

Summary

In her column **"Digital libraries and copyright"**, the journal's main editor *Anna Mauliņa* asks: "Can there be peaceful coexistence or is it eternal war?", referring to the heated discussions in EU countries following release of EU directives that limit the possibilities of copying. This means that the free use of copyright protected information for education, research, personal use from electronic sources is restricted or withdrawn. From this *A.Mauliņa* infers that limiting libraries from gathering and archiving a substantial amount of data acknowledges the triumph of copyright, because it enables authors and the administrators of their rights to gain significant advantages. On the other hand, the access to resources by libraries and other memory institutions, as well as information users, is considerably reduced. *A.Mauliņa* is convinced that, in the cases where it is not possible to reach a compromise solution to questions of copyright, the creators of Latvia's digital libraries should apply the experience of overseas libraries. This involves agreeing directly with authors and publishers, circumventing the sometimes aggressive management methods of copyright protection agencies. Nevertheless, she emphasises that a balance is necessary, and that this can be reached by both sides through dialogue and public discussion, because only through debate, rather than the power of ultimata, can the truth be reached.

No.41 of "World of Libraries" begins with **"Local authority public libraries in the context of regional and administrative territorial reforms"** by *Jānis Turlajs*. The article shows how access to services for the general public will be retained and improved by implementing administrative territorial reform. The author emphasises that districts will have a unified administrative structure and budget; therefore, the formerly independent *pagasts* (small rural area) and town libraries will form a unified district network. Regional main libraries will continue to operate as they do at present, providing for library functions at a regional level, e.g., maintaining the regional union catalogues.

Dmitrijs Zinovjevs presents a selection of postcards in the National Library of Latvia collection in his article **"Chrysanthemums, lace and pearls: Jugendstil women's clothes in photo postcards of the beginning of the 20th century"**. The images on these postcards, with their elegant Jugendstil (art nouveau) dresses, give a glimpse into a period that is often known as a "magical era". They provide an opportunity to research the history of a period with undoubted historical and cultural significance. The author highlights how advocates of Jugendstil tried to bring about aesthetic perfection in everyday life, thus creating a certain ideal living space in the areas of art and fashion. He provides a glimpse into the fashion scene of the day, which fundamentally changed the role of women in society, because, thanks to the new style of clothes, they could more easily be involved in social and work activities,

and participate in sports. The author concludes that attaining the romantic ideal of the time was not successful in contemporary culture, but innovation and bold examples laid the foundation for art deco and for today's design and architecture.

Inese Auziņa-Smith's and *Velta Pozņaka's* article **"The roles of librarians in provision of health information"** sets the context of its theme in the changes of terminology describing the evolving role and tasks of medical librarians and other health information professionals. International, regional, national and local cooperation in health information provision are described, together with the move to e-health and medical informatics, which are government priorities, and services from specialist information centres. Results of a questionnaire survey of public librarians are presented. It was found that were magazines, books, local pharmacies and the Internet were the most frequently used sources of health information, but that queries related more to information about healthy lifestyle rather than medical problems.

In her article **"Prison libraries and library services for prisoners"** *Kristīne Deksnē-Jerohina* analyses the state of prison libraries and, in determining the attitude towards the information needs of prisoners, tries to answer the question: "Should the punishment, no matter how severe, exclude a person for life from society?" The author concludes that the state of prison libraries in Latvia is bad and that the quality of library services for prisoners is poor. They do not conform to IFLA guidelines for services for prisoners, and legislation does not facilitate high quality services. *K.Deksnē-Jerohina* reminds readers that prisoners still belongs to society during their term of imprisonment, because that term is only for a particular time period. Therefore, prisoners should have access to a variety of activities: work, education, rational use of free time, the possibility of gaining new social skills, as well the using the library and getting necessary information.

In **"The Latvian Library for the Blind: what changes, survives"**, *Gunta Bite* sketches in the future vision of this library. She describes innovations in the LLB's sound recording studio, the reading room, the Braille department, the choice of talking books and other services. *G.Bite* emphasises the system of services for blind people and those with sight impairments is unified and coordinated. So as to guarantee high quality services for readers and to provide them with new opportunities, the system is constantly improved.

Laima Mirdza Ostele in the article **"The formation of a regional cooperative library network in Kurzeme"** analyses the risk factors involved in development and wonders whether the library has become simply an Internet access point. She provides an insight into the cooperative activities of the libraries in the Kurzeme region and concludes that the effectiveness of the network depends largely on the professional experience of the main library and its technological possibilities,

even thought training of librarians and practical activities are necessary in a number of areas. L.M.Ostele voices concern that the World Wide Web offers opportunities in the library, but at the same time it is also one of the threats, because many librarians have not become familiar with the services available from it and do not use them in either daily life or work in the library.

Under the heading "Computerisation, digitisation, internetisation" Anita Rašmane's article on "**Harvesting and archiving of Internet resources**" describes international experience on the topic and discusses the problems and peculiarities involved. She points out that, to use a fanciful analogous example, would be to call these resources "web tinned food", where the only difference from those used in daily life would be that the contents of the collected "jars" and "tins" are not real "vegetables", but the regularly "harvested" digital copies. The author emphasises that the person responsible for the quality of the "normal tinned food" is the one who prepares it, but the quality of the electronic "jars" and "tins" is in the hands of the librarian. In trying to find the answer to the question of how to preserve what is created, exists and vanishes in this unbelievably quick-changing environment, A.Rašmane comes to the conclusion that it is the task of the librarian to ensure access to believable and authoritative information, regardless of when it has been created.

Web 2.0 and Library 2.0 technologies, including weblogs (or blogs as they are more commonly known) are taking an increasingly large and stable place in the work of libraries. Māra Nipere's article "**The first Latvian library blog's 100 days**" reflects activities at the 100 day anniversary event for the Pārlielupe library in Jelgava. Veneranda Godmane, the Head of the library, and the blog's other participants shared their experiences. The audience was introduced to the history of the blog and the behind the scenes processes, as well as invited to create their own blogs, not losing the enthusiasm to maintain them, because library blogs in Latvia are a voluntary and unpaid activity. Basing her information on a paper by State Agency "Cultural Information Systems" (KIS) systems manager Jānis Ziediņš, M.Nipere characterises the biblioblogosphere of Latvia and provides an insight into technical aspects of creating blogs. She invites her colleagues to develop good quality blogs that are rich in content and grammatically correct. Weblogs provide an excellent opportunity to express opinions and exchange ideas, as has long been realised by EU commissars. Why shouldn't libraries create them as well? Library blogs are a perfect virtual meeting place for librarians and readers, as well as library supporters and other individuals. They provide the opportunity to publicise the library, to recruit new readers and to maintain closer ties with those who are already library members.

Under the heading "The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in Latvia" Kaspars Rūklis presents "**News from the Latvian Government and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's co-funded Public Library Deve-**

lopment Program". He introduces the advertising and public relations activities that will be carried out by the advertising agency "TBWA/Latvija" and the PR agency "MRS Group". These are provided for in the contract signed with the State Agency "Cultural Information Systems" (KIS). By the end of May 2008, there will be three publicity campaigns. The first, which introduces the new logo for libraries "The father's third son", has already been achieved. [The "three sons" are characters, which often appear in Latvian and other nations' folklore. The third son is the symbol of integrity and intelligence, he is a doer rather than a talker – an "action man". According to KIS, the name of the campaign shows the helpfulness and friendliness of an ordinary person, who can rise above daily cares with his intellectual strength. — Translator's note.] K.Rūklis reveals the main tasks of the campaign. The first is to eliminate prevalent stereotypes about libraries, thus enabling society to understand that the role of libraries has changed and that they anticipate a bright future. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has already made the 2007 payment, which was the first, and Latvia will receive the second payment (US \$ 8 731 000) from the Foundation in order to continue the project. K.Rūklis also introduces the Foundation's Global Library Program's activities in Lithuania. In December 2007, the Ministry of Culture of Lithuania announced that it would receive a grant of 15,2 million US dollars.

The sections "Conferences, seminars, meetings" starts with *Marlēna Petriņa's* article "**What's happening in Latvia's libraries?**", where she summarises the discussions of the autumn meeting of the directors of Latvia's research, special and public libraries, a discussion forum that was held 27-28 November 2007 in Riga. The crisis in Latvia's politics and economy give cause for concern about the future of libraries. Therefore, the main task of the forum was to identify threats and opportunities, as well as to outline strategic development directions for the future.

During 2007, research libraries have received a considerable increase in state financing. This has enabled a start on solving problems related to provision of information services in various disciplines. These have arisen due to insufficient finances and lack of coordination in collection development. Library work is also hindered by a lack of understanding that a library is one of the most essential components of the infrastructure of educational and scientific research. The increased support by the state for involvement in EU research programmes has encouraged libraries to plan for attracting finances by participating in competitive proposals for EU projects.

