

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL YEAR 2020

Name of country: **Latvia**

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

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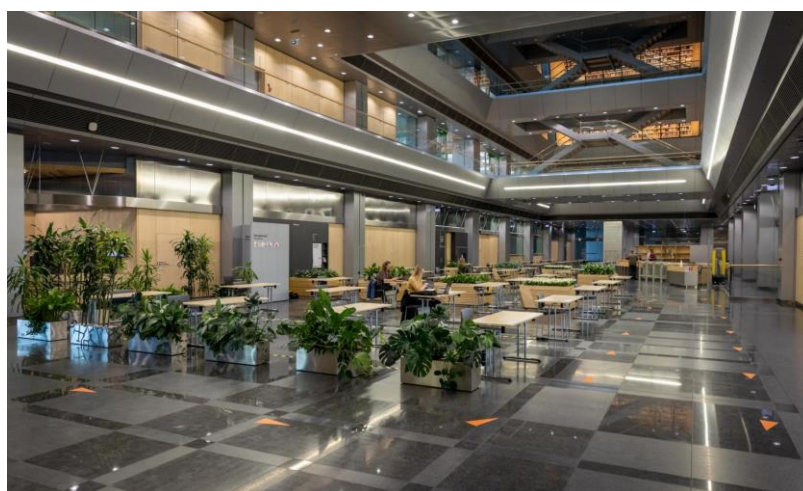
Web address of the Library: **<http://www.lnb.lv/en>**

Email address for contacting the library: **lnb@lnb.lv; viktorija.piscikova@lnb.lv**

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

Library during pandemic

The most significant achievement of the National Library of Latvia (the NLL) in 2020 was the ability to provide services to the readers during the state of emergency and the epidemiological constraints of the Covid-19 pandemic. On-site visits to the library were prohibited for a long time from March 13 to May 25 and from December 7 until the end of the year, however, remote services, virtual events and virtual educational activities were provided to readers, as well as extensive work was done to organize collections and other library processes, as well as actions for the NLL future development planning.



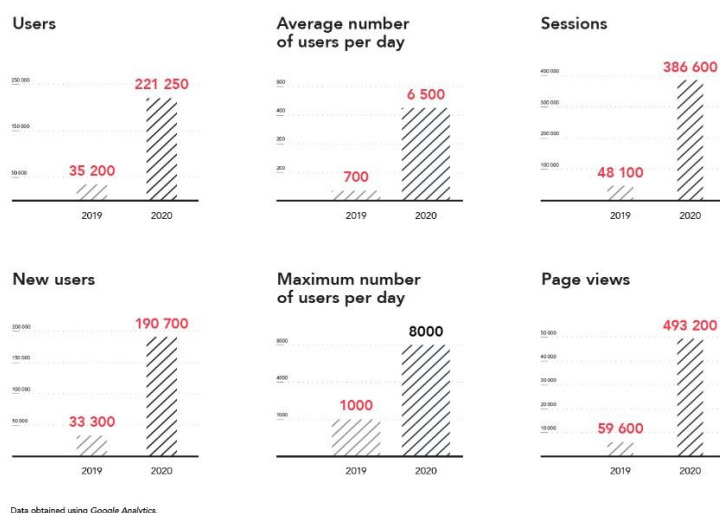
Limited reader services in the NLL atrium, photo: Kristians Luhaers

Many cultural and educational events moved to the virtual environment, helping the NLL to develop professional skills in providing TV studio services as well as live broadcasts. Special attention was paid to informing the public about the digital content created by the NLL - both [the Latvian National Digital Library](#) and other resources, for example, in 2020 the NLL created channel "[Klausītava \(Auditorium\)](#)" on the Spotify platform with about 80 different audio materials. All NLL exhibitions created in the period from 2014 to 2020 were summarized [in the exhibition catalogue](#).

The NLL has joined the #E-Culture information campaign of the Ministry of Culture and offered remote use of digital resources and e-services: e-books, digital collections, databases with remote access and other digital information resources, such as the National Encyclopedia, as well as lectures, discussions, conferences, readings and other audio and video materials.

The **National Encyclopedia** content was regularly supplemented. In 2020, around 700 new articles were published and around 2,000 new multimedia items (photos, maps, audio and video, graphics, etc.) were uploaded. There has also been a rapid increase in the number of encyclopedia users, which has, of course, been driven by the presence of teleworking and remote studies and the growing popularity of digital resources. Compared to 2019, the number of users of the content of the National Encyclopedia has increased by almost 70%, while page views have increased by 73% during the year. The figures also show other clearly positive trends: a decrease in the bounce rate, an increase in the length of the session, as well as a higher number of pageviews per session.

Number of visits to the National Encyclopedia from 12 March to 31 May



Nacionālā enciklopēdija

lnb.lv
enciklopedija.lv

#Ēkultūra

Reading promotion to youngsters

The NLL **reading promotion** program “The Children, Youth and Parents Jury” celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2020. Despite the limitations of the pandemic there was higher involvement than in the previous year – participated 672 libraries, including – 68 Latvian diaspora centres in 29 countries (Europe, Asia, Australia, North America and Africa). In total, 26 reading promotion events for children took place that attracted audience of 30 673 participants.

Support for the library sector and professional development

Systematic support was also provided to the library sector – consultations, guidelines and recommendations for public libraries to provide services during the state of emergency. The NLL Collection Preservation Center experts regularly reviewed the latest information and

recommendations related to the Covid-19 and library material quarantine.

The NLL also ensured the implementation of **financial support programs** - funding from the contingency plan developed by the Ministry of Culture to eliminate the negative impact of Covid-19: within valuable book procurement program for public libraries (300,000 EUR) purchased 362 book titles in 32,615 copies from 33 Latvian publishers, delivered to 779 public libraries and within webinars for the development of digital skills of library and museum specialists (30,000 EUR) organized four training programs for 347 library and museum employees throughout Latvia and with total duration of 269 academic hours.

The NLL promptly summarized the experience of Latvian libraries on working in pandemic conditions, which was published in the [EBLIDA newsletter "Special issue: EBLIDA Checklist in the face of the Covid-19 crisis"](#).

The NLL translated into Latvian and published international guidelines and recommendations: "Uncertainty, Innovation, Opportunity: IFLA's Trend Report Update 2019" and "Seoul Declaration on Media and Information Literacy for Everyone and by Everyone: A Defence against Disinfodemics".

In cooperation with the Latvian National Commission for UNESCO and the Library Association of Latvia, in 2020 the NLL Library Development Center updated the topic of the UN Sustainable Development Goals among Latvian librarians by organizing two online regional seminars attracting lecturers from Finland and Norway, covering almost 500 participants.

In total the 31 professional development and experience exchange events on different professional topics were organized that were attended by 1885 LIS specialists.

In the field of education, the NLL is operating as **institution for continuing vocational education and training**, which is officially registered in the Register of Education Institutions of Latvia. 17 programs (723 academic hours) were implemented in 2020 attracting 303 LIS professionals that obtained certificates for professional development and vocational education.

Scientific activity

In 2020, the international evaluation of the NLL's scientific activities for the period 2014-2018 was completed. In the overall evaluation the NLL received 4 points (from max. 5 points) that is equal to 'very good'. Was highlighted the NLL's scientific potential.

In 2007, the NLL was registered in the Register of Latvian Scientific Institutions (registration No. 193110). The Department of Special Collections and the Institute of Bibliography are mainly involved into research processes, but employees of other structural units are also involved in certain research projects. In 2020, the NLL had 35 employees who contributed certain FTE % to research work, 13 of aforementioned employees have a doctoral degree.

In 2020, the amount of budget for scientific work performed by the NLL (internal expenses) was 220,495 EUR, of which 161,393 EUR for fundamental research and 59,102 EUR - for applied research. Currently, the NLL is involved in three projects financed by the State Research Program and one project financed by the Fundamental Applied Research Program.

In 2020 the NLL in cooperation with the Institute of Humanities and Social Research of the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences continued the project – **The Significance of Documentary Heritage in Creating Synergies between Research and Society** – within the national research program Latvia's Heritage and Future Challenges for the Sustainability of the State. The aim of the project is to conduct special collection interdisciplinary research, including use of digital research methods.

Another ongoing project in cooperation with the University of Latvia is **Latvian Memory Institution Data in the Digital Space: Connecting Cultural Heritage** – within the Program of Fundamental and Applied Research implemented by the Latvian Council of Science. The aim of the project is to study and describe "semantic cooperation" potential of cultural heritage institutions in Latvia and test particular models of knowledge management potentially applicable to Latvia's case based on research of vocabularies and datasets available to the NLL, which have an open data potential and are essential for researchers from humanities, social sciences and their digital sub-fields. In 2020, the entry of historical publishing statistics data (1991–1994) was completed and an array of data for the period from 1991 to 2019 was published [on the NLL website](#) for researchers.

