kapetanovic Ljubušak, and the book was printed in 1883 (the supplement) (I-393). *Zemljopis i poviestnica Bosne* by Slavoljub Bošnjak (sobriquet used by Franciscan Ivan Franjo Jukic) was published in Zagreb in 1851 (III-2581). There are also some 25,000 books printed in Arabic, Ottoman, Persian, and Bosnian (in Arabic script). They include several of the earliest books produced by Ibrahim Müteferrika (1674–1745) pioneering printing press, established at Istanbul in 1727, and a large number of works printed from the mid-18th century until the present day. Among these, works on the Islamic disciplines written in Oriental languages are particularly well represented. One of the earliest Müteferrika publications was an Arabic-Ottoman dictionary *Kitâb-i Lugât-i Vankulu* by Vankulu Mehmed ibn Mustafa al-Wani (d. 1592) printed in 1728 (O-55 and O-56). *Ahval-i gazevat der diyar-i Bosna* is a work of history, also known as *Tarih-i Bosna*, written in Ottoman by Omer-efendi Novljanin (lived in the 18th century) and printed at the Müteferrika press in 1154/1741 (O-2679).

Fund of Periodical and Serial Publications

The collection of periodicals consists of the oldest newspapers printed in Bosnia, several Sarajevo dailies, and nearly all Muslim newspapers and journals which were or still are published in Bosnia. The collection of Bosnian papers printed during the Austro-Hungarian period is complete (1878–1882). There is also a valuable collection of newspapers and journals in Arabic and Turkish. *Bosna*, the official publication of the Ottoman province of Bosnia, published during the 1866–1878 period in Bosnian language and Cyrillic script in parallel with the Ottoman language and Arabic script, is an almost complete set.

The GHL has an almost complete set of *Sarajevski cvjetnik - Gulsen-i Saray*, which was published between 1869 and 1872 by the first Bosnian Muslim journalist Mehmed Sakir Kurtcehajic (d. 1872),

Among the notable magazines published in Bosnian in Arabic script (known as *arebica*), one should mention *Tarik* (1908–1910), *Muallim* (1910–1913) and *Misbah* (1912–1913).

Collection of Ottoman Documents

The collection relates to Bosnian history and consists of about 5,000 documents that originated in the chanceries of sultans, viziers, kadis, and other state officials.

The Sarajevo Sharia court registers (*sidjill*) cover specific periods from 1552–1852. These 88 sidjills are a significant source for the study of the political, cultural, and economic history of Sarajevo and Bosnia. GHL has several incomplete court registers for other towns, including Tuzla from the first half of the 17th century, a complete record for Mostar 1766–1768, and Fojnica from 1763–1769; Sarajevo court registers from 1551–1552; Mostar kadi registers from 1766–1767 and 1768–1769.

Among the particularly valuable materials for the study of Bosnian history, one should mention the Collection (*Zbornik*) of Muhammed Enveri Kadic, *the Chronicle* of Mula Mustafa-Ševki Bašeskija, and *Tarih-i Bosna* by Muvekkit. Kadic's *Collection* comprises 28 volumes, which include numerous documents in the Ottoman language on Bosnian history. Besides documents, the collection consists of copies of some of the works of Bosnian Muslim authors, which are otherwise lost. This is especially the case with several poets. A highly valuable source for the history of Sarajevo is *the Chronicle* of Mula Mustafa-Ševki Bašeskija, which is an autograph. Bašeskija recorded events taking place in Sarajevo during 1747–1804, often making his comments. For each year, he listed the names of deceased citizens of Sarajevo, mostly ordinary people.

The GHL's copy of *Tarih-i Bosna*, or History of Bosnia, by Salih Sidki Hadžihusejnovic Muvekkit (d. 1888), is a complete manuscript written by Muhammed Enveri Kadic. Muvekkit is known as the first Bosnian Muslim to use sources and literature written by Bosnian Christian writers. The autograph copy of the work was kept in the Oriental Institute Library, which was destroyed in 1992.

Collection of Photographs (<http://www.ghb.ba/photographic-collection>)

The collection holds old photographs and postcards of Bosnian towns and objects of Islamic architecture, photographs of historical personalities, Bosnian ulama, old Bosnian families, traditional Bosnian attire, as well as posters and leaflets.

Archive of the Islamic Community (<http://www.ghb.ba/archive-of-the-islamic-community>)

Archive material of the Islamic Community in Bosnia and Herzegovina forms an exclusive library collection and testifies to the work of the Community and its institutions for the period 1882–1993. It covers four historical periods: Austro-Hungarian, Yugoslav Kingdom, the Independent State of Croatia, and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Most of the materials are in Bosnian and to a lesser extent, Ottoman, German, and Arabic.

