

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL YEAR 2021

Name of country: **Latvia**

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

Name of Chief Executive: **Andris Vilks**

Name of contact person for international matters: **Viktorija Piščikova**

Mailing address: **3 Mukusalas Street, Riga, LV – 1423, Latvia**

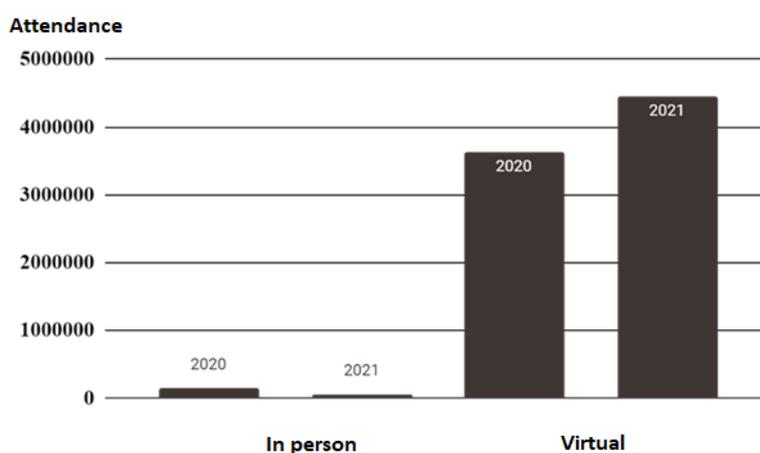
Phone: **+371 67806100**, Fax: **+371 67280851**

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

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

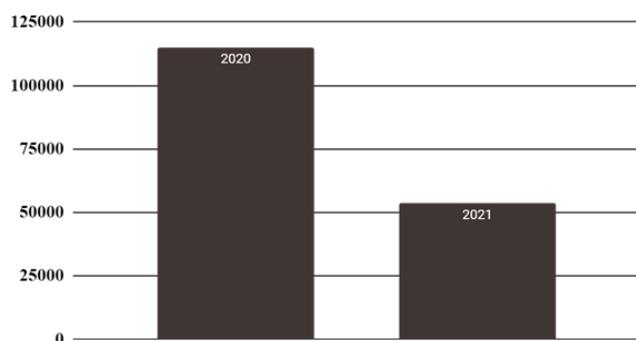
1. General overview of recent major developments at the National Library of Latvia (NLL).

The year 2021 has not been easy in organizing a visit to the NLL and serving readers due to the pandemic, however, throughout the year we have successfully ensured the continuity of almost all services, investing significant resources in management and reprogramming. Due to restrictions, the NLL's in person attendance in 2021 had dropped to 46,928, while the virtual attendance increased significantly to 4,445,116.

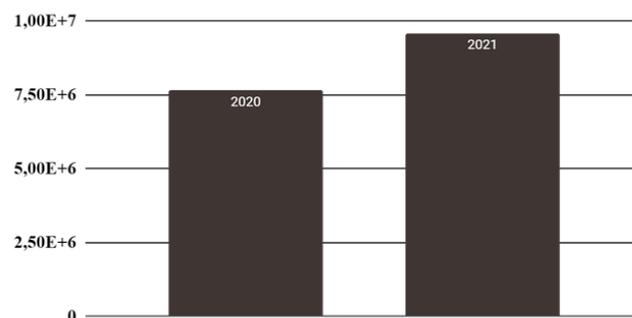


The loan of physical collections has also halved in 2021 compared to 2020, with the library being closed to visitors for a long time. However, the loan of electronic collections continues to grow, reaching 9,591,731 in 2021. This was facilitated both by the availability of remote services and the fact that in 2021 the license agreement with the copyright management agency AKKA / LAA was extended and free access to digital content of books and periodicals was provided.

Loan of physical collections



Loan of electronic collections (full text open, page view, number of views of records)



In 2021, the NLL started intensive work in preparation for the anniversary of the five hundred years of the first published book in Latvian (will be celebrated in 2025) was carried out - research work, preparing monographs on book publishing and related personalities, conducting the necessary research in preparing exhibitions and events. In the autumn of 2021, a five-year program of events was opened with the exhibition [The Return. The Oldest Surviving Book in Latvian](#). It provided an opportunity to see in person in Riga the oldest surviving Latvian-language book brought from Sweden, Uppsala University Library - the catechism published in 1585 and translated into Latvian by the Dutch Jesuit Petrus Canisius (Petrus Canisius, 1521–1597). At the same time, the *Catalogue of the Riga Jesuit College Book Collection (1583–1621) History and Reconstruction of the Collection* was opened, as well as a virtual exhibition on the digital cultural platform Europeana [Looted Library, Reconstructed Library](#) in Latvian and English. The catalog of the book collection of the Riga Jesuit College compiled by NLL bibliographers was recognized as one of the achievements of Latvian science in 2021.

