

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL  
YEAR 2018-2019

Name of country: **Latvia**

Name of library or equivalent national-level organization: **National Library of Latvia (NLL)**

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1. General overview of recent major developments at the National Library of Latvia.

The NLL development **strategy for 2019-2023** has been developed and adopted in 2018. The planning work for 2019 has been carried out in line with the new strategy.

The year of 2018 was the year of **Latvia's centenary** and NLL was one of the central places of celebration throughout the year. We organized and hosted a number of cultural and scientific/educational events. Since the opening of the new library in 2014 NLL organize campaign "A Special Book for a Special Bookshelf". That is an opportunity for everyone to donate a book – of special importance to himself or herself – to the NLL also writing a message or personal story relating to the book on its title page. Then the book gets into the People's Bookshelf in the atrium of the library. In the year of Latvia's centenary NLL was a part of diplomatic visit official program and the guests came with their special books for the Peoples Bookshelf, thereby ensuring national and international visibility for the shelf and the library. In total, we honorably received 36 visits from foreign officials at a high level.

2018 is a significant year for the long-term project of **The National Encyclopedia** that is a universal-knowledge, popular-science resource in the Latvian language being compiled on the basis of academic principles (available: <https://enciklopedija.lv/>). The Encyclopedia consists of electronic data accessed by keywords, but a special print volume about Latvia itself is prepared to mark Latvia's centenary. The Latvian Volume of the National Encyclopedia has been issued with 864 pages, 250 parts and several hundred figures.

April 2018 started with the reception of the International **Prize of Excellence**, awarded in London, entitled "Library of the Year Award 2018", which marked the role of NLL as an important cultural place, not only in the context of Latvia but also in the context of European media and society.



International excellence award 2018

Starting in 2018, the **priority axis** of work focused on increasing and strengthening the **role of the library in the academic environment and research, as well as in the educational environment**. A number of new services have been developed and implemented during the year and the offer for learning different skills has been developed. Intensive work has been done on the organization of the NLL scientific activities, a number of successful project applications have been prepared, that has led to the NLL continuing to implement nationally important research initiatives (e.g. the “State Before Statehood” conference cycle with accompanying exhibitions and articles), as well as by attracting significant additional funding for scientific activities.

In the field of education, NLL has strong traditions especially that regards to reading promotion - program “The Children, Youth and Parents Jury” was realized already for the eighteenth time. It showed good results in 2018 – in 630 libraries, including – 57 Latvian diaspora centers in 26 countries - Europe, Australia and America. The National Loud Reading competition for class 5-6 pupils, launched in 2017, has had a positive impact on addressing reading problems and has promoted reading among boys. 23 thousand readers have been involved in both reading promotion initiatives.



Closing event of the program “The Children, Youth and Parents Jury”

Implementation of the project “Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content (1st Stage)” is being continued. In four years (22.09.2017 - 21.09.2021), the NLL is implementing a European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and nationally co-funded project in the field of Latvia’s digital cultural heritage, together with project partners – the National Archives of Latvia, the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia, and the Cultural Information System Centre. The main objective of the project is to ensure the wide availability of Latvian cultural heritage to society in the digital environment, which serves as a basis for strengthening national identity, developing the cultural, scientific, knowledge society and creative industries, and ensuring the long-term preservation of national cultural heritage in digital form, creating opportunities for its repeated use in new products and services, as well as its integration into a unified European and global cultural digital space. More about results in 2018 see in ch.5.

2. The National Library of Latvia relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library’s mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library’s operations.

The NLL is a state institution under supervision of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia. The legal mandate for the operations of the NLL is provided by the law “On the National Library of Latvia”, as well as the law on legal deposit and several regulations of Cabinet of Ministers on different aspects of library operations. The budget of the library consists of a subsidy provided by the Ministry of Culture according to the annual law on state budget, as well as of own income for paid services and other income, such as projects and donations.

The NLL represents Latvia in international library organizations, participates in development and implementation of sector specific international programs, and cooperates with foreign libraries in accordance with inter-governmental and direct agreements.

3. Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc.)

Key facts given by 01.01.2019.