Since 2019, the ERASMUS + project "**Future of Cultural Heritage in a Modern Europe**" has also implemented, where the NLL researchers are collaborating with the University of Potsdam, as well as Luxembourg, Bologna, Copenhagen, Athens, Berlin Humboldt, Krakow, Bordeaux universities with the aim of developing innovative scientific methods in the development of European education.

In 2020, the NLL in cooperation with partners – the Latvian Academy of Culture, Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Academy of Music, the Latvian Academy of Arts and the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia – obtained funding for a new national research program project "**Cultural Capital as a Resource for Latvian Sustainable Development**" with the aim to create an interdisciplinary knowledge base on the diversity and value of cultural capital, the processes forming the viability of the cultural sector ecosystem as a resource for the sustainable development of Latvia.

In 2020, the NLL has published six scientific publications, including two publications of the NLL Scientific Proceedings: "Poet and artist Karl Gotthard Grass (1767–1814)" and "Latvian terminology in a hundred years". A collection of essays on the history of reading in Latvia "Reading Pandemic" has also been published.

Last year, the NLL continued scientific activities also in digital humanities field as well as participated in the Strategic Management Council of the State Research Program "Digital Humanities". The project – **Going beyond Search: Advancing Digital Competences in Libraries and Research Communities** – has been developed in cooperation with the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia, Umeå University, National Library of Estonia and National Library of Lithuania. The initiative seeks to foster the dissemination of digital competences in the ALM (archives, libraries and museums) and research communities and strengthen networks among ALM, education, and research sectors in order to improve practices of working with digital content and data analysis tools.



DHN2020 on-line conference advertisement

In 2020, an ambitious international conference “The [Digital Humanities in the Nordic and Baltic Countries DHN2020](#)” was implemented on 20-23 October, and for the first time was held fully online with approximately 400 participants. [Proceedings of the conference](#) have been published in open access.

Funding for the development of digital humanities was received from the State Research Program. Project “**Digital Resources for Humanities: Integration and Development**” in cooperation with the University of Latvia – Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Livonian Institute and Latvian Language Institute, Rezekne Academy of Technologies, The University of Liepaja, the Latvian Academy of Culture and Riga Technical University was started with the aim to promote the development, sustainability and use of humanities resources, as well as the development of digital humanities in Latvia.

Within the framework of aforementioned DH projects, the development of the demonstration tool [Latvian Prose Counter](#) has been made, the production of the video series “Digital Research Series” has been started, the [1st episode “Computer Analysis and Visualization of Text”](#) has been completed.

In 2020, a study on “[Open Science and the development of a policy roadmap](#)” was commissioned by the Ministry of Education and Science, in which the NLL Library Development Center participated together with researchers from Riga Technical University, University of Latvia and Riga Stradins University. Study defines the concept of open science, addresses issues of open access publications, open data and citizen science initiatives.

In 2020, the NLL has continued previous international scientific cooperation, as well as attracted new partners. Cooperation takes place with organizations such as CERL (European Consortium of Scientific Libraries), LIBER (European Association of Scientific Libraries) and in specific research areas: Map & Geoinformation Curator Group, *Gesellschaft für interkulturelle Germanistik*, *Deutsch-baltisches Kulturgesellschaft Domus Rigensis*, European Society for Comparative Literature etc., also with the Tallinn University and the Estonian Science Council.

Cooperation is taking place with libraries where copies of the former Riga Jesuit College (1583-1621) library were kept: Poznan University Library, Uppsala University Library, Warsaw University Library, National Library of Sweden, National Library of Lithuania and others.

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 Legal Deposit Law and several regulations of the 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.

In September 2020, amendments to the Law "On the National Library of Latvia" were adopted (entered into force on 07.10.2020), which strengthens the role of the NLL as a cultural heritage digitization competence center, stipulating that the NLL manages the digitization of Latvian cultural heritage and provides advisory support services in this field. As well as defining the NLL as a data center of national importance, which, maintaining and developing the data center infrastructure at its disposal and cooperating with other institutions, can provide computing resources, data processing, short-term data storage resources, information systems accommodation, as well as long term data storage services for public administration, in particular for research institutions, educational institutions and cultural institutions. The amendments to the law also strengthened that the NLL maintains the thesaurus database of the cultural sector and ensures its public availability, and ensures the creation, maintenance and publication of the National Encyclopedia in book and electronic form on the Internet.

