

# Summary

In her Editor's Column **"Winds of reforming in the library world"**, the journal's main editor *Anna Mauliņa* expresses deep concern about the possible reorganisation of Latvia's library network, which is being planned without sufficient evaluation of the existing situation and possible consequences of the changes. It has already been suggested that the University of Latvia Library, the Latvian Academic Library (LAL) and the Medical Library of Latvia be combined. Another variation to this combination proposes that the libraries of three of Latvia's largest universities (Riga Technical University, Latvia University of Agriculture, Riga Stradiņš University) also be amalgamated with the previous three. The idea has also been mooted that the Misiņš Library, one of the departments of the LAL, and the LAL Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books be incorporated into the National Library of Latvia. It has further been proposed that the Latvian Library for the Blind be handed over to Riga City Council. The main reason given for these 'reforms' is saving money in the current economic crisis. A. Mauliņa emphasises that the reforms should not only ensure the required economic effect, but should also provide essential improvements in library access and use. While implementing structural changes in libraries of national importance, the infrastructure of each library should be put in order and the function of the institution should be taken into account. The functions of a national library as defined by UNESCO should be separated from those fixed in the "Law relating to the National Library of Latvia" (to store all national resources), which in turn should be separated from those relating to the status and competence of other libraries (to assemble a collection for an academic and professional environment).

The lead article in *World of Libraries* no.46 is *Marlēna Krasovska's* summary of Erwin Miedtke's lecture **"Library marketing: the experience of Bremen Central Library"**. E. Miedtke is Deputy Director of the library and he was a guest of the autumn meeting of directors of research, special and public libraries of Latvia 28–29 October 2008. He introduced participants to the implementation of his library's marketing strategy. A large part of his lecture was devoted to the meaning of internal marketing, explaining that a decisive factor in reaching the goals of a client-oriented library is a satisfied workforce. He also discussed internal communication in a library, personnel management, staff development, teamwork, evaluation of library service quality and reader services. Discussion of the different topics also revealed new aspects of the strategy of a client-oriented library.

Melville Dewey was born on 10 December 1851 in Adams Center (Jefferson County, New York State). He was a man who, at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century, developed and implemented many of the things without which libraries

today take for granted, so librarians still remember him with respect and thanks. In **"The father of Decimal Classification — Melville Dewey (1851–1931)"** *Elita Lazda* reflects on the achievements of this prominent American librarian. Besides being the inventor of the Decimal Classification system, he helped found the American Library Association, and established the first library school and the first professional journal (*The Library Journal*). He also designed the traditional 3"x5" catalogue card and created hanging vertical files, both of which were noteworthy achievements in standardizing library work.

"World of Libraries" no.44 had an article about the Department of Austrian and Swiss Literature at the Latvian Academic Library. There is a similar department devoted to Ukraine, and *Māra Jēkabsonē's* article **"The Latvian Academic Library's Ukrainian Information Centre"** describes its work. Ukrainians are the third largest ethnic minority in Latvia. The task of the centre is to help them to preserve their national and cultural identity, facilitate integration of Ukrainians into society in Latvia, as well as development of relations between Latvians and Ukrainians. The article outlines the history of the founding of the centre and the main aspects of its work, looks at cooperation between the Latvian Academic Library and libraries in Ukraine, as well as between government and non-government institutions and organizations.

Under the heading "Computerization, digitization, internetization" there is *Anna Keirāne's* article about the unconference **"BibCamp2"** which was held 5 November 2008 in Riga. As this form of meeting is new in Latvia, the author explains the meaning of "BarCamp", "BridgeCamp", "BibCamp" and "unconference". She stresses that modern ICTs can amazingly improve the effectiveness of all areas of activity (including library work), if only people know how to use them properly. There is detailed discussion on some of the unconference topics: the necessity to research and develop high quality services to distant users; use of social networks (e.g., the popular Latvian portal "Draugiem.lv") in library service provision; training of readers in the use of electronic services. A. Keirāne suggests that librarians should pay more attention to people who prefer the virtual environment and take into consideration that their numbers will increase.

June 2008 saw the end of the first phase of the public library development project "Trešais tēva dēls". Under the heading "Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Latvia", *Sandra Vīgante's* article **"Trešais tēva dēls" continues working"** introduces the plans for the project's second phase (January 2009–May 2010). These include: continuing to inform the public about new possibilities in modernized Latvian libraries; developing training programmes for mastering basic IT skills and use of electronic resources; preparation of training materials and trainers; developing the "Latvian Library Portal". Evaluation of the project will continue, as will research on user satisfaction with public library

services and how local authorities and society rate libraries.

