

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL  
YEAR 2022

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**

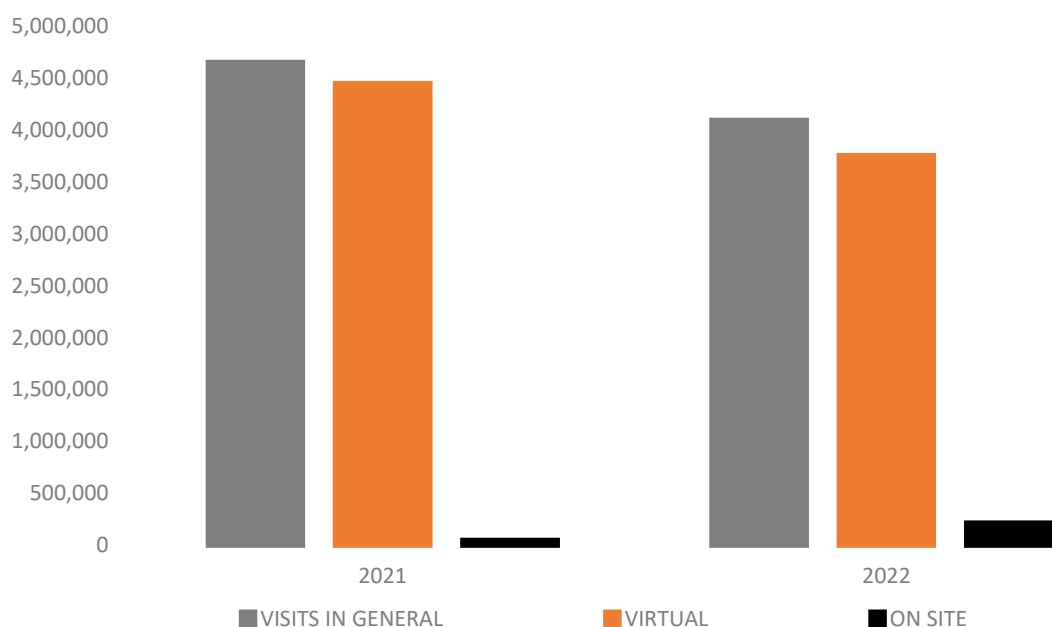
Phone: **+371 67806100**, Fax: **+371 67280851**

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

Email address for contacting the library: **[lnb@lnb.lv](mailto:lnb@lnb.lv); [viktorija.piscikova@lnb.lv](mailto:viktorija.piscikova@lnb.lv)**

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

The year 2022 with the closing phase of Covid-19 pandemic, which was followed by energy crisis caused by the war in Ukraine, has been full of challenges. Despite all the restrictions, on-site readers gradually returning back (see graph 1) and circulation of the physical collection is increasing compared to the previous two years. The NLL has managed to reach approx. 50% of the 2019 on-site reader attendance and physical collection use indicators. In December 2022 the NLL welcomed the 2 millionth visitor since the opening of the library on August 29, 2014.



Graph1. NLL visitor statistics in 2021 and 2022

## **Support to Ukraine and Ukrainian people**

When Russian Federation started war in Ukraine, the NLL immediately reacted to support Ukraine, as well as Ukrainian librarians and Ukrainian people in Latvia. NLL's employees went on a joint demonstration in support of Ukraine, held a number of cooperation events together with the Embassy of Ukraine in Latvia and other partners, supported Ukrainian refugees by offering event spaces, various information resources and library services. The NLL employees both collectively and individually organized several charity donation campaigns for collecting humanitarian aid and monetary donations. Individual employees provided temporary home to refugees.

A significant contribution was the NLL's active engagement in the international initiative to save Ukrainian cultural heritage. From March to April 2022, NLL, in cooperation with charity portal Ziedot.lv, implemented a corresponding fundraising campaign. With the involvement of donors (individuals, public organizations and private companies) from all over Latvia and abroad, total sum of 16 118.29 EUR was collected. More than 70m<sup>3</sup> of protective materials were collected using money and donated items (including shipment from the National Library of Estonian). These materials were sent to Ukraine. Special shipment of plywood was delivered to the cultural institutions of Kherson region, which suffered heavily during the occupation by Russian forces and after liberation had commenced reconstruction works.

