

Martynas Mačvydas - National Library of Lithuania - 1994 Annual Report

The aggregate of the Library holdings was 10,271,954 volumes and other items of information (as at 1 January 1995).

The Library in politics

The act of 11 March 1990, proclaiming the restoration of the independence of the Republic of Lithuania and the international recognition of the Lithuanian state that followed, brought fundamental changes to the life of Lithuanian libraries, accordingly making significant impact on activities and functions of the Martynas Mačvydas National Library of Lithuania (NLL).

The right to receive information, proclaimed in the Constitution of Lithuania and in other acts of its Government, came into effect and the censorship was abolished. As early as in 1988 NLL, disregarding hindrances from Moscow, began the dissolution of so called special collections - the storage of publications regarded by the regime as harmful, held in secret departments inaccessible to public - the process being completed in 1990 as 40.2 thousand volumes, 16.7 thousand of them in Lithuanian, were transferred to open collections and became available to all.

At relations with outside world were expanding, joint efforts of Lithuania exiles and NLL succeeded in acquiring virtually the complete set of Lithuanian emigrant printed materials from the late 19th century onwards.

By ways of donations and exchanges as well as taking advantages of newly emerged opportunities of direct contacts with foreign publishers and book suppliers, a large number of scientific and reference publications was attained.

Economic issues

However, the normal functioning of the Library in 1994 as in previous years, was continuously affected by reduced and irregular granting. For example, the grant-in-aid for 1994 acquisition purposes was 620,000 Litas (4 Litas = 1 USD), while to cover the expenses of the subscription to only the most essential foreign serials, a sum of over 270,000 Litas was necessary.

As a result of irregular and insufficient financing the erection of an annex to the Library underwent constant stoppages. Instead of the promised 2,400,000 Litas estimate of construction for 1994, the actually received sum was 1,237,000 Litas.

Because of inadequate financial resources NLL was unable to accomplish its principal goals: to assure normal storage conditions for publications and other documents, to carry out preservation and conservation of its collection, steady acquisition, editing and publishing of national bibliography, the implementation of automated information system, etc. An active support by the Open Society Fund-Lithuania and other donors helped to get out of grave financial situation.

During 1994 the Library received 49,200 Litas from the Open Society Fund-Lithuania. This grant was portioned out as follows: 27,6000 Litas for the publishing of national bibliography, 20,200 Litas for the publishing of rubricator, 1,400 Litas for other expenditures.

Legislation issues

In 1994 NLL activities were regulated by governmental resolutions and decrees as well as by other normative documents.

In accordance with the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Resolution No. 560 of 23 July 1993, NLL receives 4 copies of all published material by legal deposit, plus the additional copy for which the Library must pay.

As a result of joint efforts by NLL specialists and the Library Departments of the Ministry of Culture, the Library Law of the Republic of Lithuania was prepared, edited and submitted to approval. The law was passed on 6 June 1995.

A standard "Publishing Data and their Placement in Newspapers" was published and projects of standards "Library Statistics" and "Stocktaking of Library Collections", the latter being a part of a standard "Stocktaking of Library Work", were prepared. A considerable work was accomplished in preparing a full edition of UDC, tables of its six divisions were published.

Construction

In 1994 major repairs in the Library building and construction works of the annex were continuing. As regards the annex to the Library, a three-storey framework with partitions of the monolithic of the building were completed. As it was referred to earlier, only 51.57% of the planned work for 1994 was accomplished because of a shortage of funds. Architectural and polychromatic investigations were carried out on former Sapiega Palace, a late 17th century monument, for restoration purposes. The palace was handed over to the Library in 1993. Remedial works in Palanga Summer Library were performed at a cost of 120,200 Litass.

Automation

A computer network NOVELL is operating at the National Library which unites 60% of automated workplaces involved in technological process. The NLL network is connected via optical cable with the network of the Seimas (Parliament). The Library possesses the following computers: four IBM/PC-486, three IBM/PC-386 CD-ROM, forty eight IBM/PC-386 and twenty eight IBM/PC-286.

Available CD-ROM databases are increasingly popular among users.

The main databases operating in the Library are:

- ELKAT - electronic catalogue, 40,000 records available at the end of the year.
- VIS - database of serials for Parliamentary services, 10,357 records.
- EUROBEND - database of indices of the European Union official documents, 3745 records.
- EUROVOK - database of indices of the European Union official document subject headings, filled up and updated.
- PRO-CITE - database of analytical bibliographic descriptions.
- SKAITYKL - database of indices of most actual Lithuanian and foreign documents for general readers.
- RUBRIKA - database of subject headings connected to ELKAT and other databases. Its systems were installed in other Lithuanian libraries.

Project work on the programme of UNIMARC catalogue along with authority and subject heading databases has started. An original software for this purpose was created and proposals for the creation of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS) were made ready. The work on projecting individual subsystems was in process.

Public relations

The direct Library relations with the public depend on availability and access of its collection to users. 24,338 readers were registered, there were 433,278 visits at the Library to whom the total of 1,545,542 publications and other items were delivered during 1994.

To reveal and highlight its holdings and to commemorate national dates and anniversaries of prominent persons of state, culture and arts, the Library organized 175 exhibitions in 1994.

Various public events such as lectures and soirees, were marked by boosted attendances. The total audience of over three thousands visited exhibitions and events at the Library.

The Berniukas ūirniukas Puppet Theater, affiliated to the centre of Children's Literature, which celebrated its 30th anniversary in 1995, was a huge success among children and their parents. The theater gave 38 performances during 1994 and the audiences were not limited to the Library users - they included children from orphanages and pupils from Vilnius city and district schools. Three charity performances were staged with all the takings donated to disabled children.

Regular and educational guided tours for visitors continued.

International activities

Foreign relations during 1994 were developing in two directions: the one was the exchange of publications with foreign libraries, other institutions and private persons (the Library had ties with 319 partners abroad), the other direction being cultural cooperation and professional relationships. In 1994 the Library has concluded 9 agreements of cultural cooperation with foreign libraries and associations. Another aspect of cultural cooperation was international exhibitions. During 1994 six such exhibitions were staged.

There were steady increase in cooperation with foreign embassies in Lithuania. Effective and close links with embassies of the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Norway, France, Germany could be singled out.

In 1994 members of the Library Board and other representatives participated, in some cases presenting papers, at 20 international events. 15 librarians made training visits to libraries and other organizations abroad. Five of these visits were long-term ones. A considerable financial support enabling our librarians to accomplish these visits was received from the Open Society Fund-Lithuania, the British Council and the USIA Cultural Centre in Lithuania. As well as from organizers of these events and training courses.

In June 1994 an international seminar, the Universal Bibliographic Control and UNIMARC, organized by the IFLA UBCIM Programme, the IFLA Division of Bibliographic Control and the National Library of Lithuania was held at the Martynas Mačvydas National Library of Lithuania.

In October, the Information and Documentation Centre on Council of Europe was established at the Library.

Consultations and discussions with the aim of establishing the oriental Culture and Arts Centre at the National Library of Lithuania were held with the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Embassy. Similar endeavours were made to examine possibilities of the Mellon Foundation funding the implementation of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS).

Preparatory measures were taken in order to reach an agreement with the Library of Congress on microfilming of rare and deteriorating publications. (The agreement was signed in 1995).

Another agreement, covering the microfilming of current periodicals, was settled with the Norman Ross Publishing Co. in New York.

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