In the section "Conferences, seminars meetings" there is another article by *Marlēna Krasovska* on the **"Autumn meeting of directors of research, special and public libraries of Latvia 28–29 October 2008 in Valmiera"**. The meeting was held in the newly opened Valmiera Joint Library. Topics discussed included: implementation of the new national education information system; plans for spending funds from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation; completing the second level of programming for the Cultural Map of Latvia (*www.kulturaskarte.lv*); "Skolu ALISE" online system for school libraries; the pilot project "Storytime in libraries"; Valmiera Joint Library as a model for cooperation.

**"Today's teenager in the library"** by *Mile Marija Pešlakiene* starts the section "Children and young people in libraries". The author bases her discussion on information from recent research carried out by the Reader Services Department of the Children's Literature Centre of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. She describes the psychology of teenagers and approaches studying them as 'homo legens' — people who read. The article discusses several of today's circumstances and their influence on the reading habits of teenagers. M.M.Pešlakiene also introduces activities that are used to popularize and encourage reading in Lithuania.

In her article **"The aesthetic environment in school libraries"** *Gunta Plūksne* stresses how important it is to make an aesthetic environment and gives examples of several ways in which educational libraries can be improved aesthetically. The author emphasizes that pupils perceive the world mainly through images, so in forming an aesthetic environment, a pictorial style should be used. There are practical suggestions on how an aesthetic environment can be created in a library. Characterizing the actual situation, G.Plūksne concludes that, in practice, not enough attention is paid to improving the atmosphere of libraries and analyzes the causes of this problem.

*Kaiva Ozola's* article **"Reading and library popularity among young people"** discusses the survey carried out by the Children's Literature Centre of Kuldīga Main Library in April and May 2008. Results of the survey showed: how many school children read books; how many use the library; for what reason; what literature they prefer. The research also tried to find out if the library's services matched user needs and what more they would like. K.Ozola concludes that pupils still consider books important. Nevertheless, more attention needs to be paid to collection development and improving services in line with user requirements.

In **"Programmes for teenagers and other young people at Bauska Children's Library"** *Anda Rācenāja* reports on four programmes launched by the library

in order to develop young people's communication abilities, improve their IT skills, encourage interest in reading and provide meaningful use of free time. The programmes and activities described by the author are: information and education; reading encouragement; creative activities; interactive programmes for teenagers and other young people.

As 2009 is the year of the National Library of Latvia's (NLL) 90th anniversary, a series of articles will mark this event. The first, under the heading "Past times and reflections", is republication of the article **"Author and reader"** by *Žanis Unāms* (1902–1989). First published in 1937 in the magazine *Vārds* (Word), it discusses the readability of Latvian books in the 1930s. The author, who was a journalist, author and librarian, was Head of the Landesbibliothek Lettlands (now the NLL) from 1941 to 1944 (the period when Latvia was occupied by Nazi Germany). An introduction to the article and its author is provided by *Aina Štrāle*, a library historian and a senior librarian at the NLL.

The section "Abroad" starts with *Anna Mauliņa's* article **"Slovenia: between the printed past and the electronic future"**, which reflects some aspects of work in the largest and oldest research library in the country — the National and University Library of Slovenia (NULS). It was visited 29 September to 2 October 2008 in order to gain an insight into the NULS Educational Training Centre's experience with organising continuing professional education for librarians in Slovenia as well as to discuss possibilities for cooperation in professional development of librarians in Latvia. The author also describes the development of Slovenia's national digital library, harvesting of born-digital Slovenica materials, and implementation of innovative services, e.g.: production of electronic books to users' orders. NULS research and project management experiences are also reviewed.

The Slovenian library theme continues in *Eva Kodriča-Dačiča's* article **"Slovenia's libraries"**. The author discusses Slovenian library legislation, creation of the national virtual library (part of the COBISS network), digitization projects in Slovenian libraries, professional journals and library associations in the country. She gives her view of NULS activities over time, its tasks, services, most valuable collections and investment in the development of Slovenia's library and information systems. There is also a brief overview of Slovenia's university, research, school public and special libraries.

