

**MARTYNAS MAZVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF
LITHUANIA
ANNUAL REPORT
to the Conference of European National Librarians
1998**

ADDRESS:

The National Library of Lithuania
Gedimino pr. 51
2600 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

COLLECTIONS in items (1998 12 31)

Books and bound periodicals	5 839 074
Manuscripts	57 562
Microforms	103 327
Audiovisual materials	61 747
Other materials (including maps, printed music, broadsheets, etc.)	2 894 164
Total holdings	
- in items	8 955 874
- in titles	2 310 610

FINANCE AND FUNDING

The table presents statistical highlights of the Library's financial situation. The figures are presented in Lithuanian currency Litas (4 Litas=1 USD)

	Income	Expenditures
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Fiscal		From which:				From which:	
Year	Total	Grant-in-aid	Priced activities	Other funds*	Total	Salaries and wages	Acquisitions
1995	10.132,900	9.962,500	158,600	11,800	10.128,400	2.662,500	1.000,000
1996	11.724,600	11.364,700	249,200	110,700	11.223,500	3.778,000	1.223,700
1997	14.065,900	13.565,000	350,800	150,000	15.422,000	5.895,000	1.300,000
1998	16.398,100	15.499,400	611,000	287,700	16.398,100	6.116,100	1.209,000

In 1998 the sum of 15.499,400 Litass was allotted to the Library from the State budget, an increase of 14,3% on 1997. The growth of priced services added 260,200 Litass more than in 1997. Financial support for the current year was provided by different funds and organizations. Projects for financial support of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System program, retroconversion were submitted to the Open Society Institute in Budapest and the Open Society Fund-Lithuania. Comparing with the previous year, the expenditures have increased by 6,3% rising to 16.398,100 Litass. 1,2 million Litass (7,4%) from this amount was allotted for acquisition needs, 5,895 (37,3%) - for salaries, 5,1 (31,1%) - for construction works of the Library annex. Though the resources for 1998 were higher than in the previous year, the acquired funds were inadequate to meet the demands of the Library and its users. In the final quarter of 1998 because of unfavorable financial situation emerging in Lithuania the Library has not received part of funds allotted in a state budget. As a result of this, the collection development program suffered most as the money for acquisition were reduced by 100 thousand Litass in comparison with 1997.

ROLE OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY NETWORK

In the NLL Statute approved in 1996 the coordination and guidance of Lithuanian libraries research work is defined as one of the main function of the National Library. In 1998 accomplishing its leading role in the implementation of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS) project and development of Lithuanian libraries Union Catalogue , NLL was engaged in preparing the integration of Lithuanian research and public libraries into the automated library system program. Throughout the year workshops and training courses were held in which qualified librarians were introduced to the principles of work in the integrated system.

LEGAL DEPOSIT OF MATERIALS

Legal deposit remained the main source of acquisition. Its legislation has an immediate effect on the preparation of current national bibliography, the comprehensiveness and promptness of bibliographic information, the level of the Library collection and of Lithuanian Publications Archive development. During the past decade the by-laws regulating the legal deposit system underwent several amendments. The most recent document is The Resolution of Lithuanian Government No 1389 of November 22, 1996 "On the order of sending legal deposit of printed matters and documents to the libraries". On the basis of this resolution the legal deposit must

be delivered by the ***publishers***. The governmental decree contains some innovations and adjustments. First of all the concept of legal deposit is extended. Besides the printed publications its object covers the audio, video and electronic documents. The most difficult problem as the acquisition of such kind of documents started, was to detect their publishers. ISBN database and news from the media have been used as additional means for this purpose. There is a small number of electronic documents produced in the country, the majority being reference directories. The exaction of legal deposit of non-traditional documents (audiovisual, electronic) required big efforts.

BUILDINGS AND PLANTS

The construction of the annex to the National Library and renovation of the main building continued to proceed in 1998. The annex construction works began in 1992. *The objective of new building is to obtain vital additional space, accordingly improving to considerable extent the working, reader service and collection storage conditions and updating library facilities.* Its aggregate floor area in sq. m. is 13 550, and out of this total is allotted to reading rooms with 120 reader seats, 5 732 to repositories, 4 243 to administration and staff areas. The estimated storage capacity is 3 500 000 volumes. A targeted date for the annex opening is 2001. Furnishing and moving the collections start in 1999.

ACQUISITIONS

In 1998 the National Library has received 24 792 titles (86 771 items) of library documents. Out of this total the following percentage and quantity of publications were acquired according to separate sources:

- 7,3% (6 350) - domestic and foreign exchange
- 40% (34 739) - legal deposit
- 17,8% (15 467) - gifts and other free of charge editions
- 8,9% (7 688) - purchases from booksellers and publishers
- 9,7% (8 336) - subscription of domestic periodicals
- 16,3% (14 191) - other sources

In 1998 the overall acquisition total went down by 4 753 items in comparison with 1997. The acquisition of the Library stocks depends on the funding from the State budget and the fulfillment of legal deposit by Lithuanian publishers. In 1998 the National Library received 1.2 million Litas (300 000 USD) for acquisition needs, of which 568 141 Litas (180 765 Litas less than in 1997) for the purchase of domestic publications and 640 859 Litas (98 765 Litas more than in 1997) for the subscription and acquisition of foreign periodicals, books and other materials.

