

Latvia

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State agency Culture Information Systems

The main document which provides guidelines of the state growth for the next seven years is *Latvian National Development Plan 2007-2013*. This Plan will help to promote and strengthen the further development of country, as well as increase its prosperity and international competitiveness. One of the prerequisites for sure and sustained development is the creation of a common culture space.

The main institution creating and co-ordinating the state cultural policy is the Ministry of Culture.

There are new documents for further culture sector development - "Long Term Cultural Policy Guidelines 2006-2015" and "Medium Term Strategy 2006-2008 for the Cultural Sector".

New Cultural Policy Guidelines for the period of 2006-2015 set strategic directions for the cultural development in the future.

A. Users and content

The objectives and key activity areas of the Ministry of Culture are defined in the Medium Term Strategy. The mission is to create favourable environment for the cultural diversity, excellence and balanced growth for contribution in a long term development of individual, society and whole country. According to the priorities there are defined 6 action areas which should be realized in the framework of 6 budget programmes and 11 subprogrammes.

Programme "Culture Heritage"

The aim of the programme is to ensure culture heritage preservation, protection, research, popularization and accessibility.

Expected policy results:

- Culture heritage is actively advised, complemented, researched and documented; effectively managed, preserved and protected

- Qualitative culture products and services ensure culture heritage availability to different user interest groups and professionals
- Joint culture information systems are available to society, the volume of digitised culture heritage is increasing
- Culture heritage resources are efficiently used in lifelong learning, society integration processes, national economic development and creative industries.

National programme 'Development and improvement of the infrastructural foundation for electronic governance'

The National programme is supported by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The objective is to improve and develop the existing state information systems by integrating their mutual operation in unified state system, to ensure the online availability of public services, to facilitate the implementation of e-government and the optimisation of state and local governments' work.

Projects in the framework of National Programme, relating to culture sector

Latvian Library Information System

The aim of the project is:

- to create coordinated information system of state and public libraries, provide an equal and high-quality access for residents to information resources and universal informational online services, enhance the user skills in the Information and Communications Technology field;
- to create a Latvian library portal, that would serve library users as a convenient, content filled and quality information resource;
- to provide library staff training in order to enhance their skills and quality of library services;
- to develop internet connection in all libraries.

Unified State Archive Information Service

The aim of the project is to develop a unified state archive information service in order to provide uniform access for the society to the state archive information resources; to provide integrated services for clients as well as provide for accounting and storage of state and municipal electronic documents and data that would guarantee the protection of legal rights and interests of the state and residents, continuity of state and municipal operations and its development.

National Comprehensive Museum Artefacts Catalogue

The aim of the project is to use the Latvian museum as a contribution to the development of information society by recording all the data on National museum artefacts in a unified system and making it accessible to every member of the society with the help of information technology.

Museums

Museum collections database offer text and audiovisual information about 6 museum collections. Database operating in the system MEANDRS.

<http://www.meandrs.lv>

Libraries

National Library of Latvia is the leading institution working on the creation of digital library.

National Library of Latvia took part in the TEL-ME-MOR project and Latvia became the full member of The European Library on January 1, 2006, providing user interface in Latvian language and access to several collections of digital resources.

Since 2000 the National Library has implemented several serious projects, thus forming a digital library, which ensures a long-term preservation and wide accessibility to the unique Latvia culture heritage: national bibliography, periodicals, maps, posters, ancient photographs and sound recordings. Now the following collections are available:

HERITAGE –1: Preservation of Latvian Periodicals.

- Poster in Latvia
- Postcards
- Collection of postcards of the Baltic Central Library
- Latvian graphics, exlibris and Prints

- Latvian History of Civilization in Images. Part A: Portraits
 - Latvia in the 16th-18th Century Maps
 - Ancient Prints in Latvian, 1525-1855
 - Revolution of 1905-1907 in Latvia
 - Scores of Symphonic Music by Latvian Composers
 - Wax cylinders
 - Digital collection "Jāzeps Vītols"
- http://www.lnb.lv/digitala_biblioteka/index_anglu.htm

To ensure easy access to information about library resources, libraries create electronic catalogues and databases and made them accessible on Internet. The online *Union Catalogue* of National Library and 7 research libraries is available since 2000. The volume of the catalogue is about 322,000 bibliographic records now.