Publications:

Annals of GHB library (<https://anali-ghb.com/index.php/aghb/issue/view/24>)

Manuscripts catalogs (<http://www.ghb.ba/manuscripts-catalogs>)

Other publications (<http://www.ghb.ba/other-publications>)

* * *

**2. BOŠNJAČKI INSTITUT - FONDACIJA ADIL ZULFIKARPAŠIĆ /
BOSNIAC INSTITUTE - ADIL ZULFIKARPASIC FOUNDATION**

Address: Bosniac Institute - Adil Zulfikarpasic Foundation, Mula Mustafe Baseskije 21,
71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Phone: +387-33-179-800

Fax: +387-33-279-763

e-mail: info@bosnjackiinstitut.ba

Library

Phone: +387-33-279-805

e-mail: biblioteka@bosnjackiinstitut.ba

Admission Hours

Library: Mon.–Sat. 9:00 AM– 4:00 PM

Wed. 9:00 AM–7:00 PM

Visits: Mon.–Sat. 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Free admission

Larger groups by prior appointment only

The Bosniac Institut - Adil Zulfikarpasic Foundation is an institution working in a variety of ways to promote Bosnia and Herzegovina's past and to build its future. It is a museum, a library, a gallery, a cultural center, and an archive.

Its founder Adil Zulfikarpasic and his wife spent many years collecting sources relating to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the countries of ex-Yugoslavia, and the Balkans as a whole. The culmination of their lifelong efforts is the establishment of the Bosniac Institute, which opened its doors in Zurich in 1988 and transferred its holdings to the newly opened institute in Sarajevo in 2001.

Two waqfs meet in the Bosniac Institute - that of Gazi Husrev-beg/bey, founded in the 16th century and that of Adil Zulfikarpasic in the 20th century trust. This historic encounter of two waqfs took place in Gazi Husrev-beg/bey's hammam build in 1535 and now restored to the social role and significance it once enjoyed. It is now the venue for a range of cultural events and houses a display of artifacts from Bosnia and Herzegovina cultural heritage.

The activities and the very existence of the Bosniac Institute make it a symbol of coexistence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a monument to the country's cultural and historical past. All of its various holdings are open and available to researchers and students of Bosnia's history.

The Library

The Institute has a library containing extensive and precious holdings that are continually being added to and now exceed 150,000 titles. If particular values are special collections, among them Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, old and rare books, the map collection, the

postcard collection, and the archive of documents in Oriental and European languages.

The Collection of Islamic Manuscripts is one of the special collections of the library. It comprises of some 743 codices with around 1,125 different works in various fields of literacy such as theology, law, ethics, mysticism, philosophy, logic, grammar, belles-lettres, medicine, etc. The Manuscript Fund has continuously been in expansion. It nowadays has become of the more essential manuscript repositories in Sarajevo, particularly in light of the destruction of the MSS in Oriental Institute and numerous other smaller collections that had perished. All of the manuscripts of the Bosniac Institute have been systematically arranged and cataloged in three volumes of the Catalogue published in 1997, 2003, and 2018, respectively. The first two volumes of the Catalogue were compiled by Fehim Nametak and Salih Trako, while Mustafa Jahic compiled the third volume. The first two volumes of the Catalogue in both Bosnian and English are freely available at the following links:

Catalog, vol. I (The English text follows the Bosnian):

<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.ba/dokumenti/Katalog%20svezak%201%20rec.pdf>

Catalog, vol. II:

<http://www.bosnjackiinstitut.ba/dokumenti/Katalog%20svezak%202%20rec.pdf>

The Art Collection

The Bosniac Institute's Art Collection consists of about 1,500 works of art by more than two hundred artists. Its paintings, drawings, graphics, sculptures, lawhas, and tapestries promote the artists of Bosnia-Herzegovina and represent the country's modern-day art at many exhibitions organized by the Institute.

* * *

3. ORIJENTALNI INSTITUT UNIVERZITETA U SARAJEVU / ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN SARAJEVO

Address: Kampus Univerziteta, Zmaja od Bosne 8b

71 000 Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Working Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Web Page: www.ois.unsa.ba

Phone: +387-33-225-353

Director: Dr. Adnan Kadrić

e-mail: ois@bih.net.ba



(3) Orijentalni Institut Univerziteta u Sarajevu

The Oriental Institute in Sarajevo ranks among the oldest scientific institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although formally established in 1950, its beginnings can be traced back to the end of the 19th century. It can rightfully be stated that the Institute was emerging and consolidating with the evolution of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1888. The National Museum hosted the Provincial Archive, the Manuscript Collection, and the Institute for Balkan Studies, which in 1950 has emerged as an independent scientific institution named the Oriental Institute.

