

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL/CENL 2014-2015

Name of country: ESTONIA

Name of library: National Library of Estonia (NLE)

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Key facts and figures (at 1 January 2015)

Items on hard copy	3 419 273
Electronic items online	164 775
Databases compiled by the NLE	12
Licensed databases	35
Registered users	47 378
Library visits	514 241
Seats for users	605
Budget	6 133 755 (EUR)

General

In 2014 the NLE reached an important milestone as a **parliamentary library** – the 25th anniversary of restoring this status, which was celebrated by the Information Policy Forum „The role of citizens in lawmaking – does my opinion carry weight?“. A page of the Parliamentary Library was opened in Facebook aiming to introduce law, economics, sociology and other subject fields under the responsibility of the Parliamentary Information Centre.

In 2014 the NLE increased user involvement in service designing and implemented a system of regularly collecting user feedback. A new section „Ask us!“ was added to the Library’s website, offering for users real-time chat opportunity with the reference librarian on duty.

The project „National Library comes to visit“ travelled in Western Estonia and the two largest islands to introduce the services of the electronic national library.

The NLE is also active as a **cultural centre**. In addition to the traditional Tallinn Book Fair, GIS Day and Christmas literary week, the Library organised or hosted a disco in the Library’s foyer and a fashion show of the renowned Estonian designer Tiina Talumees who presented her new *couture* collection „Urban Melody“ inspired by the National Library’s building.

The Library’s Conference Centre was the venue for 633 events which brought over 53 000 guests to the library building.

In 2014 the galleries of the NLE hosted 49 **exhibitions**. The Library’s rich collections were introduced at five gallery exhibitions, dedicated to the winter olympics, small scale graphic art by Vive Tolli, illustrations of children’s books, parliamentary library and large maps. Three travelling exhibitions toured Estonia. Ten exhibitions were prepared with cooperation partners. „Shakespeare in binding“ was organised by one of the world’s

leading binding associations *Designer Bookbinders* from the UK in collaboration with the Bodleian Library and Paul Getty Foundation. The replicas of Tutankhamun's treasures from Egypt brought us the record-breaking 8400 visitors. The 275th anniversary of the first Estonian-language Bible was celebrated with two exhibitions of historical Bibles from private collections.

Large **training events** concentrated on leadership. The administration and middle-level managers attended courses on planning and executing change management. Another focal point in training activities was the internal resources. An in-house rotation programme was launched enabling employees to learn more about the work of colleagues and to practice new skills.

Collection building and management

New e-books in the **digital archive DIGAR** included 760 books in EPUB and 706 in PDF-format, among them also Estonian-language titles published in other countries. The Estonian Centre for Standardisation provided for DIGAR the impressive number of 1654 standards. New pictorial material was represented by over 300 digitised posters. The amount of sound recordings in DIGAR is constantly increasing – 8,4% of them are audio books, the rest is mostly music. The Library began to digitise its collection of 283 Estonian gramophone records (78 p/'), in 2014 the first 25 were digitised. The digitisation of VHS video cassettes is done in cooperation with the Estonian Public Broadcasting Company.

In terms of preserving Estonian national culture and developments in the society it is important to store also web material, thus the Library archives websites. The **Estonian Web Archive** (veebiarhiiv.nlib.ee) made available the special collections of the Sochi Winter Olympics and 2014 European Parliament elections. Other significant additions included the website of the 95th Anniversary of the Republic of Estonia, a number of websites soon to disappear from the web (e.g those of merging local governments and schools). The total capacity of the web archive is currently 2,7 TB.

Access

The NLE has set an objective to create **a comprehensive digital collection of Estonian publications**. Our priority in digitisation activities belongs to endangered publications on brittle paper and with fading text, also to items of which a digital copy has been ordered. Our digitisation capacity is growing, in 2014 we digitised 130 000 pages more than in the previous year.

Our collections became more visible thanks to the **merging of the online catalogue of 15 libraries in Tallinn and Tartu**. The previous two catalogues have been replaced by one online catalogue ESTER (ester.ee), enabling to simultaneously browse the collections of member libraries and use the related services. A new service allows the users of the National Library to put hold on items and renew the due dates after they have expired, the latter could previously be done only by a librarian. The new library system Sierra made the use of ester.ee much more convenient.

A major new tool made available to users was the portal DIGAR Estonian Newspapers (dea.digar.ee). It provides one access point for both old and current newspapers and possibilities to search by word in the full text of older newspapers; the amount of searchable articles is constantly increasing.

Providing access to digital content is inseparable from the rules of copyright.

The Library prepared its core documents on copyright and privacy policy, together with the Ministry of Justice we worked on the draft regulation on the sources of “diligent search“ and supported EBLIDAs „The Right to E-read“ campaign.

A special website was designed to celebrate the Public Domain Day on 1 January and raise awareness of works in public domain (nlib.ee/vabakasutus).

Cooperation

The long collaboration ties between the **national libraries of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania** were tightened by signing a cooperation memorandum. We had the honour and pleasure of introducing the National Library and other Estonian libraries to **Sinikka Sipilä, President of IFLA**.

Partnership in **pan-European projects** engaged the Library in the elaboration of the business model of digital archives (project 4C) and the development of a standard-based software for preserving digital culture-related information (PREFORMA). The 5-year project EOD was dedicated to making digital copies of books out of copyright and came to an end in 2014, the service developed under this project continues to be provided. The Library also participates in the map project CartoMundi as a partner and in the project WIKIMAPS Nordic as an observer.

Under the Europeana Newspapers project the Library carried out extensive OCR of old newspapers and follow-up examination of segmentation into articles. The processed material is now available in the environment of The European Library (www.theeuropeanlibrary.org/tel4), Europeana (europeana.eu) and DIGAR Estonian Newspapers (dea.digar.ee).

On the national level we attach importance **to cooperation with other memory institutions and state authorities**.

The Ministry of Culture invited the NLE to take part in preparing the new draft Legal Deposit Copy Act and its explanatory report. The 2014 summer school of Estonian memory institutions was held under the theme „Digitisation creates added value“. Partnership in the national programme „Estonian Language Technology 2011-2017“ hopefully enables us to develop for visually impaired people a possibility to use the collections of the digital archive DIGAR in audio format. The collections of DIGAR have been integrated in the portal developed under the e-Repository project.

In cooperation with the Estonian Librarians Association Terminology Working Group and the Estonian Centre for Standardisation, **the Library takes part in developing the terminology of LIS field**. Our dedication to value the proper use of the Estonian language has been acknowledged by the Institute of the Estonian Language and the European Commission Representation in Estonia who nominated the National Library for the Clear Message Award along with two other nominees. The traditional seminars celebrating the Mother Tongue Day and Terminology Day serve to cherish the Estonian language and culture.