In 1998 the big *book exhibition* representing 19 publishing houses from Germany, France, Great Britain and the United States was organized in the Library. The Library enlarged its collection by 803 books bought from this exhibition. As the publishers applied the discount the Library saved 69,3 thousand Litas. The purchase of the publications from the western countries included reference books, fiction, literature in the humanities and social sciences. The Library continued cooperation with book trade companies *Swets, Lange und Springer, ArsPolonia* maintaining close links with other organizations abroad, which supplied the

Library with current foreign publications. The international exchange and gifts remained the most important source of foreign acquisition.

STORAGE AND PRESERVATION

1998 saw the Library continuing its program of library document preservation giving top priority to the *national press*. There is a large number of documents in the Library holdings which need restoration, however limited financial resources and inadequate technical equipment hold up the solving of this problem. In the past year the criteria of selection of documents for restoration and conservation were revised once more, new working norms and descriptions of restoration processes were devised. During 1998 these preservation programs of the National Library of Lithuania were in progress:

1. **Conservation and restoration**. A special emphasis was laid on the preservation of the Lituanica department archival collection and to the National Archive of Prints. Conservation and restoration treatment such as the binding of periodicals, disinfecting of the stocks, restoration of leather spines and other conservation and restoration procedures went on.
2. **Microfilming programs**. The emergence of favorable conditions and availability of new technical outfit enabled the speeding up the newspaper microfilming process. The work continued in these sections:
 - Lithuanian newspapers published in the 19th-20th centuries,
 - current Lithuanian dailies,
 - Judaic periodicals published in Lithuania in the early 20th century.

With the assistance of the Library of Congress experts the microfilming cameras were modernized and the film testing equipment was acquired.

Under the agreement with Osnabrück University, the Library during 1998 continued the selection and preparation for microfilming the literature related to occasions and special events held in the Old and Rare Book department. The project intends issuing the catalogue of such publications stored in Lithuanian libraries both in printed form and on microfiche. The above-mentioned ongoing programmes of collection preservation will form the basis of currently being devised the National Library collection preservation programme, which is to be worked out in 1999. This programme will cover the projects already in progress as well as planned processes of collection digitalization.

IT AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

A special attention was paid to the development of the Library information system and its effectiveness. With the help of new information technologies it was possible to control information streams and to acquaint the users with new ways of search in the library local databases and databases of external network.

In 1998 the implementation of the *Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS)* was continued. The LIBIS software was introduced into the Library by developing the subsystems of the Acquisition, the Cataloguing and Authority Files Creation, the National Bibliography. According to the LIBIS project the first stage was the creation of *Union Catalogue* of Lithuanian research libraries. The test period of the Union Catalogue started in 1998. The supply of records to the UC started in March. By the end of the year 1998 the UC comprised 119 872 records from 6 main libraries of Lithuania. The UC is accessible both to the local and WWW users. Statistics show that an average 7 thousand customers approach the UC through the Internet every month. Bibliographic records are being created in UNIMARC and UNIMARC/AUTHORITIES formats respectively, in line with IFLA recommendations and standards, and LIBIS project directions. The main general acting functions of the Union

Catalogue are: data entry, data copying and reusability, data export and import, supply of data on document location, document search and supply of information on documents to customer (OPAC). The LIBIS software will enable to save working input, to avoid duplication of library processes and will improve the scope of information search.

CATALOGUE CONVERSION AND RETROSPECTIVE CATALOGUING

The National Library of Lithuania computer catalogue, the formation of which began in 1991, reveals a mere 10% of the library stock. Information on the rest of the collection is provided in the card catalogues. Unfortunately, they are available only at the library. The present-day computer technology offers outstanding possibilities to transfer information recorded on paper to computer carriers. This technology was applied in solving the issue of card catalogues. In order to realize this idea, in 1998 the *Retroconversion project* was designed and financial resources as well as executors have been found. The Retroconversion objects are the official alphabetic catalogue with 2 770 500 cards and National bibliography publications (17 975 pages). In response to the consumers' requests the list of retroconversion objects was extended by adding the card indices of places and persons at the Lithuanian Publications Department. *The main objectives:*

1. NLL Computer Catalogue should provide information on the entire library collection.
2. With the help of the national bibliography publications, the basis of the national bibliography database should be created.
3. The access possibilities for Lithuanian and foreign consumers to the documents held in the National Library of Lithuania should be increased to a great extent.

