



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

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

Internationale Vereinigung der Musikbibliotheken, Musikarchive und Musikdokumentationszentren (IVMB)

Lithuania / Lietuva, Report 2012

We received two reports from Lithuania, one from Egle Jovaisaite Music and Art Library, Vilnius, Lithuania, and the other from Eglė Marčienė of The Music Department of National Library of Lithuania.

Public Music Libraries in Lithuania

The public libraries in Lithuania have a large, ambitious 10-year project: “Libraries for Innovation”. Its aim is to eliminate urban and rural disparities in communication and information infrastructure to provide all residents the same access to information technologies for social and public needs. The project ends in 2013. The Music and Art Library is pursuing a scheme of specialized computer training cycle for professionals - musicians.

In 2012–2013 Music and Art Library will carry out a training course for music professionals, students, music lovers, and others interested in music. Key topics include: music writing program (Passport Designs Encore, Sibelius) search in specific data databases (Grove), and other activities.

As functions of the library undergo changes, our library is also expanding the scale of its work. We have intensive cooperation projects with the Vilnius University Museum. Named after the Lithuanian and Polish poet Adam Mickiewicz, it is very popular with both local and foreign visitors. The museum also hosts exhibitions, concerts, literary Wednesdays. Music and Art Library participates in the preparation of exhibitions by lending music sheets, books on art and photography, music recordings. Our librarians read lectures and guide the exhibitions. I can mention events dedicated to S. Moniuszko, M. K. Oginski, music of the 18th century Vilnius and etc.

Participation in Culture Night

Music and Art Library takes an active part in the Vilnius Culture Night in June. City Culture Night is an annual event that is extremely popular among citizens of Vilnius. Museums, theaters, and concert halls stay open through the night for the public. This year there were 150 events in this big “cultural fiesta”. Our library joined it this year for the second time. A black and white poster, “Sleeping Prohibited,” invited all to call on the Music and Art Library for the “Maironis - Lithuanian National Bard” event. Through the open library windows flowed sounds of music and poetry. There were displays of music sheets “Maironis in Music” and documents such as “The Poetry of Lithuanian Bard in in Painting and Graphic art”. The shows were supplemented by music. The library has a collection of vinyl records that provided a unique romantic spirit. It should be mentioned that, next to popular entertainment, a classic poet Maironis enjoyed abundant visitors' attention. It was a successful event and the Music and Arts Library became a part of the cultural life of Vilnius.

Conclusions

Collections of special libraries are becoming less used. The problems are caused not by lack of information but due to information overload. We are experiencing a moment of tyranny, as we should be able to reject 99.9 percent of redundant information and select the real one. The Norwegian anthropologist Thomas Hyland Eriksen said that it is a misconception that everything



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is online. Google is a “father of information” to us all. A librarian-educator becomes more and more popular. Information literacy practice has been launched in the U.S. in 1970. Librarians are experts in the search of sources and information systems. In order to help understand, we will need:

1. To teach information retrieval skills; 2. To teach formulate precise queries; and 3.

Open access collections. Libraries will continue as long as people want quality information and knowledge because: 1. It is impossible to digitize everything; 2. copyright restricts access to the originals; 3. databases are expensive, and libraries can order them; 4. libraries can provide online sessions and a place where many could join together; 5. a human being is a social creature, so he or she requires communication; 6. results are accurate and precise when one searches personally; 7. and, sometime serendipity plays a part when quite unexpected results are discovered.

So, in this kind, public libraries staff sees the optimistic developing way to the music libraries for future.

Egle Jovaisaite

Music and Art Library, Vilnius, Lithuania

The Music Department of Martynas Mažvydas, National Library of Lithuania

The Music Department of Martynas Mažvydas in the National Library of Lithuania this year managed to implement its long-term aim: to open to the world the collection of Lithuanian records. The Music Department started acquisition of Lithuanian recordings in 1961 with the aim to collect and preserve them as a sound cultural heritage, and to form collection for public access. It became reality when the National Library in 2010–2012, together with the nine partners in libraries, museums and archives, implemented the national project “Development of Virtual Electronics Heritage System”. This Project extended another Project, implemented in 2005–2008, “Creation of virtual library information system”. The Project is funded from EU structural funds and the budget of the Republic of Lithuania. In the framework of the Project, 11,097 music works, preserved in the Archive of Sound Documents of the National Library were brought to the digital format and will be presented on portal www.epaveldas.lt Musical works were selected and digitized by the Music Department of National Library of Lithuania. There are 2,207 digitized Lithuanian vinyl and shellac records issued in various countries. Among them there are very rare ones: the first Lithuanian records issued by the Zonophone Record Company in Riga, in 1907–1909, and in Vilnius, in 1910–1911. There will also be shellac and vinyl records issued in Soviet times and picturing cultural panorama of Lithuania of that time. Researchers of Lithuanian records, musicologists, and all music lovers will enjoy rare Lithuania records issued abroad – in the USA, Canada, South America, and Europe. Many people will hear the records for the first time.

Musical works were selected and digitized by the Music Department of the National Library of Lithuania. From the historical point of view, the most valuable part of the collection are the old Lithuanian shellac records, collected in cooperation with researchers of Lithuanian recordings, collectors Algirdas Motieka (Lithuania) and Vytautas Strolia (Lithuanian emigrant who spent his long living years in the USA and donated his records collection to the National Library). It is not an accident that the old Lithuanian shellac record is as an object of Lithuanian National Registry in the framework of the UNESCO Memory of the World programme. The value of the collection is also witnessed by the fact that the annotation of the promotional



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compact disc “The First One Hundred” issued in Geneva by European Broadcasting Union to celebrate Radio’s centenary (1995), tells: “The European Broadcasting Union proudly presents a selection of short radio items from the broadcasting archives of its Members. The earliest recording comes from Lithuania (1907)” . . . This collection has been prepared to celebrate Radio’s centenary”. Two of Lithuanian Radio’s records were included into priority list (at the beginning and at the end) of this collection. So, such small country as Lithuania was highly appreciated.

The Music Department of the National Library, participating in the national project “Development of Virtual Electronics Heritage System”, made every effort to save and open to the public old Lithuanian records.

I would like to mention that the Music Department of the National Library of Lithuania keeps leading the National RILM Committee (Chair: Eglė Marčnienė) and participating in the RILM and the RISM projects.

Eglė Marčnienė

The Music Department of National Library of Lithuania