

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Facts about National Library of Estonia 2007

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Collections 3 355 902 items

Registered users 51 346

Active users 20 251

Library visits 163 796

Website visits 499 583

Employees 432

Budget 104 880 200 EEK (EUR 6 705 895)

Net floor space 51 477 m²

21 reading rooms

603 reader's seats

89 computer workstations

Stacks capacity 5 000 000 items

SERVICES

In 2007 the Library was open to the readers for 274 days. The database of readers contained 51 346 persons, an average of 598 library visits were registered daily. The statistics also showed 499 583 visits to the Library's website and 473 716 searches in databases compiled by the Library.

According to the strategy of preserving Estonian cultural heritage, the National Library of Estonia co-ordinates library activities on the national level and has worked out its development plan as a national competence centre for digitisation.

2007 saw the increased use of the databases compiled and continuously updated by the Library, as well as e-documents available via the Library. The most popular of the Library's own databases were *Index Scriptorum Estoniae* (a bibliographic database of articles on the humanities and social sciences with 273 651 searches), the *Subject gateway* covering the humanities and social sciences (80 300 searches), the *National bibliography* (77 381 searches) and *Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica* (bibliographic law database with 37 117 searches).

In 2007 the possibilities for using electronic full texts were considerably expanded. The users of the Library had access to 32 470 full text journals and 49 licenced databases. Licence agreements were concluded for two new special databases – *Naxos Music Library* and *Source OECD*. Under the EU-project *DoD* the Library started to

offer a new service – digital copies of older documents from the collections of the Library which are not protected by copyright. The e-books received a warm welcome from the users. The Library purchased a database system enabling the user of the National Library's services to manage their written works, create personal databases, transport data from the Library's own databases and licenced databases. A new flexible system was worked out for notifying of new acquisitions.

The National Library's e-services are accessible via its website. The Library continuously systematises the huge amount of information on its web and updates the links. In order to facilitate orientating within professional information sources, the links of philosophy and literary science were added to the section „Professional information“, the links of public procurement and job vacancies to the section „Public information“. The web shop was also updated. The Library regularly publishes the electronic abstract publications *Summaria Europensia*, *Summaria Iuridica* and *Summaria Socialia* which give an in-depth overview of the contents of nearly 60 foreign journals.

In addition to the website, users can learn about e-services and professional information also from special booklets which enable to better study the National Library's diverse services and their use.

Digital archive DIGAR – electronic collection of national documents

DIGAR, the digital archive of national documents, was developed under the EU project *ReUse* and expanded by 1119 titles in 2007. It contains online publications, pre-print files of periodicals, websites, books scanned by the National Library, and Estonian newspapers published during 1800-1944. The archive has 170 depositors. In 2007 the Library began to systematically collect, archive and describe books, journals and maps from the Library's own collections, as well as Estonian-language publications with non-Estonian domain. Additional value to the scanned texts is provided by cross-text search via optical character recognition (OCR). In 2007, OCR was applied to nearly 100 books scanned in the National Library, and under the EU project *TEL+* began to involve also older Estonian periodicals, published up to 1918. This project ends in 2009 and aims at the OCR of 200 000 pages.

Electronic national documents are registered in the National Bibliography database *ERB*. The creating of the digital archive constitutes the implementation of the whole integrated process: collecting, processing, preserving and making accessible of the national publications. This is one of the main tasks of the National Library.

Information services to the Parliament

Being also a parliamentary library, the National Library ensures the fulfilment of the information needs of the *Riigikogu* (Estonian Parliament), constitutional institutions and state authorities. In 2007 Estonia elected the XI *Riigikogu*, its members received an in-depth overview on the constantly expanding possibilities of the National Library's information services which are used by approximately 80 per cent of the MPs. In 2007 the Library started to collect studies on parliamentarism into a unified database „Parliamentarism“, containing monographs, scientific publications and articles on the *Riigikogu* and parliamentarism. In co-operation with the Chancellery of the *Riigikogu* the Library has issued ten publications. Two projects received support under the activity plan dedicated to celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Republic of Estonia. The first one aims at making publicly available on the Internet full-text

documents related to the birth of the independent state of Estonia. The second project will compile and make available on the Internet a virtual exhibition „Our Parliament“. It will introduce legal acts, archival documents, minutes, commentaries, biographies, photos, cartoons and other material from the 90 years of development of the Estonian legislative body.