The arrival of Ukrainian refugees to Latvia reinforced the need to review and supplement book collections in Ukrainian language, as well as ensure its open access availability. Upon recommendation of the Embassy of Ukraine in Latvia, the NLL purchased 42 books for children and teenagers by contemporary Ukrainian authors from the [www.portalbooks.com.ua](http://www.portalbooks.com.ua). The NLL's collection of Ukrainian books was also enriched by a gift within the framework of the international project "Українська книжкова полиця/ Ukraine's book shelf" (the patron of the project is the First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska) – latest fiction and non-fiction publications in Ukrainian and English languages. In order to make the collection of Ukrainian books more accessible to its direct target audience, a special shelf of Ukrainian books was created in the Reference and information reading room. The NLL also donated around 100 books about Latvia, translations of Latvian literature and books in Ukrainian to the Ukrainian community center "Common Ground" in Riga. In order to provide library tours for Ukrainian civilians, the content of the NLL digital guide was translated into Ukrainian language. Library also organised free speaking language classes to Ukrainians who are learning Latvian language.

## **500 years of the first Latvian book**

In 2021, the NLL started intensive preparatory work for the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first printed book in Latvian language (will be celebrated in 2025). Such actions as research work, writing monographs on book publishing and related personalities, preparing exhibitions and events were carried out. The central event of 2022 was exhibition "Awakening. The Story of the Herrnhutians". The exhibition features unique materials – Herrnhutian manuscripts from the collection of the NLL. Exhibition was supported by academic readings, discussions and

guided tours led by curators of the exhibition. Other important development was launching of the “Latvian book 500” anniversary webpage <https://www.gramatai500.lv/en>.

### **Support for the library sector and professional development**

The NLL is providing ongoing support to the library sector in Latvia. The NLL organized 193 professional development and experience exchange events for 9695 specialists. In 2022 the NLL ensured the implementation of **financial support programs** (funded by the Ministry of Culture). Within book procurement program for public libraries (200 000 EUR) purchased 408 book titles in 18 591 copies from 39 Latvian publishers. The largest funding was attracted for the **national reading promotion campaign** “The Children, Youth and Parents Jury” and “The Book Start” for preschool children - 237 288 EUR in total. Aforementioned program was implemented in a much wider network of school and public libraries - 852 institutions were involved, including 67 Latvian diaspora centers in 29 countries worldwide.

An important topic was **media literacy**, recognizing fake news and critical thinking. In 2022 the NLL continued actions to promote media literacy among librarians and educators. In total, 1,427 librarians, teachers and other interested parties participated in the media literacy trainings organized by the NLL, gaining a basic understanding of media work, as well as an idea of the role of media literacy in the process of public education. The NLL organized several important and widely attended webinars: “Security, media literacy and emotional intelligence in crisis situations”, “Ukraine on the disinformation front: how to help and what we can learn” and for the audience of school librarians and educators “Starting point for media literacy - materials and methods for working with children and young people”. The pilot project “Be smart in media literacy” was also implemented with the main aim to improve knowledge on media literacy and readiness of Latvian seniors in dealing with disinformation. The grand media literacy activity of 2022 was the competence development program for librarians “Media Literacy Experts” with the aim to prepare media literacy experts - mentors who would be able to share acquired knowledge with their colleagues and the general public.

### **Scientific activity**

In 2007, the NLL was registered in the Register of Latvian Scientific Institutions (registration No. 193110).

In 2022, the NLL had 38 employees who contributed certain FTE % to research work, 9 of aforementioned employees have a doctoral degree. The NLL successfully finished scientific projects initiated in previous years: 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 in cooperation with the University of Latvia – Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, Institute of Mathematics and Informatics, Livonian Institute and Latvian Language Institute, Rēzekne Academy of

Technologies, The University of Liepāja, the Latvian Academy of Culture and Riga Technical University the project **“Digital Resources for Humanities: Integration and Development”**. Other project in digital humanities **“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.

Another project that was accomplished in 2022 – **“Latvian Memory Institution Data in the Digital Space: Connecting Cultural Heritage”** in cooperation with the University of Latvia, under the Programme of Fundamental and Applied Research implemented by the Latvian Science Council. At the same time three new applications for research projects were submitted: **“Narrative, Form and Voice: Embeddedness of literature in culture and society”**, **“Towards Development of Open and FAIR Digital Humanities Ecosystem in Latvia”**, as well as a continuation of the project **“Cultural Capital as a Resource for Latvian Sustainable Development”**.

