

**Evaluation of the Research and Professional Activity of the Institutes of the
Czech Academy of Sciences (CAS)
for the period 2010–2014**

Final Report on the Evaluation of the Institute

Name of the Institute: Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS, v. v. i.

Fields, in which the Institute registered its teams:

Languages and literature

Observer representing the Academy Council of the CAS: Taťána Petrasová

Observer representing the Institute: Alice Jedličková, substitute observer Stanislava Fedrová

Commission No. 12: Languages and literature

Chair: Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Stefan Michael Newerkla

Date(s) of the visit of the Institute: October 19 – October 21, 2015

Programme of the visit of the Institute: see attached Minutes from the visit

Evaluated research teams:

No. 1 - Department for Research into 19th Century Czech Literature; No. 2 - Department for Research into 20th Century and Contemporary Literature; No. 3 - Literary Lexicography Department; No. 4 - Theory Department; No. 5 - Department for Research into Literary Culture; No. 6 - Editorial and Textological Department; No. 7 - Department for Research into Old Czech Literature

A. Evaluation of the Institute as a whole

1. Introduction

Comprising eight departments, the Institute of Czech Literature is a relatively large institute. Its activities encompass historically (Department for Research into Old Czech Literature, Department for Research into 19th Century Czech Literature and Department for 20th Century and Contemporary Czech Literature) and systematically (Theory Department and Department for Research into Literary Culture) focused work accompanied by another key activity – the provision of information infrastructure (bibliographic databases, online libraries and catalogues, archives and collections) concerning the fields of research of the institute for a broad public (Bibliography and Archive Department). Two cross-sectional working departments (Literary Lexicography Department and Editorial and Textological Department) concentrate on “classical” academy-outputs: reference books and editions.

This subdivision of the departments and their working fields is relatively new, as the institute underwent a significant restructuring at the beginning of the evaluated five-year period. As the commission did not have access to the results of the evaluation of the previous period (2004–2009), it is generally difficult to comment on stability, shift or stagnation in the research activities – a difficulty which compounds the problem posed by the restructuring in evaluating the special case of the ICL.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

In a national as well as in an international context the institute is of high relevance for the study of Czech literature in a broad sense: The constantly updated bibliographical databases, the archival material, the library and the collections provide an important resource for research that is open to scholars from the whole world. The Literary Studies Information Centre meets the increasing demands of online infrastructure and the challenge of digital humanities. The online services reach users beyond the scholarly community as well.

The peer-reviewed journal *Česká literatura*, edited by the institute, is one of the most renowned journals in the field. The reference textbooks, handbooks and critical editions – the classical “academic” outputs of the institute – form the basis for scholarly discourse in the field and for high school and middle school teaching as well. Concerning the enhancement of editorial practices, the institute is developing new forms of hybrid editions, which are able to meet the requirements of scholars as well as of a broader public.

The institute is very active in the field of popularisation. In connection to research projects, the staff members do not only provide their expertise to the media and to society e.g. via public lectures, but create so called online exhibitions in the form of pdf-posters for download.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

As formulated in the ICL research activity plan for the 2015–2020/2025 period, bigger synthetical works are planned for the more distant future, in a medium-term perspec-

tive the concentration lies on the evaluation and the observation of responses to previous outputs as well of larger scale. The commission regrets that during the 2010–2014 period, there have been no concrete plans to resume the large-scale project *Lexikon české literatury*. This project has not been completed insofar as the first volume, which goes back to the time before 1989, has not been reworked (see recommendations). This being so, the commission appreciates all the more the ICL director's reference to the medium-term research activity plan of the Literary Lexicography Department which mentions the preparation and implementation of lexicographical activities for the period up to 1945 (and thereby also the first volume in question).

The momentarily focus lies on reference book projects which may be finished within a shorter period of circa five years (e.g. the newest output of the Lexicography Department *Česká literární nakladatelství 1949–1989*). Apparently, the funding policy and the dependence of the institute on additional financing by grants is hostile to projects of a larger scale and longer perspective (a fact that is unfortunately true for almost all disciplines in the humanities).

In the period 2010–2014/15, apart from the production of reference books and critical editions, the institute generally focused on projects of narrower subjects and on in-depth case studies and analyses. This decision, as we understood strategically led by the need to acquire additional grant-funding, shows an institutional threat: The grant policy is hostile to long-term projects providing basic research, inspecting source material and re-evaluating scholarly knowledge e.g. for reference books. Special-purpose funding mostly focuses on narrower projects, which are manageable in a shorter period. It thereby complicates the shaping of long-term perspectives and projects, which might cause a lack of intellectual continuity.

The institute has no women heads of department. This is a significant overall weakness, as it was characteristic of none of the other institutes examined, and may suggest that women do not feel their contribution in these leading roles would be welcomed.

4. Recommendations

The institute should continue in its tradition of internal cooperation between the individual departments in order to strengthen synergetic effects between the historically and the systematically working teams.

It should further develop and sharpen the plans for synthetic works in a long-term perspective, building on the exemplary in-depth studies currently under work.

It should continue in opening national Czech philology to broader comparative and transcultural perspectives concerning all researched historical periods. In this connection the international cooperation with scholars from Slavic and non-Slavic countries might even be intensified.

It should develop a policy to encourage women to apply for responsible posts within the Institute through a system of mentoring, which would of course not block or impede men from continuing in this role as well.

It should consider reworking the first volume as well as revising and digitising all volumes of the *Lexikon české literatury*.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The Institute's results in Phase I were generally reflective of very high quality, with almost all publications receiving a rating in the top three categories (international excellence or better).

The output is as well quantitatively impressive, ranging from popularising essays or reviews over individual studies, book chapters, individual books to reference books, encyclopaedias, companions, not to mention critical and hybrid editions.

The institute has achieved very convincing results concerning the acquisition of research grants. In 2014, 25% of the budget came from grants. This success in the applications for grant funding are based on interdepartmental cooperation between the individual teams and mutual discussions between them, which guarantees a high methodological level.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Most of the institute's members teach at higher education institutions: at the Faculties of Arts and Philosophy at Charles University, Prague, and Masaryk University, Brno, i.e. at the two cities, where the institute is based, but also among others at the University of South Bohemia or the Palacký University, Olomouc.

The institute partakes in special programs for doctoral studies and holds joint accreditations in postgraduate programs with the South Bohemian University in České Budějovice and the Masaryk University in Brno.

Declaration on societal relevance

The institute emphasises popularisation work to a high degree. This might be seen as hindering in-depth research, although the department members convincingly explained that popularising work, such as posters for download, is prepared as a "side-product" of currently on-going research-projects.

