

MARTYNAS MAŽVYDAS  
NATIONAL LIBRARY  
OF LITHUANIA

2020-2022  
**Report**



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# 2020-2022 Report

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To become an integral part of the country's progress in information policy, culture, education, science and economy



To serve as a space for knowledge that creates value for Lithuanian society

# RENALDAS GUDAUSKAS: "NATIONAL LIBRARY IN THE CREATIVE PROCESS"

**How would you, as the Head of the institution, evaluate the period 2020-2022 for the National Library?**

In short – years full of challenges, volatile, but extremely hardworking. COVID-19 put radical changes on our activities – a lot has already been said about the influences experienced. Therefore, today, our wish is to summarise and finalise – we accepted the challenge in full and overcame it.

The last two years have been years of ambitious projects. We have implemented a modernisation project for the Cultural Education System, which can be successfully used through the new cultural education administration platform. The new system includes opportunities for the cultural and educational sectors, creating conditions for growing society and providing the most required elements. I would also like to mention the modernisation of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS) and the creation of the virtual cultural heritage information system as well as the *epaveldas.lt* portal. The projects were large-scale and required a lot of effort, but these changes will undoubtedly lead to a significant shift towards the development of virtual cultural services.

**When it comes to the COVID-19 pandemic, the situation was quickly and constantly changing, with no chance of predetermining the strategy of action. Can it be said that the National Library**

**emerged successfully from the quagmire of the coronavirus pandemic? What helped the most in your opinion?**

Quick response, anti-crisis preparedness, dedication of middle and top managers and involvement of the entire team. We have boldly tried and are still in the process of enabling different forms of remote activity. In most cases, they worked, and the new model has allowed us to carry out our activities more optimally, even after the pandemic. On the other hand, we have adopted a 24/7 customer service model in the virtual space.

National and international media started noticing our activities. For example when we started producing protective face shields. We also successfully used our television studio, implemented the competences of our employees – specifically in bibliotherapy and work with children and teens. And there are many such areas, in principle – we touched on many activities and almost all of them have changed in one way or other.

**You mentioned several big and important projects. Both the LIBIS and *epaveldas.lt* systems took years to develop and recently they have been updated, started their life and, of course, will probably continue to be improved. Can it be said that after implementing these projects, the National Library left the traditionally understood field of library**





**activities and entered a much wider spectrum, establishing itself as an institution capable of paving the way to e-culture?**

By implementing these projects, we moved to a new level of quality. We became a successful part of the digital transformation, and after all, digital transformation is part of a larger strategic transformation of society. It is reorienting itself to another level of activity, where the digital world is extremely important, and all institutions have no way but to redesign their activities accordingly. In this regard, the National Library works not only for the benefit of libraries, but also for the entire cultural field. The successful *epaveldas.lt* project allowed us to enter an even more ambitious stage – the *e-culture* program, creating a convenient one-stop access to cultural content, data and information resources. The implementation of this phase will start in the near future. And I can confidently say that the National Library has established itself as a leader in processes of this field.

**In recent years, the National Library has proven to be a socially responsible institution. This direction of activity remained steady even after the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022.**

We have been paying attention to Ukraine since 2014, when the military invasion of this country began. Since then, we have accomplished

around 40 successful initiatives. In this regard, we are one of the most active institutions in the cultural field today. We cooperate with Ukrainians, we develop joint projects including film screenings, exhibitions, book presentations, and visits of Ukrainian children to the library.

Our latest initiative – production of trench candles, initiated by the PATS SAU library's workshop team. There is no shortage of volunteers making candles and we are glad that people willingly donate the necessary tools: used cans, leftover wax and paraffin. Over fifteen thousand trench candles have already reached the Ukrainian soldiers and are used for cooking, drying shoes, or simply heating. I would call it a manifestation of citizenship – Lithuanian society is ready and willing to help other nations; we agree on this issue as a mature civil society capable of self-defense. Our projects, events and activities related to Ukraine remain endless.

