

CROATIA

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| Link person and Email | Alka Stropnik alka.stropnik@kgz.hr |
| National toy library association | None. Information is shared through the Croatian Library Association and its Children's Section. |
| Web link | N/A |
| Contact person | N/A |
| Services offered by the Association | N/A |
| Networking | Member of the European Toy Library Group |
| Toy Library information | |
| Number of known toy libraries | 19 |
| Administration | NGO toy libraries (3), Toy libraries in public libraries with toy lending service (11), Toy libraries in public libraries without toy lending service (5) |
| Communities served (clients) | Public library toy libraries serve babies, children and special needs children. NGO toy libraries serve special needs children, teenagers, adults and handicapped people. |
| Qualifications of toy librarians | No information at this time |
| Conferences | No information at this time |
| Meetings | No information at this time |
| Training | |
| <p>The Toy library Medvescak is the only place in Croatia where professionals come to educational courses and practice, in order to later be able to organize and maintain the toy libraries and playrooms. As toy libraries exist only as a part of the public libraries, the professionals working in toy libraries attend the usual meetings and seminars for librarians.</p> <p>Professionals who already work or have an intention to work in a toy library or playroom, regardless of the institution they come from, come to practice one day or more at the Medvescak Toy library.</p> <p>The courses offered in the Medvescak Toy library depend on the kind of program of the institution – toy lending service or playing activities, and on the profession of the individuals. They learn about acquisition, professional processing of toys and toy lending.</p> | |
| Specific courses offered are: N/A | |
| Brief history of toy libraries in Croatia | |
| <p>The first toy library in Croatia was opened in 1976 in the Medvescak Library in Zagreb and it is the model toy library for Croatia. That could be the reason that in Croatia toy libraries were mostly developed just in children's libraries. Since the first toy library was opened, the idea has been disseminated to the majority of public libraries in Croatia.</p> <p>In 1993 a program called small playroom was started in the Medvescak Library for children under three and their parents. In addition to playing with toys, some other activities like story-telling, drawing, painting, modelling and playing simple musical instruments are organized. Pre-school children of different ages play together and parents are invited to join them. In recent years similar programs have started in other public libraries in Croatia.</p> | |