In total, 8 self-produced and 8 partner exhibitions were organized in the NLL. The largest and most important was exhibition [Beethoven. Orbits](#), which was created in cooperation with the Latvian Academy of Music and international partners.

In 2021, the establishment and installation of the permanent TV studio of the National Library of Latvia was started, but until then a total of 67 live broadcasts were streamed on Facebook and YouTube channels from Ziedonis Hall or other adapted library premises.

Also, the NLL continued to focus on the production of podcasts on [the NLL channel on Spotify](#): 84 recordings (produced both by itself and its partners) were placed there during all around year.

Support for the library sector and professional development

The NLL provided systematic support to the library sector in Latvia. 42 professional development and experience exchange events were organized at the NLL Library Development Center, which were attended by 8341 specialists.

As a previous year the NLL 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 602 book titles in 30,263 copies from 46 Latvian publishers, delivered to 748 public libraries.

With the funds allocated by the Latvian Centenary Program in the amount of EUR 23,000, the NLL made **book donations to libraries of other countries and Latvian embassies abroad**. The aims of the project were to strengthen the sense of statehood, to update the history of Latvia, to honor the founders and to commemorate the events that influenced the establishment of the Latvian state; to communicate about Latvia as an active and responsible creator of international and intercultural relations. The NLL prepared, packaged and sent 38 sets to Latvian embassies abroad and 83 sets to the largest national and academic libraries abroad.

An important topic of the year was **media literacy**, recognizing fake news and critical thinking. In 2021, 466 librarians and 106 teachers participated in the media literacy trainings, gaining a basic understanding of media literacy and the basic principles of media activities, as well as an idea of the place of media literacy in the public education process. On November 4, 2021, the NLL organized an online media literacy webinar, "Media Literacy - Not Just for Education, But for Health and Safety", which was attended by more than 800 librarians from public, school, academic and college libraries.

In 2021, the largest funding to date was attracted for the **reading promotion program** "The Children, Youth and Parents Jury" - 184,088 euros. In addition to the funding of the Ministry of Culture, the State Education Content Center provided its support within the framework of the European Social Fund project "Support for the Development of Individual Competences of Learners". Thus, in 2021, the program was distributed in a much wider network of schools and libraries - a total of 858 institutions (672 in 2020) were involved, including 71 Latvian diaspora centers in 30 countries (68 centers in 29 countries in 2020) in Europe and Australia, America and Africa. Work on methodological material and worksheets "Read! Support! Get involved!" helped to achieve many of the learning outcomes set out in the Pre-School Education Guidelines and the Education Standard of Latvia.

Also, in the field of professional development, Latvian librarians had the opportunity to gain knowledge in the **new professional education program "Open science and scientific communication"** at the NLL Competence Development Center. In the autumn of 2021, 76 academic hours of paid curriculum were implemented, consisting of 19 courses. 15 lecturers (including 3 professors) were involved in teaching the program. The first group of students enrolled 24 students, 12 of them library specialists. The Erasmus+ project "Medical Information Literacy" was also implemented, as part of which the developed non-formal education program "Medical Information Literacy" was approved.

Scientific activity

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 2021, the NLL had 39 employees who contributed certain FTE % to research work, 11 of aforementioned employees have a doctoral degree.

In 2021 the NLL continued scientific projects initiated in previous years: the implementation of the project in cooperation with the Institute of Humanities and Social Research of the Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences **“The Significance of Documentary Heritage in Creating Synergies between Research and Society”** was successfully concluded on November 30, 2021; continued in cooperation with partners – the Latvian Academy of Culture, the Latvian Academy of Music, the Latvian Academy of Arts and the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art of the University of Latvia national research program project **“Cultural Capital as a Resource for Latvian Sustainable Development”** and **“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. The implementation of the applied research project in cooperation with the University of Latvia **“Latvian Memory Institution Data in the Digital Space: Connecting Cultural Heritage”** was also continued.

ERASMUS+ project **“Future of Cultural Heritage in a Modern Europe”** was 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. 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 fostered the dissemination of digital competences in the ALM (archives, libraries and museums) and research communities and strengthened networks among ALM, education, and research sectors in order to improve practices of working with digital content and data analysis tools. In 2021, two conferences and one summer school were organized by the project partners; three episodes of the video series **“Digital Research Series”** were created; two papers presented at the conference *Theatrum Libri: The Press, Reading and Dissemination in Early Modern Europe* (03.12.2021); the final report of the project has been prepared.