**Institutions in the cultural sector undoubtedly have a significant impact on the public life of states. The National Library contributes to the development of the welfare of the state through its activities. The “2021-2023 strategic directions and priorities” document of the National Library states that “activities are developed in several main directions: culture, education, science, economy”. Do these areas remain a priority in 2023?**

First of all, I want to emphasise why we consider culture, education, science and economy to be essential strategic directions. These aspects have already been singled out in the UNESCO mission and are integral, strengthen each other and contribute to problem solving in any field. Among other things, the National Library is the main scientific library of the country. We have a considerably large group of researchers, the whole institution in a certain sense acts as a medium for the state's competitive advantage. Here, services are provided to the public, allowing a higher quality of activity. Thus, all four directions of activity are an integral part of our daily routine.

The economic direction seems a bit unconventional, but today libraries are already creating a state's competitive advantage too. For example: the National Library presented its stand in 2021 world exhibition "Expo 2020" held in Dubai (United Arab Emirates). We created an interactive story about the pioneer of Lithuanian fiction – Kristijonas Donelaitis and his most famous work "Metai" (*The Seasons*). The Expo can be called a space of economic and cultural diplomacy – Lithuanian national activities and our own activities in the field of cultural heritage were successfully presented on an international scale. The library participated in the world exhibition as a fully-fledged actor in this field.

**In fact, the activities of the National Library in the field of cultural diplomacy have been quite prominent recently. What value does the library itself, its founders, and finally the state, experience from institutional, national and international cooperation?**

Through our work, we got noticed. When, for example, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is considering organizing prestigious national or international events and is looking for someone to implement the ideas – all eyes are on the successful contribution of the National Library. This is not the most modest way to talk about it, but the quality work of our team in the field of cultural diplomacy is inevitably visible and appreciated. The most recent example – events dedicated to the centenary of diplomatic relations between Lithuania and Japan.

Furthermore, we have all the courage to undertake new types of activities distinct from typical librarian ones. In general, our library as an institution is one of the most successfully realised institutional examples of cultural-creative industries.

**Shall we say that the National Library can already share the best practices of cultural diplomacy with others?**

While participating in the meetings of the European national libraries, I emphasise cultural diplomacy as one of the essential directions of the library's activity. In my opinion, this is a breakthrough and essential

addition to the classical reality of libraries. Inevitably, we cross new international spaces, which are not only related to library activities, but to culture in general – diplomacy also.

The National Library has the substantial Judaica Research Centre – its activities can also be considered a breakthrough and noticeable on an international scale. An excellent example would be the year 2020, when, commemorating the year of the history of Vilnius Gaon and Lithuanian Jews, experts from the Judaica Research Centre participated in and contributed to expert consultations and the organisation of events in the United States of America, the Republic of South Africa and European countries, those organized by the permanent representation of the Republic of Lithuania in the United Nations in Geneva, as well as in the Permanent Mission to UNESCO in Paris. In 2021 a six-year large-scale Jewish document digitisation project was finalised with the National Library's long-term partner, the New York-based Jewish Research Institute YIVO. Two projects are currently underway with the National Library of Israel. This, on the one hand, testifies to the international community's interest in the history of Lithuanian Jews, and on the other hand, highlights the potential of the National Library and the leadership of its experts.

**The National Library has accumulated vast collections of knowledge. Speaking of the National Library's desire to make all of this as widely available to the public as possible, you remembered the statement by Herbert Putnam, director of the US Library of Congress, saying that "a book in use fulfils a higher purpose than a book that is merely preserved." In the 21st century, the library is no longer just a repository of books and computer technology, and the digitisation of documentary heritage has made a significant contribution to this. Users of today's library resources, who are constantly improving their digital literacy skills, always search for services that keep up with modern technologies. What are the tasks related to digital complexity for the National Library?**

That statement by Herbert Putnam sums up the essence of the library in general. The information resources accumulated in the library require creating new value. Today we have to act comprehensively. In addition to the traditional activities of book studies, librarianship, bibliography and archiving, attention should also be paid to Big Data, artificial intelligence (AI), networking sciences and many other subjects of the modern world. In addition to the classic reading process, society faces a huge flow of information. And here, libraries can become large digital collaboration hubs – to accumulate all the value created by humanity in various fields and to spread it to society. Everyday, our reality is reshaped, and the library has to keep up with it, creating and implementing projects in the digital space.



