

## Book Donation

CSD launched its book donation program back in 1990 when it established a partnership with the US Sabre Foundation. With the assistance of the Open Society Foundation-Sofia, which financed the transportation and distribution costs, CSD started receiving several shipments annually of US publications donated by the Sabre Foundation. Since 1990, CSD, as an official partner to the Sabre Foundation, has received and distributed around the country 16 shipments of more than 330,000 books worth over \$19,000,000.

These activities continue a long tradition in Bulgaria of donations aimed at contributing to education and public

knowledge. CSD's book donation was also quite timely as it came at a moment when budgets for education and culture were shrinking both nationally and locally. It assisted Bulgarian universities, libraries, hospitals, and individuals in staying in touch with international scientific exchanges in a period when a knowledge economy is taking root globally.

Areas of knowledge covered by the donations have varied widely – from heart surgery to telecommunications. In 1999, the latest donations were the first to include, in addition to books, CD-ROMs, as well as audio and videotapes.



*US Ambassador Richard Miles (center) at a press conference and book presentation ceremony at the University Hospital. The event generated considerable media interest with broadcasts on Bulgarian National Television and almost all the national press, reflecting the interest in such a large donation of much needed medical books. Following the event, Ambassador and Mrs. Miles hosted a reception*

*{The donation in 1999} is one of the most valuable collections ever donated to one country by Sabre – over 120,000 medical books (2,000 separate titles) with a retail value of over \$10,000,000 for Bulgaria.*

Sabre Foundation Update,  
December 1999

On September 29, 1999, Mr. Richard Miles, Ambassador of the United States to Bulgaria, and Mr. Leonard Baldiga, member of the Board of Directors of the

Sabre Foundation, opened an exhibition of medical literature donated to the “Tsaritsa Joana” University Hospital by the Sabre Foundation. The shipment included more than 120,000 volumes of about 2,200 recently published titles of the Williams & Wilkins publishing house: study guides, tests, monographs, medical dictionaries, reference books, specialized editions in dentistry, pharmacy, human and veterinary medicine. Books and study materials were given to medical institutes and health-care organizations around the country.

*The Sabre Foundation through the Center for the Study of Democracy is the largest international donation institution providing unique specialized literature for Bulgarian doctors.*

*It is for the first time that such a cardinal and dimensional change is taking place in this country as the restructuring of the public healthcare is by establishing the National Health Insurance Company (NHIC).*

*The main objective of the reform will be to provide an accessible and high-quality medical aid for the good start of the health reform.*

*There is no other opportunity such modern, expensive, and specialized medical literature to reach the doctors from the primary medical aid area who have to be the first health unit for the population of the country.*

*If we contribute for improving the qualification of the medical aid, this will impact the quality of health services.*

*NHIC as an institution, which in the near future will be responsible for the functioning of the whole healthcare system in this country, also wishes to further cooperate with your organization for the realization of other projects in our area.*

Dr. Boyko Penkov  
(Director of NHIC)