

ESTONIA

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF ESTONIA

MRS TIJU VALM – DIRECTOR-GENERAL

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

STATISTICS

Collection (1 January 2007)

Total holdings	3 334 457	
Books	1 974 981	
Serials	302 988	
Audio-visuals	43 477	
Cartographic publications	20 954	
Microforms	27 918	
Printed music	117 777	
E-documents	1 852	
Manuscripts	150	
National Library's databases	21	
Bibliographic databases	12	
Licensed purchased databases	47	
Active readership	23 604	
Visits	185 854	
Remote visits	2 580 502	
Loans	111 562	(use of literature on open shelves is not registered)

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

The modification of the structure undertaken during previous years has completely justified itself and no new changes were necessary. Taking into account the growth of the amount of digital information and to ensure reader satisfaction in a constantly changing information technology environment the **e-Library Strategy for the years 2007-2012** was developed, which may require additional working groups and new positions in the future. To provide sustainable development of the organisation more attention was paid to the training of new generation of leaders.

Further development of internal and external communication continued. Information folders were issued for introducing library services and products. Articles about library events are published in the BNS and the leading Estonian newspapers.

FUNDING

The increased state allocations enabled the Library to raise the salary by 10%. Due to the rise in prices, the renovation expenses of the National Library were reduced by more than 32,050 Euro as compared with the previous years. The renovation costs in the amount of nearly 96,154 Euro were covered by the own revenue accrued from information, conference and rent activities.

The major part of the grant received from the Ministry of Culture (41,780 Euro) was spent on the development of the e-archive DIGAR, the implementation of the *Legal Deposit Act Amendment Act*, the development of the database of digitised Estonian newspapers DEA, the creation of microfilms register, and for joining the portal of European Libraries.

The grant from the State Chancellery (89,744 Euro) was allocated to the EU Information Centre; the EU funding (150,858 Euro) was used for the ReUSE, TEL-ME-MOR, EDIR (Europe Direct Information Relay), EAW (www.eurowarrant.net), WCH (Web Cultural Heritage), and EOD (eBooks on Demand) projects.

	2005 (EUR)	2006 (EUR)
Income:		
State budget	4,851,833	5,127,494
Paid Services	509,936	527,692
Grants	315,282	240,615
Total	5,677,051	5,895,801
Expenditure:		
Staff Costs	3,317,473	3,624,885
Acquisition	530,714	554,545
ICT	172,487	148,718
Other	1,656,377	1,567,653
Total	5,677,051	5,895,801

LEGISLATION AND STANDARDISATION

The *Riigikogu* (Estonian Parliament) passed the *National Library of Estonia Act and the Riigikogu Rules of Procedure Act Amendment Act*, which specified research and development activities as the main task of the National Library in addition to collecting preserving and making available cultural and information resources. The tasks of the National Library as a research and development centre were added to the Act and the maintenance of the *Riigikogu* Archives was assigned to the *Riigikogu* Chancellery.

The following new Estonian standards were issued:

- EVS-ISO 1086:2006 Information and documentation. The title page of the book.
- EVS-ISO 2108:2006 Information and documentation. The International Standard Book Number (ISBN);
- EVS guide 9:2006 The use of the *Dublin Core* metadata elements;
- EVS-ISO 15836:2004 Information and documentation. The *Dublin Core* metadata elements.

BUILDING

Allocations from the state budget for the renovation and repair works of the building were the same as in 2005 (288,462 Euro), which still allowed the Library:

- to complete the renovation of the consumer water system,
- to start reconstructing the fire signalisation system;
- renovate the Law and International Organisations Reading Room and the Archival Collections Reading Room;
- to completely refurbish the Main Conference Hall.

A larger than earlier planned income from rent enabled the Library to redesign several reader carrels, workrooms and public rooms.

STAFF

On 31 December 2006 the staff of the Library numbered 433 employees, of them 351 librarians. 1.5 work positions were terminated in connection with work reorganisation; 5.5 temporary work positions were created for new EU projects. The staff includes 341 members with higher education (BA) and 17 with MA. Four employees are involved in Doctoral studies and twenty librarians continue Master's studies. During 2006 four continuing professional training sessions were organised for the employees of the Library.

The specialists of the Library are recognised lecturers at the Tallinn University and the University of Tartu Viljandi Culture Academy where the basics of library and information sciences are taught.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Prior attention was paid to the renewal of the local area network. One hundred computers were replaced by new ones. At the end of 2006 the computer network of the Library consisted of 21 servers, 432 PCs, 14 OPACs, and 18 laptops. 71 PCs are at the disposal of readers. In spring 2006 the transition to the new Linux Terminal Server technology started. A new network or user terminals will enable readers to use the OpenOffice suite and the Internet browser Mozilla Firefox.

THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

In 2006 the e-Library Development Plan for the Years 2007-2012 was worked out.

The homepage of the National Library as a gate to e-library was considerably improved.

In collaboration with the Estonian Library Consortium a new visual identity of the e-catalogue ESTER was designed and the circulation module renewed.

All the databases compiled by the National Library are now available on the Internet.

In 2006, the basics of compiling the Estonian national bibliography were completely changed, and paper publications were abandoned.

Eesti üldine märksõnastik (The Estonian Universal Thesaurus) and *Vabariigi Presidendi bibliograafia* (The Bibliography of the President of the Republic of Estonia) became available on the Web. The records of the legal publications issued from 1941-1944 were added to the bibliographic database *Bibliographia Iuridica Estonica*, and the user interface was supplemented with an opening page in English.

The English language opening page was added to the bibliographic database of articles *Index Scriptorum Estoniae*.

The archiving principles of e-collections were worked out. In 2006, the amendment to the Legal Deposit Act was entered into force, according to which Estonian web publications are now registered and stored in the digital archive DIGAR.

ACQUISITIONS

The archival collection received 431 first copies of publications.

The rarest Estonian publication purchased by the Library in 2006 was the publication *Kulutaminne. Sest et meije Kige armulikkumb Keiserinne, nink Kige Üllemb Wallitseja, ...omme kige armolikkumbid käsku oma sija saatnu: ...Sädussid Liivlandi Tallomeeste Kauba Mümiste perrast wälja lasknu sata* issued in Riga in 1766. Some publications related to Estonia from the Swedish and Tsarist periods were also purchased. The theses defended by the Livonian citizens Chr. Ph. Richter and Chr. Wildvogel at the University of Jena in 1660 and 1699 belong to the *baltica* rare publications of the 17th century. The oldest book purchased in 2006 dates back to the 16th century (Fr. Petrarca. *De remediis*. Lyon, 1584).

The **map collection** was supplemented with 450 historical maps, 91 of them were received as donations from individuals. The most unique purchases include a map of Petseri county from the early years of the Republic of Estonia, *Chart of the North and Baltic Sea* (Edinburgh 1816), *Karte von Russland* from the times of the World War I, and others.

785 posters and 723 postcards were added to the **art collection**. The Library also purchased several original illustrations of the works which were the winners of the contest the *25 Most Beautiful Estonian Books*.

Readers have access to 24,878 full text e-journals (20,512 journals in 2005). 44 foreign databases were available in 2006; *Grove Art Online*, *Britannica Online*, *Oxford Scholarship Online*, *Oxford Journals Online*, *RILM Abstracts of Music Literature*, *MLA International Bibliography* were added. **Foreign printed periodicals** include 905 journals and 51 newspapers; 35% of them are humanitarian and 58% social sciences journals. In procuring **foreign literature** more attention was paid to the fields of the humanities and social sciences that were included in the core list of publications and that needed additional acquisition.

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

The main achievement in 2006 was launching a **hybrid scanning and microfilming camera**.

Nearly 40,000 pages of the 19th and the early 20th centuries Estonian newspapers were scanned. The database DEA (digitised old Estonian periodicals) holds 75 periodical publications (over 450,000 pages). In parallel with scanning for the first time the Library started microfilming endangered books. 51 sets of titles, amounting to 250,000 pages, were microfilmed. The growth was possible due to the purchase of a hybrid camera, and librarians further professional training. And a register of Estonian microfilms was created. The reserve copies collection was supplemented with 190 rolls of microfilms (1670 roll in all).

Some technical disorders of the ventilation system occurred that caused problems with keeping the temperature stable; however, the average annual temperature and relative humidity remained within the allowed norms.

SERVICES TO READERS

The Library has over 80,000 registered readers, one-third of them are active users. During 2006, 185,854 library visits were registered, on average 670 visits per day. The main visitors are students (48%), followed by different specialists (14%).

The Library Board approved the new **Rules for Users** of the Library. The amendments in the Rules were related to security rights, including the use of personal data of readers. It was also decided to introduce an interoperable library and ID-card - a **new integrated library card**.

As a new service, the portal of *The European Library* was opened and the ordering of article copies via the Internet became possible. Also, the English language homepage of the EU Information Centre was introduced; the EU news homepage and the database of questions and answers with 24 subject fields were supplemented.

A new network or user terminals in the reading rooms will enable readers to use the OpenOffice suite (word processor, spreadsheet, presentations programme), and the Internet browser Mozilla Firefox.