In order to better target the information services, the National Library of Estonia has concluded agreements with the Office of the President, Office of the Chancellor of Justice, the General Staff of the Defence Forces, and the Ministry of Justice. Fruitful co-operation has been conducted with the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Statistical Office and many others.

Services developed in international co-operation

The services offered by the National Library of Estonia are not targeted on local users only but serve to preserve and make available the rich cultural resources of the entire Europe. The National Library of Estonia is the co-ordinator of the cross-text search project *TEL+* which was launched in 2007. Another project launched in 2007 within the EU framework programme was *EDLnet* which unites 80 leading European cultural heritage and information institutions, including the National Library of Estonia, and aims at contributing to the development of the European Digital Library *Europeana*.

Growing collections of printed matter

In 2007 the national imprint collection grew by 20 000 copies and over 900 annual sets of periodicals.

The Library purchased scientific literature mostly on law, art, linguistics, literary science and history. Among the 906 subscribed titles of academic periodicals, 35% covered the humanities and 58% the social sciences. The subscriptions also included 38 titles on foreign newspapers.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

In 2007 the National Library took part in six EU development projects. One of them was completed – *TEL-ME-MOR* which had been financed from the 6th framework programme enabled the national libraries of 10 most recent EU member states to become members of the portal *The European Library*. The National Library of Estonia supervised information dissemination and PR under this project. The project report was submitted to the European Commission which gave a high estimation to the National Library's work.

Seven previously started research works continued in 2007. Larissa Petina completed the manuscript of the collection *Ownership marks in early printings*. Her second research topic studies the printed publications and manuscripts of the *Raskolniki*. The study *Der Kirchenstreit zwischen schwedischen und deutschen Geistlichen in Nyen* on the history of Estonian theological thinking through the activities of Heinrich Stahl, by Piret Lotman, was also acknowledged. The year 2007 saw the completion of a collection of academic articles *Ajalookirjutaja aeg* (The Time of the History Writer) which will be published under the *Acta Bibliothecae Nationalis Estoniae* (Transactions of the National Library of Estonia).

In compliance with the Organisation of Research and Development Act, the National Library was entered in the sub-register of research and development institutions in 2007. The Library's research work has been acknowledged by publishing the

summaries of articles from the pre-reviewed scientific edition *Acta Bibliothecae Nationalis Estoniae* in renowned international scientific abstract databases *Historical Abstracts* and *America: History and Life*.

Scientific conferences and seminars

In 2007 the National Library organised 13 scientific conferences or seminars discussing both library and information policy issues. The 4th Information Policy Forum *Lost in information space* focused on the present day and future of information retrieval. The library forum *Twin Cities: Making a difference – moving towards library 2.0* was an Estonian-Finnish-Scottish joint conference. The international seminar *Digital Memory=Digitaalne mälu II* was held under the general title *Electronic publishing: new partnerships, new challenges* and discussed the co-operation possibilities between publishers and memory institutions. The seminar *Standard – what and why?* was dedicated to information related to standards and ways of obtaining them. The seminar *Union catalogues of Estonian libraries* focused on enhancing co-operation between the managers and compilers of union catalogues, discussing the structure, arrangement and management of union catalogues.

International co-operation

The National Library of Estonia is a member of 11 international professional organisations. Close co-operation is maintained within the standing committees of the Section of National Libraries and the Section of Classification and Indexing of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions. In 2007 a new 13-digit format of the standard numbers ISBN (books) and ISMN (printed music) was implemented internationally. This new format was taken into use also by the National Library of Estonia which is the Estonian national agency managing the database of local publishers and printing houses, and advising on issues related to ISBN, ISMN, bar code and the deposit copy of printed matter and e-publications. The Library is also the national agency of serials; in this capacity it started to make preparations for implementing a new standard in 2008 which would enable to assemble the versions of the same publication on different carriers. Since 1995 the National Library has issued the ISSN code and the related bar code to 1648 serials, including nearly 90% of major newspapers and journals.

