

ESTONIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA

MRS TIJU VALM — DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2001 – 2002

Numerical data as on 1 January 2002:

- *COLLECTIONS* 3,447,039
- Staff 495
- Registered users 40492
- Library visits 309,278
- Loans 334,812

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The working group responsible for the development of the library's home page designed a new structure for the web page. A new link was added - that of a digital library providing access to the digitised collections and electronic publications of the National Library of Estonia as well as Estonian on-line publications. Old maps of Livonia and other digitised examples of the National Library of Estonia travelling exhibitions can also be accessed via the library's home page.

In 2001 the National Library of Estonia launched a digital library project "Subject Gateway" which aims at systematising web-pages, free and paid-for databases and on-line publications in the field of the humanities and social sciences. The project requires no additional resources as it is based on free software and carried out by existing staff members.

STANDARDISATION

The National Library of Estonia started to prepare the enforcement of international library standards as Estonian national standards. The first stage includes the translation of the documents.

COLLECTIONS

The National Library of Estonia launched CIP-cataloguing which is linked with the ISBN number.

The library also compiled a programme for converting records in MARC-format into ISSN records. The latter are now forwarded to the international ISSN centre electronically.

SERVICES TO READERS

In 2001 the National Library of Estonia changed its user regulations, providing for the admission of readers from the age of 16. The previous regulations did not specify an age limit for users. The change resulted from the notably improved services offered for children by public libraries in Tallinn. Younger children can get a library card with a corresponding written request from a parent.

The National Library of Estonia continued to follow the principles of specialised reader services, renovating and opening the new Humanities Reading Room and the Information Sciences Reading Room, and reorganising the Social Sciences Reading Room. Besides providing print documents in the relevant fields, all those reading rooms offer a complex of information services including databases, reference services, thematical book exhibitions and information days introducing the corresponding information resources available to the users.

The users now enjoy the possibility to order documents via the on-line catalogue, enabling them to save time by pre-ordering the desired item before coming to the library and collecting it.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING

In 2001 the National Library of Estonia hosted 70 exhibitions and 20 international co-operation projects. The most notable among these were an exhibition of Estonian graphic art from 1998 to 2001, awarding prizes for lifelong work and young artist, and an exhibition displaying the Bible in different languages. The National Library of Estonia continued its co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in sending travelling exhibitions to other countries, in 2001 they were displayed in Prague, St. Petersburg, Moscow, Kiev, Stockholm, Madrid, Strasbourg, Paris, Vilnius. The National Library of Estonia has launched a series of exhibitions introducing Estonian publishers and their production; another major project has been an exhibition introducing the Estonian national epic "Kalevipoeg" which will be displayed until the beginning of 2003.

The publication activities of the National Library of Estonia were successful, producing 25% more revenue than initially planned. An undertaking worth mentioning was the digitisation of 37 old maps of Livonia from 16-18 centuries which were represented in the library's calendar of 2002 and published as a set of reprints.

CO-OPERATION

At present the NLE participates in the following international projects:

- GABRIEL
- LibEcon2000
- Multilingual Dictionary of Library Terminology (a project led by Slovenia and involving the libraries of more than 10 European countries)
- PubliCA
- EXCEL

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