The administrative territorial and regional reforms (discussed in J.Turlajs's article) caused concern because of the new distribution of administrative territories. What should be done with current regional union catalogues, legal deposit libraries, cooperative initiatives set up by libraries? How should regional main libraries fulfil the advisory, consultative and coordinating functions set down by the new law, when their sphere of responsibility now overlap into the areas of other lo-

cal authorities? A solution is promised by a new law on equalisation of local government finances, which anticipates providing grants to centres that have taken on wider responsibilities. In many places, financial support for library advisory services has been insufficient, so it has not been possible to carry out the work as fully or as well as desired, only certain priorities received attention.

Participants at the meeting also discussed progress made in the Latvian Government and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's co-funded Public Library Development Project, opportunities for public libraries to participate in digitisation projects, the importance of metadata in the development of digital collections, and the encounter of digitisation and copyright. Presentations of the Library Portal of Latvia (<http://www.biblioteka.lv>) and of the new home page of the National Library of Latvia (<http://www.lnb.lv/>) were also on the agenda.

"Is Riga ready?" by *Inta Sallinene* recounts the proceedings of the 11th Local Studies Conference of Latvian Librarians, which was held in Riga 26-27 September 2007. The conference gave a comprehensive insight into the local studies activities of Riga public libraries and looked at questions relating to the development of Riga. In her address to the delegates during the opening session, Anna Mauliņa, Director of the NLL Library Development Institute (LDI), emphasised the importance of digitising local history materials in the context of preserving and providing access to world historicocultural heritage. Several other sessions revealed the close connection between digitisation and description of library local studies collections. I.Sallinene concludes that all libraries should pay close attention to publicity related to local studies information.

In **"A librarian is not a 'lonely island'"** *Elita Lazda* reports on impressions from the 10th Meeting-Conference of the Vidzeme Section of the Library Association of Latvia (LAL), which was held in Priekulji 18-19 July 2007. The theme of the meeting was "Libraries for individuals and society". She draws particular attention to Andris Vilks, Director of the NLL, reminded participants that all librarians have a special role to play in formation of digital libraries. Also, Anna Maulina, president of the LAL and Director of the NLL LDI, pointed out that libraries could no longer depend on registered readers, but needed to work increase outreach activities.

Viks Fairytale Park, which is named after the popular Latvian children's author, was opened in 2006 in the village of Dikļi (near Valmiera). Participants in the opening suggested that there should be an annual meeting of teachers, children's literature specialist and librarians to discuss questions relating to children's literature and how to encourage literary creativity in children. The result was a project called "The magic of children's literature". In 2007, under the auspices of this project, two initiatives were started: a "competition for young literary talent of Latvia" and organisation of

a children's literature festival. The first festival, which took place in Dikļi on 7 September 2007, is described by *Ilze Karsa* and *Marlēna Petriņa* in the article **"The magic of children's literature"** in the section "Children and young people in libraries". During the festival, children took part in a creative literature workshop under the leadership of Viks and Juris Zvirgzdiņš, who inspired them to write stories, fairytales, poetry... and much more.

While the children wrote, the teachers and librarians discussed the importance of children's literature in formation of their personality. Children's literature researcher Aija Kalve gave a paper on Viks's writings and Ilze Karsa, Head of Valmiera Library Children's Department, reflected on the problem of relativity of values in today's society and its impact on libraries. The Head of the NLL Children's Literature Centre Silvija Tretjakova spoke about the necessity of facilitating reading and the experience gained through the implementation of the "Children's jury" programme. The festival ended with readings from the children's creative workshop and the awarding of prizes to the winners of the young talent competition.

The section "Past times and reflections" has *Lilija Limane's* article **"Promoters of the Latgalian publishing and book trade"**, which describes the contribution and significance of four eminent Latgalians: Gustav Manteuffel (1832-1916), Vladislavs Rubulis (1887-1937), Miķelis Bukšs (1912-1977) and Vladislavs Locis (also Lōcis, 1912-1984). They were all active in facilitating and popularising the Latgalian language and the writing of books in Latgalian, overcoming various obstacles (e.g., a ban on publishing in the language). M.Bukšs and V.Locis became refugees at the end of World War II, but continued their writing and publishing activities during the exile period.

The "Overseas" section is introduced in an "African mood" by *Anna Mauliņa's* impressions of the World Library and Information Congress, the 73rd IFLA General Conference and Council in Durban, South Africa, 19-23 August 2007. The theme of the congress was **"Libraries for the future: progress, development and partnership"**. Together with personal impressions of the contrasts found in the country, A.Mauliņa provides a detailed insight into the proceedings of the conference, together with information about the development of libraries in South Africa. For example, the National Library of South Africa was established as recently as 1999. In recent years, the number of public libraries increased, with 1484 operating in 2002, but 1503 in 2004. The author also considers the agreement between IFLA and the International Publishers Association about treatment of orphan works as a great advancement in the facilitation of digitisation.