#### Indicators of the NLL scientific activity in 2022:

Projects of the National Research Program and the Fundamental Applied Research Program - 3

Other international research projects - 2

Participation in international scientific conferences outside Latvia - 18

Participation in international scientific conferences in Latvia - 18

International scientific conferences organized by the NLL - 4

Anonymously peer-reviewed publications in international scientific periodicals - 22

Publications in Latvian scientific periodicals - 13

Other publications - 18

Published monographies – 12 (2 of them Proceedings of the National Library of Latvia).

In 2022, the NLL together with its cooperation partners organized 5 scientific or scientific-related conferences which were attended by approximately 6,000 people. The major events: ELAG (European Library Automation Group) Conference and Annual conference of the ABDOS (Die Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Bibliotheken und Dokumentationsstellen der Ost-, Ostmittel- und Südosteuropaforschung).

In 2022, the NLL 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). Two employees of the NLL participated in the CERL Summer school on security of collections.

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 2022, the NLL representatives participated in the evaluation of informative report by the Ministry of Education and Science "Latvia's open science strategy 2021-2027". The NLL was involved in the development of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage Preservation and Development Plan for 2022-2027", as well as in the implementation plan for the "Historical Latvian Lands Law".

The NLL representatives participated in the working group established by the Latvian Library Council, which developed a draft of a new strategy for the library sector in Latvia 2023-2027. The NLL specialists continued cooperation initiatives towards reaching sustainable development of libraries and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. For instance, in the beginning of 2022, the "[Second European Report on Sustainable Development Goals and Libraries](#)" jointly prepared by EBLIDA and the NLL was made public.

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

Key facts given by 01.01.2023.

Number of registered users: 169 455

Number of on-site visits: 211 755

Number of virtual visits: 3 752 689

Number of loans: 133 241

Collection (total number of physical units): 4 361 308

books: 2 031 802

serials: 896 262

audio-visual materials: 85 143

microforms: 96 310

cartographic materials: 45 011

sheet music: 227 135

graphic documents: 264 381  
manuscripts: 32 165  
small prints: 647 351  
other: 2 846

E – Resources collection (total number of units): 75 367

e-books: 9 852  
e-serials: 11 667

Number of personnel: 351  
Including 226 librarians

Size of premises used by NLL: 48 595 m<sup>2</sup>

Number of places for readers: 1 000

Total budget year 2022: 14 125 620 EUR

Including:

Financing from state budget: 13 737 107 EUR

Expenses – salaries: 6 011 638 EUR

Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 580 892 EUR

Expenses – building of collection: 264 950 EUR

Including:

periodicals 11 714 EUR

Expenses – goods and services: 3 447 578 EUR

IT services: 1 207 176 EUR

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

In the end of 2022 the NLL's stored 4 361 308 physical items. New acquisitions – 50 765; excluded from the collection – 23 861. The collection was mostly supplemented with books (19 324) and serial publications (16 609), but also enriched by graphic documents (11 868). Majority of the new acquisitions were donations (21 500), followed by legal deposit copies (11 176), purchases (6 017) and international document exchange (293).

Throughout the year, organizational and practical work was carried out to receive several, voluminous donated collections, evaluate them and hand them over for further processing. The largest collections received in 2022: around 1000 items from Canada - the library and personal archive materials of Arnis Ķeksis, writer and public worker; around 200 books from USA - the personal library of the artist and pedagogue Juris K. Ubāns; around 6,000 items from the Library of the Latvian Association of Architects; a collection of exile materials from the National Library of Sweden (more than 1,400 items), the books from the library of Latvian diplomat, ambassador to France, Spain and Portugal Aina Nagobads-Ābola (1920–2021) and materials from the library and personal archive of journalist, writer and translator Frank Gordon from Israel.

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

There was a rapid increase in the number of electronic documents in the NLL collection. In the end of 2022 the NLL had 75 367 electronic documents. The electronic document collection was supplemented with 2 589 units during the year. The collection of e-legal deposit copies includes mostly e-serials (11 667), actively continuing to compile e-newspapers and e-magazines, e-books (9 852), e-sheet music (1 487) and online sound recordings (972).

