**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**National Library of Estonia (NLE)**

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**Key facts and figures (at 1 January 2016)**

Items on hard copy 3 389 471

Electronic items online 179 975

Databases compiled by NLE 12

Licensed databases 35

Registered users 47 479

Library visits 537 068 (incl. 133 274 on-site visits, 403 794 website visits)

Seats for users 552

Budget 6 485 742 EUR

**General overview of recent major developments**

The last three years have witnessed a considerable growth in ICT funding which has enabled to purchase new hardware and invest in e-library developments. The Library renovated and refurbished the 5th floor reading area, completed extensive electrical renovations, updated the furnishing and equipment in the Small Conference Hall.

Preparations made in the NLE to be ready for the new Legal Deposit Act included more efficient workflows, first steps to prepare a new vision for the digital archive, and further development of the Publisher Portal which also brought along changes in the work of the ISBN Centre.

A new visual identity concept (CVI) was prepared for the NLE, doubtlessly being the 2015 landmark in the field of communication and marketing.

The NLE developed its Floor 5 into a comfortable meeting and research environment whose new concept is to act as a communication area, inviting users to hold meetings and spend quality time with their friends or children. The area comprises the colourful Reference Reading Room, different size meeting rooms and the Children’s Area.

**Collection development**

According to its strategic aims, the NLE acquisition policy focuses on law and art literature, with a preference for e-publications.

In 2015 the NLE resumed the work of the Research Board in order to use the competence of Estonian experts to modify collection development principles.

**Introducing collections and the library building**

The nation-wide Year of Music gave a wonderful opportunity to bring out the uniqueness of the Library’s music collection which was introduced with 15 exhibitions and the accompanying lectures and presentations.

The first Cultural Week of the NLE offered 30 events for visitors, aiming to introduce the rich cultural heritage stored in the Library. The lectures, seminars and discussions held during the Cultural Week were focused on music, literature, fine arts, architecture and politics. The guided tours introduced the building, artworks, and book stacks of the Library, and the history of the surrounding area. Workshops and meetings with children’s writers were organised for younger visitors in the children’s area on Floor 5.

**Digital library developments**

The portal DIGAR Estonian newspapers expanded: all articles of Estonian newspapers stored in the digital archive were made accessible to users. The newspaper portal has proved popular: some public libraries have chosen this as a platform for their bibliographic services. The digital archive DIGAR enables to browse nearly 2 000 posters and older Estonian school songbooks, and now also offers to listen to music: the NLE has started to digitise shellac records which are added to the archive. In 2015 DIGAR got a new viewer.

The NLE increased the number of training sessions for readers on the use of the digital resources. The popular training on tour *Discover the Electronic National Library* continued to travel across the country, in 2015 it also crossed the border and introduced the NLE e-library to the numerous Estonian community in Helsinki.

Together with the Estonian Literary Museum and private company AS Digira, the NLE continued to participate in the programme *Estonian Literature*, supported by the Ministry of Culture and aiming to make available Estonian classical literature via the NLE digital archive.

**Collaboration**

The NLE has established effective cooperation with the Ministry of Culture as its most important strategic partner. The most noteworthy development in 2015 was drawing up the amended Legal Deposit Copy draft act, headed by the Ministry of Culture. A significant outcome in the partnership between the National Library and the Ministry of Culture is the dialogue about the need to create a development centre for library services. This dialogue also includes other interested parties, most importantly the Estonian Librarians Association. The representatives of the National Library also actively participated in the discussions of the working group compiling the vision paper *21st Century Library*, spearheaded by the association.

The NLE is an active member of the technical committee EVS/TK 22 *Information and Documentation* that compiles the Estonian standards for information and document management, the NLE acts as an administrator of the secretariat. In collaboration with the Estonian Librarians Association, the NLE has been managing the working group on library terminology for many years.

The NLE took part in the Pan-European Working Group, initiated by the European Commission DG COMM and aiming to prepare a document with the mission and tasks of the network of European documentation centres.

In 2015 the Library became the deposit library of another two international organisations - BIE (Bureau International des Expositions) and IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency).