

The National Library of Estonia - Report to CENL 1994

Library staff - 404

Collections - 3,326,243 items (175,450 items acquired in 1994)

Readers - 59,217 (21,357 new readers registered in 1994)

Library visits - over 500,000

Budget - 16,321,000 EEK

The Library in Politics

With its operation regulated by the Law on the National Library of Estonia, the Library continues to operate in the capacity of the national library as well as the parliamentary library. Fundamental questions pertaining to the National Library are resolved and its activities directed by the Board of the National Library.

Construction Problems

The new building of the NLE, although open for the public since 1993, is far from being completed. The reasons for almost all current maintenance problems lie in the construction process, which dates back to the former soviet period. Due to the faulty heating system, additional electric heating was installed in 1994. Since the beginning of 1994, the NLE uses the services of its own security firm; the last year also saw the final steps taken in installing the security system inside the building as well as the completion of outdoor lighting system.

Automation

Since 1994 automation development in Estonian scientific research libraries, including NLE, has been following the guidelines of a unified project "Information System of Estonian Libraries". The NLE has a local area network of 3 UNIX servers and a Novell server; 46 work places (terminals and PCs) are connected to the Internet, enabling to perform searches in international databases. The information services of NLE have at their disposal 31 databases on hard disks, supplemented by 29 databases on CD-ROMs, which are used on separate PCs. For international introduction, the NLE in cooperation with the Estonian center of CIESIN has created the home page of NLE.

Conservation and Preservation of the Collections

The Preservation Department of the NLE has launched a project in 1994 for determining the state of the NLE collections. The project is unique of its kind in Eastern Europe; similar work is done in the Tartu University Library. The project comprises the following parts:

- Computerized statistical analysis of the state of collections. The results of this work have been reported at two international conferences.
- Statistical analysis of climate in stackrooms, including the following parameters: temperature, humidity, dust, biological pollution of the air. This analysis is carried out once every three months.
- Morphological examination of paper and leather-bindings.

Since 1994, the NLE has been using a Danish leaf casting machine that has considerably facilitated the conservation of old newspapers.

Publishing Activities

The 81 titles published by the NLE during 1994 included the first 4 volumes of the "Estonian National Bibliography" as well as the "Official Publications of Estonia 1994" and the "Riigikogu Directory 1994", with the latter reflecting the developments in our statehood. The most noteworthy publication, however, was "Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica 1918-1940", being awarded the annual prize of the Estonian Cultural Foundation.

Acquisition and International Cooperation

Like in the previous years, the bulk of foreign literature was received as donations or through exchange, the NLE's acquisition budget not allowing to make sufficient purchases. Efficient cooperation with foreign Embassies has become an important source of supplementing the collections.

NLE as a Cultural Center

With its active participation in the Republic's cultural life in 1994 the NLE confirmed its position as a major cultural center in Estonia.

The various exhibitions held in the NLE during 1994 amounted to 71.

The nature of the exhibitions covered art (nearly 40 displays), photos, books, video installations, etc.

The premises of the NLE housed several events of international importance, among them the Meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Baltic Sea Countries and the Conference of representatives of Estonia and the European Union.

The continuing interest in the new building was reflected in over 500 guided tours carried out during 1994.

National Library of Estonia (NLE)

General Director: Ivi Eenmaa, Ph.D., Assist. Prof.

Address: Tõnismägi 2, EE0100 Tallinn, Estonia

Phone: +372-6 311 411

Fax: +372-6 311 410

Email: ivi@venus.nlib.ee