An important process in this direction is the scientific cooperation project launched in 2021 with the Ukrainian Institute of Scientific Expertise and Information **“Text Analysis Methods and Tools for Determining and Measuring Similarity in Large National Text Corps: Cases of the Latvian National Digital Library and the National Academic Repository of Ukraine”**. The most significant event of this project in 2021 was a joint seminar in Kiev, where the NLL presented its digital library, digital research, open science and academic integrity initiatives. The project defines the research topic, prepares the text corpora to be analysed and works on approbation of the most appropriate methods and tools for text analysis.

Indicators of the NLL scientific activity in 2021:

Projects of the National Research Program and the Fundamental Applied Research Program
- 4

Other international research projects - 6

Participation in international scientific conferences outside Latvia - 12

Participation in international scientific conferences in Latvia - 23

International scientific conferences organized by the NLL - 6

Anonymously peer-reviewed publications in international scientific periodicals - 14

Publications in Latvian scientific periodicals - 15

Other publications - 43

Published monographies – 8 (2 of them Proceedings of the National Library of Latvia).

In 2021, the NLL together with its cooperation partners has organized 9 scientific or scientific-related conferences (all online, with limited number of participation in person), which were attended by approximately 6,000 people. The most important of them:

- closing conference of the project “The Significance of Documentary Heritage in Creating Synergies between Research and Society”;
- international scientific symposium “Searching for Methods and Materials: The Heritage of Photography in Cultural and Art History Research” with the aim of promoting the research of photography as a resource of cultural capital in the repositories of memory institutions, focusing on both original materials and digitized collections;
- a conference for library data specialists from the Nordic countries (Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Sweden) and the Baltic States (Estonia, Lithuania), where the NLL presented the results of the project "Data of Latvian memory institutions in the digital space: uniting cultural heritage" and led discussions on the topic of the project - on a new data model of cultural heritage institutions;
- International Terminology Conference "Data Interoperability of Cultural Heritage Institutions in the Digital Space: Terminological Aspect" to provide answers to the questions why libraries need to move to linked data solutions and make data available on-line.

In 2021, the NLL has continued previous international scientific cooperation, as well as attracted new partners. Cooperation took place with organizations such as CERL (Consortium of European Research Libraries), LIBER (Association of European Research 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 Research Council. The NLL also cooperated with libraries where copies of the former Riga Jesuit College (1583-1621) library are 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, the Law on Libraries 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 2021, the NLL representatives participated in the elaboration of **the new draft law on the legal deposit**, paying special attention to the legal deposit of the production files of books to avoid the re-digitization in future.

In 2020, Latvia ratified **the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property**, adopted on 19 May 2017. In turn, the ratification of the convention also required the harmonization of national legislation - the Criminal Law and the regulations of the cultural heritage sector in the field of cultural monuments, archives, museums and libraries. In 2021, the Criminal Law was amended. Liability for illegal activities with such cultural values as the subject of a museum collection and a document of a specially protected library collection has not been established in the Criminal Law so far. The amendments defined the term "cultural object", which includes both a cultural monument protected by the Republic of Latvia or another state, a document of a museum collection and a document of a specially protected library collection, as well as the fact that criminal offenses apply not only to on cultural objects protected by another state. **The amendments to the Law on Libraries** entered into force on 3 May 2022 and define what are then specially protected documents of the National Library collection and to which the liability specified in the Criminal Law applies.

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

Key facts given by 01.01.2022.

Number of registered users: 162 276

Number of on-site visits: 46 928

Number of virtual visits: 4 445 116

Number of loans: 53 573

Collection (total number of physical units): 4 329 230

books: 2 020 618
serials: 883 897
audio-visual materials: 81 403
microforms: 96 310
cartographic materials: 44 035
sheet music: 226 487
graphic documents: 252 513
manuscripts: 31 470
small prints: 655 298
other: 4 685

E – Resources collection (total number of units): 24 474

e-books: 8 998

e-serials: 10 748

Number of personnel: 343

Including 193 librarians

Size of premises used by NLL: 48 595 m²

Number of places for readers: 1 000

Total budget year 2021: 12 785 664 EUR

Including:

Financing from state budget: 12 288 684 EUR

Expenses – salaries: 5 544 850 EUR

Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 354 569 EUR

Expenses – building of collection: 925 731 EUR

Including:

periodicals 21 492 EUR

Expenses – goods and services: 4 310 183 EUR

Including IT services: 1 390 210 EUR

4. New developments in creating and building collections

At the end of 2021 the NLL's stock had 4 329 230 physical units. New units – 61 626; excluded from the stock – 15 559. The collection was mostly supplemented with books (22 932) and serials (21 306), but also this year was rich with new graphic documents (8 829).