Considering that the state is getting prepared for the next planning period 2021-2027, the NLL was involved in the development of several strategic documents: Guidelines for cultural policy 2021-2027; Digital Transformation Guidelines 2021-2027; State language policy guidelines 2021-2027; Guidelines for the development of education 2021-2027; Guidelines for children, youth and family 2021-2027; National Youth Policy Program 2021-2023; Guidelines for the Development of a Cohesive and Civically Active Society 2021-2027.

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

Key facts given by 01.01.2021.

Number of registered users: 159 969

Number of on-site visits: 139 186

Number of virtual visits: 3 623 862

Number of loans: 114 987

Collection (total number of units): 4 283 163

books: 2 007 043

serials: 868 234

audio-visual materials: 79 766

microforms: 96 310

cartographic materials: 43 014

sheet music: 225 221

graphic documents: 243 684

manuscripts: 30 994

small prints: 652 522

other: 4 635

E – Resources collection (total number of units): 21 330

e-books: 8 165

e-serials: 9 420

Number of personnel: 348

Including 203 librarians

Size of premises used by NLL: 48 595 m²

Number of places for readers: 1 000

Total budget year 2020: 12 739 361 EUR

Including:

Financing from state budget: 11 869 206 EUR

Expenses – salaries: 5 559 483 EUR

Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 393 268 EUR

Expenses – building of collection: 778 535 EUR

Including:

periodicals 20 416 EUR

Expenses – goods and services: 3 564 040 EUR

Including IT services: 801 118 EUR

4. New developments in creating and building collections

At the end of 2020 the NLL's stock had 4 283 163 physical units. New units – 57 865; excluded from the stock – 15 678. The collection was mostly supplemented with books (28 520) and serials (14 804).

The limited opportunities for reader service and events due to the Covid-19 pandemic allowed us to focus more on the planned collection activities related to stock assessment and organization, preventive conservation, making full use of existing working conditions. Active work on collection evaluation was carried out in the following directions:

- evaluation of the open access collections - assessment of the physical condition and bibliographic data in accordance with the previously developed methodology.

- evaluation of branch literature in foreign languages – the planned amount has been exceeded more than 5 times (15 759 copies evaluated);
- evaluation of the duplicates – compared to 2019 the number of evaluated copies has increased almost 3 times (about 15 000 copies);
- mapping of all collections of the NLL.

A number of valuable donations have enriched the NLL's collections (51% of new acquisitions were donations).

5. New developments in creating and building digital collections.

At the end of 2020, the NLL had 21 330 electronic document units. The electronic document collection was supplemented with 3 936 units during the year. The collection of e-legal deposit copies includes the most e-serials (1 226), actively continuing to compile e-newspapers and e-magazines, e-books (832) and e-cartographic materials (806). There is positive tendency towards acquisition of digitally born unpublished materials.

Implementation of the project **Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content (the 1st Stage)** has been accomplished and the 2nd Stage continued. In the project's 1st and 2nd stage 3.5 mil. page of text materials, 267 thousand pictures, 280 thousand audio documents and 273 thousand min. of video documents, 3D scans of 40 cultural monuments, 37.5 thousand minutes of film documents, 70 thousand museum objects, 10 intangible cultural heritage values and 34 cultural events have been recorded. In DOM available 882 thousand digital objects from the collections of more than 130 institutions and 370 private individuals.

The implementation of the components of the Latvian cultural heritage integrated platform are under construction, incl. Cultural Monuments Management System "Heritage", Copyright Management and Licensing Information System, Digital Object Management Information System, as well as a procurement procedure for the development of a unified distribution system for the Latvian National Digital Library is underway to ensure unified management and distribution of cultural heritage digital content, incl. in the form of open data. Work is underway to implement the Digitization Competence Center as well.

The scope of the 1st stage project and the 2nd stage project for the improvement of data storage infrastructure and performance, as well as for the improvement of digitization infrastructure have been fully completed. Four data sets related to digital cultural heritage have been published [on the Latvian Open Data Portal](#).

