

# Summary

In her Editor's column, the new main editor *Jana Dreimane* invites readers of "World of Libraries" to keep a close watch of a number of aggressively cultivated myths about information. They are widespread and prevent libraries from receiving proper funding. The deconstruction of such fallacies is important to libraries and providers of information, also to the aims of "World of Libraries". One of the most widespread of these non-sensical assumptions is that there is no censorship in a democratic state and this issue is given particular attention.

Under the heading "Librarians in Latvia and the world", "World of Libraries" no.54/55 is introduced by an article from *Mārtiņš Lagzdons* "**Read, learn, discover — notes from the USA**". This continues the report on the experiences of 12 Latvian librarians from rural and small towns, who were able to visit the USA from 10 September to 10 October 2011 on a training programme funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. M.Lagzdons discusses several libraries in Illinois with diverse services: Chicago Public Library and its "third place" concept; Champaign Public Library, which works on the principle of "free access to all"; Urbana Free Library, which stresses the primary importance of human contact; the Upshot Marketing Agency library, which has neither shelves nor books; and the Library at University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign, one of the largest academic libraries in the USA, which with its services to "the university in the middle of a corn field" has made it one of the strongest leaders in higher education and research. The article describes the wide experience of practical problem solving and ideas and suggestions that will be useful for library development in Latvia — in the author's words: if not immediately, then definitely in the near future.

The section "People, events, problems" starts with **Sarmīte Ēlerte's (LR Minister of Culture) address (12.04.2011.) to the 10th Congress of the Library Association of Latvia (LAL) "Open access to knowledge: promoting sustainable progress"**. S.Ēlerte emphasised that libraries in Latvia are a very significant national treasure as well as a sensitive indication of the level of democratisation in the country. She pointed out that the funding for library activities had already decreased to 2005/2006 levels and expressed the conviction that further budget decreases should not be allowed, but that quite the opposite should happen: library budgets should be increased. The Minister supported preservation of existing networks that guarantee library services throughout Latvia and objected to a mechanical centralisation or unification of various institutions. Instead, priority should be given to strengthening of all possible partnership links and resource sharing. Therefore, work

should be focused on the development of the State Unified Library System as well as maintaining access to digital information resources.

In the article "**The Invisible Leader: Lessons for Leaders from the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra**", *Jānis Lubāns* challenges familiar views of organisational leadership, suggesting quite an unusual idea: to reject managers. His idea is based on the recognition gained by the Orpheus Chamber Orchestra, which proves that high achievement is possible through self-management.

Under the heading "E-resources, e-services, e-communication", *Inese Kazāka* provides an article on "**Problematic aspects of managing special collections and archives**", introducing results from a wide-ranging piece of research by OCLC in 2009/2010, which show a whole range of problems. There has been a dramatic increase in the size of special collections (visual, audio and moving image materials — even up to 300%). Reader requests for rare and unique materials (especially in digitised form) are huge and their use is increasing fast. However, large parts of these collections are not processed or catalogued and, therefore, no accessible to readers. Data about 71% of born-digital resources, 75% of visual materials, 58% of maps, 50% or archive materials are not available. The overall conclusion of the research is both hopeful and gives cause for concern.

*Māra Jēkabsons's* article "**Creation of the National Digital Library of Latvia**" gives insight into the main topics considered during a discussion (02.06.2011.) of the same name organised by the National Library of Latvia and the New Specialists Section of the Library Association of Latvia in cooperation with the Information and Library Studies Department of the University of Latvia Faculty of Social Sciences. Participants, who represented memory institutions and state administration alike, evaluated accomplishments to date and examined how the digital library could be structured in the future.

In the section "Conferences, seminars, meetings", *Māra Jēkabsons* summarises impressions from the innovation conference "Lattelcom Day 2011" in her article "**Glimpse the future already today**". Surprising developments were revealed: intelligent security systems, cloud hosting services, the new Lattelcom Business TV Platform, with which users can order a pizza directly from their TV screen... The speedy development of IT and its services require powerful high quality data transmission networks, so implementation of the construction of an optical network infrastructure is progressing at full speed.

