

National Library of Latvia

Annual Report to the CENL

1999/2000-04-19

Address:

The National Library of Latvia

K.Barona 14

Riga, LV – 1423

LATVIA

Tel. +371 7289874

Fax. +371 7280851

E-mail: lnb@lbi.lnb.lv

Home page: <http://www.vip.latnet.lv/lnb>

Director:

Mr. Andris Vilks

E-mail: andrisv@lbi.lnb.lv

Collections (01.01.2000)

Total holdings 4 771 780 items

Among them:

Books 1 970 870

Pamphlets 16 153

Periodicals 547 129

Newspapers (sets) 30 788

Manuscripts 17 427

Cartographic documents 13 523

Picture collections 218 899

Printed music 211 352

Microforms 113 003

3. Finance and funding

The Library's financial position was as follow:

1. In comparison

**USD with
1998 (+or-)**

State budget 2 238 693 + 12%

Payment services 49 835 - 9%

Income in total 2 288 528

Expenses (a + b) 2 290 317 + 12%

a) residence (expenditure) 1 690 317

1. salary fund 812 833 + 5%

2. compulsory state

insurance (payment) tax 219 967

3. business trips 14 897 + 31%

3a. services 312 690 + 1%

4. purchase of material

power resources, water and

inventory 99 975 - 21%

5. purchase of books and

periodicals 229 955 - 20%

b) capital investment

expenditure 600 000 + 84%

Inflation made 3,2% in 1999.

Financial support for projects was also provided by different funds and organizations: the Open Society Institute in Budapest, The Soros Foundation Latvia, A.W. Mellon Foundation, Latvian Culture Capital Foundation.

Though the total resources for 1999 were higher than in the previous year, the financing of many positions such as acquisition needs, preservation and conservation, purchase of inventory, salaries remained inadequate.

4. Legal status

In 1999 under the guidance of the NLL three normative documents were elaborated for introduction to the Cabinet of Ministers:

- *Standards on library material and technical conditions.*
- *Regulations on the national collection of libraries.*
- *Regulations of formation and usage of the national union catalogue.*

Besides, the NLL has participated in the formation of Copyright Act of the Republic of Latvia, representing the interests of libraries, as well as in the management team of the project "Copyright legislation in Europe: Central and Eastern Europe copyright users platform / CE CUP".

The process concerning the draft law on the implementation of the NLL project continued, envisaging management pattern of the project, supervising and control mechanism.

6. Acquisitions

In 1999, 229 955 USD were spent for the requirements of acquisition, which made 10% of the total budget.

Legal deposit continued to grow and remained the main source of acquisition of the national literature.

In connection with a number of donations and reduction of funding for acquisition requirements, a smaller number of printed matter is purchased, therefore a greater attention for library collections.

Active document exchange has taken place among 73 partners in 26 states.

International book exchange between the National Library in Argentina has started.

Continuous decreasing of international exchange partners (75 partners in 1998) is explained by incapability to cover postal expenditure.

7. Building and plants. New building planned: progress

Without exaggeration it can be said that in the period of report the project of the building of the NLL has been and still remains in the highlight of the society.

To a greater extent it determined the activities inside and outside the Library, especially paying attention to the functions and the role of NLL in unified information system of Latvia libraries.

In November 1999 General conference of UNESCO in Paris approved the draft resolution on the support of the new building of the NLL. All representatives of UNESCO memberstates voted for the support to the project of the NLL unanimously.

In connection with the building of the NLL the formation of UNESCO international Expert Board has been started where prominent people from different European states will participate.

In March, 2000 Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia approved the draft law on the implementation of the project of the building of the NLL and submitted it to Saeima (Parliaments of the Republic of Latvia for adoption.)

On March 2, 2000 the public organization "European movement in Latvia" together with Latvian National Library Support Foundation organized "The Light Procession" from Saeima to the side of the new building of the NLL.

9. Conservation and preservation of collections

Adequacy of funds for conservation and preservation of the NLL collections still remained insufficient in the period of report. Furthermore, state financing for these needs was not assigned at all. Regardless and due to the support of different foundations, preservation programs were in progress.

