

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA (NLE)

Annual Report 2002

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Circulating collections of the National Library of Estonia as of 1 January 2003:

3 182 871 items

Management of the library, legislation

The Supervisory Board of the NLE approved the library's new Statutes, the development plan for 2002-2010, and the development projects and IT development plan for 2002-2006.

The *Riigikogu* (Parliament) passed the Act Amending the National Library of Estonia Act.

Standardisation

The translation and editing of the standards EVS-ISO 2108:2002 (Information and Documentation. International Standard Book Number) and EVS-ISO 3297:2002 (Information and Documentation. International Standard Serial Number) was an undertaking of national importance, being the first step in library standardisation in Estonia.

The NLE joined the system of the International Standard Music Number, being now the seat of 3 national agencies - ISBN, ISSN and ISMN. The library successfully launched the programme for converting MARC 21 entries into ISSN entries, enabling to send entries to the International ISSN Centre in Paris via the Internet.

Information technology and networks

Recataloguing and converting projects underwent a notable progress: 2002 saw the completion of the re-cataloguing of journals and newspapers of limited circulation published in Estonian as well as newspapers published in Estonia during 1941-1997, the conversion of the map collection database into the electronic catalogue and the conversion of the entries of books published in Estonia during 1945-1991.

The digital library

The NLE's web page was renewed, now including an e-library which consists of several links:

- the link of **e-services** enables to submit enquiries in the field of the Humanities and Social Sciences, to find and pre-order documents from the National Library's collections and via inter-library loan, to prolong the loan period, to order ISSN, ISBN and ISMN, and to subscribe for NLE publications;
- **ISE** - an internet-based bibliographic database of articles compiled by the NLE on the basis of over 80 newspapers, 100 journals and collections of articles published in Estonia in the field of the Humanities and social sciences;
- **the subject gateway** - a systematised and subject-indexed directory enabling to find web pages, databases, electronic texts and electronic periodicals in the field of the Humanities and social sciences, and a selection of libraries and their catalogues;
- the collection of **Estonian online publications**, comprising the links of electronic newspapers, journals and monographs;
- the **National Library's on-line publications**;
- **digitised collections** - materials from the NLE collections which have been digitised under exhibition and publishing projects.

Acquisitions

The acquisition policy proceeds from the different functions of the NLE which fulfils the tasks of a national library, a parliamentary library, a research library for the Humanities and Social Sciences, and a LIS information centre.

Additional acquisition helped to obtain 371 national publications which had been missing from the national imprint collection. The NLE web page opens a link with a list of publications still missing in this collection.

The UNIDROIT was the 12th international organisation entitling the NLE to receive its publications free of charge.

Preservation and Conservation

The NLE initiated a project "Ensuring the Preservation of National Imprint", aiming at the instalment of an independent air-conditioning system in the stackrooms for ensuring stable preservation conditions. The year 2002 saw the completion of this project and an application was drawn up for a loan of 321,000 EUR.

Services to readers

Following its long-term objective of developing specialised information services, the NLE renovated its former Reference Reading Room into a new Social Sciences Reading Room which now provides a wider range of services and enables the readers to use the first in Estonia open access depository. The library also reorganised its Periodicals Reading Room which now provides an extended selection of periodicals on open shelves and offers a possibility to read periodicals on-line. In the summer of 2003 the previous Catalogues Hall was renovated into a Reference Reading Room, now housing the reference collection and new PC workplaces for the users.

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

The highlights in the library's publication activities were the collection *Libraries and Librarianship in Newly Independent Estonia* and the electronic Library Glossary, the latter including 2,600 terms and accessible via the library's web page. The series of the Estonian National Bibliography *Estonian Official Publications* was published electronically for the first time.

In 2002 the NLE hosted two international conferences: *The Andrew W. Mellon Conference on Union Catalogs* and *Marks of Ownership in Old Books: History. Description. Attribution*. The summer of 2003 brought to Tallinn the attendees of the 6th Annual Conference of IAML. The number of book and art exhibitions organised by the NLE in 2002 amounted to 129.