6. New developments in managing collections

In collection conservation field 874 units have been restored and 1252 units conserved during 2020. An extensive working group was established with various NLL specialists and representatives of the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia to start work on the NLL stock rescue plan in emergency situations, which would be part of the

NLL Collections Conservation Strategy. Research on the practice of other countries has been carried out and active work has been done on the development of successive parts of the plan. The current situation was jointly identified and risk analysis was performed, as well as an emergency team was established and the development of the Action Plan was started. In addition, 37 emergency kits for storages and reading rooms have been set up with CENL funding (an amount of 2500 EUR) as preventive protection measures.



Emergency kits for rescuing the collections created with the CENL Covid-19 Fund Support

In order to create data as a significant added value for the national collection, year 2020 was dedicated to improving data quality: the number of newly created authoritative records has increased by about 10%, enriched records have increased by 14%. Authoritative data was enriched with international identifiers, and links were created between the various authoritative records in the ALEPH catalogue, as well as links to external resources (eg the Library of Congress).

The highest quality indicators refer to the data sets of the national bibliography: the amount of enrichment has more than quadrupled (from 49 897 (2019) to 217 880 (2020)). The data sets of the books of the National Bibliography 2017-2020 has been prepared in such a quality that it can be published in the form of open related data.

On September 2, 2020 1 million bibliographic records were created in the unified catalog of national scientific libraries. Compared to 2019, the amount of data cataloged by the NLL in the catalog has increased by 11.3%.

Translation and editing of 5000 terms, values and relationships of the RDA dictionary has been completed. The dictionary is prepared for publication in the International RFID Register. The existing methodologies of bibliographic and authoritative data have been updated and supplemented, as well as new methodologies complying with the RFID regulations have been developed: Methodology of analytical records; Notation methodology; Audio resource methodology; methodology for creating authoritative records of works for summaries of works; for the creation of authoritative records of institutions and objects (buildings). A total of 16 educational activities (both face-to-face and online) were organized on data generation and processing, with 318 participants.

7. New developments in providing access to collections

When the library resumed full-time work, from May 26, the entire reader service was organized on the ground floor level in the atrium. Extensive preparations were made: Guidelines for on-site services for readers and visitors of the NLL during the state emergency were developed, reader service scheme (path), reservation system for library visits, confirmation forms and amendments to the NLL Terms of Use.



Reading services in epidemiologically safe conditions, photo: Kristians Luhaers

From 1 September, all floors and reading rooms were opened to visitors with a 50% reduction in workplaces, the number of computers and other restrictions, including the fact that readers were denied access to choose their own publications from the open access collections. At the same time, 318 reading places were provided, including 101 computerized, 4 for visually impaired readers, 2 for interlibrary loan clients and 5 for the Children's Literature Center. In the Internet reading room, a time limit of no more than 30 minutes per day was set for working with a computer without the provision of headphones. All printed materials were quarantined for 72 hours.

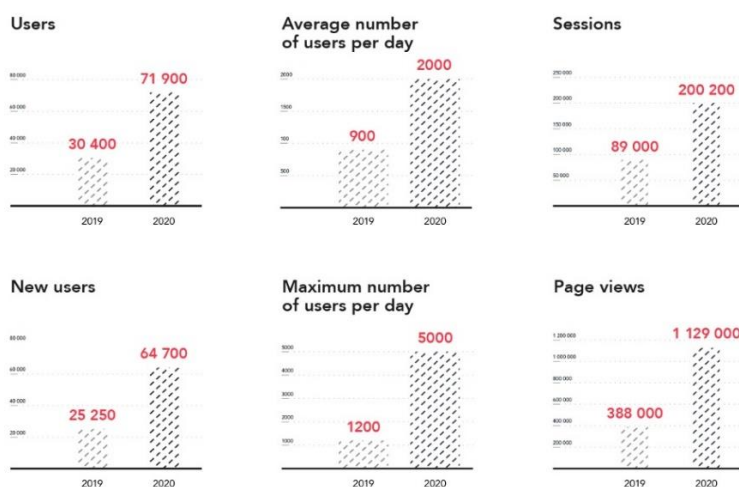
It should be noted that while the library was open to readers, remote services were continued: Ask the Librarian, digitization on demand, press reviews and suggested information resource lists, consultations on the use of e-resources, interlibrary loans, personal loans, online consultations, individual and group training on information retrieval, the subscribed databases, remote reader registration.

The restrictions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic contributed to the development of the training activities. Online training sessions were launched using the Zoom and MS Teams platforms. The NLL Reference and Information Center provided training services to 71 study groups, of which 50 participated in distance learning. The total number of participants was 1259, of which 953 were participants in distance learning classes.