Major digitalisation program for preservation

Implementation of the long - lasting project "Heritage" has been started. In the framework of the project the first Latvian newspaper "Dienas Lapa", 1888 (Daily Leaflet) is scanned into CD.

New equipment purchased

Owing to the financial support of Open Society Institute in Budapest and the Soros Foundation Latvia the digitizing unit BETTERLIGHT - 6000 is purchased.

Due to the support of Latvian Culture Capital Foundation 1000 CR are purchased.

The project "Conservation of national record collection and technical equipment of the digital system" is being carried out at the record library. For the present the purchase of the necessary units has been accomplished abroad.

Microfilming programs for preservation

The microfilming program of current Latvian newspapers (seven titles) in cooperation with the Norman Ross Publishing, Inc. continued in 1999.

10. Main advances in IT and new technologies

In 1999 and in the beginning of 2000 the National Library of Latvia finalised its computer network infrastructure. However workstation in Library has the access to local and Internet data resources. The network is capable of expansion, only there is little room for installation of additional workstations. The total number of PC workstations and servers has reached 150, with 5 local PC servers and 10 workstations dedicated for network support tasks – network equipment control, data firewalling and virus protection, traffic accounting and analysing, data backup operations.

Since March 24, 2000 Library has turned to full use of LINC integrated library automation system ALEPH. OPAC access to the NLL catalogue is opened to Library's and LINC patrons and to all Internet users over the world. The NLL has started to use ALEPH Cataloguing and Acquisition modules for its daily tasks. Reader Service modules are on the test and will follow soon. The data prepared in previously used VTLS and IS ALISE systems are uploaded into ALEPH databases, and now the electronic catalogue covers Library's collection since 1996.

To cover the previous periods, at the beginning of 2000 the Library has started retroconversion program. This project is founded by Soros Foundation, it covers Latvian national bibliography in printed form since 1763. The printed bibliography will be scanned, OCR'ed, additionally processed to convert it into MARC format and imported into ALEPH database, thus becoming accessible in any Internet access point over the World. The first trial runs will be performed in June-July, 2000. The first upload into ALEPH is planned in fall, 2000.

During this period NLL has started several digitisation programs. One of them covers Library's stocks of old periodicals and is closely tied with the task of their preservation. The output will be data in PDF format, published over Internet and on CD-ROMs. The other project covers collection of photographic materials including negatives, which were never printed. They also will be accessible over intra- and Internet. The Library has got the first results at the beginning of 2000, but it is a long way to show them to the public.

The most workstations purchased and installed in 1999 are dedicated for patrons' access to Library's data resources. The Library provides guided Internet access from its Internet Reading Room, making special accent on access to subscribed electronic publications. For this Library subscribed to EBSCO databases. The role of such access and acquisition of electronic publications has grown along with technical and staff problems to provide it at the necessary level.

The fast invasion of new technologies makes great impact on librarians and technical support team. New skills shall be acquired at tremendous rate. Many unpredictable problems arise on this way and slow down the progress. The most serious is lack of IT skills and funds for staff training. NLL has used all possible resources to keep the pace and made a great progress in general IT literacy of its staff, but the outcome is lesser than expected, as the training shall cover also the very special directions of high technologies. There are some examples here – OCR and image processing, programming, enterprise scale network management and protection, database publication into Web, and countless others. This training requires additional funds, good planning and prediction of future requirements. Additional funding is

also necessary to increase the IT staff, as many of daily tasks can not be outsourced, and current IT staff is over-timed and simply lacks time to get new skills.

11. Services to readers

In 1999 Internet reading room was opened in the Library.

Regardless of the insufficient labour conditions, as it is seen in the table below, the main indices have continued to increase.

1990 1998 1999

Readership 19931 39114 42888

Library visitors in total 275658 411782 459439

It testifies to the fact that the role and importance of the Library has continuously increased during the first ten years of Latvia's renewed independence.

12. Exhibitions

113 thematic undertakings and exhibitions have taken place in 1999. Some of them displayed at the exhibition hall of the Library central building are mentioned here.

