

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL

YEAR 2015

Name of country: **Latvia**

Name of library or equivalent national-level organisation: **National Library of Latvia (NLL)**

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Headings:

1. General overview of recent major developments at the National Library of Latvia.

- The main activities of the NLL in 2014 were associated with the relocation of library from the five existing buildings to the new one, the construction of which was finished in late 2013:
 - On January 18 a symbolic “The Chain of Book Lovers – Path of Light” event took place, with 14 000 people passing about 2000 books hand to hand from the old central building of the NLL to the new library building, distance of approximately two kilometers, in temperatures around -15° by Celsius.
 - From April 14 to October 17 all library collections – more than 3 000 000 items – were relocated from the previous library buildings to the new building, finishing the work two weeks ahead of schedule.
 - On June 9 the new library building was officially put into operation.
 - On June 12 the NLL opened its doors for visitors for the first time, initially serving readers on the first three floors of the building. From June 12 to June 15 series of events promoting library services and collections took place, and on June 17 a symbolic ribbon cutting event was held, followed by a digital ribbon cutting campaign, which won a local marketing and PR award in 2015.
 - From August 25 to August 29 another series of opening events took place, the peak of celebrations being the official high-level inauguration ceremony on August 29. From September 8 all reading rooms of the new library are available for readers.
- The new library building attracted a significant public interest – from the opening of the building in June 12 it welcomed more than 250 000 visitors, including more than 50 000 people who took one of the 1 500 guided tours.

- Since June 12, as the new building serves as a public space for all kinds of cultural events, 55 exhibits, 22 concerts, 15 book openings and more than 100 seminars, conferences, discussions and lectures took place in the library, including the well-known LIBER conference.
- From November 21 four floors of the building were adapted for the purpose of hosting the events of the Latvian presidency of the Council of the European Union. This fact considerably limited access to the library services.
- In November 2014 the NLL launched the project of the Latvian National Encyclopedia.
- The research capacity of the NLL was strengthened in 2014 by establishing the Latvian and Baltic Study Centre.

2. The National Library of Latvia relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

- The NLL is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia. The legal mandate for the operations of the NLL is provided by the law "On the National Library of Latvia", as well as the law on legal deposit and several regulations of Cabinet of Ministers on different aspects of library operations. The budget of the library consists of a subsidy provided by the Ministry of Culture according to the annual law on state budget, as well as of own income for paid services and other income, such as projects and donations.
- The NLL represents Latvia in international library organisations, participates in development and implementation of sector specific international programs, and cooperates with foreign libraries in accordance with inter-governmental and direct agreements. In 2014 a renewed agreement on cooperation between national libraries of Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia was signed, establishing a closer cooperation between the three libraries.

3. Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc)

Key facts given by 01.01.2015.

- Number of registered users: 90 187
- Number of on-site visits: 436 982
- Number of virtual visits: 1 060 485
- Number of loans: 176 917
- Collection (total number of units): 4 119 398
 - books: 1 977 926
 - serials: 820 852
 - audiovisual materials: 69 638
 - microforms: 109 424
 - cartographic materials: 28 944
 - sheet music: 221 988
 - graphic documents: 231 778
 - manuscripts: 27 713

- e-books: 2 257
- small prints 595 494
- other 33 384
- Number of personnel: 369
 - Including 249 librarians
- Size of premises used by NLL: 46 829 m²
- Number of places for readers: 1 000
- Total budget year 2014: 12 764 158 EUR

Including:

 - Financing from state budget: 12 307 731 EUR
 - Other financing: 456 427 EUR
- Expenses – salaries: 4 069 266 EUR
- Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 172 423 EUR
- Expenses – building of collection: 466 549 EUR

Including:

 - periodicals 59 168 EUR
- Expenses – goods and services: 3 228 238 EUR

Including IT services: 485 948 EUR

4. New developments in creating and building collections

- The work on several collaborative projects has continued to enrich the collections of the NLL: the Research Library for East Asian studies is being developed in cooperation with the University of Latvia, and the U.S. Information Resource Center in cooperation with the Embassy of the United States of America, both due to open in autumn 2015.
- A 30 000 EUR grant from The Boris and Inara Teterev Foundation was received to develop the collection of the Arts Reading Room.
- In 2014 the NLL received several notable donations in connection with the opening of the new building – with the support of the Embassy of Germany a donation of art books and catalogues from German publishers, Valdis Villeruss collection of Latvian rare books, Peter Böttger (Germany) collection of engravings, manuscripts of Latvian composer Oscar Strok, and others, in total approximately 10 000 items.

New developments in creating and building digital collections.

- In 2014 the NLL began a targeted acquisition of Latvian e-publications (e-books, audiovisual publications published online, digital cartography publications, etc.).
- Subscriptions to 10 new databases were offered to customers, including databases of several prestigious publishers (Sage, Wiley, Gale) and ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global Full Text database. Two new digital archives were purchased – Baltic Bibliographical Archive and newspaper Financial Times (1888-2010).

- During implementation of the project “Europeana Sounds” more than 1 800 historical Latvian audio recordings were made available in Latvian National Digital Library (LNDB, audio.lndb.lv).
- The project "Europeana Newspapers" was completed in 2014; as a result 475 000 pages of newspapers were made available through the historical newspapers portal developed by The European Library.
- More than 2 600 new digital objects were added to the digital collection “In Search of Lost Latvia”, 2/3 of these objects and their metadata were created by users of LNDB.
- In order to strengthen its competence in the field of digitisation the NLL joined the IMPACT Centre of Competence in Digitisation. In 2014 the NLL also joined Baltic Audiovisual Archival Council (BAAC).

5. New developments in managing collections

- An RFID system for management of the open shelf collections was introduced as a part of collection moving process to the new building.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

- The new library building allowed to introduce open shelf collections in nearly all reading rooms of the NLL, providing free access to 350 000 volumes.

New developments in providing access to digital collections

- Development of the single search interface for both the Latvian National Digital Library and online catalogues of the NLL was completed, and a test version of the search interface was made available on lndb.lv.
- A test version of EBSCO Discovery Service was introduced, allowing an easier access to all subscribed resources.
- 158 804 authoritative records were submitted to VIAF, and 114 999 of those records were received back with an ISNI number.
- In 2014 a research project “Data Array Quality Analysis and Improvement Technologies” was initiated in cooperation with the Latvian IT Competence Centre. The aim of the project is to develop new methods and technological solutions to perform quality analysis of big data arrays and suggest enhancements of the records, by using big arrays of bibliographical data as a test case.

7. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national memory institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

- The NLL serves as a competence centre for Latvian library professionals by developing guidelines and terminology and adopting standards for library sector, providing consultations and organising seminars and courses for professional development.
- The NLL coordinates several national level projects for literacy development and library support: literacy program "Children's Jury", book donation programs, targeted book purchases, etc.

- In cooperation with the National Archives of Latvia, several museums and other partners the NLL initiated a project to create a digital collection devoted to Latvian poets Rainis and Aspazija and based on semantic technologies, aiming to build a cross-sector collection of digital objects of different types and to introduce new possibilities for use of these materials both in research and education.
- In cooperation with the National Archives of Latvia and museum specialists were renewed and enhanced guidelines for digitisation of cultural heritage.