As in 2020, in 2021 most of the acquisitions made up of donations (16,894), followed by legal deposit copies (10,415), purchases (6,563), donations from patrons (306) and international document exchange (246).

In order to develop the stock during the pandemic, the state provided additional funding of 55,000 euros, for which more than 250 recently published books published were purchased, especially on the topics for researchers on digital transformation in various sectors and economic, social and cultural changes caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

5. New developments in creating and building digital collections.

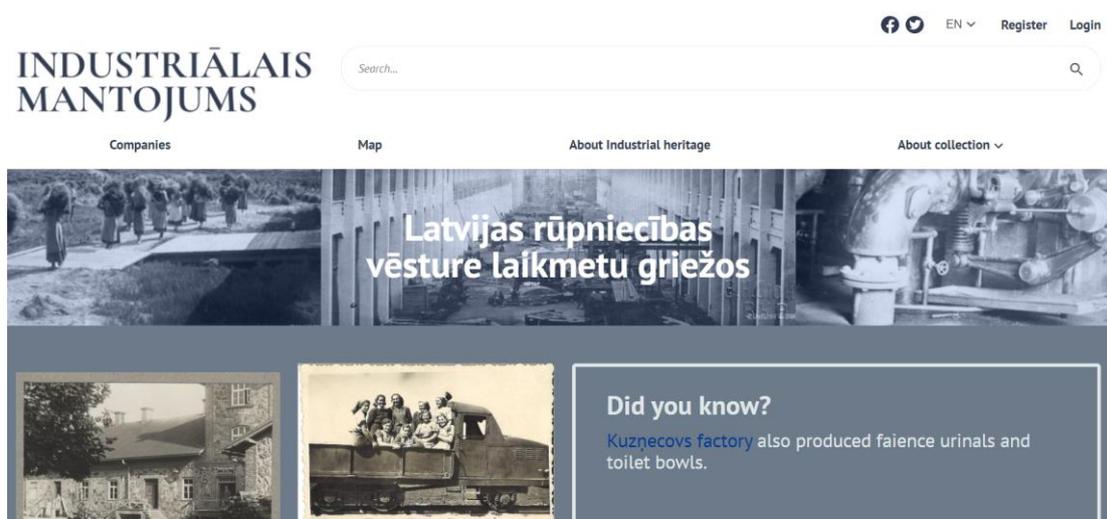
At the end of 2021 the NLL had 24 474 electronic document units. The electronic document collection was supplemented with 3 144 units during the year. The collection of e-legal deposit copies includes mostly e-series (1 147), actively continuing to compile e-newspapers and e-magazines, e-books (688) and e-sheet music (357). There is a 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.

At the beginning of 2022, the digitization works planned for the project have been completed and a total of 350,000 pages of periodicals, 200,000 pages of books and 76,000 new pages have been digitized. The NLL coordinated the digitization of cultural monuments from the collection of the National Cultural Heritage Board and museum objects (text materials) from more than 24 Latvian museums. The full texts of all major periodicals up to 1945, professional periodicals, and a supplemented digital collection of regional press are available on the [Periodicals Portal](#). The [Book portal](#) has been supplemented with publications on various topics, paying attention to local publishers, digital local history, as well as first editions of Latvian fiction classics. Several new thematic collections in economics, law, history and philosophy have been created.

The digitized content is also available in the common search engine of the [Latvian National Digital Library](#). 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](#).

Extensive work has been done on the digital collection "[Industrial Heritage](#)". Content descriptions are available in Latvian and English.



The collection was opened and made public on March 24, 2022.

During 2021 improvements were made in the technical elements of the website of the **National Encyclopaedia** www.enciklopedija.lv (the response time of the website has been

significantly accelerated and the search system has been improved). About 500 new articles and about 1,200 illustration items have been published. On an annual basis (compared to 2020), the number of unique users has increased by a third and the number of page views has almost doubled (924,000 users and more than 2.5 million page views).

6. New developments in managing collections

In collection conservation field 941 units have been restored and 418 units conserved during 2021.

In 2021, special attention was paid to **conservation issues**, especially preventive conservation. The “Electronic Work Application and Description System for the Collection Preservation Center” and the “Conservation Strategy of Physical collections 2021–2027” have been developed. With CENL funding 37 emergency boxes set up in 2020 were placed in stocks and app. 200 employees were trained to use them in the emergency situations.

