

# Summary

In her Editor's column, *Anna Mauliņa* says farewell to the readers of "World of Libraries" and to the Latvian library community. She has devoted almost 50 years to librarianship and these have allowed her to conclude that theories about the disappearance of libraries are actually theories about their continual change. Since renewal of independence, much has been accomplished: libraries have attracted considerable resources and many "castles of light" have been built. The big "castle of light" has even celebrated its topping out ceremony... A. Mauliņa's wish for all those who will continue to shape the library world of Latvia is that they should think in terms of the future, be able to anticipate future directions and realise how these can be accomplished.

Under the heading "Librarians in Latvia and the world", "World of Libraries" no. 53 is introduced by *Valdas Ozoliņa's* article "**US libraries and the "FISH!" Philosophy: a global programme for library leaders and innovators**". The author summarises the experience of 12 Latvian rural and small-town librarians on a training programme at the Mortenson Center (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, from 10 September to 10 October 2010), funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. One of the new strategies learned by the librarians from Latvia was the "FISH!" Philosophy, which, according to V. Ozoliņa, can be helpful in discovering new colours during work activities. The participants of the programme also gained familiarity with project management, library advocacy, financial management in crisis situations etc. The visits to US libraries provided invaluable experience and these visits are described in detail.

In the section "People, events, problems", the article "**Turbulence zone: 2010 in public libraries in Latvia**" by *Anna Mauliņa* and *Marlēna Krasovska* gives an overview librarianship that is likened to a turbulent flight. It has been influenced by regional reforms, the economic recession, and the swift change in the role of libraries thanks to activities carried out under the auspices of the jointly funded public library development project "Trešais tēva dēls" of the Latvian government and the Bill and Melinda Gates

Foundation. The recession has continued to affect library budgets, along with decreasing numbers of staff, salaries and working time. However, at the same time, more and more functions have been assigned to libraries, thereby creating a work overload that is starting to threaten quality of services, especially in one-person libraries, which constitute about 68% of Latvian libraries. Notwithstanding the rapid decrease of the population, on the whole the number of readers in local authority public libraries continue to increase. The article discusses how libraries have decreased the negative effects on libraries, emphasises the importance of library advocacy and the strengthening the activities of library professional organisations.

"**Autumn stories for the soul**" by *Madara Kāne* gives an overview of a seminar "The work of the Latvian library network "Story libraries" in 2010–2011". The network was formed to facilitate the development of storytelling traditions and started in Latvia in 2009 under the auspices of the UNESCO Latvian National Commission project "Story time in libraries". Special guests at the seminar were the Latvian playwright and director Lauris Gundars and the Estonian storyteller Piret Päär.

The section "Computerisation, digitisation, internetisation", starts with "**Vanished Latvia: reconstruction of the past in a digital environment**" by *Ginta Zalmane*, who is Head of the National Digital Library of Latvia (NDLL) "Letonica" project "Vanished Latvia". The first results of the project were presented on 24 February 2011 on the portal "Vanished Latvia" and the travelling exhibition "Vanished working Latvia". The project was created with the collaboration of Latvia's memory institutions and organisations for the protection and preservation of cultural heritage. It provides a unique online collection, which reflects a no longer existing historical-cultural Latvia and the lives of its people. The project was carried out with financial support from the European Digital Library (EDL) programme *eContentplus EuropeanaLocal* project, which ensures inclusion of "Vanished Latvia" in the EDL portal "Europeana".

In the "Law on libraries" of the Republic of Latvia, it is stated that state and local authority public libraries have the duty to provide access to the internet for free. With the introduction of the "Light network", it was anticipated that the government would fully cover these costs from the state budget. However, because of the economic situation, this was considerably reduced, so 60% of connection charges are being borne by local authorities, which themselves are struggling with lack of finances. As a result, free internet access in libraries is under threat in some regions of the country. It is impossible to upgrade computer systems that deteriorate because of intensive use. In "**Access to the internet in Latvian libraries: problems and**

**solutions**", *Aldis Liepa* (Head of the State Joint Library Information System Project of the State Agency "Cultural Information Systems") explains the structure of library internet connection costs and why they are so high. He also provides answers to current questions relating to the implementation of the jointly funded public library development project "Trešais tēva dēls" of the Latvian government and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Under the heading "Conferences, seminars, meetings", *Māra Jēkabsons*'s article "**National identity in the digital environment**" provides an overview of papers presented at the 69th annual conference of the University of Latvia Department of Library and Information Science (Riga, 10 February 2011). A majority of the papers reflected the digital approach to the state research programme "National identity" as well as the results of the "Discourse on national identity of the Latvian publishing and book trade". Topics included: digital collections of Latvian memory institutions; state support for digital collections; subject access to digital collections; identification and use of digital libraries and collections. Participants of the conference were introduced to the database "Who was who in Latvian publishing and the book trade to 1918", that is being created and will include a number of entries about distinguished librarians and bibliographers such as *Līvija Vītoļiņa*, who are less well known.

