



Latvija

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Policies and programmes for digitisation

The government of the Republic of Latvia has made and confirmed many important normative acts and documents, which influence digitisation in culture field. There are confirmed national programme "Informatics" and national programme "Culture", which are mutually integrated and promoted and it shows successful development of the field. In 2000 an important national program "E- Latvia" was launched, which includes many important activities. It highlights separate projects:

- Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings;
- E-document archive;
- State Unified Library Information Network;
- Latvian Education Information System;
- System of Local Governments.

There are accepted legislations of copyright. Some of them are still in the process of being defined more precisely. Changes in the law of copyright, which will be specified according to directories of European Union and WIPO contracts and which contribute to the digitisation process have been made. As well as Electronic document Law, which determine juridical status of the electronic document and electronic signature, is confirmed.

In December 2002 a unified Technical Committee of Standardisation for museums, archives and libraries was established. This was made for museum, archive and library work standardisation and confirmed work plan for Year 2004. In the forming of digital systems of directory inquiries, the Committee will synchronise and adapt International standards ISAD(G) and ISAAR(CPF).

General national legislations: Law on the Protection of Cultural Monuments, Law on Museums, Law on Libraries, Law on Archives. In the realm of preservation we have long-term traditions:

- restoration centres in all largest institutions;
- restorers' society, as a sample of an interbranch co-operation;
- copying, including digitisation of endangered objects (films, sound records, newspapers etc.).

In order to ensure the access we have started:

- description of objects – creation of registers, catalogs, union catalogs, and data bases;
- digitisation of objects (optical recognition, if necessary) and delivery in CD-R or on-line delivery;

The following standards are approbated as international standards in the branch of museums, archives and libraries: ICOM, ISAD (G), ISBD etc.

Co-ordination and co-operation activities

Under the supervision of the Ministry of Culture the board of museums, archives and libraries is developed. It will be the national co-ordinator in digitisation of cultural heritage and will organise the development of digital preservation rules and specific regulations. Practical digitisation programmes will be managed by National Agency of Archives-Libraries-Museums information systems, which is in a formative stage.

Co-operation in the digitisation process with other information preservers (libraries, museums), with authors (Riga City Council), with users (Association

of History teachers, University of Daugavpils etc.), and with companies (SIA "Microlink Latvija", "Vanags&partneri" etc.) is taking place.

This co-operation will broaden during the establishment of e-government in Latvia.

Information and object search in the accumulated funds of Latvian museums, archives and libraries can be provided by establishing national data base for names and denominations of concrete persons, generations, institutions and organisations.

To ensure this, it is necessary to develop common regulations using international standards ISAAR (CPF) for notation of the names and denominations.

In 2002, the Latvian Cultural Capital Foundation established a special target program "Co-operation of Archives, Museums and Libraries in Digital Environment", where projects with at least two branch specialists participating can be supported.

Several private IT companies in co-operation with archives, museums, and libraries have started to develop products which support digitisation of objects and their access to Internet:

- SWH-T (software for retro-conversion of printed National bibliography);
- Lursoft (access to digital Cabinet of Folk songs, also via WAP service);
- Tilde (multimedial CD-ROM "History of Latvia", e-enciklopedia "Letonica")
- IT Alise (single solution for Archives, Museums and Libraries in terms of software) etc.

Digitisation projects

Each branch has undoubted achievements.

For example, the museum sector has:

- Joint Catalogue of the National Holdings

- History Museum of Latvia
- Ventspils Museum
(<http://www.ventspi.lsmuzejs.lv/>)
- The Museum of the History of Riga and Navigation creates all-State historical and digital museum of photographs (<http://vip.latnet.lv/museums/Riga/en/satursEn.htm>)

Since 1999, the National Library of Latvia (<http://vip.latnet.lv/LNB/>) has been forming its National Digital Library (<http://www.lnb.lv/retumi/mai.n.htm>). The seven projects must be mentioned:

- digitising of local newspapers;
- digitising of topographic maps;
- digitising of historic maps;
- digitising of art posters;
- digitising of the images and postcards of the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century;
- digitising of sound records is started;
- digitising of printed matter of national bibliography and creation of the database (ca. 150,000 entries are made);
- a couple of new projects that are related to Latvia e-portrait gallery and the ancient prints of the 16th-17th centuries could be mentioned here.

Latvia State Historical Archive in co-operation with Daugavpils University work on project "Moscovitica-Ruthenica" (document store in the State of Republic of Latvia). The making and digitisation of the microfilm in the year 2004 is planned.

The Latvia State Archive of Film, Photography and Audio Documents work on digitisation of photo foundation.



The Latvian National Opera

<http://www.arhivi.lv/lv/atv/ki-no/ki-no-frame.htm>

The Artificial Intelligence Laboratory creates a textual base of modern Latvian literature, for example, the texts of the most prominent Latvian poet Rainis.

<http://ai-lab.lv/ai-en.htm>

Data bases based on visual materials about Latvian designs and Monuments of Culture are formed.

The Radio Latvia has also started digitising of sound records.

Depository for folk songs is developing dynamically, with the chest for Dainas (Collection of Latvian folk songs, <http://www.lfk.lv/>) being included in the Unesco list "Memory of the World". Currently a project of scanning every single slip into a separate graphics file is under its way.

The performance in Daugava stadium during the Latvian Song Festival



The official residence of the President of Latvia