Nevertheless, it should be clear to governmental committees deciding on the financing of the academic institutes, that good popularisation is possible only when it is based on well and permanently financed qualitatively high-level long-term research.

The civil society clearly declared its support for this institute, among others of the Academy of Sciences, during the crisis this institution had to face in the year 2009 (movement *Věda žije!*). The legitimacy of the institute was decisively strengthened during this social fight.

The institute does much to stress the role of literature in public awareness. Members of the institute regularly and intensively cooperate with the media (newspapers, journals, radio and television and Facebook as well).

They hold lectures or organise discussions and round table talks open to the public and publish *Tvar*, a journal of contemporary literature and literary criticism. They participate in a number of literary awards juries and in editorial boards of journals.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The institute holds a key position in national and international studies of Czech literature and culture. The information structure it provides, forms a basis for research in this field. Its research results as its reference works are renowned nation-wide and internationally. All teams are engaged in collaboration and dialogue with colleagues and research teams abroad.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The institute has a well-balanced age structure with a focus on the younger generation aged between 25 and 40. In some departments, especially in the newly structured teams (e.g. the 19th Century Department and the Lexicography Department), there is a certain lack of members of the older generation and thus of more experienced scholars, which might cause a lack of institutional memory. On the other hand, it gives the opportunity or even compels the incorporation of new younger scholars into research work. Therefore, it is important to remark on the existing postgraduate programs with the South Bohemian University in České Budějovice and the Masaryk University in Brno.

Since there is a need to hire younger scholars for the teams of the institute and the institutes of the academy may not supervise Ph.D. students on their own, the lack of postgraduate programs with the Charles University constitutes an obstacle.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The Literary Studies Information Centre is well prepared for the new challenges of online provided infrastructure and the field of digital humanities. Its strategy and plans for the future are very convincing.

The plans to create – in a long-term perspective – new synthetic works (reference books, handbooks of significant periods and phenomena of Czech literature and culture as e.g. the book on Romanticism *Romantično*, prepared in collaboration with D. Tureček from the South Bohemian University) are highly appreciated by the commission, as well as the careful preparatory work to reflect the methodological basis of such large-scale comprehensive works.

In the mid-term perspective, there is unfortunately a certain lack concerning the period of the first half of the 20th century, as the Department for 20th Cent. Lit. plans to work “backwards”, after having completed its synthetic work on the time after WWII now concentrating on the time of the protectorate. As part of the ongoing self-evaluation of the overall research architecture of the institute one might think of possibilities to include studies on the interwar period even earlier. This would fit with the attempt of the institute to open up the tradition of national philology to comparative issues. It would also open new possibilities for international cooperation, as there is a growing interest in the period of Central European modernity and its intercultural implications. One might even think about establishing a new team for the comparative study of literature, as the ICL director proposed in his reaction to the final report’s first version. Probably this could strengthen the awareness for intercultural aspects of the studies of Czech Literature. By pointing this out to the ICL, the commission intended to recommend to the institute to continue or even consider measures to further strengthen this aspect in its research activities.

B. Evaluation of the individual teams

Evaluation of the Team No. 1: Department for Research into 19th Century Czech Literature

1. Introduction

The 19th Cent. Department is one of the youngest departments at the Institute of Czech Literature – it was established in V/2010. Thus, the team is relatively young – the institute employs 8 researchers – none older than 45. The department's functions primarily include concentrated research into literary history, as well as the overlap of literature into life in 19th century society.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

- The reference to previous projects, which have been started before the creation of the department.
- Collaboration with other research centres – also international collaboration. (The international project *Discursivity in 19th century literature in the Czecho-Slovak context* which is being implemented in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia, the Institute of the Czech Language of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the Institute of Slovak Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences, with contributions from individual researchers from Poland and Hungary).
- Projects, which offer the opportunity to include research into the European context (e.g. the project *The reception of the Dvůr Králové and Zelená hora manuscripts in 19th century Czech literature and culture*, 2011–2016)

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The discontinuation of funding from grant funds threatens the continuity of work on long-term projects.

4. Recommendations

- Think about how to increase the attractiveness of projects for young researchers.
- Strengthen the collaboration with other departments of ICL and with researchers of universities.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

Key outputs of the department stand for the continuity of the scientific work of the Institute of Czech literature (*On Czech instructive literature, A. V. Kraus /1859–1943/ and the beginnings of Czech German-Czech studies*).

The new projects are created in international collaboration and initiate a broader discussion about the period of romantic literature.

One of the main outputs of the department is the remarkable collective monography *The Dvůr Králové and Zelená hora Manuscripts and Czech Scholarship (1817–1885)* published in 2014.

A comparative approach to the study of Czech literature formed the basis for numerous studies and individual publications by department members.

The members of 19th Century Department also worked as editors and published editions (e.g. the first modern edition of Sabina's novel, a volume of studies by V. Macura, a volume of correspondence between I. Geisslová and S. Podlipská). They have also collaborated on other ICL team projects.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Many members of the 19th Century Department were engaged in higher education tuition during the 2010–2014 period. They had regular tuition of 19th century literature at the Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Education of the Charles University, the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University in Brno and others. They also gave individual lectures.

Two Ph.D. students played a prominent part in the project *The second life of the Dvůr Králové and Zelená hora manuscripts*.

Members of the department supervised 9 bachelor theses, 6 master theses and 1 doctoral thesis in the period.

Declaration on societal relevance

The 19th Century Department fostered collaboration with external organisations, e.g. it collaborated with Matice česká on the preparation and installation of panels on prominent 19th century Czech cultural figures, and with the Moravian Museum in Brno on the *Brno Poetické* project.

In the period 2010–2014 the members of the department presented over 30 lectures for the broad public outside the academic environment. They have appeared about thirty times on Czech Television and Czech Radio (including foreign broadcasts).

The department contributes significantly to the popularisation of its scientific results.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The department has close contacts with foreign institutions.

The project *Discursivity in 19th century literature* was an international Czech-Slovak project.

The Second life of the Manuscripts project drew on collaboration with a number of researchers from Europe and the United States. Other individual projects as well are created in international cooperation.

Members of the department presented results of their research at international conferences. The department took part in the preparation of four international conferences in the Czech Republic.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The current research team is young. There are 3 researchers between 30–35, 3 researchers between 35–40 and 1 between 40–45.

The lack of the older generation creates a gap in the sharing and transfer of experience.

The lack of the youngest generation means it will be necessary to hire young researchers in the future to maintain a balanced age profile.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department develops its projects in the short-, medium- and long-term perspective.

Very important is the long-term perspective, which includes the compilation of a new history of Czech literature in the 19th century in a supranational context. Preparations of this project will include ongoing revision of literary historical methodology and discussion about this on an interdisciplinary, national and international level. This broader project will be finalised and issued in the future.

