

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL/CENL 2010

Name of country: ESTONIA

Name of library: National Library of Estonia (NLE)

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Major developments

- As a strategic priority the NLE continued to develop its e-library with the support of the Estonian Informatics Centre and the Estonian Ministry of Culture.
- Preparations are in process for extensive renovation of the library building (replacement of windows and new air conditioning system)

Research and development

- One of the highlights in 2011 was the international conference *Aligning National Approaches to Digital Preservation*, organised in cooperation with the -Educopia Institute and in partnership with the U.S. Library of Congress, the University of North Texas, Auburn University and the MetaArchive Cooperative. Over 125 delegates represented numerous institutions from over 20 countries, the six panel presentations and corresponding discussion sections attempted to set a strategic direction across a wide range of topics: organisational, technical, legal, standards, economic, and education alignment. The conference focused on building international collaborations to support the preservation of our collective digital memory. The NLE presentation at the conference *Information security Measures Implemented in Digital Archives* was compiled in cooperation with the Tallinn University and focused on the corresponding practices in 15 memory institutions from Estonian and other Baltic Sea countries.
- The traditional Information Policy Forum continued, the topic of the 6th Forum was *How Many Gates Are Enough? Culture Portals in Estonia*, discussing the digitisation and availability of cultural heritage. The Forum also introduced international practices, brought by the representatives of The World Digital Library, *Europeana* and the German Digital Library.
- Other international research events included the 17th conference of map librarians *Map Library as the Centre of Cartographic Information* (held under the auspices of LIBER) and *Books and Reading in Finno-Ugric Cultures*, the latter assembled librarians from the Finno-Ugric countries, linking also to the events of the national Year of Reading and the Pan-Finno-Ugric days.
- Cornerstone was laid to a new tradition – the *Day of Estonian Book* was devoted to publishing, translating and poetry.

Cultural centre

- The focus of 2010 was participation in the national Year of Reading and in the programme of *Tallinn – European capital of Culture 2011*. The NLE has composed an exhibition of city maps and postcards *Greetings from Tallinn* which tours around the city as an outdoor display in summer 2011.

- A monument was opened in front of the NLE to the famous Estonian poetess Marie Under, surrounded by a recreation area and enjoying a beautiful water cascade.
- The 40th New York Estonian Culture Days were complemented by the NLE exhibitions and the library's women's choir performances.
- The travelling exhibitions introducing the NLE rich collections visited 10 countries.

Status and legislation

The *Riigikogu* (Parliament) passed the new National Library of Estonia Act, making some amendments to the library's tasks, and to provisions regarding the Supervisory Board and Director General.

Key facts and figures (as of 1 January 2011)

Collections

Books	1 993 524	volumes
Periodicals	319 910	annual sets
Microfilms, microfiches	28 188	copies
Audiovisual documents	51 530	copies
Sheet music	120 761	copies
Maps, atlases	23 479	copies
Manuscripts, archival documents	8 364	volumes
Electronic documents	2 325	copies
Licenced databases	43	titles

The budget for 2011 consists of EUR 4,85 million of state allocations plus the estimated own revenue of about 10%. As of 1 January 2011 the staff is 359 employees.

Collections and access

- According to its Strategic Development Plan the NLE aims to develop its e-library into a well-functioning environment like the traditional library. Some important steps were taken towards it: the new website of the library was launched which became a gate to the e-library; the digital archive DIGAR was provided with a new user interface enabling to more conveniently find and browse publications and to study them by collections. Additional advantages of the new interface: quick search, advanced search, thumbnail images, calendar search and zoom. DIGAR is accessible via the NLE website, the e-catalogue ESTER and the European digital library *Europeana*.
- In order to meet the readers' interest to improve their information literacy, the NLE offered 50 training sessions on both beginners and advanced level. Particularly popular was the *e-Library ABC* which instructed how to use the profoundly renewed e-library.
- A countrywide campaign *Praise the Service Staff* brought the NLE to the top 100 of Estonian service providers.

Collaboration

- The NLE is a partner in the EU-supported project *Ensuring Preservation of and Access to the Red Book of Estonian Publications and Manuscript Source Texts of Estonian Culture*. The project will end in 2012, making electronically accessible

240,000 pages of printed publications and archival materials important for Estonian culture.

- One of the most extensive cooperation projects has been the EC-funded EoD (eBooks on Demand). The first years of the project concentrated on creating the ordering system for digitised material; today the project members focus on raising awareness of this service. The new project website in 10 languages was an important step (www.books2ebooks.eu) for which the NLE as the Dissemination Activity Leader was responsible as coordinator.
- The NLE was an active partner in the *EuropeanaTravel* project under the EC *eContentplus* programme, aiming at the digitisation of travel and tourism materials and making them available in the digital library *Europeana*. The NLE described and digitised 7290 postcards, a selection of them is displayed at The European Library's virtual exhibition *Travelling Through History*.
- The NLE joined the UNESCO project *The World Digital Library*.