With the passing of the new Law on Higher Education in 2013 (Official Gazette of the Sarajevo Canton, numbers 15/13 and 42/13) as well as the adoption of the new Bylaws of the University of Sarajevo, an integration of all institutions of higher education, as well as all research institutions into the University of Sarajevo has been completed. Thus the Oriental Institute became a regular member of the University of Sarajevo and currently functions within its boundaries, like all other educative and research institutions in the Sarajevo Canton.

Academic tasks of the Oriental Institute are as follows:

- to collect, classify, process and publish Oriental manuscripts and archival materials and sources for the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- to study Arabic, Turkish and Persian languages and their literatures, and to study their elements in the Bosnian language and culture,
- to explore the cultural heritage of the Bosniaks in Oriental languages,
- to study the issues of the social, political, economic and cultural history of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the Ottoman rule, within the field of Ottoman studies,
- to study Oriental and Islamic art, with a focus on Islamic art in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- to work on the development of scientific and professional staff and cadres in Oriental studies,
- to cooperate with cognate and relevant institutions and organizations, as well as with individual research workers in the country and abroad,
- to publish the results of its scientific research, as well as professional work and render them available for the public through its publications – the annual journal *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* [Contribution to Oriental Philology] and special editions such as *Posebna izdanja* [Monograph Editions] and *Monumenta Turcica Historiam Slavorum Meridionalium Illustrantia*.

The Oriental Institute in Sarajevo is located on the University Campus (former Marshal Tito Barracks) in the center of Sarajevo.

The Institute was organized according to its operational programs in the following structure:

- Department of Philology
- Department of History
- Near and the Middle East Section
- Oriental Art Section
- Department of Documentation

In the Philology Department, Oriental manuscripts related to the cultural history of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina were processed and published, cultural heritage in Arabic, Turkish, and Persian was studied, as well as these languages and their literatures and cultures, and studies in these fields were published. In the History Department, archival materials and sources for the history of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina were processed and published, and their use for research purposes was enabled. The Department also worked on research projects, producing several studies in the field. The Department of Oriental Art studied Oriental and Islamic art and material culture, primarily in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Still, due to the shortage of qualified staff, this Department and the Near and Middle East Section were operational only occasionally.

Results of research by Institute staff were published in the journal *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* [Contributions to Oriental Philology], which started coming out immediately after the establishment of the Institute. The first seven issues of the journal were entitled: *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju i istoriju jugoslovenskih naroda pod turskom vlašću* [Contributions to Oriental Philology and History of Yugoslav Peoples under Ottoman Rule]. Branislav Đurđev noted, regarding the first number of the journal, that the papers in that issue were more characteristic of the former Turkish archives of the National Museum than of the future work of Oriental Institute. Namely, the Turkish Archives prioritized the publication of Ottoman historical documents, while the task of an Oriental Institute was far more extensive. It was registered as a Yugoslav journal and was financed by the Yugoslav SIZ (Independent Local Scientific Communities), and members of the editorial board were drawn from all centers of the former Yugoslavia.

Journal *Prilozi za orijentalnu filologiju* (abbreviated as *POF*) was also registered as an international and renown journal. Only original academic research papers were published in the journal, as indicated by the numerous reviews of scientific and research papers. Since the first issue (1950) until today (2019), sixty-six issues have come out.

As well as in journals, researchers and fellows of the Oriental Institute have also published their works in the series *Monumenta Turcica Historiam Slavorum Meridionalium Illustrantia*. This edition has brought out editions of historical sources of exceptional importance for the study of the Balkans' past. So far, thirteen books have been published. Scientific and professional papers of the Institute's staff have also been published in the

Posebna izdanja [Special editions] series. Around forty monographs have to date appeared in this series.

After the destruction of its entire holdings in May 1992, the Oriental Institute began a continuous effort to rebuild its funds. Today the Institute possesses a specialized library, an archive, and a manuscript collection encompassing around 130 Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish.

* * *

4. FILOZOFSKI FAKULTET U SARAJEVO / SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AT UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

Address: Filozofski fakultet, Franje Račkog br. 1, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-253-100

Web Page: www.ff.unsa.ba

Faculty of Philosophy or School of Humanities as it could be more suitably termed is significant because it hosts two departments that are home to most of the country's specialists in the field of history of the Ottoman period and Oriental philology, i.e., Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages and literatures. Department for Oriental Philology was established simultaneously with the Oriental Institute in Sarajevo marking, thus the beginning of the institutional scientific endeavor in Oriental studies. Today this department has three chairs, Chair for Arabic language and literature, Chair of Turcology and Chair of Persian language and literature. More than twenty researchers are engaged in teaching and conducting research on various aspects of Islamic culture in Bosnia and globally.