The department will consciously develop its work in two areas: large collective projects and individual research. For example, a new critical edition of *Máj* by K. H. Mácha is planned (with international collaboration).

Evaluation of the Team No. 2: Department for Research into 20th Century and Contemporary Literature

1. Introduction

The department originally was established with a focus on post-war literature in 1990. Since the restructuring of the institute in 2010, its subject is Czech literature of the 20th and 21st century.

In 2015 the research team is mature and stable. The department co-ordinates individual and collective projects.

The department significantly contributes to the popularisation of its scientific results (even outside the City of Prague). For example in 2013, the exhibition “Jan Balabán – I'm here” took place at the Silesian Museum in Opava.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

- The ability to collaborate with other departments of the Institute of Czech Literature and to cooperate with personalities from the university environment.
- The ability to instruct younger scholars and to open to them opportunities for further research.
- Education of personalities who promote other research, also at educational institutions (domestic and foreign).

- Continuity of research and the ability to finish its long-term projects are characteristic for the department.
- The department has published a monograph on important literary personalities of the 20th century (such as Karel Šiktanc Ivan Diviš, Ladislav Fuks, Vladimír Macura, Václav Havel, Felix Vodička).
- The department has compiled an anthology of drama and prepared an edition of plays (including works by authors such as Lenka Langronová, Dušan Drábek, Václav Havel, Karol Sidon, Pavel Landovský, Zelenka).
- The completion of a Dictionary of Czech drama of the 20th Century and the completion of the History of literature in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia represent opportunities for the near future.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The department educates and opens up opportunities to a number of researchers who then leave to establish or to work at other departments of the CAS or at other institutions. This characteristic can be evaluated as a strength, as interim recovery and revival of the research team. However, from a different angle, this characteristic could also be perceived as weakening the team, such as there is a need to constantly apply energy for creating, maintaining and developing the research team.

4. Recommendations

Emphasise the steps that will lead to close cooperation with other departments of the Institute of Czech Literature and with scholars in universities. Use post-doctorate scholarships for the participation of postdocs in research, so that the department can be enhanced by other young researchers.

Resolve research in the field of drama. The area of drama of the twentieth century is based solely on personalities. However, solving large team projects should not be based on individuals only.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

Key outputs have the form of synthetic works and represent the continuity of the scientific work of the department and the Institute of Czech literature (e.g. *Přehledné dějiny české literatury 1945–1989*, 2012; *V souřadnicích mnohosti – Česká literatura první dekády 21. století v souvislostech a interpretacích*, 2014).

Researchers from the department undertook basic research on Czech literature, especially on the period since the First World War and on the 21st Century. They completed and published monographs on individual figures in the period reviewed.

Monographs were dedicated to poets of the period, giving a first analysis of their work, as well as to complex interpretations of dramatic works, which had the character of semiotic research. These outputs further develop earlier ground-breaking work of the department.

The scientific outputs of the department develop and apply earlier research of the institute on the problem of lyrical subjectivity. The department keeps returning to and

still holds a current discussion on the methodology of literary history, trying to examine it interdisciplinarily. Research addresses the relationship of ideology and literature, art and propaganda, literary criticism, film and television, both specifically and generally.

The scientific outputs of the department were awarded national prizes (the Prize of the Academy in the publishing category of encyclopaedic publications, Magnesia Litera nomination for nonfiction).

The department selected for phase I of the evaluation 15 publications from its entire scientific output. Their scientific outputs (monographs) formed 20% of all the publications proposed by the Institute of Czech Literature.

20% of the scientific outputs of the department was rated as world leading, 47% as internationally excellent, 20% as internationally recognised. 2 of the proposed publications have received nationally recognised rating.

The scientific outputs of the department make up in relation to the whole of the Institute of Czech literature 21% of the outputs evaluated as world-leading, 18% of those evaluated as internationally excellent, and 15% of those recognised internationally.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

Some of the scientific outputs (both synthetic and monographic) are used as basic literature for college students (e.g. *Přehledné dějiny české literatury 1945–1989*, 2012).

Members of the department have supervised 26 Bachelor's theses, 8 Diploma theses.

Members of the department led the process of preparing 6 Ph.D. dissertations.

Members of the department are involved in the activities of the institute, which are directed towards the education of Ph.D. students – organising lectures and colloquia.

Department Members assess the doctoral examinations and Ph.D. theses.

Declaration on societal relevance

The department cooperates with universities (long-term, systematic, mutually rewarding cooperation).

The work of the department is characterised by the ability to coordinate the research and publication activities with these across the Institute.

The department is the initiator of public controversies and discussions about the meaning and the nature of literature in the 21st century.

Members of the department lecture at universities as external teachers, e.g. at the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University, the Theatre Faculty of the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague (DAMU), Faculty of Education of the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem, etc.

The director of the department was and still is involved in the management of the Czech Academy of Sciences (member of the Scientific Council, the Academic Council, Chairman of the Editorial Board).

Members of the department are members of the Professional councils of doctoral studies at Prague's Charles University, the Academy of Performing Arts in Prague, the Palacký University in Olomouc, the Faculty of Arts of the University of Ostrava and the University of Jan Evangelista Purkyně in Ústí nad Labem.

The department organises significant lectures and colloquia (a two-semester cycle of lectures and roundtables concerning upcoming publications as well as new technologies (Colloquium Literature – Technology – Media).

There is an intense and conscious cooperation with the media.

The external environment values the results of the work of the department (e.g. a proposal for the Magnesia Litera awards, profit awards of the Academia publishing house, etc.)

Through its activity, the department strongly influences literary life in the Czech Republic (participation in literary awards juries, editorial boards of journals, reflections on contemporary literature on radio, television, journals, on Facebook).

The head of the department is the chairman of the popularisation of the CAS and also Chairman of the Board of Directors of the journal *Tvar*, a journal of contemporary literature and literary criticism.

Significant outreaching activities in the reported period include: a series of discussion evenings within the ICL literary forum on the subject of contemporary Czech literature; monthly performances of contemporary Czech playwrights in the context of "Dramatic moments" which took place at the Václav Havel Library in 2012–2013; organising events under the title "Reading at Emy", where Czech poets and novelists are presented.

A member of the department has co-organised "Schools of Czech language and literature for teachers" (2012–2014), a postgraduate course accredited by the Czech Ministry of Education, where other members of the department regularly lecture. Within the activities of the Brno narratological circle members of the department organised three dozen regular lectures and subsequent discussions.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The department has long-lasting and close contacts with foreign institutions.

The department fulfils the role of a cultural centre of national memory.

Members of the department present results of their research also through lectures abroad.

