

## ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL/CENL 2009-2010

Name of country: ESTONIA

Name of library: National Library of Estonia (NLE)

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### Major developments

- In October 2009 the NLE Supervisory Board approved the new strategic development plan specifying the library's development goals until 2013 in three key areas: the NLE collections and services for target groups, services for the library network and other memory institutions, as well as cultural and commercial services for the public. The strategy focuses on the development and improvement of e-library. Two sub-plans for development were also approved: *The NLE digitisation competence centre development plan 2008-2010* and *The NLE collection development and preservation activity plan until 2013*.
- The IT-audit carried out in 2009 served to analyse the condition of IT resources and identified the risk factors. The audit mapped the information resources, evaluated work organisation and documentation in this area. On the basis of the audit the NLE outlined the library's principles and procedure of information security.
- In September 2009 the Preservation and Conservation Department was merged with Binding Department, now forming a single Preservation Department.

### Research and development

- The NLE Research Advisory Board continued in 2009 with new membership. The Board is an advisory body which gives recommendations on the NLE research and development activities and research publications. The Board also advises on the topics of research conferences and seminars. The Board membership includes representatives from Estonian research and development institutions and government agencies.
- The first collection of articles of the sub-series *Information and society* of the NLE Transactions was published in 2009 under the title *Service quality – library performance indicator*. It introduces studies on service quality carried out in Estonian and Finnish research libraries. The peer-reviewed issues of the NLE Transactions are abstracted and indexed in the international database *EBSCO Publishing: Central and Eastern European Source*.
- In 2003 the NLE initiated the Information Policy Forum which has become a major local signpost of information society. The Forum of 2009 *Copyright and providing access to digital content* discussed the rights of memory institutions in making digital content accessible, relations between memory institutions and the Google in the context of copyright, and the origin, status and future of copyright in the European Union and Germany in particular.
- New initiatives of 2009 included the launching of a language and literature blog in Estonian, and an e-newsletter in order to better inform the users about new services.

## Cultural centre

- The NLE continued to play an active role in Estonian cultural life, organising and hosting exhibitions, concerts, theatre and musical performances, lectures, thematic events. Two small theatre troupes *VAT Theatre* and *Varius* annually give over 150 performances in the NLE theatre hall.
- The the 3rd Tallinn Illustrations Triennial is an international competition-exhibition organised over 3 years by the NLE, the Estonian Graphic Designers Association and the Ministry of Culture. The 2009 Triennial was patroned by spouse of the President Mrs Evelin Ilves and showed over 300 original illustrations and books from 65 authors of the Baltic Sea countries. The 2009 international drawing triennial *Manu Propria* involved nearly 200 artists from 27 countries. An extensive exhibition project *Estonian National Costumes* was dedicated to the 2009 nationwide song and dance festival.

## **Status and legislation**

The NLE is a legal person governed by public law, operating pursuant to the National Library of Estonia Act which was adopted in 1998 by the *Riigikogu* (Parliament) and amended in 2002, 2006 and 2008. To keep up with changes in the society and meet the expectations of the users, new amendments were prepared in 2009 for updating the Act. At the end of 2009 the NLE Supervisory Board approved the draft Act and sent it to the Cultural Affairs Committee of the *Riigikogu* for further proceedings.

## **Key facts and figures (as of 1 January 2010)**

### Collections

Books	1 988 182	volumes
Periodicals	316 062	annual sets
Microfilms, microfiches	28 188	copies
Audiovisual documents	49 814	copies
Sheet music	120 124	copies
Maps, atlases	22 720	copies
Manuscripts, archival documents	8 189	volumes
Electronic documents	2 222	copies
Licensed databases	46	titles

The budget for 2010 is EUR 5,6 million. The library's own revenue has been ca 10% of the budget in recent years. As of 1 January 2010 the staff is 384 employees.

## **Collections and access**

### Collections

- The e-library development is financed by the Ministry of Culture. In 2009, with the financial support of the Estonian Informatics Centre, the NLE launched a project *Citizen Gateway to the Archive of Estonian Digital Cultural Heritage*. Under this project the NLE will develop an authentication system for e-library users and convenient access to the digital archive DIGAR.
- A big step in the development of e-library was the launch of a search portal (portaal.nlib.ee) in autumn 2009 which enables one information search to simultaneously involve several NLE databases and improves access to digital collections. For providing this service, the library purchased software based on MetaLib/SFX in 2008.

- Licenced databases and e-books form a notable proportion of the NLE collections. In 2009 our users had access to 42 foreign databases, 34 633 titles of full text e-journals and 6725 e-books. The archive of national publications was supplemented with 27 000 books and the annual sets of 4000 titles of periodicals.
- The NLE continues its active cooperation with publishers to collect print files for the digital archive DIGAR. In addition to major newspapers, DIGAR includes nearly all Estonian county newspapers and also 248 historical maps and city plans. In 2009 nearly 1700 titles were added to this digital archive. Under the international project *EuropeanaTravel*, DIGAR is supplemented with digitised postcards with views of Estonia from the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.

### Access

- As of 1 June 2010 the readers can use their personal ID cards as library cards; preparations are in process for enabling the use of ID-cards also for electronic reader registration and authentication in order to allow access to the NLE e-collections and e-services outside the library premises.
- Although the opening hours were partly shortened in 2008 due to budget cuts, the library could uniform the opening hours again in 2009. Considering the usage habits of the readers, it was decided to open the library one hour later and prolong the opening time in the evening.
- The spring of 2009 brought along a new advantage in home lending –the previous home lending policy involved just sheet music, now it was extended to the basic collection of printed matter preserved in the stacks and published since 1946.
- To help the users to quickly find the required items and to be able to use all new services, the NLE provided 40 user training courses in 2009 which were divided into 4 modules of different levels, the most popular of them was *The ABC of information search*.

### **Collaboration**

- In 2009 the bibliographic database of articles *Index Scriptorum Estoniae* (ISE), created by the NLE, was handed over to the Consortium of Estonian Libraries Network to be managed as a cooperation project of 12 libraries. The new name of the database is *Database of Estonian Articles ISE* (ise.elnet.ee).
- A notable achievement was the merging of the Estonian Universal Thesaurus (compiled by the NLE) and the thesaurus of the University of Tartu Library into the Estonian Subject Thesaurus (ems.elnet.ee), which was awarded title of the Achievement of the Year 2009 by the Estonian Librarians Association (ELA). The Thesaurus is publicly accessible on the web, enables to search terms by subject fields and to find the relevant records in library databases and Google.
- The NLE is an active partner in the joint undertakings of CENL in the development of portals *The European Library* (TEL) and *The European Digital Library* (EDL), being a member of the Consortium of TEL and EDL. Since 2009 the NLE has been acting as the coordinator of an EU project *Europeana Travel*.
- The NLE continues to participate in the EoD project (*eBooks on Demand*) which continues to develop the EOD Consortium, established by 13 European libraries, into a pan-European e-book subscription network. Under the EoD service the NLE has already digitised over 100 books which have also been made accessible on the web.