(4) Filozofski Fakultet u Sarajevo

Likewise, the Department of History hosts specialists in the early modern age, which roughly covers the Ottoman period in Bosnia from the middle of 15th century to the late 19th.

The school has a small specialized library and a handful of Islamic manuscripts and old printed books in Oriental languages that were not yet appropriately cataloged.

It is important to note that the academic year in Bosnia and Herzegovina consists of two semesters. Fall semester opens with final examinations, and classes usually begin in the first week of October. Spring semester usually starts in the first week of February. Most of January, late June, July, and August universities are closed for season holidays, and one should plan his

or her visits and appointments in accordance with the academic calendar, which is available at <www.unsa.ba>. This central web page of the University offers a variety of other useful information for visitors and foreign researchers.

* * *

5. ZEMALJSKI MUZEJ BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE / THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Address: Zmaja od Bosne 3, 71 000 Sarajevo,
Bosnia and Herzegovina

Admission Hours: Tue.–Fri. 10:00 AM–7:00 PM
Sat.–Sun. 10:00AM–2:00PM

The Museum is closed on Mondays

Admission fees: www.zemaljskimuzej.ba/en/admission

Web Page: <https://www.zemaljskimuzej.ba/en>

Phone: +387-33-668-027

e-mail: kontakt@zemaljskimuzej.ba

Acting Director: Mirsad Sijaric

e-mail: direktor@zemaljskimuzej.ba



Founded in 1888, the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the oldest western-style cultural and scientific institution in the country. The idea of establishing a museum goes back to the middle of 19th century, to a time when Bosnia and Herzegovina was still a part of the Ottoman Empire as the Eyalet of Bosnia. Yet it would take four decades and a change of government for the idea to be realized.

Organizational Structure of the National Museum

The National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina engages in museological, scientific, educational, and publishing activities, which determine its organizational structure. It is made up of four central departments:



(5) Zemaljski Muzej Bosne i Hercegovine

- The Archeology Department
- The Ethnology Department
- The Natural Sciences Department
- The Library

The Library of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The National Museum Library is a specialized scientific library with around 300,000 volumes (books, magazines, newspapers). Work on its founding commenced with the establishment of the Museum Society in Sarajevo in 1884, when it was conceived as the first scientific library in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It started operations in 1888, and when the museum moved in 1913 to its new buildings, the library moved into its present-day facilities.

The materials the Library possesses have been systematically collected for 129 years, and they cover the areas of archaeology, history, ethnology, folklore, mineralogy, geology, botany, zoology, and museology. The earliest library holdings, gathered during the time of the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, are rarities. From its very beginnings, the library has established contacts and engaged in publication exchange with museums and scientific institutions worldwide thanks to its publishing activities, namely the *Herald of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina*.

The library has the following catalogs:

- Alphabetic catalog of periodicals (unique copies and duplicates)
- Catalog of individual copies and duplicates by the author
- Systematic catalog

Library email contacts: bibliotkazmbih@gmail.com, biblioteka@zemaljskimuzej.ba

* * *

6. ARHIV BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE / THE ARCHIVES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Address: Reisa Džemaludina Čauševića 6, 71 000 Sarajevo

Working Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Web Page: www.arhivbih.gov.ba/en

Phone: +387-33-206-492

Director: Saša Klepić

e-mail: info@arhivbih.gov.ba

The Archives of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the first modern institution of its kind in the country. It was established in 1947. and continues to operate in the service of students and researchers



(6) Arhiv Bosne i Hercegovine

from Bosnia and abroad. It provides onsite help to researchers and facilitates cooperation between Bosnian institutions and individuals from around the world. Particularly useful are holdings that were gathered as part of the project to collect materials and documentation related to Bosnia and Herzegovina, its people and history, that are held in archives abroad. Numerous researchers visited foreign archives and in the frame of this project, collected materials on Bosnia from the Middle Ages to the Second World War.

It is a major hub for getting in touch with local and provincial archives throughout the country.

