

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2008

Name of country: **LATVIA**

Name of library: **National Library of Latvia (NLL)**

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

- On May 15, 2008 after discussions lasting for many years the state agency “Three New Brothers” and “The Union of National Construction Companies” ceremoniously signed the contract on the construction of the new National Library of Latvia building. The construction was started on June 20, 2008.
- New digitizing projects of the National Digital Library of Latvia “Letonica” are being developed (for more details please see paragraph number 4)
- In 2008 NLL received the accreditation as educational institution.

2. The National Library’s of Latvia relationship to government

- National Library of Latvia is a state financed direct administration institution under supervision of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Latvia. Budgetary means allocated for its operation are assigned by the Ministry of Culture according to the annual law on state budget. State budget consists of subsidies from general income, paid services and other income.
- NLL represents Latvia in library operation related international organisations, participates in development and implementation of sector specific international programmes, 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 01.01.2009

- Number of registered users: 30109
- Number of visits: 746568
- Number of loans: 1407587
- Collection (total number of units): 4080390
 - books: 1989155
 - serials: 836163

- audiovisual materials: 64850
 - sheet music: 219077
 - graphic documents: 219878
- Number of personnel: 466
 - including 316 librarians
- Size of premises used by NLL: 17188,5 m2
- Number of places for readers: 320
- Total budget year 2008: 6143714 LVL (8741717 EUR)
 - including:
 - financing from state budget: 5954312 LVL (8472223 EUR)
 - other financing 189402 LVL LVL (269494 EUR)
- Expenses – salaries: 3491049 LVL (4967315 EUR)
- Expenses – social insurance, allowances, compensations: 836950 LVL (1190872 EUR)
- Expenses – building of collection: 160513 LVL (228389 EUR)
- Expenses – services: 499093 LVL (710145 EUR)
- Expenses – IT services: 72449 LVL (103086 EUR)

4. New developments in creating and building collections

- With support from SWEDBANK development of new e-books collection was started. NLL has obtained 117 e-books in English covering topical issues in demand: management, innovations, ecology, environment, creativity. Access and usage is provided by Dawsonera (www.dawsonera.com).
- By the end of 2008 negotiations with the University of Latvia were started regarding the establishment of the Library of East Asian Research Centre in the new building of the Library. The aim of the project is to provide sources of information, publications and additional materials for researchers from Latvia and Baltics on history, culture, society and economic of East Asia.
- **New developments in creating and building digital collections.** In 2008 the National Digital Library established 7 new digital collections. Amongst the most prominent are: Latvia Lost- a compilation of images of objects that no longer exist or have been changed to the point of being beyond recognition; a collection dedicated to one of the major national festivities with more than a 100 years of a history – Latvian Song Festival; Latvian Sound Recordings, which was possible due to the opening of the new audio digitization studio, and finally- a fully searchable and browsable collection of Latvian historic periodicals containing more than 350 000 pages of text. The latter and a book digitization pilot marked the beginnings of the mass digitization era. However, the Library has decided to

take a selective approach to mass digitization, beginning with the documents which are in high demand, are the only copies, on the verge of deterioration, or picked by subject specialists as being part of the core collection in the field.

- **Web archiving.** A selective Latvian web archiving continued largely focusing on sites concurring with the Library's acquisition profile – mostly in humanitarian and social sciences. In 2008 750 new sites were added to the archiving list.
- **Legal deposit, collaborative and commercial models.** Although Latvian Legal Deposit Law obligate stipulates the National Library to obtain and preserve copies of electronic publications as well, largely due to the lack of reliable preservation architecture, a systematic cooperation pattern with publishers hasn't been established yet. The acquisition was done on a selective base by the National Library specialists and the total number of publications mounted to 900.

5. New developments in managing collections

- In 2008 the evaluation of branch literature based on *Conspectus* model was finished. The main conclusion is – the evaluation of the literature of the soviet period still needs great efforts. Despite the systematic building of the collection with the branch literature in foreign languages during the last 10 years the 50 years gap still can be felt.
- **New developments in managing digital collections.** A fully OAIS compliant Digital Object Management System (DOMS), spurting data Exchange via OAI-PMH commissioned by the National Library of Latvia to Microsoft was towards its completion. Only the Access module had yet to be tested and filled with the existing data. This will meet the Library's need for a safe and reliable long-term preservation solution, including data integrity checks and a self-healing archive. The digital repository will store items of not just the National Library but also of its partners.
- Several adjustments have been made to Dublin Core TEL Application Profile which Library has been using as its metadata scheme to meet the needs of specific document types- such as sound recordings, maps, and musical scores. The book pilot Project confirmed ALTO as a chosen method of storing document layout and content.

6. New developments in providing access to collections

- From year 2008 NLL started to provide remote access to the databases for education and research purposes.
- A new service was launched – list of new acquisitions in the selected branch literature in email. Currently the service is used by 350 users.
- **New developments in providing access to digital collections.** There was a major breakthrough in Latvian law enabling the libraries to publish their copyright protected documents in the Latvian library network which units almost all libraries with the exception of the academic ones thus increasing accessibility

throughout the whole country. Thanks to additional funding, the National Library of Latvia was also able to pay copyright fees for several hundreds of its most frequently requested images allowing it to post them online without the usual restrictions.

7. Examples of collaboration between the National Library of Latvia and other national collecting institutions

- In 2008 the collaboration among three main research libraries – the Library of the University of Latvia, Academic Library of Latvia and NLL was initiated.
- Many **collections of the National Digital Library** are joint efforts, e.g.- collection of historic newspapers (with Latvian Academic Library) images of Latvian cultural figures (with Latvian Archive of History), maps (with Latvian Museum of Shipping History) etc. However, the collaboration is not restricted just to the content. The Library has partners among major research institutions helping it to develop improved functionality and Latvian language support. In 2008 17 new cooperation agreements were concluded, amongst them with the Latvian Museum of Photography, Agency of Protection of Historic Monuments, Patent Library, University of Latvia Library, and others.