

National Library of Latvia

*Annual Report to the CENL
2001/2002-04-19*

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Collections (01.01.2002)

Total holdings	4 465 262 items
Among them:	
Books	1 933 063
Pamphlets	16 100
Periodicals	427 490
Newspapers (sets)	31 966
Manuscripts	17 791
Cartographic documents	14 812
Graphic	223 532
Printed music	210 882
Microforms	113 367
Readership	43 069
Visitors	476493
Loans	3 120 186

In 2001 the National Library of Latvia has received 43410 legal deposit copies, total sum ca.25000\$(40280 Lats). The positive is that the sum for purchasing books and periodicals has raised to 112645\$ in 2001.

The collection of the NLL has been considerably replenished by several gifts. They are books from Boston Public Library, 23 CD with Liv texts acquired and recorded during expeditions of several years by Finno- Ugric language experts of Tartu University (Estonia). As well as an outstanding collection of maps and graphics from the Latvian storehouse of cultural materials *Straumeni* in England, collected by R. Muziks, a clergyman must be mentioned.

Owing to the active work of Acquisition Board and co-operation with Library Information Network Consortium (LINC), practically the supply of spare copies is eliminated, thus saving the means for purchasing the necessary literature.

3. Finance and Funding

In 2001 the Library's financial position was as follows:

	2001 USD	2000 USD
State budget	1956280	1954764
Payment services	61650	57105
Income in total	2017930	2011869
Expenses (a+b)	2013693	1938853
1. salary fund	828027	808403
2. insurance tax	204814	211682
3. business trips	23332	12 036
3a. services	432516	304 672
4. purchase of material	206383	101507
5. purchase of books and periodicals	318619	205974
Capital investment expenditure	-	294579

Inflation made 3,2% in 2001(compare with 2,6% in 2000, 3,2% in 1999).

7. New Building and Plant

The project of the new building of the National Library of Latvia has been approved at the 2nd reading in the Latvian Parliament on July 5, 2001, envisaging 1 million Euro for continuing the project in 2002.

The working team including the leading specialists of the Library continued to present the project of the National Library of Latvia throughout Latvia regions, arousing great interest and support.

The 2nd meeting of International Commission of Experts (ICE) took place on March 22-23, 2002.

The purpose of the meeting was to review the progress made and make recommendations concerning a number of technical issues such as legal deposit of electronic publications, national bibliography and national union catalogue, digital library projects, staff development as well as to assess the sketch design of the new library building and the project management. The Commission stressed that the National Library has to perform new roles and new functions to be able to provide services to all other libraries, to all communities and groups of end-users.

Since autumn 2001 the National Library of Latvia performs the maintenance and further formation of Architect Gunnar Birkerts', the project author of the NLL new building, personal archive.

9. Conservation and Preservation. Digitisation.

One of the priorities of the last three years is implementation of digitisation as a method for preserving the cultural heritage stored in the collection of the National Library of Latvia. In 2001 34 users CD were made, comprising four titles of Latvia newspapers (*Dienas Lapa, Tēvija, Kurzemes Vārds, Latgolas Vords*).

Within the framework of Culture Capital Foundation of Latvia the project *Treasures of Latvia-Unique Documents of Aglona Basilica: the 16th –19th centuries* is being realised. The total amount of the collection is ca.5000 units, among them incunabula of the year 1456. For treatment of the collection disinfectants approved in Europe are used.

A co-operation with ZFB Zentrum Fur Bestandserhaltung GmbH has started (see p.17).

In the period of report two restorers has the opportunity to get acquainted with the experience of Switzerland libraries, archives and museums in the field of restoration.

10. Main Advances in IT and New Technologies.

In the period of report the implementation of the system ALEPH 500 has been successful. The process of cataloguing has been improved by preferring the single bibliographic description of a national literature to a double one, being carried out by the Institute of Bibliography.

Making use of the system ALEPH 500 the data base of rare books and manuscripts has been created, eliminating the maintenance of the previously existing number of manual card files. Already in the acquisition process the orders of the libraries are seen in the union catalogue, therefore the useless duplicate copies of literature are done away with in the Consortium libraries.

The chief specialist of the Cataloguing Department edits the entries of other Consortium libraries likewise.

The work at the project “Retroconversion of Latvian Bibliography” in co-operation with the firm SWH-Technology continues. Entries of Lettica analytics ca. 75000 have been uploaded.