* * *

7. **AKADEMIJA NAUKA I UMJETNOSTI BOSNE I HERCEGOVINE / ACADEMY OF SCIENCES AND ARTS OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**



(7) Akademija Nauka i Umjetnosti,
and (17) Embassy of Japan

Address: Bistrik 7, 71 000 Sarajevo

Admission mostly by prior appointment

Web Page: <http://www.anubih.ba/index.php/bs/>

Phone: +387-33-560-700

International Cooperation:

Phone: +387-33-560-718

e-mail: internationalcooperation@anubih.ba

On-line Catalogue: <http://www.anubih.ba/>

[index.php/bs/biblioteka/on-line-katalog-anubih](http://www.anubih.ba/index.php/bs/biblioteka/on-line-katalog-anubih)

President: Academician Milos Trifkovic

e-mail: akademija@anubih.ba

Archive: Đenan Hadžimehmedagić

Phone: +387-33-560-731

e-mail: dzenan@anubih.ba

Academy of Sciences and Arts of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the oldest scientific institution in the country. Its activities are divided into several different departments, among which the Department for Humanities is perhaps the most relevant to students and researches in the field of history and philology. The most appealing aspect of the Academy is its academic



publications, series, and academic events organized throughout the year. While it hosts an internal library and archives about the history and activities of the Academy, it operates in a semi-closed manner and usually requires a prior appointment.

* * *

8. HISTORIJSKI ARHIV SARAJEVO / SARAJEVO HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

Address: Alipašina ulica 19, 71 000 Sarajevo

Admission Hours for Visitors:

Mon.–Fri. 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Library Hours: 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Web Page: www.arhivsa.ba/wordpress/

Phone: +387-33-223-281

Fax: +387-33-554-460

Director: Velid Jerlagic

e-mail: has@arhivsa.ba



(8) Historijski Arhiv Sarajevo

Sarajevo Historical Archives is an important cultural and educational institution with a scholarly and public mission lasting for decades. Its primary goal is to keep records and register all the possessors of archival materials in Sarajevo proper, to secure storage and upkeep of archival materials and to offer its holdings to students and The Archives holds numerous collections relevant to the social, economic, demographic, and political history of Sarajevo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. For students researching in the Ottoman period, the most important collections are as follows:

1. Acta Turcica, Call no. OZ; ZAT-001

The documents in this collection have origin from various local, provincial, and central administrative instances, as well as private citizens, and the majority of them are pertinent to the history of Sarajevo and its environs. They have significant scholarly value for the history of this region. The oldest documents are copies of deeds of endowment by the founder of Sarajevo, Isa-beg/bey from 1461, Ayas-beg/bey from 1477, and Gazi Husrev-beg/bey in 1531, and the latter's command (*emir-nama*) concerning the freedom of religious beliefs in Sarajevo from 1531.

In terms of form and content, the documents could be grouped into several categories: firmans, barats, buyuruldu, hujjat, i'lam, murasala, and various contracts, tax, and property acts, private and professional correspondence, lists, etc. In light of

these documents, it is possible to study the development and life of Sarajevo, its socio-economic conditions, property, and legal relations, as well as the cultural and religious life of its inhabitants. This collection came into existence through acquisition and gifts from institutions and private persons.

2. Collection of waqfnamas (deeds of endowment) Call no. OZ; ZVKN-002
3. Collection of wasiyyatnamas (legal wills) Call no. OZ; ZVSN-003
4. Collection of defters, Call no. OZ; T-004
5. Collection of manuscripts

This collection has around 802 Islamic manuscripts with more than 1305 works in Arabic, Persian, and Turkish. From the viewpoint of contents, those works fall within the following fields: philology of Oriental languages, philosophy (epistemology, logic, metaphysics), theology, history, geography, Qur'an and Qur'anic sciences (tafseer, tajweed), Prophetic traditions, medicine, administration, belles-lettres, Islamic law, etc. There are some 50 manuscripts in the Bosnian language written with the Arabic script (arabica). From among Bosnian authors who composed in Oriental languages, the collection holds works from the following scholars: Hasan Kafi Pruscak, Hasan Ka'imi, Mulla Mustafa Firaki, Muhammaed Nergisi, Heva'i Uskufi, and others. A significant number of manuscripts are impressive from the viewpoint of ornaments and artistic embellishments. This is particularly true for some 40 copies of the Holy Qur'an, the oldest dating from 1599. The whole collection was digitized and catalogs in two volumes in accordance with the highest scientific standards.

6. Collection of manuscripts and books formerly in possession of Mehmed Teufik Okic, Call no. OZ; MTO-006
7. Collection of documents previously in possession of Hamdija Kresevljakovic, Call no. OZ; ZHK-007
8. Collection of copies of Ottoman documents from the Archives of Dubrovnik in Croatia Call no. OZ; FDA-008
9. Collection of printed books in Oriental languages Call no. OZ; ZŠK-009

There are around 1,630 printed books in Oriental languages in this collection, mostly related to Oriental philology, history, belles-lettres, Islamic law, etc. Apart from monograph books, some of which are composed of Bosnian authors, there are serial publications and magazines in Ottoman and Bosnian languages, including Bosnian salnama (Official gazetteer of late Ottoman Bosnia). The collection is continually being updated and added to through acquisition and gifts, as well as through book exchange programs with museums and libraries from Bosnia and Herzegovina and abroad.

