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Abstract

Palacky University Library is one part of the Information centre. All the parts of the Information centre, that is, the computer centre, the publishing centre, the audio-visual centre and the centre for distance learning are situated in the old, historical building – in an artillery armoury. The ‘Armoury’ is located almost in the very centre of the town in the Bishop’s Square, right in front of the facade of the Archbishop’s palace and close to the seat of the Chancellor’s office as well as the Faculty of Arts.

The foundation stone of the armoury was laid in 1768 and the whole building was completed in 1778. The Armoury is a huge building, occupying a large part of the square. Four two-story wings surrounding a spacious slightly trapezoidal courtyard form the building. The wings are of the same width on all floors.

The armoury is a highly valuable building and it belongs among the most remarkable monuments of the Olomouc citadel. Up till 1989 it really served the army. Since 1946 the buildings built behind the armoury have belonged to the university.

After November 1989, the town council decided that the armed forces would leave the historic part of the city, and so the University was offered the Theresian armoury for building an Information centre.

The armoury had been severely devastated by maltreatment and inappropriate building alterations, and as such the building could not serve as a fully functional Information centre.

In 1991 negotiations began which led to the development of a design for a large-scale reconstruction, the aim of which was to link the needs of a modern centre with safeguarding all the features of the historically important, listed building. The construction works began in 1992. Along with the reconstruction, an archaeological exploration was taking place in the courtyard.

The refurbishment of armoury was completed in 1999. In 2000, the opening ceremony took place and the whole building was put into service. Information centre provides all the services needed for the main function of the University, that is for learning, science and culture. It is created for assembling, storing and providing information of different types and in different forms, with the usage of modern technology.

The Library forms the largest part of the Information centre; in particular, it is situated on all the floors of the Armoury. It occupies almost half of the floor space of the building; out of 10,000 square metres it is 4,660 square metres. It is open to the public 66 hours a week and it serves 1,500 to 2,500 readers a day.

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I studied at the Palacky University in Olomouc. My field of study was optics. For some years I worked as a designer of optical systems. Then I retrained in a programmer and I worked in the computer centre. Since 1992 I began work in the library at the Palacky University, first as the head of the automatization department and since 2000 as its director.