Efficient co-operation has been achieved also in the joint initiatives of CENL, the Conference of European National Librarians. These activities include the development of services via the portal *The European Library*, the creating of *The European Digital Library* and collaboration with the managers of international union catalogues and other data collections.

Arranging Estonian information resources

Being the co-ordinator of public information in Estonia, the National Library has to find optimum solutions for linking together information possessed by different information holders and to make its retrieval as easy as possible.

This extensive area covers the updating and technological innovation of the Estonian Universal Thesaurus, supervising the drafting of Estonian standards which cover the field of information, and developing the standards of the National Library, data collection for the statistics on Estonian libraries and printing production, co-ordinating co-operation within the Estonian library network, organising the professional development and in-service training of Estonian librarians.

In 2007 the Estonian Universal Thesaurus was transferred to a new administration environment which made it accessible over the Internet also to public libraries. The lending and reader module were updated in the e-catalogue. An e-environment was introduced in professional development training and the training courses were updated with a number of topics, including copyright, marketing of library services, specialised information services to specific target groups like MPs and civil servants, inter-library loan and others. The standardisation of librarianship has become increasingly topical and extensive, necessitating the establishment of a special technical committee. The National Library of Estonia is a founding member of the technical committee EVS/TK22 *Information and documentation*, acting also as the secretariat of this committee in drafting Estonian standards and representing national interests in international standard organisations. Two Estonian standards and one National Library standard were issued in 2007.

Legislation

In 2007 the National Library submitted proposals for amending the Copyright Act and the Public Procurement Act. The first proposal concerned the exclusive right of holders of rights related to copyright to allow or prohibit the lending of audiovisual documents and films in libraries, the second proposal concerned granting exception in purchasing documents for libraries, museums and archives.

Surveys on service quality

In order to analyse the needs of users and the quality of information services the Library carries out regular multi-level surveys. In 2007 it organised the second stage of a client services survey, which continued a similar survey and a service quality assessment survey of the previous year. Most indicators were evaluated as being *rather good* or *very good*. The surveys and their methodology were discussed at a seminar *Service quality – indicator of efficiency of library work*. The analysis based on these surveys will be published in the sub-series *Information and Society* of the *Acta Bibliothecae Nationalis Estoniae*.

STAFF

Requirements for the knowledge and skills of the Library's personnel are high. In 2007, five employees studied for Doctoral degree and seventeen for Master's degree. Their research topics are mostly related to library work: the conceptual model of the bibliographic control of online publications, the effectiveness of library work, libraries in open administration organisation, paper preservation and conservation technologies, formation of library terminology in the context of language planning, bibliophile books, digitisation of cultural heritage, etc.

The employees of the National Library work as lecturers for higher education, continuing professional development programme and in-service training. The continuing professional development programme consists of five modules, each of them covers the third stage of professional standards requirements for librarians. In 2007 specialists from the National Library supervised two Master's and three Bachelor's theses at the Tallinn University, two employees are members of the defending committee. The National Library is also the practical training base for future information specialists. In 2007 the staff supervised 26 trainees from Estonia and two foreign trainees from Germany. In 2007 the Library's employees were elected to governing bodies of over twenty Estonian and eleven international organisations.

The National Library of Estonia Employee of the Years, Employee of 2007, deed of 2007 and Esteemed Colleague of 2007

In 2007 the title of Employee of the Years was awarded to two persons. One title went to Tea-Vaike Sein for long-term effective work as Head of Department of Collection Management Department. The second title was awarded to the Library's webmaster Andrus Igalaan for long-time maintenance of the Library's website and internal network, creating the visual identity for numerous information products and designing the National Library's publications. Katre Riisalu, Head of the Fine Arts Information Centre was given the Employee of 2007 Award for professional management of the Fine Arts Information Centre. The successful launching of the professional training centre and the renovation of the fine arts reading room were declared the deeds of 2007. In 2007 all employees were given the first in history opportunity to choose an Esteemed Colleague - this title was awarded to Eve Nurk, Deputy Head of the Centre of Information Services for MPs.