10. Separate funds:

- Hajji-Sinan Qadiri Tekke, Call no. OZ; HST-010
- Skender-Pasha Waqf – Sarajevo, Call no. OZ; SPV-011
- Family funds

* * *

**9. NACIONALNA I UNIVERZITETSKA BIBLIOTEKA BIH /
NATIONAL AND UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Address: Zmaja od Bosne 8b, 71 000 Sarajevo

Admission Hours:

Mon.–Fri. 7:30 AM–6:00 PM

Web Page: www.nub.ba

Phone: +387-33-275-301

Fax: +387-33-275-338

Director: Dr. Ismet Ovčina

e-mail: ured.direktora@nub.ba



(9) Nacionalna i Univerzitetska Biblioteka BIH

As it is evident from its name, the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the most central repository of old and newly printed books in Bosnian and other European languages. Every publisher in Bosnia and Herzegovina is obliged by law to submit several copies of each book it publishes to the National Library, making its collections a good starting point into your research in terms of recent academic literature on a given subject.

The Library also hosts several special collections that are varied in terms of its contents and holdings. Special collections are primarily utilized for academic research by Bosnian and visiting scholars. All the holding in the Special Collections of the Library are cataloged and available for search at the following link:

<<http://www.nub.ba/index.php/usluge/za-korisnike/online-katalog>>

The most precious holdings of the Library are kept in its Special Collections. The five existing Special Collections are as follows (<http://kolekcije.nub.ba/>):

- Rare and old books
- Manuscripts and archival materials
- Map collection
- Collection of graphics and drawings
- Music collection

Rare and Old Books

The collection of old and rare books was formed in 1951. Four early prints, incunabula, from Tubingen and Venezia have the highest value in the collection. Printed books from Bosnian Franciscan friars from the 17th and 18th centuries comprising of works by likes of Matija Divkovic and Ivan Frano Jukic, composed in Bosnian and written in the bosancica print are also valuable holdings within the collection. Of particular historical significance are printed books from the 19th century, and the collection has prints from Vilajetska stamparija (Provincial Press) from Sarajevo, Franjo Milicevic's printing house from Mostar.

Manuscripts and Archival Materials

This collection consists of around one thousand Islamic manuscripts in Arabic, Persian and Turkish, and a smaller number of the manuscript books in Greek and Bosnian/Serbian/Croatian. In terms of various scripts represented, the collection is exceedingly rich, having holdings in Arabic, Latin, Old Church Slavonic, bosancica, and arebica script. Islamic manuscripts thematically represent the most common fields of scientific endeavor known in Ottoman Bosnia, mostly law, language, and literature.

Archival materials in the collection have documents from the private library of Mehmed beg Kapetanovic Ljubusak, dr. Jovan Krsic, cultural institutions such as Napredak, Prosveta, and around 250 disparate documents written in bosancica from the Republic of Poljice.

Map Collection

Various types of maps ranging from the 16th century to the 21st, atlas, and tourist guides are part of Map collection. The majority of plans are related to South East and South Europe, particularly the region of former Yugoslavia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and neighboring countries.

* * *

10. FAKULTET ISLAMSKIH NAUKA / FACULTY OF ISLAMIC STUDIES

Address: Ćemerlina 54, 71 000 Sarajevo

Web Page: <https://fin.unsa.ba/?lang=en>

Phone: +387-33-251-011

Dean: Dr. Zuhdija Hasanović

e-mail: sekretar@fin.unsa.ba

This school is the highest-ranking educational institution of





(10) Fakultet Islamskih Nauka

Islamic theology in the country. It is heir to all previous institutions and schools that were active in the field of Islamic studies in recent periods. It was re-established in 1977. And since then continues to educate young cadres and Islamic scholars in BA, MA, and Ph.D. levels. It has a substantial collection of printed books in Arabic, Turkish, English, German, and other languages, mostly concerning Islamic studies in the broad sense of the word.

Faculty of Islamic Studies is a full member of Sarajevo University. Several Bosnian scholars who are specialists in Islamic studies in general and particularly in the Islamic tradition in Bosnia and the Balkans, are affiliated with this school and can be reached through prior appointment.