Another session of above mentioned conference is reported in "**Librarians and readers: introspective research at the University of Latvia Library**". *Jana Dreimane* notes that the emphasis of the session last year was on librarians, but this year it concentrates on readers, their wishes and needs and how to satisfy them. Library service quality was evaluated on research about reader needs and interests. Papers examined topics such as the image and identity of libraries, publicity, strategies and methods for evaluating library staff, and bibliographic research at the University of Latvia Library.

*Dace Ūdre*'s article "**The library and information science symposium BOBCATSSS: participation by students and practitioners from Latvia 2007–2011**" discusses the beginnings of this international symposium, the basic principles behind its organisation, topics covered and the countries where the symposia were held. The contribution of participants from Latvia is highlighted.

In the section "Children and young people in libraries", *Iveta Krūmiņa*'s article "**Lvov reads to the 21st century mobile generation and other tasty Ukrainian projects**" provides an insight into the international conference "Children's reading and literature in central and eastern Europe: theory and

practice" (Lvov, 29/04–01/05/2010). The author notes the large number of projects for facilitating reading in Ukraine, drawing particular attention to the reading programmes at the Lvov Central Children's Library and the Lvov Regional Children's Library, which have special environments for facilitating children's reading. The author also discusses the problems that are faced by colleagues in Ukraine and Russia.

Under the heading "Past times and reflections", *Andris Šmīdebergs* answers the question "**Why was the National Library of Latvia "built" but not built from 1945 to 1989?**". Preliminary plans for a national library building were already drafted in 1928, and the official decision for its construction was taken in 1945. However, the topping out ceremony was celebrated only recently – 3 May 2011.

The section "Abroad" starts with *Anna Mauliņa*'s article "**Bavarian libraries — the heart of libraries in Germany**", which recounts activities of a professional visit by Latvian librarians to Germany's largest state Bavaria (13–18/04/2010). The author gives an overview of the German library system and also of the Bavarian system, which differs from others in the country. She characterises the management model of Bavarian libraries, which has the Bavarian State Library (*Bayerische Staatsbibliothek*) — the largest library in Europe after the British Library — at its centre. A special section of the article is devoted to digitisation at the Bavarian State Library, which has been particularly active since the library joined the "Google Book Search" digitalisation megaproject in 2007.

"**Surprises 2000 km away: impressions of Turkish libraries**" continues the article by *Sanita Burķīte* and *Ilga Rampāne* from the previous issue of "World of Libraries". The authors report their discoveries, surprises and conclusions about libraries in Istanbul, which they visited under the auspices of the Leonardo da Vinci Mobility project of the EU Lifelong Education Programme. In this second part, libraries of two well known private universities are described: the Koç University Suna Kiraç Library and the Sabancı University Information Center. Both of these universities were created with private patronage and are sponsored and supported by the foundations of wealthy Turkish families. These institutions are characterised by the wide scope of their activities, high quality, innovation and long-term goals.

This section ends with *Jana Dreimane*'s "**Overview of overseas library events (January–March 2011)**" and includes information on: protests by librarians against the US media giant "HarperCollins" and its wish to introduce e-book licensing, limiting the number of times an e-book can be borrowed; the first bookless libraries in the USA, which have intensified the debate about the future of libraries and reading; the "Save

Our Libraries Day", which was organized by CILIP, public library advocates and readers (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/get-involved/advocacy/public-libraries/pages/savelibrariesday.aspx>); the introduction of charges for borrowing in German libraries as a result of reduced finances and differing views on the legality of charging. The author also reports on: the opening of a new library at the ultra-modern cultural complex in Santiago de Compostela (Galicia, Spain); news about the scandal of distributing the literary heritage of Franz Kafka; the closing of the University of Konstanz Library (*Bibliothek der Universität Konstanz*) due to threats from asbestos exposure and cancer risk; the movement to free borrowing in libraries in China.

The current situation with libraries in the Vatican are described in *Jana Dreimane's "The Vatican Library after three years of restoration"*.

Under the heading "Old and new book trade", "World of Libraries" offers readers an unpublished research study by *Ojārs Zanders "Daniel Hermann — humanist and poet of Dancig and Riga (1543–1601)"*, which reveals little known pages of 16th century culture and politics. The author is a distinguished Latvian librarian and book historian, who celebrated his 80th birthday on 11 Marh 2011.

This issue ends with the section "Miscellaneous", which presents *Marlēna Krasovska's "A review of library events in Latvia (January–March 2011)"*.

*Translated by Inese Auziņa-Smith*