Members of the department are involved in international projects abroad (University of Sheffield, research on socialist realism; University of the West Scotland – Project Digital Leisure Cultures: Critical Perspectives; Department of World Literature, Slovak Academy of Sciences – Project Literary communication in the context of digital resp. post digital culture.

The head of the department is a member of the editorial board of professional journals (Slovak literature, RAK) in the Slovak Republic.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The current research team is well-balanced in terms of its age and professional profile (10 researchers aged between 30 to 60, 6 of them under the age of 45 years, four researchers aged between 45 to 60).

The department is able to create and to finish team projects. In connection with the point mentioned above, it can be assumed that the sharing and transfer of experience gives this department positive long-term perspectives.

The department is not threatened by the dependence on grant projects and scholarships.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department develops its projects in the long-term perspective in order to fulfil the role of a cultural centre of national memory.

The department will consciously develop its work in two areas:

- large collective projects;
- individual research (enabling the personal development of the researchers).

The department will focus on two decisive periods in the history of Czech society, Czech culture and Czech literature in the following years: the Second Republic and the Protectorate literature (large collective works are planned on these subjects).

The Dictionary of Czech Drama of the 20th Century (in cooperation with external researchers) will be completed and published in the future.

Prepared monographs (books on figures of Czech literature like Brousek, Wernisch, Rotrekl) will be completed.

A new synthetic history of Czech literature of the 20th century is planned as a long-term project, also in relation to the revision of existing views of the interwar period (the last synthetic picture of Czech literature of the 20th century originated nearly half a century ago).

Evaluation of the Team No. 3: Literary Lexicography Department

1. Introduction

The Lexicography Department (henceforward LexDept) was founded in 2010 in connection with restructuring the whole institute. Until this time, the lexicography projects concerning the period after World War II were part of the Department for Research into 20th Century literature, while the large-scale long-term project *Lexikon české literatury* was edited in a department of its own.

One major task of the LexDept is and was to seek suitable ways to make the results of its lexicographic works available by using the latest online developments.

At this moment (2015), the department employs 8 researchers, financed from the institute's budget. The research team is mature and stable. The department significantly contributes to the popularisation of its scientific results, at the same time maintaining a high scientific level.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

- The reference to previous projects which have been started before the creation of the department, mainly the *Lexikon české literatury* (7 volumes between 1985 and 2008) and the *Slovník českých spisovatelů od roku 1945* (2 volumes 1995, 1998)
- Collaboration with staff from other departments of the Institute of Czech Literature (ICL) (most frequently as authors of individual publications)
- International collaboration e.g. in the project *Cultural Opposition in the Former Socialist Countries*
- Implementation of projects related to digitisation of lexicons

3. Weaknesses and Threats

- Lack of significant involvement of students in research

The former concentration of the department on the time after 1945, which after 1989 urgently needed to be revisited, is still noticeable. The research plan mentions mainly projects concerning this time period. In a medium perspective there is the plan to prepare lexicographical projects for the time up to 1945.

4. Recommendations

- Strengthen collaboration with other departments of ICL and with researchers of universities.
- Intensify attempts to include doctoral students in the research activities.
- Try to make increasing use of the right to supervise Ph.D. theses (which was assigned in 2014).

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

LexDept has a significant share in the presentation of the results of the research on Czech literature, in the creation and completion of the image of Czech literature. It focuses on developing synthesis. The department performs primary research into specific areas and historical periods of Czech literary history which hitherto have not been dealt with lexicographically or which have not been dealt with to the standard level of ICL lexicography work.

A very important part of its work is to update the index and entries already included in the online *Slovník české literatury po roce 1945*.

The members of the department took part as consultants in planning the work on the *Slovník literárněvědného strukturalismu* (Encyclopedia of Literary Studies on Structuralism) and the *Slovník českého moderního dramatu* (Encyclopedia of Modern Czech Drama), which are being prepared in other departments of ICL.

The results of individual research work by department members are of high quality level. They include not only monographs and studies, but the researchers also take part in extensive projects at other ICL departments.

Worth mentioning is also the fact that studies published by department members foreshadowed future monographs, among them a study on prison *samizdat*, which is associated with the department's preparations for the encyclopaedic treatment of literary *samizdat*, planned for the research period between 2015 and 2019 (see also under 5c,d, f).

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

There is a significant lack of direct involvement of students in research. But department members were supervising 2 master theses.

They regularly held courses at several Prague higher education establishments, e.g. Faculty of Arts and Faculty of Humanities of the Charles University, the Literary Academy and others. Department staff were invited to give occasional lectures, e.g. at the Faculty of Arts of the Masaryk University in Brno, the Faculty of Arts of the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, at Opole University in Poland and others.

Since autumn 2014, one member is teaching Czech literature at Oxford University, while remaining a LexDept member.

Declaration on societal relevance

Members of the department collaborate with the Libri Prohibiti, Samizdat and Émigré Literature Library, the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague, the Literary Department at the Moravian Museum in Brno.

They gave lectures for the broad public as part of the CAS Science and Technology Festival. They were also active in the panels at the top literary awards.

As program authors and guests on various broadcasts, they have promoted the results of their research on Czech Radio and Czech Television programmes.

Members of the department are active on a number of specialist and editorial boards and commissions on a national level.

To sum up, the department significantly contributes to the popularisation of its scientific results, thereby shaping also the public image of the CAS.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Planning to arrange a large team project on samizdat literature, the department established contacts with domestic and foreign institutes and individual researchers. For this purpose, it joined an international consortium preparing an important project for the Horizon 2020 competition, initiated by the European Research Council: Cultural opposition in the former socialist countries.

The partners in this project are the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw; the Open Society Archives in Budapest; the Royal College of Art, London; Trinity College, Dublin and Zentrum für Zeithistorische Forschung, Potsdam.

Members of the department took part in several conferences abroad and gave lectures (in Washington, Toronto, Padua, Bratislava).

This department plays an important role in maintaining contact with Slovak studies and Slovak literary studies. Together with the SAS Institute of Slavonic Studies in Bratislava it organises an annual Czech-Slovak conference. Slovak literature in the past and present will remain a focus.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The current research team is relatively young. There are 2 researchers between 30–35, 4 researchers between 40–45 and 1 between 45–50. (December 2014).

The department is able to initiate and complete its team projects.

It can be assumed that the sharing and transfer of experience give this department positive perspectives for the future.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department develops its projects according to the ÚČL AV ČR Koncepce výzkumné činnosti for 2015–2020–2025, in the short-, medium- and long-term perspectives. The most important perspective for the department are big projects.

In January 2015, it started the work on *Encyklopedie Českého literárního samizdatu*, which is supported by the Czech Science Foundation until the end of 2017. The project is meant as a first step towards a future comprehensive Encyklopedie českého samizdatu. The book publication is planned for 2019.

