



MARTYNAS MAŽVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA
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GENERAL OVERVIEW OF RECENT MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

The main focus in 2010 was the reconstruction of the main library building, the development of the digital library and digitisation of Library's collections, development of the national project "Libraries for Innovation". The **reconstruction of the main library building** remained one of the main priorities in 2010 and influenced other library processes and activities. On April 2010, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė visited the Library and together with the representatives from other government institutions discussed the complicated situation with the financing of Library reconstruction works. An estimated cost of the reconstruction of the library building is 92,4 million Litas, including 56 million Litas allotted for construction works. 7 million Litas was received in 2008 and only 3 million Litas received in 2009 and 2010.

In 2009 the Lithuanian Government adopted a new strategy for coordination of digitisation programmes, which pursues the aim to encourage digitisation of cultural heritage objects preserved at memory institutions, guarantee long-term preservation of Lithuanian cultural heritage, its integration into the global virtual environment and access to it. The National Library together with the partners from archives, museums and libraries, has prepared **the project "The Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage System"**. The project started to be implemented in 2010 and will continue the digitisation of national cultural heritage and provision of electronic services. In order to guarantee the development of **Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System LIBIS**, and to continue the creation of digital library services the National Library has launched the project financed by the EU Structural Funds **"Development of interactive electronic services for document ordering and delivery in the public libraries"** The aim of the project is to enhance electronic services provided by the public libraries, with regard to the document supply for users and development of a self-service option.

Implementation of the national **project "Libraries for Innovation"**, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation's Library program and Lithuanian Government continued in 2010. During the project period from 2008-2010 11 successfully operating training centres for librarians and non-professional users established, public Internet access upgraded or established in 759 public libraries in various towns and villages. An information competence of public libraries' staff was improved; library users were encouraged to use library services. Special campaigns for specific and difficult-to-reach population groups were organized with possibilities to learn new computer facilities and benefits of internet access. The second stage of the assessment of the project's impact focusing on libraries in rural areas was accomplished in 2010. When comparing the results from the 2010 survey of library staff members and management personnel with the outcome of the initial situation assessment made in 2008, the following changes should be mentioned:

- due to the rapid development of the public Internet access, the number of libraries with such access in rural areas increased and reached 88% (against the national average 89% and the average for urban libraries of 97%).
- There was an increase in the use of computers by librarians at rural libraries reaching 92% and approaching the national average (93%).

Librarians' elementary computer literacy and Internet resource skills were gradually progressing, though it is not true for more sophisticated technical skills. The weak areas remain servicing user groups with specific demands and Internet innovations.

In 2010 National library continued its national and international cooperation programs, maintained international contacts with European national libraries, other library institutions and organizations. Participation in the **development of Europeana** was one of the strategic priorities in 2010. The National Library has further developed existing collaborations in digital delivery and preservation areas, cultural activities and research projects.

Unfortunately, economic crisis will have a significant impact on library activities and results in 2009 and 2010. As a result of economic situation, many public institutions in Lithuania declared significant budget cuts. National Library's spending for 2010 had already been reduced.

KEY FACTS AND FIGURES IN 2010

Collections:

Books and bound periodicals	4956857
Manuscripts	74683
Microforms	81523
Audiovisual materials	98350
Cartography	12326
Other materials (including printed music, broadsheets, etc.)	1527799
Total holdings	
- in items	6751538
- in titles	1775859
Registered users	15399

Number of visits	135810
Number of virtual visits to the catalogues, databases	357771
Number of loans	1509997
Number of working places for users	253
Library staff	498 (363 out of them professional librarians)
Total operating budget	
-Incomes (thousand LT/EUR)	52660,0/15251,4
-Expenditures (thousand LT/EUR)	39896,1/11554,7

In 2010 the Library spent a total of 233 thousand Litass/67,5 thousand EUR on acquisition programs. The acquisitions funds in 2010 made only 37% of the funds expended for obtaining documents in 2009 and 18% of such funds expended in 2008. Since 2009, funding of the acquisitions programme has been steadily declining, which makes the Acquisitions the most curtailed programme of the National Library due the economic crisis of recent years. Legal deposit remains the principal source for acquisition of documents for the National Library collection and the Archive. Legal deposit copies made 50.8% of all obtained documents during the reporting year. During 2010, licences were obtained for accessing 51 databases, and 23% of all the acquisitions funds were allocated for obtaining electronic documents (compact disks and databases).

