

**National Library of Latvia**

***Annual Report to the CENL***

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**Collections (01.01.2001)**

**Total holdings 4 523 285 items**

**Among them:**

Books 1 932 776

Pamphlets 16 172

Periodicals 537 061

Newspapers (sets) 31 467

Manuscripts 17 777

Cartographic documents 14 219

Picture collections (graphic) 224 233

Printed music 211 066

Microforms 113 274

Readership 44 660

Visitors 464661

Loans 3 294 530

In comparison with other statistical data the National Library of Latvia holdings has a tendency to decrease with every year. In 2000 the total holdings (active and passive stock) has decreased about 248 495 items.

The active stock has been supplemented by 51 860 items. 67 524 items are withdrawn.

The main reason for withdrawing are : outdated literature (~ 88%), nonprofile literature (6%) and duplicate copies (5,5%).

The passive stock has decreased about 232 831 item.

### **3. Finance and funding**

In 2000 the Library's financial position was as follows:

**2000** 1999

**USD USD**

State budget **1954764** 2238639

Payment services **57105** 49835

Income in total **2011869** 2288528

Expenses (a+b) **1938853** 2290317

1. salary fund **808403** 812 833

2. insurance tax **211682** 219967

3. business trips **12 036** 14897

3a. services **304 672** 312 690

4. purchase of material **101507** 99975

5. purchase of books and

periodicals **205974** 229955

Capital investment

expenditure **294579** 600000

Inflation made 2,6% in 2000 (3,2% in 1999).

## **7. New Building and Plant**

- a. The project of the new building of the NLL has received the support of the Parliament by positive voting in the first reading in June 2000. A special draft law determines the goals and financing mechanism of the project.

The decision was approved to form a special subcommission at the Budget commission of the Parliament, the task of which is to accumulate all proposals about financing scheme and elaborate it in the draft law for the second reading.

A special International Expert Commission was created whose main objectives are international publicity, attraction of in-kind support and professional assistance in implementing the project.

The first session of the International Expert Commission took place in Riga in September 2000.

In the period of report the presentation of the project took place all over Latvia, highlighting the society about the investment of the new building in the development of all library environment in Latvia.

Two sociological researches were performed about the attitude of the society to the project. The essential results were as follows:

78% of the inhabitants know about the project;

63% of the inhabitants support it;

59% of the inhabitants support it, knowing the expenditure of the project;

45% are ready to support the project.

- b. In December 2000 one of eight buildings of the National Library - a storehouse of the 17 century, occupied by the Library from 1945 - was vacated. During two years the existing passive stock was transferred to the repository "Silakrogs", 25 km from Riga.

## **9. Conservation and Preservation. Digitalisation.**

In cooperation with co.SWH-T the conversion program of Latvian national bibliography has been worked out and implemented.

Simultaneously the National Library is engaged in 6 retrospective digital projects, including *Latvian provincial newspapers (1822 - 1940)*, *the Photocollection of the Baltic Central Library*, *Latvian poster*, *Latvian records*, *Latvian maps* and *Printed national bibliography*.

### **10. Main advances in IT and new technologies**

In 2000 the Latvian Bibliography Institute has successfully realized the first stage of the project "Retrospective conversion of Latvian national bibliography (1763-1995)", financially supported by Library Network Program of Open Society Institute (Budapest).

The long-term aim of the project is to convert printed national bibliography of Latvia (about 2,5 million records) into machine readable format and create a unique culture history data base covering the period from the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to the year 2000. A special software was elaborated and tested in collaboration with co. SWH Technology.

### **11. Services to readers**

Readers have access to data bases LETA, EBSCO, SWH NAIS as well as to data bases of the Latvian national bibliography; CD-ROMs : EBSCO (1977 - 2000), Encyclopedia Britannica - 2000, ART Index (1984 - 2000), UNESCO DB - 1999 a.o.

### **12. Exhibitions** *(See also 17)*

The Library has performed 58 exhibitions, attended by 15 871 visitors.

Two of them were mounted abroad: "Latvian timebook" in the Latvian Embassy in Berlin (Germany) and "Russian color in the palette of Latvian talents" in Moscow (Russia).

### **13. Publishing**

Publishing activities of NLL include national bibliography, thematic indices, statistical materials and articles, published in local and foreign press, in total about 70 titles. The greatest number of publications belongs to the Department of Library Advisory Service, Children's Literature Centre, Baltic Central Library and Rare Books and Manuscripts Department.

In cooperation with Riga History and Maritime museum the Cartographic Department of NLL has published a book "Index of Riga streets, squares, parks and bridges from the 18 cent. till nowadays".

### **14. Standards**

In 2000 four standards: ISBD(A) : Older Monographic Publications, ISBD (CM) : Cartographic Materials, ISBD (PM) : Printed Music and ISO 2108 : 1992 (ISBN) were adopted as Latvian standards and published.

### **16. Staffing matters**

On January 1, 2001, the Library employed 417 staff members : 327 librarians and 90 housekeeping personnel. 29 employees were dismissed and 16 were hired in 2000. Some staff members of the National Library of Latvia have received a high award.

- **Silvija Šiško**, chief bibliographer of the Rare Books and Manuscripts Department, has been conferred the highest award of the Republic of Latvia - Three Star Order - for the compilation of the nominated union catalogue "Ancient Prints in Latvian: 1525 - 1855".
- **Baiba Prikule's**, chief librarian of the Public Relations Department, contribution to the cycle of exhibitions "The heritage of Selija (one of Latvia's regions) related to the

history of civilization" has Gained the appraisal of the Latvian Academy of Sciences. She will be nominated an Affiliate Member of Selija Association.

- **Andris Vilks**, Director of the NLL, for personal contribution to the cause of development of interstate relations between Lithuania and Latvia and for active promotion of political, cultural and societal cooperation between the two countries has been conferred the Order of the Lithuanian Grand Duke Gediminas.

## **17. Major celebrations**

The year 2000 has been for the Latvian society and the National Library of Latvia in particular under the sign of Latvian book year. On November 2000, 475 years have passed since the first book in Latvian was mentioned in written sources. Different events: satellite conferences, seminars, exhibitions, book fairs took place in Riga and outside.

On November 8 - 11, 2000 the International conference "Latvian book and library : 1525 - 2000" took place in Riga. The conference was supplemented by the exhibitions "Latvian book research" and "The 16<sup>th</sup> century books in the collections of the National Library of Latvia." The last one gained a great attraction of the public.