

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL/CENL 2013-2014

Name of country: ESTONIA

Name of library: National Library of Estonia (NLE)

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Key facts and figures (at 1 January 2014)

Items on hard copy	3 417 458
Electronic items online	158 319
Databases compiled by the NLE	12
Licensed databases	38
Registered users	45 544
Library visits	457 426
Seats for users	595
Budget	6 133 755 (EUR)

General

The NLE prepared its new strategic goals for 2013-2018, the Library will focus on making the e-library more convenient for the users, giving Estonian literature worldwide accessibility by making it digitally available, preferential development of e-collections and improving the organisation by involving employees and evolving an inspiring development environment.

The NLE was an active partner in preparing the national document *General principles of Estonian cultural policy up to 2020*.

Invaluable feedback for bettering the NLE has been received by regular surveys among users and staff. A poll among 55 key NLE specialists sought to identify the staff's expectations for a good e-library. A satisfaction survey among new readers aimed to find out how they rated the NLE services and collections after their first visits.

Anniversaries

In 2013 the NLE celebrated its 95th anniversary and the 20th anniversary of its present building. The celebrations launched with Doors Open Days in February and peaked in September-October with a number of specially designed events. The main theme of the celebrations was a unique collection stored in the NLE and dating back to the 19th century – the Metsiku lending library established by Estonian farmers and being among the best preserved collections of its kind. This collection inspired an exhibition and a theatrical performance staged in the foyer of the Library which brought together many friends and cooperation partners, including the President of the Republic, H.E. Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves. The events dedicated to the Metsiku collection were acknowledged by the Estonian Librarians' Association as the *Achievement of the Year*. Another undertaking dedicated to the NLE anniversary was an art contest and exhibition

“From Artists to the Library” that gathered 140 NLE-inspired works from 72 artists. A significant landmark was a book written by the Library’s former Director General Mrs Ivi Eenmaa *Life in parallel worlds. Building the National Library of Estonia in 1982-1997* which was published by the NLE and presented during the anniversary events.

Collection building and management

In 2013 the NLE published the two last parts of the retrospective national bibliography *Books in Estonian 1918-1940*.

Highlights of new acquisitions included a gift from the President of the Republic of Latvia – an exact facsimile copy of an album about the history of Livonia *Terra Mariana 1186-1888*, weighing over 50 kilos. The original dates back to 1888 when it was prepared as a present to Pope Leo XIII. A number of shellac records with songs by early 20th century Estonian singers were purchased for the music collection. Digital copies of rare publications have been an increasingly important supplement for collections.

Due to dramatically increased electricity costs, the NLE had to cut its acquisition budget and thus the amount of new items fell by 2,4%. The NLE’s new strategy specifies law and art literature as priorities for acquisition policy which will also focus on increasing the purchase of e-books.

In March 2013 the NLE finished the microfilming of print publications and from that time onwards preservation copies and usage copies are prepared only digitally. Priorities in this area are periodicals and single copies of national publications. Over 500 items were conserved in 2013 (of which 49 % single copies in the NLE’s collection), including 26 original large-scale construction drawings of the NLE’s present building.

Along with consistent digitisation of its collections, the NLE has been an active partner in the international EOD network (e-Books on Demand). Orders received through this service brought 228 new e-books to the NLE collections in 2013.

Since February 2013, the NLE has participated in a new major EC initiative *Collaboration to Clarify the Cost of Digital Curation (4C project)* which addresses the costs and benefits of digital curation.

Access

As of 1 October 2013, use of the NLE is free of charge for all.

Each reading room now accommodates a PC offering authorised access to all items stored in the digital archive DIGAR (including those with access restrictions).

User education is an important tool in raising awareness of the resources and access to them. The 58 user training sessions held in 2013 helped to educate 850 people in searching, selecting and using information resources both in the electronic and traditional environment.

In 2013 the Estonian Libraries Network Consortium (ELNET) received funding from the Ministry of Education and Research for merging its 2 electronic catalogues which had so far been separate. The catalogue contains the records of major Estonian research libraries – including the NLE – and 2 largest public libraries in Tallinn and Tartu. The catalogue’s new software version to be implemented during 2014 simplifies the logging in for users and makes the overall use of the catalogue more convenient.

The development of the e-library (digital archive DIGAR, Estonian Web Archive, Digitised Estonian Newspapers, Estonian National Bibliography database, Federated

Search Portal) serves to continuously facilitate access to the NLE electronic collections. The new user interface of the digital archive now provides access to DIGAR via smart devices and is also linked with social networks. This interface enables convenient downloading of e-books in ePub format that have been added to the archive thanks to the Ministry of Culture programme supporting the accessibility of Estonian literature. Both the new user interface and the first freely accessible e-books doubled the use of DIGAR in 2013 compared with the previous year.

In November 2013, the Estonian Web Archive was opened for public access, attracting well over 1000 visits from nearly 40 countries already during its first month.

The beginning of 2013 brought a decision to purchase processing software and user interface for a new newspapers database. Since 2014, newspaper content has been processed with new methods and tools.

Cooperation

The NLE is a partner in the Europeana Awareness project which aims to introduce the Europeana portal to different target groups and raise awareness of the possibilities offered by the portal. In 2013, Europeana commemorated the momentous year of 1989 and the Baltic Way (included in the UNESCO Heritage List) with collection days in the Baltic states. Estonian people were asked to bring their stories, photos and memorabilia of the Baltic Way to the NLE. All the collected items and stories are now available on Europeana website at www.europeana1989.eu

Cooperation with Estonian institutions and organisations produced a whole range of traditional events held in the NLE: the contest *25 Best Designed Estonian Books + 5 Children's Books*, the *Tallinn Book Fair*, the *Christmas Book Market* and literary forum *The Library of Babel*, the 4th Tallinn Illustrations Triennial *The Power of Pictures*.