Today, the problem is not the lack of information, but the information filter – how one distinguishes what is of real value from the information noise that is the basis of the huge array of information. Libraries are components of this information filter in the broadest sense of the word, providing maximum access to information through their information systems, allowing modern methods of accessing that wealth of information in a targeted manner, according to the topics, priorities, etc.

**The National Library also performs functions of the parliamentary library. Are there plans to expand strategic forecasting activities?**

We cooperate with the Future Committee of the Parliament. The Strategic Forecasting Department has been operating in the library for a year now. Its activities are promising, integral and include the latest forms of media practice and insights into strategic perspectives. This department not only provides support for the Future Committee of the Parliament, but is also an integral part of the prognostic content system. Our experts join activities of the parliamentary committee, speak up in public media and provide decent information background for future scenario modelling. The direction of strategic forecasting is, in my opinion, very promising. Not only this department, but several other strategic departments of the library should work in this direction too.

Although libraries are traditionally imagined as classical islands of peace, the National Library is increasingly showing itself to be a strategically agile institution. We are significant partners of many projects. At a conference a couple of years ago, the director of the Lithuanian Social Research Center, dr. Boguslavas Gruževskis said that the library itself does not yet realise how it is turning into an institution creating informational value. And indeed – the National Library is *creating*. We create what society requires. Many of our projects reflect this attitude. Thanks to the team of employees, we could even say that the National Library is a certain competence base – specialists from various disciplines work here and their knowledge, abilities and strengths are revealed in many of the projects we carry out.

**From 1 January 2023 the Science and Encyclopedia Publishing Center (SEPC) has been attached to the National Library. Will this be a breakthrough in the direction of science?**

Of course, specialists with scientific competences joined and significantly strengthened our team. I believe this will improve the visibility and quality of our activities. On the other hand, the connection is also beneficial for SEPC – becoming a part of a large national institution gives us the opportunity to participate in the implemen-

tation of large projects – in fact, it will provide a new opportunity for self-realisation.

**After the reconstruction in 2016, the National Library opened its renovated spaces and became a significant place for cultural and even political events, a democratic and open area to all.**

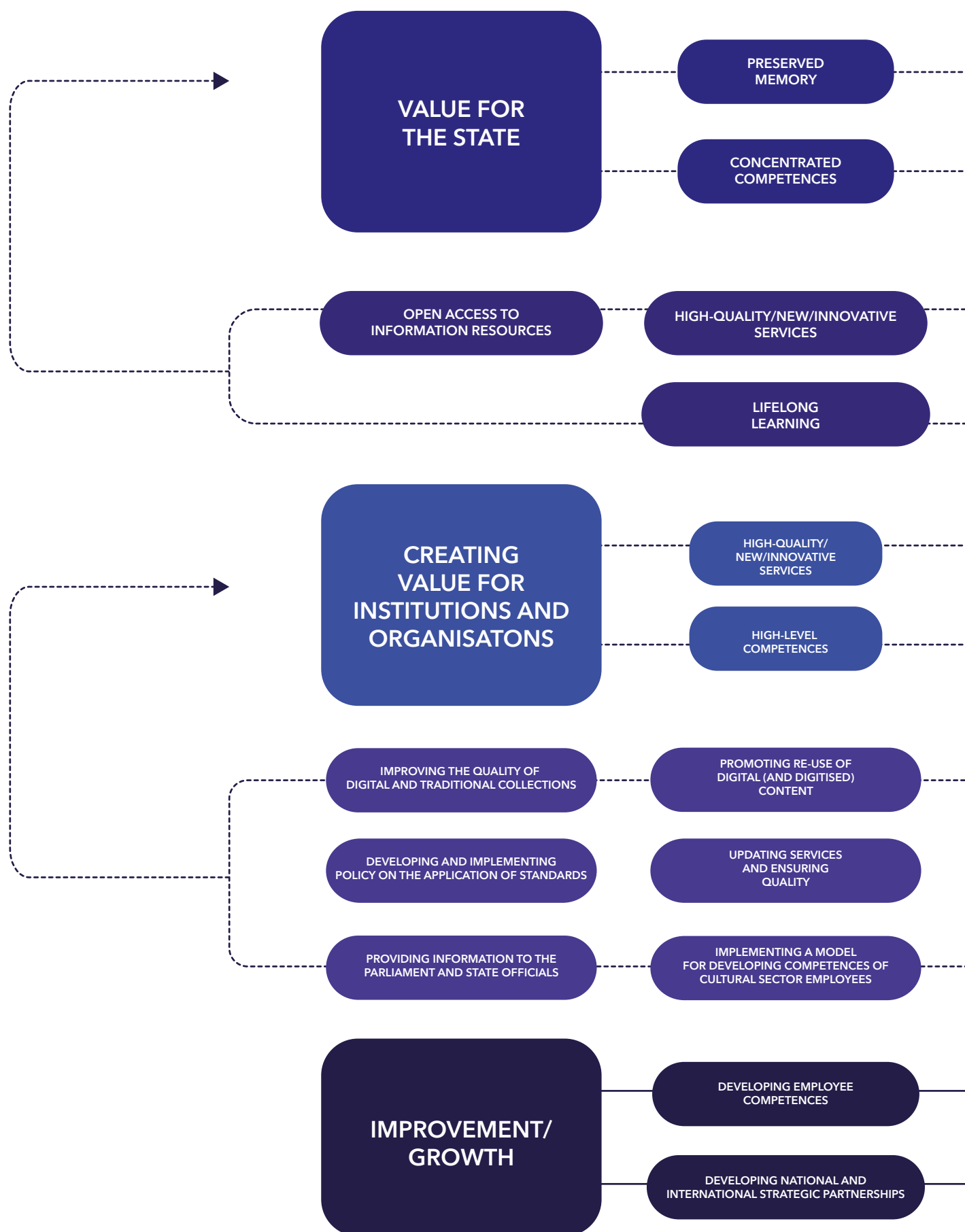
We wanted to give new meaning to the library and implement new areas of activity as a social institution. Not only the premises, but all essential functions of the National Library in general were renovated. Our mission as a parliamentary library strengthened. More than 1000 events take place in the library during the year, some of them on a national scale.