Jana Dreimane provides **"An overview of library events abroad (July to September 2007)"**. The main emphasis of the section is on the financial problems of Toronto Public Library, which, according to its press release of 25 July 2007, announced that the "...Library Bo-

ard approved the implementation of cost containment measures that will result in operating budget savings of \$ 1,2 million" by the end of 2007. The Board's decision to close 16 of its 27 branches on Sundays violated the Collective Agreement with its staff and administration and, therefore, it was revoked in October. Nevertheless, in order to save money, 14 000 library materials will not be acquired, the opening of the Jane/Dundas Branch will be delayed, alternate services during renovation-related branch closures will be discontinued. Also, there will be less funds for staff training, business trips and IT purchases. Additionally, many of the literary readings and events for children will no longer be available in the library.

The Iraq National Library and Archive (INLA) has been mentioned before in "World of Libraries" and in this issue Jana Dreimane again recounts the fate of this institution under war conditions. The Iraq National Guards and a US army patrol broke into the INLA building under the pretext of protecting it from attack by Shiites attending the al-Kadhimiya mosque. In his blog, hosted by the British Library to show solidarity with their sister institution, the INLA Director Dr Saad Eskander expresses the view that military forces are a threat to the safety of the institution's personnel and collections. Andy Stephens, Secretary to the Board of the, concurs, pointing out that the library and archive preserve the national heritage and, therefore, it should not be a target for military operations or army recreation.

Participating in the international friends of books movement "BookCrossing", it is possible to popularise reading and increase the number of readers. This movement started in 2001 in the USA, but the National Library Board, Singapore, is now also a member. This is significant, because it is the first time that a government organisation has been undertaken such a book dissemination initiative. Through its homepage (<http://www.bookcrossing.com>), anyone can register and record the book that has been left for the next reader. The movement includes 120 members in Latvia, most of whom live in Riga and are 20 to 30 years old.

There is also news that on 20 September 2007, the Boston Library Consortium, which is a cooperative association of 19 academic and research libraries, became a partner in the Open Content Alliance. This means that those materials which have been digitised by member libraries will be available to all Internet users, regardless of the search engine used to index them.

In her article **"Spain — a new "Law on reading, books and libraries"**" Jana Dreimane discusses the law signed by King Juan Carlos I on 22 June 2007. The aim of the law is to optimise the production, dissemination and access to books as a commodity of the cultural industry, as well as to facilitate reading. The law sets out in detail the tasks of the government, the Ministry of Culture, the local authorities and libraries in encouraging reading, because reading is the basic tool of knowledge acquisition. The law defines the main values and the basic services which should be guaranteed by public libraries.

In this issue, the **"Terminology Bible"** section has *Inta Virbule's* excerpts from the Latvian version of the international standard *LVS ISO 2789:2007 : Information and documentation. International library statistics*, which was published at the end of 2007. It specifies the rules for compiling and presenting library statistics. The basic principles section of the standard has library services terminology and definitions.

The section "Miscellaneous" starts with a report from 27 September 2007 issued by the Library of Congress, which states that their work in the USA is facilitated, thanks to the full high quality cataloguing records from Latvia. *Karīna Bandere* describes news of a 19 September 2007 press release from the European Library and the Royal Library of the Netherlands about laying the foundation of the **"European Digital Library"** and the idea to reflect two millennia of European cities through the pilot project "City". In the report **"New library standards evolve"**, *Māra Indaberga* points out that not only cataloguers, but also LIS students and academics, computer systems designers, producers of metadata and MARC, national and international organisation staff (e.g., ISSN staff) will be able to use the new international cataloguing standard *Resource description and access (RDA)*, which will replace AACR2. She also reminds us that, as IT applications develop, so does the use of thesauri. *ISO 25964: Information and documentation — Guidelines for the establishment and development of thesauri* continues the transformation of the standard for controlled vocabularies into one for general knowledge organisation. There is also *Marlēna Petriņa's* **"A review of library events in Latvia (July – September 2007)"**. *Kristīne Dekšne-Jerohina* provides a list of **"New acquisitions in the LIS Reading Room of the National Library of Latvia Library Development Institute"** for the same period. The section ends with a personal musing by *Ralfs Draviniēks* called **"A fish can't do without water, just as a girl without a solarium, but I can't do without books"**. He reveals why, at the age of 19, he finally started reading books and now, at 21, how he can't do without them.

Translated by **Inese Auziņa-Smith**