

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL YEAR 2015

Name of country: **Latvia**

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

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Headings:

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

The first half of 2015 the NLL was the central location for the events of Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Despite the limited availability of the library premises there was a significant number of cultural events that took place: 45 exhibitions, 19 concerts, more than 100 conferences, seminars, discussions, book openings, etc.

New building of the library attracts many visitors that are interested both in architecture and in the library services. In 2015 were organized 2 110 guided tours with the total number of visitors reaching 32 474. 589 tours (8 017 visitors) were organized for foreign citizens and given in English, Russian and German languages.

NLL hosted several international events, including Europeana partner meeting (17.-18.03) and international event „Europeana for Education and Creative Industry”, 23rd EBLIDA Annual Council Meeting & EBLIDA-NAPLE Conference “Building a Europe of Readers” (07.-08.05), 10th Congress of Baltic Librarians (CoBaL) with the main topic “Libraries in communities” (12.10.-13.10) and EIFL General Assembly (12.-14.10).

As a part of the Latvian EU Council cultural program, the NLL in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union organized interdisciplinary conference "Between Truth and Power: The Role of Authors in Building and Changing Europe" (01.-02.05) in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of Latvian poets Rainis and Aspazija. The conference was devoted to the links between creative spirit and power, and to the role of literature and its impact on national identity and the formation of collective memories.

In 2015 NLL opened working spaces for visually impaired people and arranged space for youth “+15-”, that is set as a creative space for activities that helps to develop personality and to choose the future profession.

During the year many lectures, exhibitions and events were initiated and organized by library specialists representing different reading rooms – e.g. “Stories about Humans” is a long term course of lectures from social anthropology perspective. Under the title “The self. History of the Latvian Contemporary Art”, Art and Music Center organized 9 art exhibitions with the artistic works of 39 contemporary artists. Children's Literature Center has initiated weekly event “Family Saturdays”, that invites pre-school and primary school children with their parents to take part in creative activities that includes reading, drawing, acting and other activities.

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 01.01.2016.**

Number of registered users: 99 634

Number of on-site visits: 387 939

Number of virtual visits: 1 130 278

Number of loans: 289 921

Collection (total number of units): 4 120 009

- books: 1 983 371
- serials: 807 601
- audiovisual materials: 70 731
- microforms: 108 618
- cartographic materials: 30 035
- sheet music: 218 740
- graphic documents: 233 418
- manuscripts: 28 366
- e-books: 2 801
- small prints 604 411
- other 4 519

Number of personnel: 378

- Including 259 librarians

Size of premises used by NLL: 46 829 m²

Number of places for readers: 1 000

Total budget year 2014: 8 828 668 EUR

Including:

- Financing from state budget: 8 292 972 EUR
- Other financing: 526 007 EUR

Expenses – salaries: 4 404 666 EUR

Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 1 005 517 EUR

Expenses – building of collection: 334 920 EUR

Including:

- periodicals 57 908 EUR

Expenses – goods and services: 3 942 526 EUR

- Including IT services: 499 063 EUR

4. New developments in creating and building collections

Due to moving to the new building, NLL has continued intensive work with valuation of the collections. Despite the fact that many items have been removed from collection there has been increase in the number of collection 1,3% (5 487 items).

Number of acquisition in 2015 has grown to ¼ (in relation to 2014). 32% of this amount comes from donations, 35% from the legal deposit. Proportion in type of edition stays traditional – 50% books, 20% serials, 30% special editions.

Traditional collection content development has been influenced from the collaborative projects – AsiaRes and John F. Kennedy Reading Room (more in Section 7), donations of private library collections and specific donations (e.g. Boris and Inara Teterev Foundation donation for expansion of the Arts Reading room collection).

5. New developments in creating and building digital collections.

During implementation of the project “Europeana Sounds” NLL has aggregated around 1000 objects which metadata has been published in the Europeana portal, NLL staff members also prepared articles for the blog and materials for virtual exhibitions.

Subscriptions to 46 databases were offered to NLL readers (4 Latvian, 42 foreign). E-book collection in Dawsonera has been supplemented with the new books, as well as several collections of e-books from well-known publishers were purchased (Harvard University Press, Columbia University Press etc.) – 562 e-books in total. In comparison to 2014, e-book collection has grown for 75%.

Subscription to 21 individual e-journal was ensured and publication archives were obtained.

Latvian online publication deposit copy amount has grown for more than 50%

6. New developments in managing collections

An RFID system for management of the open shelf collections during inventory process was used for the first time.

7. New developments in providing access to collections

Rare Books and Manuscripts Reading Room catalogued more than 1 300 items and introduced the possibility to order its collection within the Union Catalog.

In October 2015, together with the Embassy of the United States in Riga the NLL opened John F. Kennedy Reading Room. On the free access shelves readers can find books about US history, art, education, politics, periodicals and films on DVD, as well as to get access to various electronic services. Reading room organizes exhibitions, movie evenings, lectures, etc. Baltic Research Centre for East Asian Studies (AsiaRes) Reading Room was opened in September 2015. It is a project implemented in collaboration with the University of Latvia and is aimed to be a research based library on East Asian country economics, culture, languages and politics.

In order to popularize donated personal library collections, the NLL created three “Personality islets”, that present part from the personal libraries from Latvian poet and translator Knuts Skujenieks, Professor Pauls Rabe and diplomat Karlis Zarins.

Due to significant interest from the library readers, collection consisting of books published in Latvia in the last 3 years has been expanded to 5 years period and is available on open shelves.

8. New developments in providing access to digital collections

Latvian National Digital Library has realized inventory in Portal of Periodicals and prepared corrected files. Newspaper “Diena” (for the period from 1991 to 1993) and newspaper “Jelgavas Ziņotājs” (for the period from 1989 to 1991) has been scanned and segmented.

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

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.

The NLL coordinates several national level projects for literacy development and library support: reading promotion program "Children's Jury", book donation programs, targeted book purchases, etc.

In cooperation with the National Archives of Latvia, several museums and other partners, the NLL initiated a project to create a digital collection devoted to Latvian poets Rainis and Aspazija and based on semantic technologies, aiming to build a cross-sector collection of digital objects of different types and to introduce new possibilities for use of these materials both in research and education. During the year of 2015, 77 first editions were digitized, 50 letters and 77 materials from both authors were annotated.