SERVICES TO READERS

the implementation of the *Automated Reader Service* subsystem, the realization of which started in 1997, continued to advance in 1998. The automated reader admission and document delivery system was introduced. The main information of readers service:

Number of readers - 20 118

Number of visitors - 444 298

Items ordered - 1 518 548

The largest portion of the Library visitors (51%) comprises students of universities, owing to the fact of suitable working time of the library (opened on Saturdays and Sundays) and access to the required literature. The research carried out in the course of the year revealed that the certain categories of readers - scientists, researchers, scholars - who need more qualified servicing at the National Library are dissatisfied with worsened working conditions (overcrowded reading rooms, increased spell of order fulfillment and document delivery). The present situation calls for decisions, enabling to provide fitting working conditions for academic researchers and scientists as well as for undergraduate students, for whom assistance is vital and university libraries do not meet their study demands.

In 1998 Library budget increased by 611 000 350,800 Litas received for priced activities that is 260 200 Litas more than in 1997. Besides the traditional paid services like copying, bibliographical requests etc. some new paid services were added. The Library information resources were enriched with STN International, Reuter, The United Nations and other registered databases. The Library bibliographers assigned a lot of their time navigating through the Internet in search for free of charge databases and electronic publications that might be prospective for readers. For the benefit of the public subject lists of Internet addresses were drawn up. Information services to users have improved. The number of inquires and responses of supplied information has risen. The main reason for the growth of

the number of inquires lies in more efficient, in comparison with other major libraries, information retrieval system (Access to the Internet, CD-ROM collection, local databases, etc.)

PUBLISHING

In 1998 NLL published 41 titles comprising 196 issues with total run of 93 850 copies. The subject of publications reflect a wide diversity of Library's fields of activity - information, research, guidance, education. Accordingly, the 1998 outprint might be divided into various bibliographies, publications in theory and practice of librarianship, library history research, statistics, normative documents. A notable place in the Library publishing holds a journal *Tarp knygu* (In the World of Books). The largest group - covering 19 titles - is that of bibliographic publications. The publishing costs totalled 175 thousand Litas (43 750 USD), expenses of printing at the Library making 60 thousand Litas (15 000 USD) with the rest 115 thousand Litas (28 750 USD) spent for printing in other houses. Publication prices were fixed in accordance with their publishing costs. The publications were being distributed in traditional ways - by subscription, exchange, etc. Selling profits in 1998 exceeded 220 thousand Litas (55 000 USD), therefore the publishing was not loss-making. Assessing the results of 1998 NLL publishing activity from various aspects, it can be said that they were the best in the last five years.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Traditional forms of international cooperation such as book exchange, participation in library international cooperation programs and organizations were continued in 1998. The library is represented in a number of international organizations and institutions, i.e. IFLA, FID, LIBER, CDNL, CENL, CERL, IAML. Participation in the activities of those organizations, annual conferences and workshops, professional contacts are very important for the Library. Cooperation was maintained with national libraries of the Baltic States, Germany, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, with various Lithuanian communities and organizations in USA, UK, Germany and other countries. 6 300 items of new publications were received by foreign exchange in 1998. There were exchange relations with 204 counterparts in 29 countries. Moreover, NLL as a depository library received publications from 3 international organizations (European Union, TATENA, World Development and Reconstruction Bank). The International seminar "[*The Function of Bibliographic Control in the Global Information Infrastructure*](#)" was held at the library in June 17-18, 1998. The seminar was organized within the program of the UBC and International MARC Program by the National Library of Lithuania and IFLA Permanent UNIMARC Committee. Experts from Germany, USA, Norway, Great Britain, Finland, Croatia, Netherlands participated and made reports at the seminar. Urgent problems of Internet, communication formats and metadata were discussed in reports and in workshops.

In 1998 the library participated in the following international projects, programs, committees:

1. The TEMPUS project **Education for Information Management in Lithuania** together with the Communication Faculty of Vilnius University. The main task for NLL was to serve as a basis for practical placement of the MA students in Information Management. NLL benefited from the TEMPUS project by getting the possibility to hire new staff members for jobs that are connected with the implementation of vital tasks, first of all - the development of Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System. Involvement and the actual leadership of the NLL in LIBIS and participation in TEMPUS create a dynamic and modern profile for the NLL.

2. **Microfilming program** of Lithuanian publications which is carried out in the cooperation with the Library of Congress, Norman Ross Publishing Inc. (USA) and the University of Osnabrück (Germany).
3. Participation in the work of **Permanent UNIMARC committee** of IFLA program UBC.
4. Participation in the **COBRA** and **COBRA+** in the frames of the Conference of the European National Librarians (CENL)
5. Formation of data bank of German periodicals **ZDB**. A total of 1279 records were provided.
6. Cooperation program with the **American Jewish Community** on cataloguing of Jewish and Hebrew books stored at the Library.
7. Participation in the work of administration and preservation divisions of **LIBER**.
8. Project of preparation of a **multilingual vocabulary for librarians** together with the Council of Europe and other libraries of the participant countries.
9. **ESPRIT** project for the Central and East European Countries under the umbrella of European Commission

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