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN CREATING AND BUILDING DIGITAL COLLECTIONS

Organization of digitization activities in Lithuania and funding of these activities were defined in the *Strategy on Digitization of Lithuanian Cultural Heritage, Digital Content Preservation and Access* and its *implementation framework in 2007-2013*. The Lithuanian Government adopted these important documents in 2009. The National Library began planning other digitization project with the aim to increase the quantity of digital Lithuanian cultural heritage content and to provide users with digital library services. The project *The Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage System* started in 2010 with the partners from nine Lithuanian cultural institutions. Documents, digitized during this project, will be integrated and accessible via the portal of digitized Lithuanian cultural heritage www.epaveldas.lt and will be prepared for integration into the Europeana.

The project involves:

- expansion of the digitization network by involving more centres and structural units;
- expansion and development of the virtual digital heritage system;
- ensuring digitization and access of cultural heritage objects.

The following project activities were accomplished:

- digitization centres were equipped with workplaces supplied with necessary hardware and software.
- 6,209 objects (369,773 pages) of Lithuanian cultural heritage documents were digitized by the National Library;

-2,384 cultural heritage objects were digitized by other Lithuanian libraries and 3,303 cultural heritage objects - by museums and archives.

NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN PROVIDING ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS

Innovations at the National Library and recent social changes, rapid development of information and communication technologies, enormous information and knowledge growth as well as new access possibilities opened the doors for new activity levels. Collection of electronic information resources and providing access to them, development of interactive and electronic services were set as priority activity areas in the National Library's Strategic Plan for 2010-2012. In 2010 there were 2,4 million searches performed and 511 thousand sessions used in the National Library's catalogues and databases and 1,7 million records downloaded. There was a significant rise in the number of visitors to the common cultural heritage web portal of libraries, museums and libraries www.epaveldas.lt, and users of the union catalogue of Lithuanian libraries www.libis.lt.

There was further implementation of *Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System LIBIS*. In 2010 LIBIS entered a new stage of its development implying application of software solutions for raising the quality of reader service. In 2010 a project requirement for functional development of the LIBIS reader service software through adding new facilities to the order reservation module was prepared. The upgraded module, which has already been implemented in the National Library, will be installed in other Lithuanian libraries in 2011.

In order to guarantee the development of the System, and to continue the creation of digital library services, the National Library has sought EU structural financial support and launched in 2009 the project financed by the EU Structural Funds "Development of interactive electronic services for document ordering and delivery in the public libraries". The following results were achieved in 2010:

- the first ever public library self-service systems enabling self-service return of publications by library clients on a 24/7 basis were installed in 46 Lithuanian libraries. Radio-frequency identification (RFID) and ElectroMagnetic (EM) technologies for self-service were installed accordingly in 6 and 5 libraries.
- A system for automatic informing of users sending reminders about expired loan periods and renewal options was developed.

The project was rated as one of the most successful among Lithuanian projects financed from the European Structural Funds and was awarded the nomination of the best electronic progress project *Europos burės 2010* established by the Ministry of Finance together with other institutions responsible for administration of the EU structural support.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Continuos efforts have been made to develop preservation and conservation of the national heritage collections. These activities were primarily reserved on protection of resources having cultural values. The following tasks of long-term preservation of documents were accomplished: 43,980 conditional pages of documents and 90 bindings restored; 1,048 documents cleaned and disinfected; 543 periodicals bound; 2,009 individual protective wrappers and boxes produced; 73,195 frames of Lithuanian periodicals microfilmed. In 2010 a testing programme for the assessment of the state of preserved documents of the Archive of National Publications involving multiple criteria was lunched. The results will be used for the development of a preservation programme for the Archive's documents in 2011.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

From 2009 the cultural programs (including exhibitions, book presentations) in the Library premises have been reduced by nearly 90 percent due to the reconstruction of the main building. Book exhibitions and other cultural events were organized outside the Library in cooperation with other institutions.

Library's aspiration to involve into global library science processes together with the newly emerged demands determined the origination of the National Library's new scientific and methodological activity areas. The issues that gained major currency and significance were the library network development, standardization of library activities, drafting of normative documents, partnership with other memory institutions, promotion of the cultural heritage and qualifications improvement of the staff. Knowledge and skills advancement plays an important role in developing the model of a modern National Library capable of satisfying the needs of the society. Therefore creating the system of a learning organization will be given special consideration in 2011, including structural and functional changes. This will serve as the prerequisite for effective use of human resources and formation of new organizational expertise.