8. New developments in providing access to digital collections

The collection of periodicals and e-books of the NLL has been made available until the end of the state emergency thanks to an agreement between the AKKA/LAA (Copyright and Communication Consulting Agency/Latvian Authors' Association) and the NLL. The total number of unique users in [the periodical's portal](#) has doubled, however, during typical hours of high usage we have noticed an increase of simultaneous connections – 5 times higher than before the crisis.

Number of visits to the digital periodicals collection from 12 March to 31 May



Data obtained using Google Analytics.

L N B
NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF LATVIA



Ministry of Culture
Republic of Latvia

In total, readers spent
4.5 years of their time
(for an average of
12 minutes each time)
on researching
historical periodicals
during the Covid-19.

lnb.lv
digitalebiblioteka.lv
periodika.lv

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There is a similar situation in the [digitized books portal](#), and increasing trend in usage is seen also in other parts of the National Digital Library. The National Digital Library in general has seen a 61% increase in new users and 70% in viewing sessions.

Number of visits to the digital book collection from 12 March to 31 May

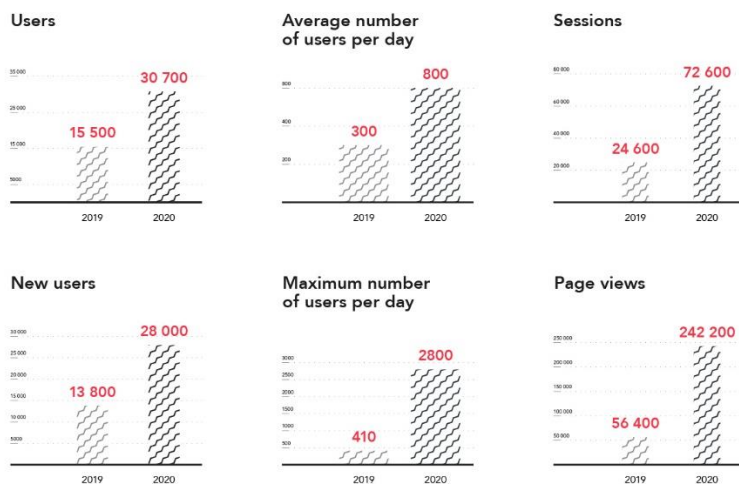
L N B
NATIONAL
LIBRARY
OF LATVIA



Ministry of Culture
Republic of Latvia

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lnb.lv
digitalebiblioteka.lv
gramatas.lnb.lv



Data obtained using Google Analytics

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Another important event in 2020 was the launch of the Latvian National Digital Library's single search engine www.lndb.lv - it allows searching in all collections of the Latvian National Digital Library, and it is also suitable for use on mobile devices.

9. Cooperation with national and international institutions

At the national level – as mentioned in ch.1 – the NLL is a leading partner in the European Regional Development Fund Project “Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content” together with other project partners – the National Archives of Latvia, the National Heritage Board of Latvia and the Culture Information Systems Centre. The NLL also serves as a competence centre for Latvian LIS professionals by developing guidelines and terminology and adopting standards for library sector, providing consultations and organizing seminars and trainings for professional development.

On the international level – the NLL is a member of international organizations: IFLA, CENL, LIBER, EBLIDA, CERL, IIPC, IAML, IASA, BAAC, AABS, Bibliotheca Baltica, CODART, AEPM, IGELU, Consortium of legal resource centres and legal information specialists, ISBN, ISSN (CIEPS) and ISMN agencies. The NLL's international cooperation strategy contains such tasks as the implementation of joint international projects and programs, cooperation with international organizations, foreign embassies in Latvia and Latvia's embassies abroad, culture and information centres to promote Latvia's cultural heritage and organize international exhibitions and conferences; international document exchange and participation in the international book fairs.

Despite the restrictions on foreign visits caused by the pandemic, in 2020 the NLL hosted important foreign representatives, who donated their special book to the People's Bookshelf: Iceland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Cooperation Gudlaugur Thór Thórdarson (Guðlaugur Þór Þórðarson) ([February 18](#)), President of France Emmanuel Macron and the First Lady Brigitte Macron ([September 30](#)) and the President of the Swiss National Council Isabelle Moret ([October 21](#)).

The national libraries of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia met in Lithuania, in August 2020 during the biennial international seminar of the National Libraries of the Baltic Countries "LiLaEst 2020".