Database of *National Bibliography Monographs and Serials* contains metainformation about books and periodicals published in Latvia. More than 150,000 records now.

Database of National Bibliography Analytics contains information on the articles of the serials published in Latvia and information about Latvia and Latvians from abroad periodicals. More than 1,660,000 records connected with commercial full-text database from "Lursoft" company.

<http://tulpe.lanet.lv:8991/F>

Academic Library of Latvia has its own catalogue, <http://www3.acadlib.lv/opac/welcome.htm>

A good practice is the coordinated work in the public library field – libraries are cooperating on the electronic catalogue creation. The creation of district union catalogue take place in all administrative districts of the country, involving all 783 district libraries.

At an average, 28 libraries are involved in the creation of one district union catalogue. The maximum amount of involved libraries are in Riga - 45 libraries.

On the creation of one district union catalogue at an average are working about 5 librarians.

The growth of one catalogue volume is about 6000 records per year. In 2006 the growth of one catalogue was approx. 7760 records.

The creation of virtual catalogues has to be mentioned as a good example.

13 Latvian higher educational institution libraries and special libraries, operating in library information

system ALISE, created the virtual Union catalog ALISES, <<http://www.alises.lv>>.

A very interesting example of a virtual catalog is the Kurzemes virtual union catalog, because the participants are different memory institutions - there are 5 libraries, 1 archive and 1 museum, <<http://katalogs.biblioteka.ventspils.lv/alise/alise3i.asp>>.

According to user needs public libraries also create other databases. Very important resources for users are the databases of local history. These databases contain information about province, its local history, social and administrative life, people and nature, and also include digital pictures and full-text documents.

Archives

In order to ensure the access to archival heritage archives have started the creation of registers, catalogues and databases, and also object digitisation. There are different archive collections - census returns, church registers, photo, audio documents, moving images.

The digitisation:

- 25887 descriptions on fonds level – (99% of all fonds)
- 193 740 description on files level – (1,15% of all)
- 149491 on documents level.

Other

Cultural Map

In 2005 the Ministry of Culture initiated a project of cultural mapping of Latvian regions aiming to create a special database *Cultural Map*. The realization of this project was started at the beginning of 2006.

The Cultural map will provide detailed information about the cultural processes in Latvian regions, distribution and accessibility of cultural institutions, the financial and technical condition of the infrastructure and development tendencies. The Digital Cultural map of Latvia is unique because it covers a huge volume of information and examines cultural processes from different angles.

In the first stage of the project the database was filled with information about museums, libraries, archives, cultural educational institutions, theatres, concert halls, art galleries, cinemas, open-air stages, cultural

monuments, amateur art activity groups and non-governmental organizations. The Cultural map is available on the internet www.KulturasKarte.lv

Portal latvija.lv

The link portal <<http://www.latvija.lv>> was created in the framework of project *E-government portfolio*.

The objective of the site is to provide users with access to categorised links to Latvian internet resources and a possibility to access various electronic services offered by the different institutions.

General information is available in Latvian, English, French, Russian, Spanish and German languages.

Latvian culture portal

In 2005 Ministry of Culture launched the Cultural Portal <<http://www.kultura.lv>>, which provides visitors with main cultural information of Latvia. It makes culture information accessible for very wide public. From 2006 information is available in 4 languages - Latvian, French, English, German.

National tourism portal

Latvian National tourism portal

<<http://www.latviatourism.lv>> created by the state agency for tourism development is available in 12 languages. Portal provides practical and general information about Latvia – history, traditions, nature, transport and accommodation. It is possible to view tourism objects in photos and videos.

B. Technologies for digitisation

Standards

The technical Committee of Standardization for Museums, Archives and Libraries (MABSTK) is the main coordinator of the work of culture institutions. It gives a possibility to exchange information, to introduce uniform terminology and adapt interdisciplinary standards. Commonly are used metadata standards Dublin Core, ICOM, ISAD(G), ISAAR(CPF), ISBD, AACR2, MARC, FRBR, METS. In order to improve understanding about metadata creation and using, several Dublin Core Metadata Initiative (DCMI) documents have been translated

by National Library: Dublin Core Metadata Element Set, DCMI Grammatical Principles, DCMI Metadata Terms, Using Dublin Core (User Guide). Translations are confirmed by MABSTK and are available online.