The implementation of the project **Digitization of the Cultural Heritage Content (in two Stages) that started in 2018** has been successfully accomplished in 2022. The European Regional Development Fund and the Latvian state project "Digitalization of cultural heritage content" was implemented by the National Library of Latvia, the National Cultural Heritage Board, the Center for Cultural Information Systems and the National Archives of Latvia and was very important development for the digital cultural heritage in national level which strengthened cooperation between national cultural institutions in general.

The most important developments during the project in 2022:

- the [digital cultural heritage platform](#) and re-branding of the unified portal have been implemented (the opening campaign of the new Latvian Digital Library is planned for September 2023);
- the digital collections "[Industrial Heritage](#)" and "[Maps](#)" were opened, the design renewal of the [Book](#) and [Periodicals](#) portals was carried out, user options were updated and system integration was carried out in the Digital Cultural Heritage Platform (opening in February 2023);
- a unified cultural heritage reference data knowledge organization system and technological solution have been introduced;
- studies have been carried out and Digitization guidelines have been updated.

In total five digital collections have been created: "Industrial Heritage", "Maps", "Latvian Prose Counter", "Collection of Presidents of Latvia", "NoSketch Engine Corpus Analysis Environment", in which materials from the NLL collection are collected and offered for further research.

In cooperation with the National Library of Israel and the Museum "Jews in Latvia", and with the financial support of the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe, the first stage of the digitization project of the Jewish press published in Latvia during the interwar period was implemented. In total, 16 364 pages of periodicals in Yiddish, Russian and German were digitized. Digitized editions are now available on the Historical Jewish Press platform of the National Library of Israel and periodika.lv.

During 2022 technical improvements were made in the website of the **National Encyclopaedia [www.enciklopedija.lv](http://www.enciklopedija.lv)**. About 700 new articles and about 2 200 illustrations have been published. Electronic resource statistics in 2022 – 1 092 365 users and around 2.5 million views. In 2022, the implementation of the project "Building the resilience of society using proven sources of knowledge: the experience of Latvian and Norwegian

encyclopaedias” (funded by the financial instrument of the European Economic Area and the financial instrument of Norway 2014-2021) was accomplished. From 2022, the National Encyclopaedia is a member of the European and North American Encyclopaedic Network.

## 6. New developments in managing collections

In 2022, special focus was on **conservation issues**, especially preventive conservation. The dust removal station has been put into operation. Regular monitoring of the microclimate in storages has been introduced. 705 units have been restored and 542 units conserved during 2022. Continuing the work on the disaster risk management plan, the NLL compiled rescue priority lists.

One of the priorities in 2022 was the rearrangement of the storage, especially the legal deposit collection, reassessment of the free access collections as well as a partial reinventory.

Data creators have created a total of 32 310 new records. On December 31, 2022, there were 1 070 116 records in general, of which 623 865 records (58.3%) were made by the NLL. The authoritative data created by the NLL is a set of donor data for other data sets, other systems, all types of Latvian libraries and cultural heritage institutions as well as for international cooperation (VIAF, Wikidata, Europeana, etc.). The NLL's open data portal (<http://dati.lnb.lv>) has been supplemented with new data sets.

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.

The NLL’s Institute of Bibliography has published “[Recommendations for enriching statistical data of Latvian publishing with other data of the National Library of Latvia](#)”. In the recommendations, the NLL specialists have identified the existing problems in the creation of publishing statistical data - both in existing work flows and in ensuring data quality and the widest possible data coverage. Conclusions and recommendations are provided on how to ensure wider data reuse and higher quality.

Important event in data management field was the 44th international conference “ELAG 2022” in Riga, hosted by the NLL. ELAG conference is the leading event in Europe on the application of information technology in libraries and other cultural heritage institutions. The conference was attended by representatives from 32 institutions of 14 European countries (68 participants in total).

## 7. New developments in providing access to collections

In 2022, the new structural unit of the NLL - Collection Research and Interpretation Center - was established, thereby strengthening the importance of interpretation and access to collections. Exhibitions created together with the NLL’s Exhibition Center are one of the important contributions to the interpretation of library collections.



In total, 12 self-produced and 12 partner-produced exhibitions were organized in the NLL. The largest and most important was exhibition “B as Baroque” received the highest award of the Latvian Creative Excellence Festival “Adwards” in the category “Space and Experience Design”. After winning the national competition, the exhibition was nominated for the European festival of creative excellence ADC\*E, where it received a silver award in the space design category.