- The exhibition of Swedish Children literature "Meet children.". This exhibition has been exhibited in 13 places in Latvia.
- "Bibles in the collections of the NLL". The exhibition was arranged in the framework of the international conference "Bibles: articles, text and cultural environment"
- The exhibition "Reader, poet, encourager" was devoted to A.Pushkin's 200th birthday announced by UNESCO.
- "Baltic State Lithuania"
- "Visit to Moscow" (from the collections of Russia State Foreign Literature Library)
- "Striving for beauty" (in connection with the Roerichs anniversary year)
- About Tarass Shevchenko.

The following exhibitions arranged outside the library testify to establishing wide contacts:

- "The collection of the patron R.F.Shilling" (in the Museum of Foreign Arts)
- "H.Ch.Andersen's and K.Blikken's books published in Latvian" (in Danish Culture Centre)
- "Jewish culture in Latvia" (in Jewish Culture Centre)
- "R.M.Rilke" - in Reitern's House
- "Lithuania and Latvia between two world wars" (in M.Mazydas National Library of Lithuania)
- "Union of Baltic countries. Latvia" (in Geneva, in the library of UNO quarters).

The exhibition "Latvian Time book" at the National Library of the Czech Republic became an unforgettable event in October, 1999.

Besides, many interesting exhibitions were organized on a regular basis in Letonica department, the Department of Rare Books and manuscripts, the Department of Cartography, the Department of Small Prints, the Department of Music and Baltic Central Library. Regretfully, it must be acknowledged that carefully organized and well - considered exhibitions suffer from shortage of space, thus document selection is restricted and visitors are disturbed, especially during the opening of exhibitions.

13. Publishing

The national Library of Latvia continued to compile and publish national bibliography resources, statistical materials as well as methodical tools for public libraries.

Some of new titles published in 1999:

- Ancient Prints in Latvian 1525-1855": union catalogue;
- Latvian Bank, 1922-1940;
- Latvian Publishing Output, 1991 - 1997;
- Classification Scheme for Children and School libraries;
- International conference "Library, Book, Science, Ideology during World War II (1939-1945): Collection of documents.

Furthermore, the NLL have published more than 60 articles in different Latvian press materials.

14. Standards (major changes/adoptions)

Two standards:

International standard bibliographic description for monographic publications : ISBD (M) and *International standard bibliographic description for serials : ISBD (S)* were adopted as Latvian standards and published in 1999.

15. Library cooperation

Trilateral cooperation agreement have been signed among Baltic States - Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian national libraries, which is a continuation of the previous bilateral agreements. NLL has close contacts with the National Library of the Czech Republic.

Successful cooperation with Russia and the Ukraine has facilitated the conclusion of agreements between National Library of Latvia, Russian State Library (Moscow) and Ukraine National Library (Kiev).

In July, 1999 for the first time in the history of NLL a youth team, twelve members total, (Aktion Sühnezeichen / Friedensdienste) arrived in Latvia. During two weeks they transferred 32 000 books from reserve stock in Riga to the newly opened repository in Silakrogs, outside Riga. Cooperation with ASF / Sommerlager will be continued in 2000.

16. Staffing matters

On January 1, 2000, the Library employed 433 staff members: 343 librarians and 90 housekeeping personnel.

33 employees were dismissed and 35 were hired in 1999.

74,3% of librarians have worked at the Library for more than 5 years. 23 of librarians are part-time employees.

17. Major celebrations (anniversaries and events)

The year of 1999 was the 80th anniversary of the NLL. In the framework of the guest days undertakings in separate departments of the Library took place which could be visited not only by library users, but by other interested persons, too.

The edition of the NLL "Ancient prints in Latvian 1525 - 1855. Union catalogue" has acquired the title of the book of the year in the competition "The most beautiful book'99". The compilers of the book have received Spīdola award, NLL Support Foundation takes an active part in organizing different meetings and attracting investments to the new building of the Library. One of the activities is the Forum "Publicity of the implementation of the NLL project", the main prize of Culture Foundation in the field of culture in Latvia.

In November 2000, 475 years will have passed since the first book in Latvian was mentioned in written sources. All the year round undertakings devoted to this event take place (project presentations, book fairs, exhibitions, conferences, seminars etc.).

Every month the discussion club on library sciences and history of book printing "Gutenberg's Galaxy" takes place in the NLL.