Technical infrastructure

In 2006 archives technical infrastructure have been supplemented with Universal microfilm scanner OMNIA 1200.

In the framework of technical infrastructure development for National digital library Letonica there are some important purchases of hardware and software:

- A0 format Book scanner i2 DiGiBook A0 and Data processing software i2s BookRestore
- Large-sized Roll scanner Colortrack 4080e and Data processing software ScanWorks
- Library catalog card scanner ELAR SKAMAKS 2000 D80 and Data processing software DPUScan Basic Color.

Thanks to the State Unified Library Information System or "Network of Light", there are significant changes in libraries during last few years.

In the framework of creation technical infrastructure for libraries, 793 libraries have got 1500 new computers with standard software, internet connection is provided nearly for all public libraries (internet connection was made in 190 libraries in 2006), local networks are built in 200 libraries, more than 1000 librarians have been trained to use new technologies and there is available an online help service for libraries.

28 libraries of regional and city significance and 7 academic libraries have got new servers for library information systems.

Tehnologies

National Union catalog is based on system ALEPH500. Catalogue of Academic Library of Latvia is operating in the LiberMedia system. Most of the public libraries use locally developed library information system ALISE, developed by company SIA „TietoEnator Alise”.

The Fundamental Library of the Latvian University of Agriculture uses software from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) "Information Management Resource Kit".

Interoperability

Libraries use protocol Z39.50 for data exchange.

Research needs

There are emerged research needs on subjects:

- master files usage facilities (in format TIFF and JPEG);
- structure of databases;
- how to improve the quality of scanned text;
- family history research (in the context of archives)

C. Sustainability of content

Funding models

Projects of National programme 'Development and improvement of the infrastructural foundation for electronic governance' are supported by European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) in proportion 75% from ERDF and 25% from state budget.

Action areas relating to Sustainability of content are defined in the Ministry of Culture Medium Term Strategy – „Culture projects and investments" and „EU funds and foreign country financial support".

Cost-reduction

Retrospective Conversion Project in the National Library have to be mentioned because of the flexibility of the developed software for automatic processing of historically different bibliographic records with various quality, and the ability to perform a complete processing circle - from scanning to a structured MARC record. The retroconversion technology tailored by the company SWH-Tehnologija (Exigen Group enterprise) in co-operation with the National Library has a six-fold timesaving effect, and fourfold money-saving effect in comparison with a manual processing. The very successful is cooperation of libraries on catalogue creation. Usually using Z39.50 protocol libraries can take records from other catalogues and duplicate them into their own library catalogue. The cooperation scheme for district union catalogue creation and sharing of records is a good approach for saving financial and human resources.

National competence centre

The competence centre of digital libraries was formed in the National Library of Latvia in 2006.

D. Digital preservation

Policy relating to digital preservation is defined in the Ministry of Culture Medium Term Strategy

in action area: Preservation, protection, research, popularization and accessibility of Culture Heritage. There is The Electronic Document Law in the national legislation, but it is necessary to add regulations for appraisal, transfer and preservation of electronic materials.

Until now there is only one e-document storage facility in the country. It was opened in the Latvian State Archive of Audiovisual Documents in 2006.

E. Monitoring progress

Input/output indicators

Input	MEUR / Posts	Comment
Funding allocated to support digitisation - government	2776740 EUR 1080755 EUR 1398301 EUR 160953 EUR	Latvian Library Information System National Comprehensive Museum Artefacts Catalogue Unified State Archive Information System Scanners for digital library Letonica
Funding allocated from within existing institutional budgets*		
Size of work-force	197	Data about work-force only in public library sector

*Combined total, including personnel costs.

Output	Number of collections / items
Number of digitised collections	
- museums	6
- libraries	804
- archives	2
Number of digitised collections recorded in a national inventory	
- museums	6
- libraries	42
- archives	0
Number of digitised items per collection type	
- object entries (m/i)	51900/51900
- text documents (m/i)	5305908/545429
- images (m/i)	112474/44850
- audio (m/i)	23071/11310
- moving images (m/i)	18830/392

Use indicators

Use	Amount	Comment
Use of web-sites distributing digitised heritage content		
- user sessions	~ 5500	sessions per month for one web site
- average duration of user sessions	15min	
- average page impressions per user session	20	
Purchase or distribution of CDs / DVD s		
Audiences for streaming, video-casting or broadcasting		