In a long-term perspective, the department will expand the *Slovník české literatury po roce 1945*.

The department will introduce regular updating of online *Slovník* entries.

The department developed an alternative vision of how to uphold its plans in case of failure in the Horizon 2020 competition. The vision rests on synergetic financial effects of its three tasks: research on the national level (Czech Science Foundation), comparative international research (Horizon 2020) and construction of an information base in form of an analytical bibliography (Czech Ministry of Education).

As regards the methodological aspect, the department will provide consultations to all departments that decide on individual dictionary projects.

Evaluation of the Team No. 4: Theory Department

1. Introduction

The Theory Department inherited a broad philosophic and critical tradition, which extends beyond the field of literary studies and includes philosophy and aesthetics: In the eyes of the national and international community, the department benefits from an exceptional renown, and as such is supposed to preserve and pass on an outstanding noetic and heuristic heritage.

The Theory Department is one of those within ICL CAS, which have been transformed less during the last two decades. It nevertheless underwent a consequent restructurating in 2002. Instead of the previous partition between two fields, poetics and narratology, nowadays it is based on two quite diverging pillars: versification and memory culture (Memory and Trauma in Literature). At the same time, also new topics are taken up (e.g. performance studies, gender studies, intermedia studies).

The Theory Department has been managed by Ondřej Sládek since 2009, who has been able to implement a strong renewal: This department comprises now a young, open and attractive team.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The Theory Department, one of the largest of the ICL, is based on the inspiring tradition beginning with the history of the Prague School: It is illustrated in the past generations by the names of M. Červenka and V. Macura, and is till now warranted by strong authors, like D. Hodrová. Its outputs are very impressive; the integration of Ph.D. students is good.

The team followed a regular increase of researchers (with a strong age group between 35 and 40 years, which reflects the overall renewal of the team, and Ph.D. students) and of “other workers” during the considered period (since 2010). The present development of the department is due to a long-term effort at internationalisation.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

Nevertheless, the commission wondered whether the implementation of the team working on Memory and Trauma in Literature in the Theory Department was legitimate. (It might have been more easily connected to the research field of the Department for Research into Literary Culture, for instance? — See below „Declaration on the position in the international and national context“).

4. Recommendations

A special effort could be made to increase the visibility of the outputs abroad, by an affirmative strategy of some popular topics: Currently, when Russian institutions have been in a state of collapse, and other European and American institutions rediscover the philosophic and theoretical traditions of Central Europe, the team could become the crossroad of an international network of studies on formalism and structuralism and thus win a crucial position from a global point of view.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The present outputs of the Theory Department concern with the great tradition of Czech literary theory.

Its book production reflects this rich legacy: compilations about Czech structuralism (O. Sládek, *Český strukturalismus v diskusi, Czech Structuralism in Discussion*,

2014; *Slovník literárněvědného strukturalismu*, *A Dictionary of Structuralist Literary Theory and Criticism*, work in progress), but also monographs on leading figures of this tradition (such as T. Kubíček's *Felix Vodička – názor a metoda. K dějinám českého strukturalismu*, *Felix Vodička – View and Method. Towards a History of Czech Structuralism*, 2010) or the edition of sources (such as M. Havráňková & V. Petkevič, *Pražská škola v korespondenci. Dopisy z let 1924–1989*, *The Prague School in Correspondence. Letters 1924–1989*, 2014). All these publications attract the interest of the scientific community in the Czech Republic and abroad. Further publications are on versification, the automatic analysis of verse and the history of Czech verse (e.g. R. Kolár & P. Plecháč, *Dějiny a teorie českého verše 19. století*, *History and Theory of 19th Century Czech Verse*), but also new topics are about to appear such as publications on intermedia studies (e.g. A. Jedličková & S. Fedrová with their project *Poetika deskripce*, *Poetics of Description*, 2013–2015).

In terms of outputs, the team's quality profile shows excellent results (25% of the outputs range in the first category – world leading outputs), and the department seems to continue adequately the tradition of Czech theory, while also playing an important role in the formation of young scholars.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The team was able to establish a successful contribution to the higher educational system through convincing seminars and the production of comprehensive textbooks (see *Průvodce po světové literární teorii 20. století*, *Guide to 20th Century World Literary Theory*, edited by A. Jedličková in collaboration with S. Fedrová, 2013; in collaboration with the Faculty of Arts of the Charles University, *Slovník novější literární teorie. Glosář pojmů*, *A Dictionary of Recent Literary Theory. Glossary of Terms*, 2012).

Ph.D. Students are involved in the research programs and their presence insures the transmission of knowledge in terms of theory and know-how about the management of research projects.

Declaration on societal relevance

Even if its topics do not always achieve popularity, theory, as a part of cultural heritage, in the Czech Republic, does not have the problems of legitimacy it has to face in other countries and societies.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The Theory Department enjoys a high reputation, due to its heritage – symbolised by the Prague Linguistic Circle and the theoretical legacy of the Prague school, but also developed in the field of versification.

A large number of its outputs (compilation, textbooks, monographs) are part of this outstanding tradition (see above, *Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition*).

The commission wondered whether the establishing of the team about Memory and Trauma in Literature was justified (see above), indeed, even if it partially inherited its methods, it doesn't appear as the equivalent of the former narratology team.

One can also regret that the study of drama as poetic work (*drama jako básnické dílo*) inaugurated by famous representatives of the Prague School (Zich / Veltruský) finds no place in the research program of the institute.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

During the interview, the team's head answered this criticism by explaining that the field of structuralist analysis of drama is presently at the national level being carried out by a research team led by David Frost at Masaryk University (Brno), with whom cooperation is an obvious and easy task.

Nevertheless, the commission considers it regrettable that these topics seem to have been neglected in the institute's stated scientific policy.

Both the absence of theatrical studies (implemented by a team of the Masaryk University in Brno) and the disconcerting composition of the team working on Memory and Trauma in Literature makes the general profile of the team a little unclear and thus less visible than it could be.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

Nevertheless, the commission encourages the team in following the long-term projects and its excellent publications.

Evaluation of the Team No. 5: Department for Research into Literary Culture

1. Introduction

The team is in very good shape with regard to age and skill. Among the nine team members are 5 in the age range 30–40 years, 2 researchers in the age range 40–50 years and 1 in the age range 50–60 years.

In the reported period, the department received four grants (9% in relation to the whole of the Institute of Czech Literature) and the financial contribution (301,000 EUR) accounted for 15% of all received grant money in the institution.

The department contributes significantly to the profiling of the entire Institute of Czech literature as a memory institution.