The National Library contributes to the strengthening of this quarter of the capital city – the western part of Gediminas Avenue. We cooperate with the embassies of various countries; we are establishing an American centre. We have signed cooperation agreements with many neighbouring institutions – both Vilnius University of Applied Sciences and schools, the Lithuanian Social Research Centre and the Lithuanian news agency ELTA. So I wouldn't be wrong to say that we are bringing together the community of this block.

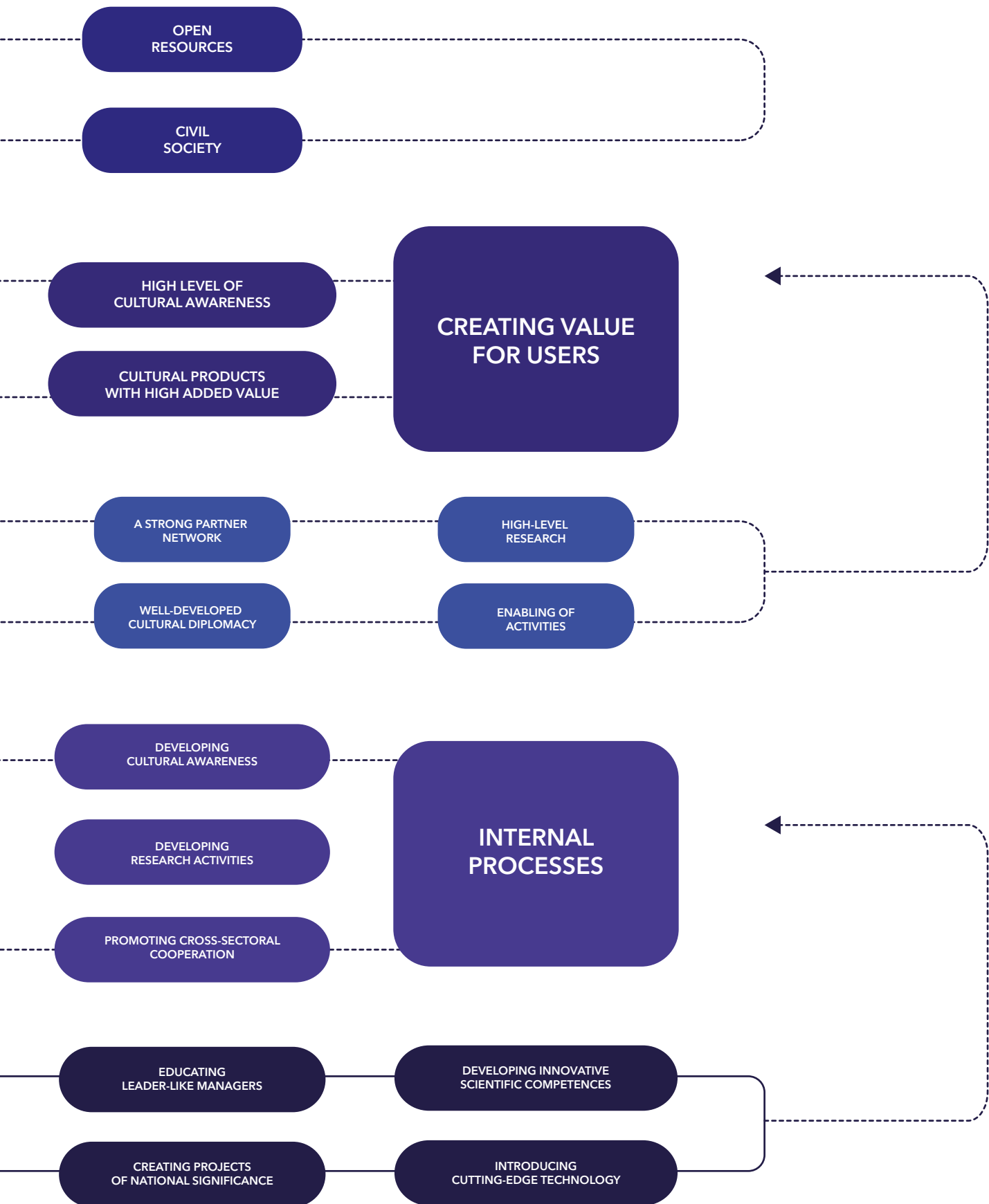
**World libraries, like other memory institutions, actively contribute to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The aspiration to be an environmentally friendly institution is also mentioned here. The National Library took its first big step forward when the last century 7th decade building was renovated as part of a reconstruction project including technical engineering equipment. The recent global crisis related to energy resources has once again confirmed the goals set by the states to increase the amount of energy produced from renewable sources, which is not just a nice wish – the energy efficiency of public sector buildings can become an extremely significant criterion. What are the possibilities of the National Library in this area?**

In 2016, after the reconstruction of the main building (which was opened in 1963), we are happy with the good condition of the main building, but unfortunately we cannot say the same about the extension building, which opened in 2003. We currently have an approved application to install solar panels on the roof of the library extension. After receiving funding, we should be able to implement this project in 2023. We are also waiting for invitations to submit new applications for improving the energy efficiency of the buildings, so that we can implement previously planned works, improve the thermal efficiency of the buildings and the quality of the working conditions of our employees.

# THE STRATEGY MAP OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA







# THE MOST IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE PAST THREE YEARS

## 2020 03 14

From 14 March to 26 April 2020, visitors were served only virtually, and from 11 November to 31 December, only the home-lending service were available physically.

## 2020 03 30

The National Library, together with the country's public libraries, actively participated in the Robotics School initiative by using 3D printers to print protective face shields for medics. More than 50 public libraries have joined the initiative.

## 2020 07 01

For the first time, the Library participated in the Lithuanian Research Council's annual evaluation of the scientific work of Lithuanian research and study institutions. All scientific publications submitted by the Library staff in 2019 in the social sciences and humanities field were approved by the experts of the Lithuanian Research Council.

## 2020 08 17

The international seminar "LiLaEst 2020" of the Baltic National Libraries was held in Lithuania. The main topic of the seminar was the possibility of reusing digitised content. The participants reviewed the situation of the national libraries in this field, shared best practices and future visions.

## 2020 09 03

A new unit, the Department of Information and Communication Sciences, was created. It took over the activities of the Information Sciences Department, the Librarianship Unit, the Management Information Unit and the Information Analytics Unit.

