

Summary

In her Editor's Column **"Paying for borrowing library books: will this paltry income recompense the financial censorship?"**, the journal's main editor *Anna Mauliņa* draws the attention of readers to a first precedent resulting from the economic recession in Latvia. A library, looking for a way out of its financial dead end, has started charging for borrowing recreational literature. *A. Mauliņa* emphasizes that the introduction of such a service charge is contrary to the principles of free access to information and explains how charging for borrowing may become a threat to the library. As an alternative to charging for basic services in libraries, the author suggests involving sponsors, promoting interlibrary loans, getting materials from the reserve collections of the National Library of Latvia, donations, taking advantage of electronic document supply, exchanges, book clubs and the like.

"World of Libraries" no.49 introduces a new section called "Librarians in Latvia and the World". It will familiarize readers with outstanding practitioners, who have given a significant contribution to the development of librarianship as well as with librarians with enthusiastic, colourful and creative personalities. There will also be discussion of other professions that are linked to librarianship.

This issue acquaints readers with a colleague whose destiny has led him far from his native Latvia. In **"The legendary Jānis Krēsliņš from the city on the shores of the Hudson River"**, *Anna Mauliņa's* article introduces this well-known literary and publishing trade historian, librarian, poet and translator, who has lived as an exile in New York since World War Two. She describes his professional activities and non-traditional view of his nation's history and identity.

Love of books, concern about the preservation of Latvian identity, the dissemination of Latvian cultural values in the global cultural space are glimpses of *Jānis Krēsliņš's* personality and work activities that are revealed in his article **"Draudzīgais aicinājums", New York Public Library and Latvian Society"**.

What are the stereotypes of libraries and librarians in today's society? How are they produced? Does substituting "information officer" for the traditional professional word "librarian" make it possible to avoid the stereotypes and myths that have been linked to it for generations? Proceedings of **"The image of libraries and librarians in society"**, the Library Science Section of the 68th research conference of the University of Latvia (Riga, 05.02.10) were devoted to these questions and a summary is produced by *Jana Dreimane*. One of the most important elements in forming the image of a library is the quality of user services, so there was great attention paid to quality measurement programmes, especially SERVQUAL

and LibQUAL+®. Interesting conclusions have been reached by researching how the image has changed in the national and regional press from the 1980s to the end of the 1990s. There were papers on how librarians have been shown in literature and art. At the end of the conference participants were able to enjoy the film "The Hollywood Librarian".

The section "People, events, problems" starts with the IFLA guidelines **"Continuing professional development: principles and best practices"**, which were prepared by *Jana Varlejs*, who is Associate Professor, Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, School of Communication and Information, and Treasurer of IFLA Continuing Professional Development and Workplace Learning Section (CPDWL). Developments in IT and changes in the needs of society make it vitally necessary that library workers continually upgrade their professional skills. The IFLA CPDWL Section's principles guarantee high quality professional continuing education. They say, for example, that it is recommended to have regular training needs appraisals related to the employing institution's aims and objectives; personnel development should have 0.5–1% of an institutions' budget; about 10% of work time should be prescribed for attendance at seminars, conferences, continuing education activities and training, as well as informal educational projects. Institutions should periodically evaluate the effectiveness of their internal continuing development programmes as well as how resources spent on them have impacted on resulting evaluations of the institution.

With the rapid development of social networks, information on the World Wide Web is becoming ever more boundless. In order to organize the chaos on the web, it has been suggested that use be made of the Universal Decimal Classification (UDC), well-known to librarians, and with an excellent structure and a hierarchical system. *Elita Eglīte's* article on the international seminar **"Classification at the crossroads: multiple directions to usability"** (The Hague, 29–30.10.09) discusses the optimal developments for UDC (creation of a UDC thesaurus, changes in content and structure, etc.), as well as practical experience from different countries in using the UDC.

Established in 1994, the Latvian Academic Library Association (LATABA) organized its 15th anniversary conference on 24 November 2009. *Marlēna Krasovska* gives an overview of its proceedings in **"Latvian academic libraries through innovations and reforms"**. One of the most important questions in the conference was the role of education and science in the country's longterm development growth and renewal. It was repeatedly emphasized that access to information and knowledge is considered as significant in many national development plans and work programmes. However, when drawing up policies and distributing financial resources, libraries are often forgotten. It was warned that the radical decrease of finances for libraries can have a negative impact on education, science and the economy, as well as

endanger the existence of a civil society in Latvia. There were papers on: the development of "Letonica", the National Digital Library of Latvia; the implementation of an academic network for Latvia; the contribution of academic libraries to national research programmes. Wideranging discussions on authors' rights in the digital environment were stimulated by an ambitious project from a project of the "Ideju Forums" society. At the end of 2009 this society, ignoring authors' and copyright administrators' protests and threats of lawsuits, created a free access internet ebrary, which contains a large range of copyright protected works.

