



Association internationale des bibliothèques, archives et centres de documentation musicaux (AIBM)

International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML)

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

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The Lithuanian music libraries' collections are formed by integrating specialized and universal library functions in the libraries of various types. The holdings contain all forms of music documents, such as printed music, manuscripts, audio and video materials, books, and serials. Since 1961, the Music department of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania has provided professional assistance to the whole network (about 150 different types of libraries possessing music stocks). Music documents are preserved at municipal public libraries and at libraries of musical educational institutions (the main of them is the Library of Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre). The music departments of five county libraries and Vilnius Public Library of Music and Art have become leading public libraries. About 1000 manuscripts and an old printed music collection is also preserved at the Library of Lithuanian Academy of Science.

A library modernization programme financed from the Government of Lithuania and another national-scale project, "Libraries for Innovation", financed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the Government of Lithuania, municipalities, and the Microsoft company will add to the improvement of musical libraries and enrich their opportunities.

Music libraries take part in various projects. I would like to mention some of them which are more important.

Digitization of national culture heritage is a part of the nowadays global cultural policy. The National Library of Lithuania received funding from the Support Fund of the Ministry of Culture for continuous project of digitization of Lithuanian shellac records. The Music Department of the National Library of Lithuania had been implementing the project.

For a long time, Lithuanian shellac records had no public access. They have been kept at private collections, have survived two wars, have been lost or preserved by accident, and later had made their way into the state collections. Since 1961, the National Library of Lithuania has been collecting and preserving the archive of published Lithuanian sonic documents as a part of the national archive of the published documents. The main criteria for its formation are comprehensiveness, a guarantee for preservation, accessibility, and a basis for discography, discology, musicology, and scientific research of our sonic heritage. Now the national archive of sound documents contains more than 8,000 titles of which 1,600 titles are old Lithuanian shellac records as a Lithuanian sound heritage.

In 2007, the conversion into CDs of the entire Lithuanian shellac record collection was finished, hereby forming the archival and readers' fund of records which are accessible to all at the reading room of the Department of Music. The works from this archive have been played on the radio weekly program *Classics*, which is dedicated to the history of gramophone. In order to celebrate the centenary of the publishing of the first Lithuanian record and also in honour of Lithuanian musical culture of the previous years, the Music Department of National Library



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issued the annotated *Anthology of Old Lithuanian Shellac Records* on four compact discs and with a 40-page brochure. The newly revived voices of the collection have already found their listeners and researchers.

The reports on digitization of Lithuanian cultural heritage were presented by Music Department of the National Library at the 8th International Congress of Baltic Librarians and at the international seminar for librarian from Lithuanian, Latvia, and Estonia known as LiLaEst, both held in Tallinn in 2007. Last year the Music Department also supplied the Lithuanian digitized old shellac recordings to the international project “VARIAZIONE”, being a partner together with the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre (1m229 Lithuanian shellac records became accessible in the virtual space). The retrospective formation of a collection is continuous process. Cooperation with the researchers and collectors of Lithuanian records will help make the national archive of Lithuanian shellac records the most comprehensive in the world. It has become an object of Lithuanian National Registry in the framework of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme. Last year the collection was supplemented with the famous shellac records collection of Lithuanian musician and collector Vytautas Strolia from United States of America (about 2000 Lithuanian shellac records). Now the most important task is to create a unified digital collection of Lithuanian shellac records from all Lithuanian music libraries and private collections, and make them accessible to public. As part the project *Creation of the Integrated Virtual Library Information System*, it is intended to digitize newly-received Lithuanian shellac records and the all Lithuanian vinyl gramophone discs.

The National Library of Lithuania is the initiator, developer, and the managing body of the *Creation of Integrated Virtual Library Information System* project, financed from the EU Structural Funds. The project implementation was initiated in association with project partners – the Lithuanian Art Museum and the Lithuanian Archives Department. During the project the data bank of digitized cultural heritage objects will be created containing over 3,605,000 digitized pages of original manuscripts, newspapers, old books, printed music, metrics, chronicles and other especially valuable and historically important documents.

Last year the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences continued participation in the project in the framework of the EUREKA programme, constructing the Lithuanian website MUSICALIA (<http://www.musicalia.lt>). The project aims at forming a database of universal multimedia consisting of texts, images, and sounds. It is comprised of musical manuscripts from the Middle Ages to the Baroque era from various European countries, including Lithuania. It preserves Lithuanian cultural heritage in the virtual environment.

The Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System – LIBIS – enabled to form the Lithuanian integrated library information network and serves as the basis for the Union Catalogue. At present, 84 libraries take part in the catalogue compilation process. The LIBIS Centre was established at the National Library of Lithuania. The Music Department of the National Library has introduced music specifications into the LIBIS programs. Experts of the National Library prepared and published the methodology of the machine-readable bibliographic records creation according to the UNIMARC manual bibliographic format (Update 5) and methodology of



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creation of machine-readable authority records according to the UNIMARC manual: authorities format (2nd ed.) Last year specifications for the improvement of the LIBIS software according to the functional requirements for bibliographic records were also developed. The Music Department took part in these activities providing suggestion regarding specialized musical subjects, preparing coded music fields 145 and 128 and selecting Lithuanian examples. Last year workshops for music librarians were devoted to the above-mentioned innovations.

A significant selection of manuscripts and early editions of printed music and manuscripts of the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries had been restored at the National Library, and now are being catalogued to the Union LIBIS catalogue. Last year some manuscripts were submitted to RISM. So Music department of the National Library joined to this very important IAML project.

Last year RILM National Committee of Lithuania continued work with the new Ibis RILM submission website forms. We translated the RILM website into Lithuanian in order to involve publishers and volunteers into RILM. So we hope to expand RILM activity in Lithuania.

I would like to mention some IAML support projects. Yale University Library's project enriched the National Library of Lithuania, Vilnius Music and Art Public Library, and Library of Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre by donation of more than 5,000 music scores, books, and serials. The Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre has received a large donation of contemporary music items from London's Royal College of Music. Last year the RCM offered a study visit to the director of the Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Eglė Kriščiūnaitė. The Music Department of the National Library of Lithuania holds permanent exchange contacts with the Library of the University of Washington. There is very good cooperation between the Music Department of National Library of Lithuania and Polish RISM Centre (National Library), which twice hosted RISM training for Živilė Časaitė from the Music Department of National Library of Lithuania. It helped us to join the RISM project. We appreciate this support very much.

The revised Law on Associations of the Republic of Lithuania has blocked our activity in establishment of an association of music libraries and a local branch of IAML. The most important aim is to encourage more Lithuanian music libraries to join IAML membership, and to enlarge Lithuanian RILM and RISM activities. Now only four libraries are the members of IAML and represent our Country: National Library of Lithuania, Library of Lithuanian Academy of Music and Theatre, Vilnius public Library of Music and Arts and Klaipėda University Library.

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