In order to create **data as a significant added value** for the national collection, in 2021, the NLL data creators created a total of 33,527 (2020 - 29,451, 2019 - 20,653) new records, which allow other libraries of the union catalog of scientific libraries of national significance to join with their own copies. As of 31 December 2021, there were 1,027,581 entries in the union catalog, 57% of which were created by the NLL. Authoritative data generated by the NLL is a set of open data for other data sets and other systems, all types of Latvian libraries and cultural heritage institutions, as well as for international cooperation (for example, Wikidata, Europeana). An Open Data Portal of the NLL (<http://dati.lnb.lv>) has also been created, in which four data sets have been published, incl. in the section of ontologies. Using data transformation methods, three ontologies of the NLL thesaurus data are available for the first time in readable and searchable form - ontology of forms / genre, ontology of geographical names and ontology of general and individual concepts (a total of about 56,000 concepts).

7. New developments in providing access to collections

As part of the **Recovery Program** for post-pandemic period, new services and resources were developed to facilitate readers' return to the library, improve the reading room environment, adapt to change and diversify the offer, such as the introduction of a parcel terminal for books for personal loans and inter-library loan users; creation of the NLL digital guide; publishing of a new electronic newsletter promoting the NLL open access collections; integration of the Readspeaker tool to the NLL website for visually impaired people; improvements for the inclusive environment – voice signals in the elevators; implementation of a queue ticketing system at the NLL Welcome desk.

Significant and intense work took place in 2021 to develop **the NLL Digital Guide**, which received a support from the State Culture Capital Foundation and is designed for people with special needs. The content of the guide is designed considering the specifics of information perception of people with hearing and visual impairments. The content of the

digital guide is available in Latvian, English, German and Russian. It contains information about the history of the library, its collection and reading rooms. The information is supplemented with photos. Within the framework of the project, special signage and tactile stickers were placed for people with visual disabilities that help to orientate in the library and get to the most interesting sites.

8. New developments in providing access to digital collections

The restrictions imposed by the pandemic on the use of the library's collection in person have increased the importance of **e-resources**, their advantages for remote access. Therefore, most of the additional funding was directed to supplementing e-resources. The NLL, through its participation in the JSTOR e-book program Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA), a combined purchase and subscription model, has provided its readers with access to more than 50,000 e-book publications (mainly from well-known academic publishers in the US and Europe in the humanities and social sciences).

The use of e-resources for remote access for study or work purposes was a very important library service in 2021. Remotely accessible digital collections and databases helped to provide readers with the information they needed. The collected statistics show that 41,418 visit sessions were registered during the year (61 593 in 2020) and 207,747 documents / full texts were opened (109 912 in 2020). The statistics of visiting sessions have decreased compared to the previous year, but the number of used publications has increased significantly, which indicates that the texts are actively read and used.

The collection of digitized periodicals and books of the NLL continued to be freely available thanks to an agreement between the AKKA/LAA (Copyright and Communication Consulting Agency/Latvian Authors' Association) and the NLL.

In order to create more **inclusive digital resource services**, a new innovative project for people with visual impairments was implemented last year. Within the framework of the project, online easy-to-access tools "webReader" and "docReader" were installed on the websites of 15 digital collections maintained by the NLL that made digital cultural heritage publicly available for any website visitor using any browser.

9. Cooperation with national and international institutions

At the national level 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.

In 2021, the Institute of Bibliography of the NLL developed "[Recommendations for Promoting the Semantic Interoperability of Reference Data between Latvian Cultural](#)

[Heritage Institutions](#)", as well as the "[Concept for the Reference Data Model of Latvian Cultural Heritage Institutions](#)". In the concept, based on data standards and formats that correspond to the possibilities of semantic cooperation of all Latvian memory institutions in a specific situation and semantic web principles, a new data model for ontology was developed, dictionaries and various classifiers were proposed, as well as data mapping for unified and controlled cultural heritage entities for use in the single platform for the distribution and management of digital cultural heritage objects.

On the international level – the NLL is a member of international organizations: IFLA, CENL, LIBER, EBLIDA, CERL, IAML, IASA, BAAC, AABS, ABDOS, Bibliotheca Baltica, CODART, AEPM, IGELU, Consortium of legal resource centres and legal information specialists, DHNB, IADA, ICOM, Crossref, 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, cultural and information centres in order to promote Latvia's cultural heritage and organize international exhibitions and conferences; international document exchange and participation in the international book fairs.