* * *

11. BOŠNJAČKA ZAJEDNICA KULTURE (BZK) PREPOROD / BOSNIAC CULTURAL INSTITUTION “PREPOROD”

Address: Branilaca Sarajeva 30, 71 000 Sarajevo

Working Hours: Mon.–Fri. 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

Web Page: <http://preporod.ba/old/>

Phone: +387-33-444-078

Director: Dr. Sanjin Kodrić

e-mail: preporod@bih.net.ba



(11) Bošnjačka Zajednica Kulture
(BZK) Preporod

Preporod is the central cultural institution of Bosniac Muslims in Bosnia and neighboring countries with branch offices in many different parts of the country. It has an excellent library, which among its holdings, hosts some private libraries from noted Bosnian scholars who worked on Bosnia’s history and literary tradition.

Preporod is particularly noted for its publications, such as the series *Bosnjačka književnost u 100 knjiga* (One Hundred Master Pieces of Bosniac Literature), and two academic journals: *Godisnjak* (Annals of Preporod) and *Bosnian Studies* in English.

* * *

* * *

Bookstores in Sarajevo

Separate groups are bookstores and local publishers who offer relevant titles for sale, and they can be grouped in the same category because of their shared characteristics. It must be noted that the vast majority of printed books are exclusively in Bosnian with occasional summaries in English and German. The number of English titles published locally and offered for sale is very limited. On the other hand, books in English from international publishers are available for purchases from some of these bookstores, which is the reason for enlisting them here.

12. BUYBOOK

Address: Radićeva 4, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-552-745

Fax: +387-33-552-746

e-mail: info@buybook.ba

Web Page: www.buybook.ba

Working Hours: Mon.–Sat. 9:00 AM–8:00 PM



(12) Buybook Bookstore

Buybook Bookstore is the organizer of an international book festival entitled Bookstan, which features many famous writers and scholars from Bosnia and abroad. For more detailed information about schedule and programs, the web page of the Buybook should be consulted.

*

13. TKD SAHINPASIC

Address: Koševo 44, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-771-190

Fax: + 387-33-771-188

e-mail: info@btcsahinpasic.com

Working Hours: Mon.–Sat. 9:00 AM–5:00 PM



(13) TKD Sahinpasic

TKD Sahinpasic is the organizer of Sarajevski sajam knjiga (Sarajevo Book Fair), which is usually held in April and represents an opportunity to purchase various scholarly and popular titles from publishers inside Bosnia and abroad.

*

14. SARAJEVO PUBLISHING

Address: Obala Kulina Bana 4, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-220-809

Web Page: www.sarajevopublishing.ba/sp/index.php



(14) Sarajevo Publishing

Heir to the most famous publishing house in Bosnia's history named "Veselin Maslesa," Sarajevo Publishing, as is known today, features a tradition of more than 70 years of publishing and distribution of scholarly books in the country. Veselin Maslesa is the copyright holder and titular owner of numerous scholarly projects in Bosnia's history. Particularly noted is its edition titled *Kulturna bastina* (Cultural Heritage) with many scholarly titles that deal with various aspects of Bosnia's history, literature, and tradition. Reprints from the edition mentioned above are still available for purchase either in SP bookstores or from sellers of antique books, and those works to this day remain the consistent and solid basis for conducting academic research about Bosnia.

*

15. SVJETLOST (Knjizara Svjetlost)

Address: Marsala Tita, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-219-092

Working Hours: Mon.–Sat. 9:00 AM–9:00 PM



(15) Svjetlost

Situated at the main strolling avenue of Sarajevo, this bookstore and office supply store is impossible to miss. It offers titles from Bosnian and foreign authors on different subjects. It is mostly reference and popular titles, but occasionally scholarly works can also be found. Alongside Veselin Maslesa, Svjetlost was the oldest publisher in Bosnia's history, whereas nowadays, it operates as a simple book store with only sporadic publications of interest to students and scholars.

*

**16. KNJIZARA I ANTIKVARNICA MABELA /
BOOKSTORE AND ANTIQUE BOOKS MABELA**

Address: Privredni grad Skenderija, Terezije bb, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone and Fax: +387-33-211-723

e-mail: mabela@mabela.ba

Web Page: <http://www.mabela.ba/Default.asp>

Simple search form: <http://www.mabela.ba/artikli/PretrArt.asp>

Used books in good condition, including some rare and unavailable titles, can be purchased from this store at reasonable prices.