Projects

The mutual project “*Across the Bridge*” among Latvia IBBY, Netherlands IBBY and Children’s Literature Centre of the National Library of Latvia for promoting reading was carried out.

The Department of Rare Books and Manuscripts has worked at the union catalogue of ancient prints in foreign languages published in Latvia and formation of data base “*Latvian Book Publishers*”

In 2001 the Research Department worked at the national project *Concordia; Multilingual Dictionary of Library Terminology* (international part of the project *Concordia*); *Public Library Management and New Information Technologies (Leonardo da Vinci)*; *Public Libraries Mobilising Advanced Networks*; *National Authorities on Public Libraries* a. o.

The target program of the Culture Capital Foundation *Purchase of Books and Other Publications for Public Libraries* has been worked out.

11. Services to Readers

Since July 2001 the unified reader’s card has been implemented in the National Library of Latvia. It gives the possibility to make use of eight libraries united in the Library Information Network Consortium.

A special training program for readers was created.

12. Exhibitions

In 2001 the Library has performed 67 exhibitions (51 outside the Library), attended by 23559 visitors.

The exhibitions that particularly attracted the attention of visitors were: *Latvian on the Top of the World Architecture: 75 to Gunnar Birkerts*;

The Most Beautiful Publications about Riga;

Russian Culture in Latvia in the 20ies-30ies of the 20ies century;

Riga and People of the World;

Russian Books in Exile;

German Book Publishing in Riga in the 19th –20ies century;

Hebrew Script Judaica, as well as

Photo expositions: *Australia in A. Vovny’s Photographs* and *Canada in Image*

13. Publishing

In the period of report among the most important publications of the National Library of Latvia the following could be mentioned:

International conference “The Latvian Book and Libraries: 1525-2000” on November 8-11, 2000;

Children’s books published in 2000;

“Across the bridge” (the project promoting reading);

Collection of statistics “Latvian Press 2000”;

Periodical index 1999;

Bibliographic index “Latvian Press Chronicle, Lettica 2001”;

Auxiliary index to “Latvian Press Chronicle 2000”.

14. Standards

In 2001 six international standards were published and adopted as Latvian standards, thus completing the adoption of all ISBD standards.

In November 2001 the National Library of Latvia organised the seminar “International Standards in Practice of Latvian Libraries” dedicated to five years work in the field of standardisation. Proceedings of the seminar were published as well as the questionnaire about the priorities of the branch standards in Latvia was carried out, the results of it having been compiled. The seminar was supplemented by the exhibition “Adopted International Standards and Regulations in 1998-2001”.

16. Staffing Matters and Structure

On January 1, 2002 the Library employed 432 staff members: 332 librarians and 98 housekeeping personnel. 40 employees were dismissed and 51 hired in 2001.

A new structural unit in the Library- Institute of Library Development has been formed, uniting three departments: Research Department, Public Library Advisory Service and Children’s Literature Centre.

Since January 2002 a new additional staff unit has been established- Deputy Director of Automation.

17. Events

On January 30-31, 2001 the congress of Latvian librarians “*Situation of Libraries in Latvia*” took place.

The congress was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of IFLA.

In compliance with Riga 800th anniversary ZFB Zentrum fur Bestandserhaltung GmbH (Germany) assumed the responsibility of restoring one volume of the Convolute of rarities (16th century).

In March 2001 the National Library of Latvia contributed to arranging the international conference *Russian Culture in Latvia in the 20ies-30ies of the 20ies century* supplemented by the exhibition from the collection of the National Library of Latvia.

The presentation of CD *Latvia and Lithuania between Two World Wars* was arranged in the National Library of Lithuania.

On September 27-28, 2001 the 15th CENL meeting took place in Riga where 37 representatives from the national libraries of European countries participated. In the conclusion of the conference the resolution was adopted expressing its fullest support for a major new building for the National Library of Latvia.

The discussion club *Gutenberg's Galaxy* founded in 1998 fosters a professional growth of Latvian librarians. Book publishers and specialists of related branches are members of the club.

The subject of the club touches upon Latvian book publishing and library history, meeting controversial challenges of nowadays in historical and philosophical context.

Additionally the following seminars could be mentioned:

International seminar "*Copyright and Licensing in Latvia and Europe*";

The 4th summer seminar of Latvian librarians "*New Epoch in Libraries: Knowledge and Life Quality*";

"Public Libraries in Post Communism Countries"