Starting the section "Children and young people in libraries", *Marlēna Krasovska* provides an insight into the annual conference (13.05.2011.) on children's li-

terature and libraries in **“Books are... @ your library... your film”**. The conference took place in the Children’s Literature Centre of the National Library of Latvia. As in previous years, the first part of the conference was devoted to an evaluation of children’s literature published in Latvia during the previous year. Original literature in Latvian in 2010 was supplemented by a number of new characters and symbols. The vampires that had been so popular in translations in 2009 were now appearing in new forms in Latvian books. Translations in a new manifestation — crossover literature — were causing confusion for philologists and parents alike. There was information about activity space for pre-school children in Bulduri library as well as an update on the problems of evaluating art in books. In a masterclass on cartoons, children’s librarians became familiar with making films and were able to try making animations. A special guest at the conference was Sybille Deselaers, Head of the Goethe Institute Library in Riga, who presented a paper on projects facilitating reading in Germany.

In **“A short introduction of making animated films”**, *Kristīna Ratniece* points out how animation and children’s literature provide an excellent complement to each other. Animation helps to turn stories into the magic of motion and is splendid in developing imagination and creativity in children. With modern technology, anyone can make a film studio, using simplified equipment and standard computer programs. The article gives an insight on how to make an animation using the stop motion method.

Under the heading “Past times and reflections”, *Māra Jēkabsonē*’s article **“Cēsis Library — 90 years: an important contribution to library history in Latvia”** gives a synopsis of the research by Dace Cepurīte. Cēsis Library celebrated its 90th anniversary in 2009 and to mark the occasion of the publication, the library arranged a book launch on 30 June 2011.

In “Abroad”, *Jana Dreimane*’s **“Overview of overseas library events (April–August 2011)”** includes information on: the situation of libraries in Japan after the earthquake of 11 March; the opening of the fifth extension to the Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig, which increases its total area by 14,000 sq.m.; the framing of a new public library support programme in Ireland; the implementation of “Biblionet”, a modernisation programme for Romanian libraries funded by the the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation’s Global Development Program; the closing of the central library of the British Museum due to a considerable cut in government funding. The overview also discusses the rapid expansion of partners in the digital library “Google Books” (including an increasing number of European national libraries) and summarises criticisms aimed at its implementation. There is also a summary of topics from the 77th IFLA WLIC in Puerto Rico “Libraries beyond libraries: integration, innovation and information for all”.

The section ends with *Jana Dreimane*’s **“The heights of spirituality in Colombia’s narcotics cartel region Medellín”**, which describes how local government officials have supported the growth of culture and libraries in the area.

The section “Old and new book trade” starts with *Sigita Trūpa*’s **“Publishing and the book trade in Latgale in the 1920s and 30s”**. The author looks at a period in Latgalian publishing history that has been one of the most contradictory. Exploring the trends at the time, she is gratified to admit that, notwithstanding the economic and political pressures of the chauvinism of the ruling Latvian groups, Latgale has contributed a rich and original share of materials to publishing in Latvia.

The section ends with *Jana Dreimane*’s review **“Outstanding research in book science”**, which provides a review of Ināra Klekere’s PhD thesis “Latvian poetry publications and the formation of a unified literary space: 1789–1855”, which is of special significance in Latvian book science. The work provides in-depth research on the impact of late Enlightenment and Romanticism period on the beginning of Latvian secular literature and evaluates the contribution of Baltic German pastors to Latvian literature and publishing. It also characterises shining examples of the poetry of the first writers of Latvian origin (Neredzīgais Indriķis, Jānis Ruģēns, Ansis Līvītāls, Ernests Dinsbergs). Publishing and literary processes are presented in a philosophical view, not hesitating to search for the origins of unexplained phenomena.

Under the heading “Miscellaneous information”, *Rudīte Kalniņa*’s **“Baltic restorers meet in Vilnius”** gives an overview of 9th Baltic Triennial “Synthesis of Art and Science in Conservation: Trends and Achievements” (10.–12.05.2011.). About 200 conference participants, all restoration specialists, presented 25 papers and 65 posters, of which the most significant and interesting are described in this article. The 10th Triennial will take place in Riga in 2014.

The section continues with *Jana Dreimane*’s look at **“The first international librarians’ bicycle ride from Copenhagen to Berlin and its hopes for the future”**, which was held from 28 May to 7 June 2011. “Cycling for libraries” an organized bicycle trip for library professionals attending the German Library Conference. About 100 librarians from 13 countries participated, including one from Latvia, in an effort that took 10 days to ride 650 km.

As always, this issue ends with the *Marlēna Krašovska*’s **“A review of library events in Latvia (April–August 2011)”**.

Translated by *Inese Auziņa-Smith*