*

In addition to these bookstores, there is a couple of other books selling web pages and publishing houses that exist online. The most noted among them are the following two:

- ww.knjiga.ba
- www.dobraknjiga.ba

* * *

**17. AMBASADA JAPANA U BOSNI I HERCEGOVINI /
EMBASSY OF JAPAN IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

His Excellency Ambassador Hideyuki SAKAMOTO

Address: Bistrik 9, 71 000 Sarajevo

Phone: +387-33-277-500

Fax: +387-33-209-583

e-mail: japanbih@sx.mofa.go.jp

Working Hours: Mon.–Fri. 8:30AM–5:00 PM

Web Page:

www.bosnia.emb-japan.go.jp/itprtop_en/index.html



(17) Ambasada Japana u Bosni i Hercegovini

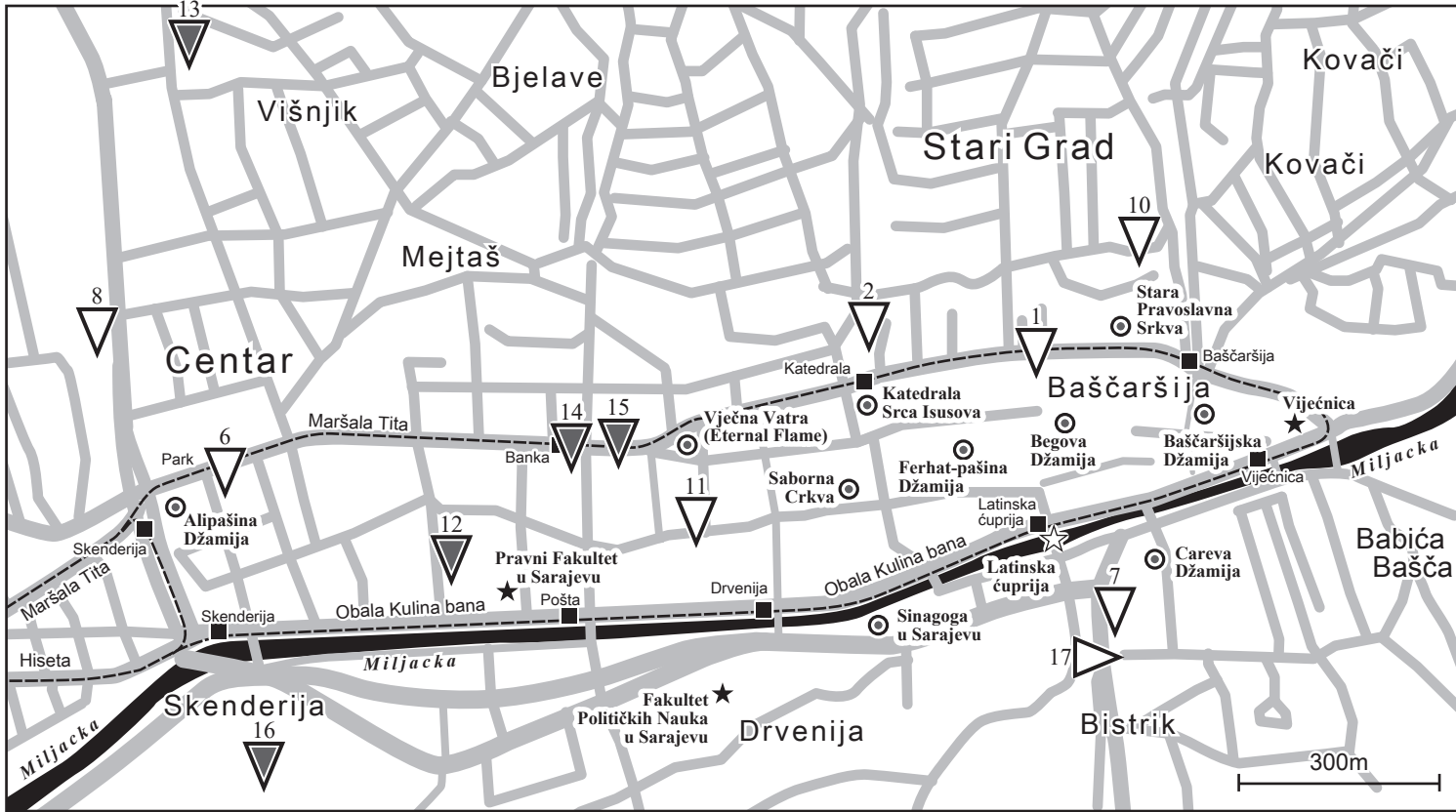


Map A: Bosnia and Herzegovina



Map B: Sarajevo

Maps are based on OpenStreetMap <<http://www.openstreetmap.org>> with reference to GoogleMaps.



←Map D

Map C: Old City of Sarajevo