To measure the quality of library services, a **library service quality testing** was performed in collaboration with Library's partners, and a **reader survey** *Teeme raamatukogu paremaks* (Let's Make a Better Library) was carried out. The analysis of the results of the reader survey will create better preconditions for correct and instant services for every individual. To increase the information literacy of readers, user education was implemented to the full extent, including the information retrieval ABC and special information training sessions.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A successful completion of the EU ReUSE project resulted in creating a digital archive DIGAR. The EU EOD (eBooks on Demand) project will develop a new digital service of ordering books on request. Two scanners (hybrid and book scanner) were installed and librarians provided with training.

Within the TEL-ME-MOR project preparations were made for the new EU member states to join the portal of The European Library. From 1 January 2006 the National Library of Estonia is a full member of the European Library; in March the e-catalogue ESTER was integrated with the European Library portal; in April the digital archive DIGAR joined the portal.

The final TEL-ME-MOR conference *Digital Future of Cultural and Scientific Heritage* organised by the National Library summarised the results of the project.

The European Commission project EAW created a pan-European search system European Arrest Warrant (www.eurowarrant.net) that will facilitate information exchange between the EU member states. The National Library of Estonia was a project coordinator in Estonia and provider of information.

The Web Cultural Heritage project within the EC programme *Culture 2000* with the aim of specifying the selection criteria of web publications to be used also in other European countries. The results of the project are published in the publication *Web Cultural Heritage* (Prague, 2006). The project leader was the National Library of the Czech Republic.

The aim of the European Direct Information Relay (EDIR) (2005-2008) is to inform the public of Tallinn and Harju County about EU issues and disseminate information materials. The EDIR services are introduced at the seminars, conferences, information days, workshops.

After a successful completion of the EU ReUSE project the Library was invited to participate in the project EOD (eBooks on Demand) and DIGMAP (Discovering our Past World with Digital Historical Maps) (2006-2008), a project of the *e-Contentplus* programme with the aim of developing technical solutions for indexing and searching scanned historical maps and creating an international multilingual geographic database.

CULTURAL AND PROFESSIONAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS, PUBLISHING

Among the major professional events of 2006 was the final TEL-ME-MOR Policy Conference *The Digital Future of Cultural and Scientific Heritage* organised by the National Library. The conference gave an overview about the results of the project, focusing on the digital library developments in the world and Europe.

The seminar *Humanitarian Library in the Information Society* was dedicated to the memory of library researcher Boris Volodin (1950-2005) and the presentation of his monograph *A History of World Libraries*.

18 exhibitions introducing the collections of the National Library and 25 other book exhibitions were held. The 80th anniversary of the writer Heljo Mänd, the 90th anniversary of the calligrapher Villu Toots and the 100th anniversary of the Estonian Theatre were marked by large-scale exhibitions. The following e-exhibitions were opened on the homepage: The II Tallinn Illustrations Triennial *The Power of Pictures* and *25 Most Beautiful Estonian Books* and *five Most Beautiful Children's Books 2005*.

The Library was involved in compiling and organising 76 exhibitions and in 29 international cooperation projects. Major exhibitions included:

- *Chinese Bronze Highlights in Reproduction* (in cooperation with Embassy of the People's Republic of China). Almost 50 replicas of ancient bronze items, that constitute one of the most brilliant parts of the 5000-year old Chinese civilisation, were displayed.
- *Living together: Memories of co-existence in the Ottoman and Turkish period* in the framework of the Turkish cultural days.

- *150 Years of Photography in Spain.*
- *The New Art Patrons: Art Books of Italian Banks* was organised in collaboration with the Embassy of Italy in Tallinn.

Estonian VAT Theatre in collaboration with a European theatre network Magic Net introduced the *Hidden Stories* project. 14 theatres from European states presented myths and legends of their countries in the basement, reading rooms and the attic of the National Library of Estonia.

GIS and Geography Day, Publishing Conference and Book Weeks were organised. The highlight of the Book Week in December was the II international literature forum *Paabeli raamatukogu* (**The Library of Babel**), which this time focused on freedom of writing. In the framework of the integration project *Minu riik* (My State), a poster contest and exhibition *Euroopa keeltepäev* (**European Day of Languages**), and in collaboration with the German Cultural Institute in Tallinn and the Goethe Institute the media exhibition **JUNG:DE** about the life of young people in Germany were held.

880 events altogether were held at the Conference Centre in 2006. Services were rendered to 350 clients and during the year 55,000 people visited the events. Training sessions, seminars, and meetings predominated. Major events included an EU international **Conference on Rural Policy Development** in the new member states, conferences *Balticum Organicum Syntheticum BOS 2007* and *European Actual Academy*, a professional higher education conference, conference of anaesthetists, real estate conference, and different events in the field of librarianship.

The Annual Bluebird Award of the UNICEF Estonian National Committee was granted to the National Library for a long-term and methodical activity in reinforcing reading habits among children and young people, in promoting Estonian folk culture and demonstrating social responsibility and readiness to support events for children and young people.

CONTACT DETAILS

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