“It is pointless to talk about a civilization without making its connection and the culture of the book. And, if observed closely at all stages of birth and fall of civilizations, it depends on the fate of the treatment of the books.”

Every nation begins its own identity with its first writings, and in this way, also the library as a place of writings, manuscripts, old and new books continues with the recognition of these writings which are found in various forms.

Societies that have managed to preserve and use their written values, are known as societies of rich cultural heritage and tradition. A concrete example is the city of Prizren - a city of tradition, the city where for the first time were established the libraries of various types as religious ones in 1513 (the Library of Suzi Qelebiu) as well as the public ones in 1812 followed by school libraries. The ancient tradition of Prizren was and continues to be preserved in various books. Every nation who knows how to preserve and write its own story, shall also know how to transmit it to younger generations. If all nations would have written from the beginning their history, then many things would have been presented in one another form, in a more appropriate form. In this case, the memory that would be borne among generations would be much brighter. How important is the book and history for a nation, we will use the saying of a philosopher.

“The first step in liquidating a people is to erase its memory. Destroy its books, its culture, its history. Then have somebody write new books, manufacture a new culture, invent a new history. Before long that nation will begin to forget what it is and what it was.”

Edward R. Murrow
In 2009, we have published the second edition, with the same theme, with over 100 different books and manuscripts, whereas now, we are in the preparation of third edition of the “Rare books” compilation. It will be prepared in the same way as the previous ones, while in talks with the owners of these writings, we shall demand from them to donate these books to the library.)

Of particular importance is the state of the rare collections, if an intervention is needed, immediate restoration and conservation, knowing that they were in various places. Also the old books and the manuscripts had the same fate time as the society. At certain times, these libraries or even their owners have been a target of multiple attacks, whether against an individual or a culture in general. Libraries were also in past times damaged, because of misconceptions, ideological labels, different beliefs, political issues, party affiliations, classification of materials as allowed or prohibited, etc.

It is worth mentioning that a large number of these libraries were burned along with the houses in the period of 90s. While the damage of libraries before the 90s were individual, during the 90s they were collective damages, since in that period were even people, houses, property, locations damaged. A society is valued as much as it knows to value the library and the book, as the book is the culture itself. A society is valued as much as it knows to value the library and the book, as the book is the culture itself. From this point I would demand from every library and librarian that besides the research of new books to do the research of old books and manuscripts.