The department's special research shows that Czech literature played a unique role in the development of national culture.

The research activities of the department's individual personalities and their publications drive the research agenda in the respective research area.

The department significantly contributes to the transfer of current theoretical knowledge and methodological innovations from the world scientific discourse to the Czech environment and vice versa: The monograph on the history of literary censorship 1749–2014 (two volumes, in print, 2015) might inspire scholars in countries still reluctant in this field.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

The research focus on popular literature and literary communication, especially in the 19th and 20th century, is a current topic, so this kind of research is highly appreciated by both domestic and foreign reception. Thereby, the department deals with themes that correspond with international research.

The research of the department is interdisciplinary. Research includes, among others, historiography, sociology, literature, history of books and printing, historical anthropology, oral history, and, most important, the topic of reading and readers.

The department has prepared and completed large projects related to censorship, to reading / readers and to comic books. The presented research results have the character of major reference books.

The department collaborates with other departments of the Institute of Czech Literature, with experts from other institutes and from universities in the Czech Republic and abroad.

The involvement of foreign researchers in research contributes to the high reputation of the department.

Research results are partly published in foreign publishing houses.

The educational activity is conducted in Czech, German and English.

The department works well with the mass media, presents results of its research activities in an understandable way highly appreciated by the public.

The increasing interest in Europe and in the world in sociological issues related to literature (e.g. reading) has become an opportunity for the department's activities in this field.

Historical multilingualism and the co-existence of many cultures on the area surveyed present good research conditions for the department. The research built on these historically experienced principles can be seen as promising and might inspire research in other countries.

The projects submitted within the announced projects Horizon 2020, as well as the preparation of operational programs (OPs VVV) are especially promising for the future.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The team is threatened by its low budget; part of the staff consists of Ph.D. students, and individual members of the teams are paid by time-restricted endowment funds.

Reducing the number of researchers due to lack of finance would endanger the excellent outcomes.

Funding of researchers from short-purpose funds as well might endanger excellent outcomes and even the completion of commenced upcoming projects.

Preparation of grants and public relations are another essential part of the activities of the department, but both activities inflate workload (often excessive), reduce the time for research, and still are regarded as "leisure activities".

These weaknesses and threats diminish the department's position in the competition for young talent needed for the continued existence of the department.

4. Recommendations

- Preserve existing international cooperation and take advantage of comprehensive support of foreign and Czech scholars and their involvement in research and publication activities in line with the strategy of the entire Institute of Czech Literature.
- Promote excellent and unique projects (reading, comics, popular culture).
- Maintain the integration of research projects into international networks (censorship, reading, comics).
- Focus on the implementation of the plan to create a centre for the study of comics. Move research also into the theory of comics (see also under 5. f.).
- Accentuate international cooperation; promote research trips and scholarships abroad.
- Promote the establishment of special positions for the preparation of grant agenda for public relations.
- Strengthen the newly established team for research into memory (institutional memory and collective memory).

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The department chose 12 publications from all its publications for the first phase of the evaluation. Their publications accounted for 16% of all publications designated for international assessment of the whole Institute of Czech Literature.

25% of the publications of the department were rated as world-leading, 42% as internationally excellent, 20% as recognised internationally.

From the perspective of the entire institute, the scientific outputs of the Department for Research into Literary Culture contribute 21% of the outputs evaluated as world leading, 13% of the internationally excellent ones and 20% of those recognised internationally.

An essential output of scientific activities of the previous year is the reference book *V obecném zájmu*, which in two large volumes represents – for the first time – the history of censorship in Czech literature and culture from 1749 to 2014, dealing with its forms, roles and the applied norms of censorship.

The department significantly contributes to the profile of the entire institution in the field of historical and contemporary literature.

The department represents a unique centre of research in readership (for the national context, yet also relevant for foreign countries).

The department has created and manages a digital archive of popular literature.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The research team of the department has recently come to include 4 Ph.D. students, while in 2010–2012, there were almost none. This increase testifies to the department's attractiveness for younger scholars.

Members of the department regularly taught and lectured at universities and other educational and cultural institutions during the period. They are able to cope with both presentations on an academic level and popularising lectures (e.g. J. Trávníček delivered 30 lectures during 2010–2014).

Members of the department have led Bachelor and Master theses and dissertations in the past period: 3 BA and 4 MA theses as well as 3 Ph.D. dissertations were completed and defended in the past period. Other theses are presently in preparation.

Declaration on societal relevance

The department makes major contributions to contemporary literary life (taking part in juries of literary prizes, in editorial boards of journals, in reflections on contemporary literature on radio and television, in journals, on Facebook).

The department organises major literary symposiums. The results of expert meetings are presented in collective monographs, in leading journals in the country and abroad.

The department as a whole and its individual members have the ability to develop projects in synergy with contributions from domestic and foreign scientists.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Members of the department have a major share in *Czech Literature*, one of the country's most prestigious journals in literary studies.

The results of the research activities of the department demonstrate the increasing involvement of Czech literary issues in European / international studies.

Members of the department are involved in the activities of international research institutions.

The department has designed projects that are highly rated in grant competitions funded by grant agencies.

The department's research teams have the proven ability to complete extensive research, to write basic reference manuals and to achieve recognition for their activities (reading, censorship, popular literature).

Foreign scientists have become part of the research teams of the department.

Highly praiseworthy is the originality of the department's projects, so for instance Jiří Trávníček's (team-) research into 5 generations of readers. Important are also individual projects (L. Kasáková, P. Janáček). M. Wögerbauer's project on A. G. Meissner is a complement to T. Hlobil's research on the prehistory of so-called Czech Formalism.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The enthusiasm of the youngest generation has delivered extraordinary performance and results in research.

The department is strongest in the generation between 35 and 50 years (5 scientists from the department, 55% of the members of the department), which gives the future of the department a positive outlook.

The youngest scientists are in the age group 25–35 years (22%). The same ratio exists in the generation of scientists from 50 to 65 years. This enables the fruitful exchange of accumulated knowledge (older generation) and new techniques and ideas (younger generation).

The department has the strong potential to coordinate extensive research. This research has involved members of the department, but also foreign and local experts (e.g. 30 co-authors from other departments of ICL and from domestic and foreign universities contributed to the book about censorship; the department is collaborating on readership research with the National Library in Prague, the Ministry of Culture, etc.).

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department has the ambition, ability, energy and capacity to further develop research in reading and readers of the Czech lands and in Central Europe from the late 18th century to the present in cooperation with other institutions in the country and abroad. This long-term perspective should be maintained and brought to life, because it might deliver helpful insight into the reasons for reading and non-reading, the latter being a troubling issue nowadays in many countries in Europe and the world.