MAINTENANCE

In 2007 the support from state budget increased but most of it was planned for the salary rise of the staff according to the agreement concluded between the Estonian Employees' Unions' Confederation and the Government. The state support did not include coverage for the increase in maintenance costs, thus enabling the National Library to raise the average salaries only 10.5%. As the state support did not include allocations for specific purposes – for the acquisition of fixed assets and for renovation, the renovation of the main entrance, entrance hall and reading rooms in the Fine Arts Information Centre was covered from the supplementary state budget. The proportion of funds for acquisition and other operating costs has been continuously decreasing and become a bottleneck in achieving strategic goals. The scanty state support for investments prevented the Library to undertake planned renovations and purchases in the amount of two million kroons in 2007, for example it could not complete the renovation of the fire control signal system. Year-by-year the operability of technical systems becomes increasingly unsafe and increases need for capacious investments.

National Library earns nearly 10% of its budget revenue

The rise in own revenue was nearly one million kroons, mostly due to the better organisation of conference services, training, exhibitions and payment of rents. It enabled to cover most of the price increase of electricity, water and other management costs. Targeted financing from the Ministry of Culture, European Commission, State Chancellery and foreign embassies in the total of over 5.5 million EEK (EUR 351 662) enabled to develop library services. However, the possibilities to earn are limited for the National Library as information services must be freely accessible to all.

CULTURAL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE

The National Library has won well-deserved popularity as a cultural centre. In co-operation with foreign embassies and many Estonian and foreign cultural institutions the Library introduces its rich collections and the diverse world culture. The National Library also actively contributes to introducing Estonian culture abroad, compiling and organising exhibitions in co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, creative associations and other cultural organisations. In 2007 the Library prepared 6

travelling exhibitions, the largest of them the display of *The state decorations of the Republic of Estonia*. The most large-scale exhibition project was *The useful cookbook* introducing the National Library's collections and displaying Estonian-language cookbooks from 1781-1940, which were accompanied by magazines on home economy and home culture, calendars and cooking utensils from museums and private collections. Other exhibitions of greater interest were dedicated to the energy policy of Europe and Russia, violence against women, the 50th anniversary of the Europe Agreement. One of the highlights was an exhibition from the National Library's collections *A century of Estonian wood engravings on blocks 1840-1940*. One result of a large co-operation project of the National Library, the Ministry of Culture, the Embassy of Finland and the Finnish Institute was an exhibition *Seven steps on the Finnish-Estonian bridge* which celebrated the 70th anniversary of the intellectual co-operation convention between Finland and Estonia, the 25th anniversary of the Tuglas Society and the 90th anniversary of both the Republic of Estonia and the Republic of Finland. Other exhibitions worth mentioning were an art exhibition organised in the framework of an international conference on graphic art *Impact 5*, displaying the works of 20 Scottish artists and graphic artists Lyanne Allen and Carson Fox from the USA, and *Magic world for children created by Czech illustrators* which included a show of cartoon films. In 2007 the National Library organised altogether 65 exhibitions.

Cultural events are organised also by reading rooms of foreign countries

The reading rooms of foreign countries contribute to the organisation of versatile cultural activities. The visitors have enjoyed the events of the *cafe of culture and science* organised by the German, Austrian and Swiss reading rooms where the topics have ranged from knight culture to energy and environment security worldwide. These reading rooms also took part in organising German language days in schools and the annual conference of teachers of the German language. The French Reading Room has developed a tradition of monthly French salon evenings introducing French culture. The francophone week brought to the National Library the Swiss marionet theatre *Les Bamboches* with their travelling performances. The Nordic Reading Room was involved in the organisation of the *Nordic Poetry Festival* and the *Nordic Library Week*.

The Black Nights Film Festival discovered the National Library

The National Library is a competitive provider of conference services. In 2007 the Library's Conference Centre organised 876 events and the income received helped to cover maintenance costs and supported the development of library services. Major events held in the Conference Centre in 2007 included an international geology conference, an international day of GIS and geography, IV Information Policy Forum, a conference on probation supervision. The literature forum *Paabeli raamatukogu* (The Library of Babel) has become a tradition, this time held under the topic *Lood lugemisega* (What about reading?). In 2007 the internationally recognised *Black Nights Film Festival* discovered the National Library as a perfect place to show films. The events organised by the Library's Conference Centre gathered 55 thousand participants altogether.