

**M.MAZVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**

**to the Conference of European National Librarians**

**1996**

ADDRESS:

The National Library

Gedimino pr. 51

2635 Vilnius

Lithuania

Tel. (370 2) 629023

Fax. (370 2) 627129

Email: biblio@lnb.lrs.lt

DIRECTOR:

Dr. Vladas Bulavas

E-mail: vlbula@rc.lrs.lt

COLLECTION (as at December 31, 1996)

Books and bound periodicals 3 008 425

Manuscripts 6 587

Microforms 102 661

Audiovisual materials 55 510

Other materials (including maps, printed music, broadsheets, etc.) 1 424 802

Collection of the Bibliography and Book Science Centre (Archive of the national printed heritage) 4 566 763

Total holdings - in items 9 214 748

- in metres 86 658

## ***Acquisition***

In 1996 the National Library has received 63,333 copies of library documents. Out of this total the following percentage and quantity of publications were acquired according to separate sources:

- 26,7% (16,929) - domestic and foreign exchange
- 22,9% (14,557) - legal deposit
- 22,7% (14,357) - gifts and other free of charge editions
- 13,6% (8,620) - purchases from book shops and publishers
- 7,5% (4,674) - subscription of domestic periodicals
- 6,6% (4,196) - Lithuanian Distributing Centre for libraries

Legal deposit remains one of the principle source of acquisitions. On 2 July 1996 the Public Information Law of the Republic of Lithuania was issued. Article 32 of this law stated that the publishers are responsible for the delivery of legal deposit copies to the library. As a result of theses changes, a new scheme of means and ways of legal deposit retrieval is in preparation.

The National Library in 1996 has allocated for the foreign acquisition needs 574,649 Litass (143,662 USD) - out of this 501,016 Litass (125,254 USD) were allotted to subscription of serials. The library continued cooperation with book trade companies SWETS, LANGE UND SPRINGER, ARS POLONIA, maintaining close links with other organizations abroad, which supplied the library with recent foreign literature. The international exchange is the most importance source of collection development for the Library. There were exchange relations with 236 counterparts in 37 countries in 1996.

## ***Automation***

In the course of automation of library processes the following tasks were accomplished in 1996:

1. The new UNIKAT software for electronic catalogue and UNIMARC bibliographical format was implemented.
2. Reader service subsystem was designed. Work on its co-ordination and development has begun.
3. The acquisition and cataloguing subsystems were improved.
4. The preparation of regulations for Lithuanian cataloguing have started to prepare.
5. The technical task for the translation of UDC Tables and compiling of UDC data base software was completed.

The effective work of the Library automation and information systems was ensured by the acquiring new technologies and extending of the local net, additionally including the Music

Department, the Centre of Children's Literature and the Oriental Reading Room in it. The library created its own WWW server on the Internet. It contained general and up-to-date information about the library and provided access to the electronic catalogue. Its URL is <http://www.lnb.lrs.lt>. The Internet reading room with 3 working places was opened for readers in July. By the end of the year a grant from the Soros Foundation for the equipment of modern Internet Reading Room in the Library was obtained.

As a result of International collaboration the National Library of Lithuania entered into cooperative relations and exchanges with the German periodical data bank (ZDB), to which 500 records about publications in the National Library of Lithuania were sent and they were included in ZDB CD-ROM of October 1996. In July the National Library of Lithuania was officially confirmed as a member for the co-operative cataloguing programme with the Library of Congress and thus obtained a right of the participation in compiling of the Library of Congress Subject Headings.

On October 31, 1996 the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS) development and financing programme was approved by the Government of Lithuania. At the initial stage the competition to create the Lithuanian library Union Catalogue subsystem was announced and preparatory work was started.

### ***Public relations and international cooperation***

During the year 1996 the Library continued its policy of maintaining the old traditions of displaying exhibitions. More than 180 exhibitions of books and artworks were held at the Library. These exhibitions attracted a wide interest in the media and from the public:

- Photography exhibition dedicated to the tragic events of January 13, 1991 in Lithuania
- Exhibition of Japan Kits and Tops, organized with Japan Foundation
- What does the world see, hear and read about Lithuania?

An information about the events, which took place in the Library was spread through the Lithuanian TV, radio and other mass media. In 1996 the National Library demonstrated its information databases and publications at the international INFOBALT exhibition of the information technologies. Two exhibitions dedicated to the restoration of Lithuanian independence were arranged in the National Libraries of Latvia and Estonia.

During the 1996 the library has published a total of 211 titles of books and periodicals.

### ***International cooperation***

The library is represented in a number of international organizations, i.e.:

International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)

Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche (LIBER)

Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL)

Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)

Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

Computerized Bibliographic Record Actions (CoBRA)

ISSN Network

International Association of Music Libraries (IAML), etc.

The Library continues cooperation with National Libraries of Latvia, Estonia, Poland.

Members of the library staff had possibilities to visit foreign libraries and to get better knowledge on the different subjects. The most important visits were:

The British Library (Soros Open Society Institute fellowship programme for 3 month)

Cracow university Library in Poland (in the field of retrospective bibliography, 1 month)

Cracow University in Poland (in the field of manuscript storage and processing, 3 month)

The National Library in Warsaw (in the field of retrospective bibliography, 2 weeks)

### ***Conservation and preservation of the collections***

During 1996 these preservation programmes of the National Library of Lithuania were in progress:

1. Preservation programme of the Lituanica Department archival collection:

- binding of periodicals;
- disinfecting of the stocks;
- restoration of leather spines.

2. Conservation programme for manuscripts.

3. Microfilming programme.

Preservation management and organization problems were discussed at the Scientific Council of the Library, where three main directions of preservation policy were defined:

Preparation of the programme for the moving of the library collection to the new depositories.

- Conducting of the training courses about preservation and conservation of the library stocks.
- Preparing the standard for document preservation.

On May 9, 1996 the Document Restoration and Conservation Centre of the National Library became a headquarters of the UNESCO programme "Memory of the World".

Three international seminars have been held at the library:

Preservation of Library Collection, May 22-25;

Restoration of the leather covers, August 25-30;

Restoration of 16th-19th century French books, December 9-16.

Regional public libraries were consulted on questions about conservation and restoration of printed material. Papers concerning preservation problems have been presented by the library specialists at the various workshops. Further methodical and educational work with the emphasis on general questions of the library collection preservation is in prospect.

The microfilming programme of Lithuanian periodicals and Judaic materials continued in 1996. After mastering complicated technological processes of microfilming the activities advanced to further phases of the programme. The entering of records about newly obtained microfilms into the library's electronic catalogue and service of readers with microforms were introduced.

On February 22 a new agreement with the University of Osnabrück was signed with the aim to microfilm the literature related to occasions and special events stored in the library collections. This was already the third joint project with foreign partners which should promote the microfilming development at the Library.

Dr. Vladas Bulavas

Director