

Main Library of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic

Ivana Kadlecova, Prague, Czech Republic

In 1858 the Czech Savings Bank acquired land which was then at the edge of Prague. The construction of the Chain Bridge and the Embankment, however, the site of an old brick factory became a broad avenue, and the architect Ignác Ullmann, the leading proponent of the Neo Renaissance style in Bohemia, was awarded the contract for the design of the bank.

In 1953 the building became the property of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, established the previous year as the seat of its Presidium and its Library. Stacks were constructed in the Hall, and for the next forty years it was closed to the public.

1999 the Academy decided to renovate the Hall as the Library's reading room, making the artistically valuable interior accessible to all. This project restored the building's interior logic and enabled the Library to deal with the data requirements of the new millennium and to offer its services in surroundings which remind visitors of the continuity and the cohesion of the arts and sciences, a concrete example of mutual respect between the two.

New Library offers new services, new information resources.

Ivana Kadlecová

Born 1942, Hradec Kralove, Czechoslovakia

Chemistry High School 1959

Charles University, Faculty of Philosophy (1975 – 1978), PhDr. 1980

Professional:

- Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry
Czechoslovak Academy of Science (1960- 1992) Technical Assistant and Librarian
- Head, Centre of Scientific Information, Institute of Organic Chemistry (1982-1992)
- Main Library, Academy of Sciences of Czech Republic, Director 1992-
- External teacher - Philosophical Faculty, Inst. for Informational Science and Librarianship
- Member of Central Librarian Board Ministry of Culture CR
- Member of EUSIDIC Council

Personal:

Divorced, 1 son (40), therapist

Personal interests: gardening, cooking, swimming, skiing,

Hearing Leonard Cohen, Lou Reed and other