Besides this long-term project, the department has completed short-term and medium-term projects. Among the short-term projects „a topography and prosopography of the ‚people of the book‘, their networks and their efforts to build a reading public in Bohemia 1750–1850“ might deliver a model of how to overcome actual troubles with non-reading.

Among the medium-term projects, all of which are important, the „overview of the structure, function and history of literary institutions in 19th and 20th century Czech literary culture“ will attract special international attention.

The field of popular culture will be enhanced further by a planned corpus of popular literature (among others). The theory of comics will constitute a desirable focus of the department's research.

There is hope that the next research steps of the department will be supported by financial resources from the Horizon 2020 project applied for: European reading experience database "Readers and reading in modern Czech culture".

Evaluation of the Team No. 6: Editorial and Textological Department

1. Introduction

The Editorial and Textological Department (henceforward E&TDept), which has existed under this name since 2007/2008, is a continuation of the Czech Electronic Li-

library founded in the second half of the 90s at the CAS. The new name meant also a broader definition of the department's functions: Along with practical team projects, the members were to become engaged in individual research into textological issues. The two-sided functional orientation demands high technological skill and also insight into the theoretical foundations and ongoing development of editorial and textological work.

Although the E&TDept with its 7 researchers (the core members are financed from the institute's budget) is one of the smallest within the ICL, it copes admirably well with its tasks. It does much to popularise Czech literature among youth, particularly enthusiastically through electronic media, while likewise contributing to the scientific profile of the entire institute as well as to its image in public.

In the reported period, the department received grants (23% in relation to the whole of the Institute of Czech Literature) and its financial contribution (72,000 EUR) accounted for 4% of all grant money received in the institute.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

- a) The Czech Electronic Library with its 1,700 poetry books and its parameters is a valuable fundament for the practical work of the E&TDept.
- b) Given this basis, the E&TDept can focus in depth on the editorial process, shine a spotlight on the work of an individual author or on a single literary text, and continue discourse with international trends in the research field.
- c) The concept of the independent Critical Hybrid Edition (CHE), i. e. publication in form of a printed book (reader's edition) and electronic scholarly edition, is able to satisfy various (very high) demands on Czech literature.
- d) Besides the heritage of the Czech Electronic Library, the E&TDept profits from the high standards of traditional Czech postwar textology (M. Červenka 2009, A. Stich 2012, J. Daňhelka 2013), from a historical overview of modern Czech textology and editorial practice (M. Kosák, J. Flaišman 2010), as well as from the translation of G. T. Tansell's influential theory on textual criticism (2013), which contrasts interestingly with Czech traditions and viewpoints.
- e) The combination of older and newer, of national and international thinking on textology is a valuable plus (see also under 5.a).

3. Weaknesses and Threats

- a) A weakness is given by the very nature of textology and editology: supervised theses and dissertations are not central to such work.

In spite of these obstacles, the department produced 2 Ph.D. dissertations in the period under evaluation. This too testifies to its effectiveness.

- b) The growing fascination with electronic technology might reduce interest in the book medium, in manuscripts, historical handwritten letters and the like, which are important to critical text editions.

4. Recommendations

The E&TDept should continue its two-sided profile of teamwork and individual research.

It will be necessary to overcome the long-term lack of coordination of editorial policy between the institutes of the Academy of Sciences.

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The department chose 5 publications from all its publications for the first phase of the evaluation. Their publications accounted for 7% of all publications designed for international assessment of the whole Institute of Czech literature.

20% of the department's publications were rated as world-leading, 60% as internationally excellent, 20% as recognised internationally.

From the perspective of the entire Institute, the scientific outputs of the Editorial and Textological Department contribute 7% of the outputs evaluated as world-leading, 8% of the internationally excellent ones and 5% of those recognised internationally.

The Critical Hybrid Edition (CHE) produced as a pilot volume consists of a two-part edition of the works of F. Gellner – digital edition 2012, book form 2014 (the author's entire work and art, bibliographies and a full text selection of secondary literature). CHE is designed to bridge the tension between the readership and scientific editions. It makes available, among other things, a significant part of the archive of the author, the text of the extant version offers the diplomatic transcription of the texts, etc.

Other authors' works: K. Hlaváček (planned release 2015); P. Bezruč's *Slezské písně* (in preparation for release), paralleled by a separate book publication on the complicated textological issues behind Bezruč's work – by M. Kosák (2014); B. Svadbová's *Čtyřhlas Terézy Novákové*, released 2013.

A team of editors headed by D. Iwashita – financed by a grant – has formed part of the E&TDept since 2014. Since 2010 the team has been publishing the book series *Korespondence Jakuba Demla*. When completed, the published correspondence will comprise all known letters between J. Deml, O. Březina, F. X. Šalda, J. Florian and J. Durych. This project delivers insight into an important period of Czech literature and cultural thinking.

The list of publications of individual members of the department (here only enumerated) is also impressive: J. Flaišman (in collaboration) on J. Seifert, M. Kosák (inter alia) on T. G. Masaryk and on H. Bořkovcová, J. Říha (as team-member) on Czech romantic prose and on Czech romantic novellas. All these publications are projects of national importance.

Most interesting is also the ongoing activity in the theoretical transfer of theoretical and historical research into textology and editology started in 2009 by J. Flaišman and M. Kosák. Their team publishes key-works on domestic textology and texts of foreign textologies in translation (see also under 2.d).

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

For involvement of students see also under 3.a.

Special supervision of the E&TDept in collaboration with the Faculty of Information Technologies of the Czech Technical University in Prague, concerning new software tools and the like, produced 1 BA thesis and 2 MA theses.

Members of the department shall keep regular university courses at the Charles University and at the University in Olomouc (on the basics of textology).

Declaration on societal relevance

Since 2009 until 2014, the E&TDept arranged textological colloquia, 7 conferences (some of them in collaboration with other national institutes like the Masaryk Institute and Archive, CAS, the Literary Archive at the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague and others), which were attended by bohemists, domestic and foreign historians, linguists, musicologists, and film studies specialists.

The core members of the department are engaged in various organisations such as the F. X. Šalda Society, the Academic Board at *Česká knižnice*, literary journals, and they also take part in activities of the Czech Ministry of Culture.

An important part of the members' societal activities is their contribution to research popularisation, for example lectures for the broad reading public on Academy premises, preparations for the exhibition *Jewish Communities in the Czech Republic*, and an exhibition on Jiří Kolář.

The E&TDept staff regularly lecture in the CAS Science and Technology Week; they promote their research findings on Czech Radio and TV programmes.

The department prepared and provides internet editions made available in the form of E-books of important Czech authors (e.g. V. Vančura's *Markéta Lazarová*, etc.)