The section "Abroad" has *Jana Dreimane's* **"Overview of overseas library events (October–December 2008)"**. She tells about the American Library Association's (ALA) request to the US Congress to review public library financing mechanisms, where state subsidies form only 0.5% of the budget, and to find additional funds to stimulate public library activities. US public libraries experienced drastic budget cuts in 2008, which resulted in reduced opening hours

and a decreased range of services. Many plan to close branch libraries and make staff redundant. According to library supporters and a recent ALA survey, public libraries are vitally important, because economic crises increase the number of people visiting libraries and their services are indispensable in helping overcome economic difficulties and unemployment.

J.Dreimane's report includes information on: Janne Andresoo, who became the new General Director of the National Library of Estonia on 11 September 2008; the reasons why building of the National Library of Luxembourg has been delayed; views, objections and criticisms of the European Digital Library *Europeana*, which was launched at the Royal Library of Belgium on 20 November 2008. Attention is also drawn to information that in Autumn 2009 Germany will receive back more than 100,000 volumes of Red Army trophy literature, which was removed shortly after World War II by the Soviet Military Administration in Germany Trophy Brigade.

Under the heading "Old and new book trade" *Lilija Limane* writes about "**The fascination of tiny books: the history and current view of miniature books**". These books greatly attract the interest of artists, illustrators, printers, publishers and collectors because of their small size. The author became interested in these publications when the Cesis Central Library held the first Latvian exhibition of miniature books to be accessible to the general public in 2008. The article explains the characteristics of miniature books and their history, describes some private collections, and provides an insight into the traditions of publishing and collecting of miniature books. Information is given about the most significant collections of miniature books in Latvian libraries (Latvian Academic Library, National Library of Latvia, Cesis Central Library).

The section "Miscellaneous" starts with an article by *Pēteris Viņķelis* about the recently launched "**Internet Library of Latvian Literature**", which has supplemented the extensive range of dictionaries, encyclopaedias and multimedia available from the Latvian language, history, culture and reference site *Letonika.lv* ([www.letonika.lv](http://www.letonika.lv)). The Internet Library comprises a large part of the Latvian literature that is required by school study programmes (Rainis, Blaumanis, Poruks etc.) and, in addition, it is constantly being supplemented by Latvian classics and modern literature alike. Users also have access to a wide range of full-text materials. The aim of this new library is to encourage young people's interest in Latvian literature, using the Internet — a medium that is familiar to this digital generation.

In "**Jauncode library wins the competition for public libraries of Bauska region**" *Māra Jēkabsons* describes the aims, evaluation criteria and programme activities of the competition. In order to check and facilitate its work, Bauska Central Library and the Bauska Regional Council, in collaboration with the National Library of Latvia and the Library Department of the

Latvian Ministry of Culture, organised a competition called "The best information service". The competition was held from 1 September to 31 October 2008.

A "pagasts" is a small rural area, and largest pagasts in the country is Dundaga in the west of Latvia in Kurzeme. It is 55.7 km<sup>2</sup> and has 3611 inhabitants. *Māra Jēkabsons* tells about a "**Pagasts library in times of change**", describing the past, present and hopes for the future of its library. Since Latvia regained independence, Dundaga Pagasts Library has actively competed for a variety of projects. Success has resulted in the library gaining computers and access to the Internet, an enlarged book collection and an increase in library users. Library automation was started in 2005. At the end of 2008, under the auspices of the project "Interactive reading room for children", an internal balcony was built and a labyrinth created in the reading room of the Children's Department. One of the project sponsors was the Netherlands Charitable Foundation "KNHM", which considered this as the best end of year project and awarded it a special promotional prize.

*Marlēna Krasovska* provides "**A review of library events in Latvia (October–December 2008)**". The section also includes *Kristīne Deksnē-Jerohina's* list of "**New acquisitions in librarianship**" for the same period.

This issue of "World of Libraries" end with an obituary "**In memoriam Professor Audronė Glosienė (04.10.1958.–26.01.2009.)**". The well-known Lithuanian LIS scholar, General Director of Vilnius University Library, and professor of the the Library and Information Science Institute of Vilnius University Faculty of Communication, Audronė Glosienė died on 26 January 2009, aged only 50. Latvian librarians express their sincere sympathy to Lithuanian colleagues at the loss of such and outstanding individual, as well as reflect on her many accomplishments and her contributions to librarianship in Lithuania and Latvia.

*Translated by Inese Auziņa-Smith*