Various science communication events have been implemented, such as academic readings, on-line lectures, etc. For example, radio program cycle “Follow the book” in cooperation with Latvian Radio about upcoming 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Latvian book.

From 211 755 on-site visits, 37 561 are visits to the library exhibitions.

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

Remotely accessible digital collections and databases provided required information to the readers. The statistics show that 3 752 689 virtual visits were registered within the year.

The digitized content is also available in the common search engine of the [Latvian National Digital Library](#). 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 expand the public access to information, the work to link the records of the Analytical database of the National Bibliography with the portal periodika.lv was continued. During the year, electronic links providing access to the full text of the articles were added to 46 410 records for the period from 1940-1990.

Three new data sets have been published on the NLL’s Open Data portal (<http://dati.lnb.lv>): RDA (Resource Description & Access) terms in Latvian, Data set of authoritative records of works and Authoritative data set of Latvian publishers. RDA records are linked to the RDA Registry, where along with translations to 15 other languages, a dictionary of RDA terms, values and relationships has been published in Latvian. The dictionary includes more than 5 000 descriptive terms.

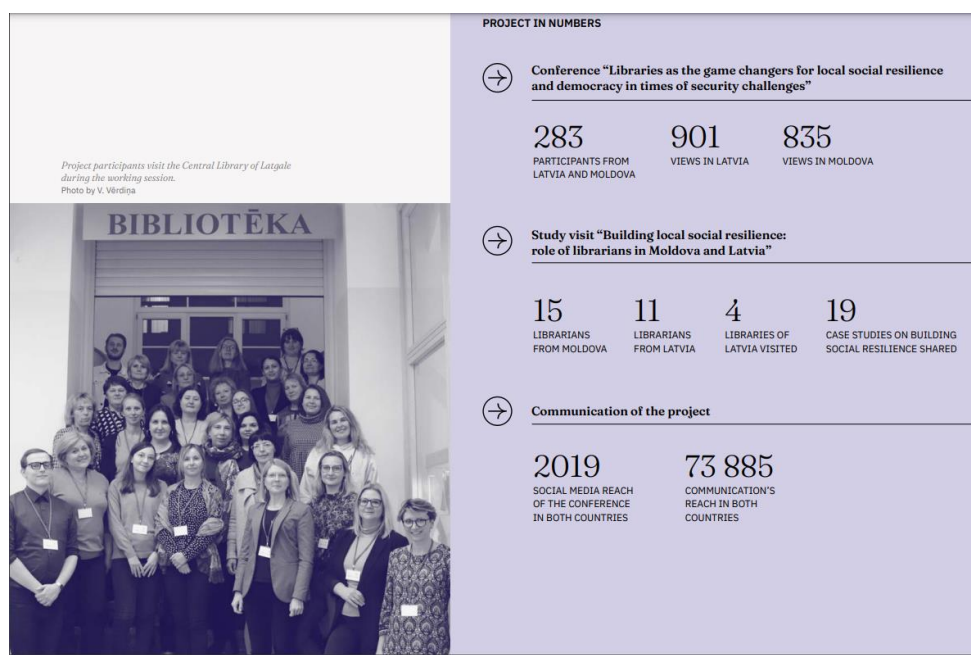
When planning publication of the scientific articles by the NLL researchers, preference is given to Open Access model. Online access to the Proceedings of the NLL has been provided, as well as the possibility to read online several other NLL publications.

## 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 library information system professionals by developing guidelines and terminology and adopting standards for library sector, providing consultations and organizing seminars and trainings for professional development.

Important activity on international level was the cooperation project called “[Libraries as Builders for Local Democracy, Development and Resilience](#)” that was implemented together with the Latvian Platform for Development Cooperation association (LAPAS), the Association of Librarians of the Republic of Moldova and Vidzeme High School. The aim of the project was to promote the development of local democracy and the resilience of local communities by raising the knowledge and skills of librarians in Moldova and Latvia. The project’s direct target group was 45 librarians from both Moldova and Latvia’s local communities (see image 1). The indirect target group was the beneficiaries of enhanced library services.



Img1. Project participants from Moldova, Latvia and Ukraine

The project was developed with financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, and it was the supplementary part of the multicomponent EC programme “EU4Dialogue: improving exchanges across the divide through education and culture” that supports educational and cultural initiatives fostering an environment of dialogue and people-to-people contacts across the divides in the South Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova.

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.