The UNESCO Latvian National Committee (LNC) project "Storytime in Libraries" held its closing seminar "The storytelling tradition in libraries" in Riga (03.12.09). *Māra Jēkabsons* summarizes the seminar papers, discusses the importance and meaning of stories in people's lives, and gives an overview of organizing storytelling events in libraries in the article called "**Storytime in libraries**", which also provides background on the project. At the beginning of 2009, to mark the International Literacy Decade (2003–2012), the UNESCO LNC started the project being described. It was included in the work plan of the UNESCO collaborative programme "Integration of Intangible Cultural Heritage into Formal and Informal Education". The aim of the programme was to unite people of different generations, revive the storytelling tradition, and develop language and social skills, making use of telling and listening. Throughout Latvia in March 2009, UNESCO LNC organized seminars on facilitation of storytelling traditions in libraries, and making use of seminar materials, there were 43 storytelling events in 42 libraries. In the second half of 2009, as a way of popularizing storytelling as an important part of intangible cultural heritage, a network of "Story libraries" was created.

International White Cane Day has been observed worldwide since 15 October 1980 and in Latvia since 1991. Its purpose is to inform society about the needs and problems of blind and visually impaired people. *Gunta Bite* describes one of the events from the day, which was organized by the Latvian Library for the Blind. Called "**The Song of the White Cane**", the main theme of this info-musical production was physical access and safety for people with visual impairments.

The section "Computerization, digitization, internetization" has an article by *Sigita Brice* on "**Blogs — a new information resource**", in which she provides an insight into the development of library blogs in Latvia and analyzes the themes they cover. As the popularity of blogs increases, it is predicted that their number will continue to increase. Therefore, it is important to define what is a good blog and how to ensure the development of useful blogs. Based on local experience and international research, the author suggests an extensive list of quality evaluation criteria for blogs.

Concerns about digital publication of information that is protected by copyright have recently been active in Latvia as well as elsewhere. In "**The battle**

for rights of e-books", *Jana Dreimane* discusses the conflict relating to publication of e-versions of literary works as perceived by traditional publishers, e-book publishers and authors. New guidance on e-books from the UK Society of Authors, published in "The Author" are appended to the article. These emphasize that authors should: consider granting publishers a license for 10 to 20 years, rather than for the full duration of copyright; limit any grant of e-book rights to the verbatim text; royalties on e-books should be much higher than they are.

The section finishes with "**Use of the internet in US libraries**". The information proves that for many people, especially those with low incomes, public libraries are the only places where they can access computers and the internet. Therefore, policy makers should take note of the contribution made by libraries to the development of the labour market, education, health and welfare. The report "Opportunity for All: How the American Public Benefits from Internet Access at U.S. Libraries" was published 25.03.10 and is based on the first large-scale research study on free access to computers and the internet in US public libraries. It was found that almost 1/3 of adult Americans (about 77 million people) use public library computers or wireless networks to access the internet. Computers and the internet have been used at their closest public library by 44% of people, who live below the government defined poverty level.

The "Conferences, seminars, meetings" section starts with *Anitas Zuna's* "**Libraries in today's system of values**", an overview of the Kurzeme Librarians' Conference (Liepāja, 02.12.09). The first such conference organized in Liepāja, its aim was to accent the role of libraries in culture, education and the economy. Participants discussed and analyzed: the values of today's society and prevalent attitudes to culture; the economic significance of libraries; the facilitation of collaboration between librarians and other information providers; cooperation between librarians in Kurzeme. The "Children's and Young People's Librarian of the Year" award was presented for the third time. This award was created in memory of Voldemārs Caune (1890–1944), who was a librarian, bibliographer, journalist and head of the Liepāja City Library.

The article "**Institutions of national importance at 90**" by *Jana Dreimane* gives a summary of the proceedings of the conference "Scientific, educational, economic and cultural institutions of national significance in Latvia" (Riga, 24.11.09). The conference was organised on the 90th anniversary of the establishment of these institutions by the National Library of Latvia in cooperation with the University of Latvia, the Latvian National Opera, the Latvian National Theatre, the State History Archive of Latvia, the Latvian Art Academy, the Jāzeps Vītols Latvian Musical Academy, the national news agency "LETA", and the Latvian Railway (Latvijas Dzelzceļš).