Number of registered users: 144 327

Number of on-site visits: 442 222

Number of virtual visits: 1 793 056

Number of loans: 338 347

Collection (total number of units): 4 212 623

books: 1 979 814

serials: 851 946

audiovisual materials: 75 567

microforms: 99 824

cartographic materials: 39 839

sheet music: 223 115

graphic documents: 240 673

manuscripts: 29 833

small prints: 636 766  
other: 4 611  
E – Resources collection (total number of units): 14 056  
e-books: 6 296  
e-serials: 6 670  
Number of personnel: 360  
Including 207 librarians  
Size of premises used by NLL: 48 595 m<sup>2</sup>  
Number of places for readers: 1 000  
Total budget year 2016: 11 713 748 EUR  
Including:  
Financing from state budget: 12 150 694 EUR  
Expenses – salaries: 4 938 247 EUR  
Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 315 920 EUR  
Expenses – building of collection: 408 423 EUR  
Including:  
periodicals 22 350 EUR  
Expenses – goods and services: 4 920 292 EUR  
Including IT services: 1 931 116 EUR

#### 4. New developments in creating and building collections

At the end of 2018 LNB's stock has 4 212 263 physical units. In 2018, the increase in LNB's stock is lower than in the previous year at 8965 alone (new units – 50 196; excluded from the stock – 41 231). This is due to the fact that the microfilm stock has been actively evaluated, excluded from the various stocks doublets (63% of the total number excluded). On the other hand, the stock of electronic publications (online) is supplemented by 1 587 copies, most of which consists of electronic legal deposit copies (1386). At the end of 2018, LNB has 14 056 electronic document units in stock.

A number of valuable gifts have enriched the LNB's stock in 2018. Largest of them: the personal collection of films and books by the cinema and theater scientist Valentina Freimanis (1922-2018), the personal library and archives of the Latgalian poet, scientist and teacher Pauline Zalane-Vallena (1931-2018), from Astrida Vitola manuscripts and personal archives received from his grandfather, composer and conductor Valdemars Ozolins (1896-1973), etc.

#### 5. New developments in creating and building digital collections.

Within the project “Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content (1st Stage)” in 2018 we have digitized 2 40,000 pages of text documents, 117 000 images, 55 000 minutes of audio and 18 500 video documents, 11 200 minutes of film, digitized and restored 820 minutes of art and documentaries, and a 3D scan of 10 cultural monuments has been performed. The digital collection “Latvian Song and Dance Celebration” was developed and published in July 2018 and work on the further development of the collection “Rainis and Aspasia” was launched. Work on creating a video distribution solution in 29 cultural centres in the regions of Latvia is done.

## DZIESMU SVĒTKU KRĀTUVE

Svētki Dziesma un deĵa Personības Tautastērps Svētki pasaulē Visi objekti



Home page of the digital collection “Latvian Song and Dance Celebration”

We have made substantial improvements to web archiving system with new infrastructure, improved processes and technological solutions.

### 6. New developments in managing collections

Updated and made available methodologies for the “National Data Building” and “Creating bibliographical records of Monographs according to RDA”. The introduction of the RDA is accompanied by an audit of the effectiveness of data services, assessing the relevance of each data element to the needs of different applications and identifying the components missing for the provision of the related data service (including the introduction of a new performance indicator – data enrichment). Prepared methodological and training materials to start generating further spending data under the RDA in 2019.

### 7. New developments in providing access to collections

Overall, data generated by the NLL has decreased in 2018, with more focus on their quality - the enrichment and development of data in line with the requirements of the current international data standards and the semantic web.

### 8. New developments in providing access to digital collections

Releasing a digital collection “Latvian Song and Dance Celebration”, publishing new content in Periodical and Book Portals and launching marketing activities have significantly increased the usability of Latvian National Digital Library (LNLDL) – compared to 2017, total attendance (number of sessions) has increased by 34%, total number of users by 43%, while the total number of pages viewed has increased by 16%.

### 9. Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national memory institutions (libraries, archives and museums)

As mentioned in ch.1 NLL is a leading partner in the European Regional Development Fund project “Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content (1st Stage)” together with project partners – the National Archives of Latvia, the State Inspection for Heritage Protection of Latvia, and the Cultural Information System Centre.

The NLL serves as a competence centre for Latvian library professionals by developing guidelines and terminology and adopting standards for library sector,

providing consultations and organizing seminars and courses for professional development. NLL Competence Development Centre realizes Continuing education program “Library science” (960h) and Professional development education program “The basis of Information and library science” (160h).

The NLL in accordance with the “Legal deposit law”, performs the distribution of units of the legal deposit copy to other Latvian libraries, maintains a free exchange stock, the purpose of which is to provide support for Latvian libraries and other cultural institutions in the formation of the stock, and performs the distribution of non-reimbursement expenses to Latvian libraries. The NLL also implements the children's and young people's reading promotion programmes “Children's, Youth and Parents” (see more on ch.1.) and “Book Start”.

The LNB constitutes the content of the Latvian Library Portal [www.biblioteka.lv](http://www.biblioteka.lv).