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

Individual E&TDept members collaborate with or consult with leading figures in the Anglo-American and Francophone spheres. Special contacts were established with Russian textologists at the Gorky Institute of World Literature of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS) in Moscow.

Intensive contacts exist also with the editors of the Institute of Slovak Literature and Institute of World Literature of the Slovak Academy of Sciences in Bratislava. Collaboration exists between the ICL and the renowned V. V. Vinogradov Russian Language Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

As to the position in the national context, see also under 5.c.

In addition, it should be mentioned that the E&TDept is acknowledged as an important centre for Czech textology. The Critical Hybrid Edition of the Works of František Gellner met with special appreciation as „a method for publishing classics of Czech literature“ (LN 8. 1. 2015).

The full-text database of the Czech Electronic Library and Edice E are frequently visited.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The research team is relatively young with a peak in the columns 30–35 and 35–40.

It is to be expected that due to its dynamic and experimental technological aspect, the department will attract even more young students in the future as well as attract growing public attention to Czech literature of the last two centuries and the presence.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department's working plan for the next five years (2015–2019) is adapted to the visions of the *Koncepce výzkumné činnosti ÚČL AV ČR* regarding the periods 2015–2020–2025.

For 2015–2019, the department is to complete the (demanding) unfinished volumes of the Critical Hybrid Edition (K. Hlaváček, P. Bezruč). Once that is fulfilled, the presentation of books by major figures in modern Czech literature is planned. The team under D. Iwashita will finish its project (on the correspondence of Deml, Březina, Šalda, etc.) in 2016.

Furthermore, the CHE project is to be continuously improved from the technical side, this in cooperation with the Faculty of Information Technology of the Czech Technical University in Prague, in close contact with international developments.

The ambitious grant project “Editologie: od náčrtů ke knize” started in 2014, will be published in 2017. The history of Czech textology and editorial practice, including translations of present and older, national and international key-works, will be continued.

Evaluation of the Team No. 7: Department for Research into Old Czech Literature

1. Introduction

The Department for Research into Old Literature established in 2011 is the youngest and smallest team at the ILC. After several personnel crises and transformations it is currently headed by D. Soukup. The small team is focusing on multi-ethnic research not only into medieval and early modern literature written in Czech language, but also in Latin, German, Hebrew and Yiddish as well. The estimable goal of the department is also to find links to the corpus of premodern and early modern Bohemian literature.

2. Strengths and Opportunities

- Despite personnel limitations, there is a perceived determination by the department's young scientists to cover a wide research period (9th–18th century).
- The considerable linguistic, paleographic, codicological, textological, theoretical etc. knowledge of the young research-team.
- Cooperation with other research teams in the framework of ICL.
- Active participation in contemporary Czech and European research discourse.

3. Weaknesses and Threats

The personnel limitations of the department threaten the ambitious goals of the young team in terms of implementing its research plans.

The enormous onus of responsibility may limit the scientific efficiency of the young research team.

The individual work of young scientists may not automatically merge into a historical synthesis of the old Czech literature in the future.

4. Recommendations

- For a literary synthesis of the old Czech literature, it is necessary to elaborate a clear vision of its theoretical and thematic background.
- Carry on to increase the attractiveness of the team projects for the broad public.
- Strengthen collaboration with other research institutes and universities in Central Europe (Poland, Slovakia, Austria, Hungary).

5. Detailed evaluations

Declaration on the quality of the results and share in their acquisition

The first modern critical edition of the Czech Chronicle by Václav Hájek prepared and published by J. Linka (2013) represents a key output of the department. Additionally, there were several activities realised in connection with this issue: The department arranged a conference on the topic, prepared an educational exhibition, organised 28 lectures by specialists from various institutes and universities and prepared a collective monograph about Hájek's Chronicle. In the individual research, the members of the department focused on plays of Jesuit school theatres, on courtly literature and started a new series called *Theatrum neolatinum*. As a part of the digitisation project in the ICL, a newly available online catalogue of old Czech collection (<http://starocech.ucl.cas.cz>) was set up. The head of the department focused his research on medieval Jewish and Czech connections and on early modern homiletics. The wide spectrum of medieval, baroque topics, the profoundness of research and the philological and digitised issues attest that the department carried out serious scientific work.

Declaration on the involvement of students in research

The members of the department took part in teaching activities at secondary schools and in higher education as well (five BA and MA courses/semester in Ústí nad Labem, Prague, Olomouc). Some Ph.D. candidates involved into the research completed their dissertations in the department. Department members were supervising 2 bachelor theses, and 3 master theses. With the support of the ICL programme for Ph.D. students the department works together with one Ph.D. student.

Declaration on societal relevance

The public response to the first edition of Hájek's Chronicle was significant not only in the media, but from the scientific community as well. The success of the Chronicle in the book market was confirmed by the fact that the title mentioned was reprinted after a short time. Linka's *Kronika česká* was placed in the highest category in national context.

In the period 2010–2014 the members of the department presented dozens of lectures for the broad public outside the academic environment. The department significantly contributes to the popularisation of its scientific results: One of the best examples of their activity in this field was an educational exhibition of 30 installations in various libraries, schools and abroad.

Declaration on the position in the international and national context

The department had a significant position in international collaboration with the Western countries. The members of the team regularly present the results of their outputs at both foreign and domestic international conferences in Oxford, Paris and London etc. For the time being there seems to be a shortage of contacts within research institutes, universities from the neighbourhood and conferences organised by Central European institutes (except for the planned conference by the Slovak Academy of Sciences in 2017) in the activity of the department. The department took part in the preparation of some international conferences in the Czech Republic.

Declaration on the vitality and sustainability

The current research team is absolutely young and dynamic; the average age of members is about 33–35. The members of the department are: 1 researcher between 25–30, 2 between 30–35, 1 between 35–40, 1 between 40–45. The average age of the team shows the lack of an older generation, which creates a gap in sharing and transferring experience. The sustainability of the team might be endangered by maternity and other kinds of leaves.

Declaration on the strategy and plans for the future

The department has developed its projects in the short-, medium- and long-term perspective. In the short-term focus, they several times mentioned Hájek's Chronicle. The year 2016 will be dedicated to the 700th anniversary of Charles IV. – in connection with this a special colloquium on literature under this king of the Czech lands will be prepared. In the centre of the medium-term research period are Central European Marian narratives from a comparative standpoint. In this period a compilation of expository entries on medieval and early modern works of bohemical literature will be launched. In the focus of the last period of the research-plan is the preparation of a new synthesis of premodern and early modern Czech literature. The strategy and the research plan of the department is ambitious, but feasible.

Date: February 5, 2016

Commission Chair: Univ. Prof. Mag. Dr. Stefan Michael Newerkla