In her article "**A new look at libraries**", *Silvija Tretjakova* describes the 98th German Librarians'

Days (Erfurt, 02-05.06.09). This is the largest forum for German librarians and the author draws particular attention to best practice regarding library services to children and young people and advocacy of libraries. The conference emphasized the role of libraries as educational institutions and as centres for social life in a time of economic recession.

Under the heading "Children and young people in libraries", *Ilze Karsa* gives a glimpse of activities at the 9th Vidzeme Region Conference of Children's and School Librarians (21.10.09) with the title "**Children know their future, they will grow up...**". The keynote speaker was Marian Koren from the Netherlands Public Library Association, who invited participants to consider whether librarians are familiar with children's information needs and respect their interests. Other issues discussed were: children's and school libraries at a time of economic crisis; the quality of children's reading materials; the role of books in children's lives; the significance of art in the formation of children's intellectual lives and self-knowledge. An urgent topic for discussion was protection of children's rights, considered so important during a recession that the conference ended with the adoption of a resolution: "Libraries belong to and serve people, especially children and young people!". It asks for provision of worthwhile school libraries, children's books and information resources suitable for children's education, so that contravention of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child can be averted. It also demands finances for; literacy facilitation, competencies in new media, cultural integration; initiatives and programmes for protection of children's rights; renewal of the state programme for integrating pre-school children and those of young families into use of library services.

The section "Abroad" starts with *Ineses Kazāka's* article "**Library Renaissance in North America**", in which she discusses public libraries in Canada. These are becoming popular and much used educational, cultural and recreational centres. Visitors are enticed by the modern library infrastructure and innovative services, the internet and electronic resources. They also provide opportunities for entertainment, meetings with famous people and discussions. Libraries have become more hospitable by opening coffee shops, children's corners and providing corners for informal chats. By responding to new challenges, Canadian libraries have achieved a significant increase in productivity statistics in 2009.

Jana Dreimane's "Overview of overseas library events (October–December 2009)" concentrates on the class action lawsuit against Google filed by the Authors Guild, the Association of American Publishers on the matter of copyright infringements in the creation of the digital library "Google Books". Even though all parties have agreed on the conditions (set out in the Google Book Settlement), the court has not yet accepted the legality of the document because of numerous challenges in the US and worldwide. The article summarizes the basic points of agreement and gives the main objections to it by the US Department of Justice, and foreign governments and organizations.

It also mentions the main alternatives to "Google Books": changing the Google digital database into a public access free library, compensating Google for its investment in digitization; or, financing the formation of a national digital library from charity. The agreement does not have the support of European publishers either. The French publishing group "La Martinière" won its lawsuit in Paris after a 2.5 year court battle against Google. The article also mentions protests against government policies by French librarians and the names of the libraries that have been included in the list of the "World's Top 10 Ugliest Buildings and Monuments".

In "**Library Hotel, New York**" *Jana Dreimane* invites readers on a virtual visit to an unusual hotel, which is like a reader's paradise in the very centre of New York City. In order to choose a room with a particular theme, visitors must be familiar with the Dewey Decimal Classification system. For example, in room 300.006, a visitor can read legal literature, and in room 900.003 about secrets of the ocean depths. Very rarely do people reserve room 1100.005, because that has a collection on the paranormal, rooms 300.006 (erotica) and 1100.006 (love) are especially popular.

Ainas Štrāle's research on "**Censorship of Elza Stērste's poetry: the views of three critics**" is presented under the heading "Past times and reflections". Elza Stērste was a talented writer, poet and translator, who suffered not only personally from repression by the Soviet regime, but her literary works were also ruthlessly censored. Ainas Štrāle discusses the censorship process of a collection of poems "Atspīdumi" (published in 1967 under the title "Atstari"), in which a number of critics were involved: Mildas Losberga, Mirdza Ķempe, Arvīds Grigulis and Ilgonis Bērsons. Even though the work was belittled and scathingly criticized, it is obvious that the literary specialists and censors, who were obliged to comply with the Soviet ideological dictates of the time, did not have an easy time of conforming with the requirements of socialistic critique. In the very complicated situation, they adapted and compromised, so that the talented author could be published, even though the final work was within the framework of Soviet aesthetic requirements and had lost some of its original quality. Nevertheless, it was able to reach its readers.

The section "Miscellaneous information" has "**An overview of the work of the Museum, Archive and Library Standardization Technical Committee (2003–2009)**" by *Inta Virbule*. This includes information about the most important guidelines and standards approved by the committee during the five-year term and outlines those intended for publication in 2010.

As always, this issue ends with *Marlēna Krasovska's "A review of library events in Latvia (October–December 2009)"*, followed by *Elita Viksna's* list of "Selected new acquisitions in the LIS Reading Room of the NLL Library Development Institute" (October 2009–April 2010).

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