

Annual Report to CDNL 2004

Name of Country : Estonia
Name of Library : National Library of Estonia
Name of Chief Executive : Tiit Valm, Director General

Total holdings of the NLE as of 1 January 2005: 3 408 238

Management of the Library

The main attention was focussed on the analysis of financial management, the internal control and budgetary discipline.

The key words driving the performance of the Library were diversity, innovation, partnership, the people and relationship aspects, focussing on strategic management and extending cooperation between cultural institutions. The major structural change was the formation of the **Research and Development Centre** with its national tasks of initiating development projects, collecting data on library and information sciences, providing continuing training to librarians.

On the basis of the former Archival, Rare Book, and the Collection Management (storage) Departments the **Collection Department of the National Library** was established to provide a more efficient use of the workforce and economise on administrative costs.

Library standardisation, cooperation

Five new Estonian standards were issued: EVS-ISO 5127:2004 *Information and documentation. Vocabulary*; EVS-ISO 15489-1:2004 *Information and documentation. Records management. Part 1: General*; EVS-ISO 15489-1:2004 *Information and documentation. Records management. Part 2: Guidelines*; RRS 3:2004 ISBD (CR) *International standard bibliographic description for serials and other continuing resources*; EVS-ISO 15836:2004 *Information and documentation. Dublin Core metadata element set*.

Accession to the European Union and NATO opened new perspectives also for the National Library, creating opportunities for participating in UN projects, such as ReUSE, Tel-MI-MOR, EAW.

Among new partners of the Library are the Faculty of Law of the University of Tartu, the International Library of Wales and the University of Washington Music Library Seattle.

Services to readers

To provide better services, the Periodicals Reading Room was merged with the **General Reading Room**. The open shelves of the reorganised reading room now hold Estonian and foreign newspapers and journals, and books that don't fit the profile of the specialised reading rooms. Computers for reading e-newspapers and using databases, reader terminals, 40 work places for laptops and new microfilm readers Indus were installed.

The waiting time for items to be delivered from the stacks was shortened from 40 min to 30 min. Making colour photocopies is available.

Information technology

The Library procured 91 new computers. The firewall of the Library was replaced by a new one. For the ReUSE project a powerful server was purchased for archiving digital documents. In June 2005 the testing of the digital archive DIGAR was opened to the readers of the Library.

Six new computers and an ID-card reader were installed in the Internet Room.

The area of WIFI was extended to the Social Sciences, Law, Humanities and Reference Reading Rooms.

A new content management software was selected to construct a more user-friendly, interactive and flexible homepage of the Library.

The digital library

The year was marked by a wide extension of electronic services and the beginning of a systematic creation of a digital library. Three new electronic products – the **ERB** database of the Estonian National Bibliography, the **BIE** database (Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica) (1991-2004) and the **DEA** database of digitised Estonian newspapers were introduced. ~40 000 title records were converted and ~38 000 item records added to the e-catalogue ESTER.

It was decided to create a **web portal of Estonian research libraries** within the ELNET Consortium assembling the databases, catalogues and web services produced by the libraries, and at the Research and Development Department of the National Library to open a **consolidated portal** for library and information sciences

Preservation and conservation

in the main depositories of the archival and rare book collections the required microclimate ($18^{\circ}\text{C} \pm 1$ and $40\% \pm 5$ moisture content) was achieved. **Conservation works** became more complex: some large-format maps, endangered unique documents on brittle paper, and badly damaged vellum bindings were conserved. 88 % of the conserved sheets underwent a full cycle of wet treatment. The conserved documents are archived in the digital information system *Säilik*

Cultural events, exhibitions and publishing

Among major events of the year was *the Tallinn Day of the 23rd Annual Course on International Law Librarianship* and the Information Policy Forum, *National Information Policy – a Myth or Reality*.

The highlight of 2005 will be *the IFLA Interlending and Documentation Supply International Conference (ILDS)* held in the Conference Centre of the National Library of Estonia on 20-23 September.

The publication ***Acta Bibliothecae Nationalis Estoniae 10: The 20th Century Libraries in the Baltic Sea Region*** was entered in the ABC-CLIO publisher's bibliography of educational and reference resources.

The reference publication ***Summaria Europensia*** started coming out to give an overview of the EU issues, available both in print and electronic form.

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