## 2020 10 20

The exhibition "Shenot Eliyahu / The Year of Elijah: The Influence of the Vilna Gaon on the Jewish Culture of Lithuania" presented the Vilna Gaon as a person and his intellectual and pedagogical activities, his influence on the Jews of Vilnius, their mentality and culture. One of the most important exhibits was the Vilna Gaon's synagogue's pinkas (yearbook), which is housed at the YIVO Jewish Research Institute in New York.

## 2020 11 18

The project "Modernising of the cultural education system" was launched. Its main objective is to improve the cultural education system and its tools: the Cultural Passport programme, the competences and network of cultural education coordinators and cultural educators, cultural interventions and a suitable IT system.















## 2021 01 12

The Book of the Year campaign has been renewed: the procedure has been changed, Lithuanian authors publishing in Lithuania abroad have been given the opportunity to participate, the visual style of the campaign has been renewed, and an official cooperation agreement has been concluded with the Lithuanian National Radio and Television.

## 2021 03 17

The Centre for the Development of Qualifications and Vocational Training and the National Library signed a cooperation agreement, formalising the partnership between the institutions in the joint project on continuing education for cultural workers "Developing the adult education system by providing learners with general and basic competences".

## 2021 06 08

The 55th anniversary season of the Palanga Summer Reading Room welcomed its readers with a festive evening, exclusive creative workshops, book presentations, and meetings with writers, concerts, games for the whole family and prizes for the winners.

## 2021 07 01

The updated LIBIS catalogue and the *ibiblioteka.lt* portal were launched. The catalogues of all public libraries were merged in order to make it easier for users to find information, to shorten the processing of publications and to make them available to visitors quicker. It was arranged to allow access to e-periodicals through the catalogue and to provide data on publications to publishers.

## 2021 09 13

Establishment of a Strategic Forecasting Unit. It examines projected future scenarios, opportunities and challenges that these scenarios may present, with the aim to improve policy-making and the development of viable strategies.

## 2021 10 01

An interactive narrative about Kristijonas Donelaitis, the founder of Lithuanian fiction, and his most famous work, *The Seasons*, created by the National Library and its partners, was a highlight of the World Expo 2020 in Dubai (United Arab Emirates).

## 2021 11 01

The "Book Start" project was launched in Lithuania to promote early reading by giving book boxes to Lithuanian families with new babies.

## 2021 11 23

On the 30th anniversary of the Parliamentary Library, the National Library organised an international scientific conference *Political Leadership in Parliamentary Democracy*. The conference focused on information provision for decision-makers, the challenges of information analysis, and communication for political leadership.

## 2021 12 01

An international scientific conference on book studies, *Theatrum Libri: the Press, Reading and Dissemination in Early Modern Europe*, was held to discuss digital humanities, open access in the field of cultural heritage studies and the mission of research libraries.









## 2022 01 01

The new version of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania Resolution No. 868 (20 October 2021) and the new version of paragraph 2 of the Electronic Document Submission Act came into force, obliging producers of public information to hand over to the National Library a mandatory unit for the storage of all types of electronic documents.

## 2022 01 01

By decision of the Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, the Vilnius Jewish Public Library started operating as a subdivision of the National Library of Lithuania.

## 2022 01 10

The international Edward Blank Vilnius Collections project was completed – the former dispersed library and archive collections of the pre-war YIVO Institute were digitised.

## 2022 01 31

Public access computer and internet infrastructure in Lithuanian public libraries were upgraded, enabling citizens to participate in digital literacy and local digital content creation and other digital information initiatives.

## 2022 02 01

The renewed *epaveldas.lt* portal was launched. Users were invited to use interactive services, share digitised objects and promote re-use.

## 2022 03 29

The Research Council of the National Library was renewed by order of the Director General. Dr Virgis Valentinavičius, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Institute of Communication of Mykolas Romeris University, has been elected as its Chairman.

## 2022 03 30

The National Library, together with the National Libraries of Estonia and Latvia, addressed the world library community to strongly condemn the war in Ukraine and to demand a halt to the membership of libraries of the Russian Federation in international organisations.

## 2022 04 04

The Centre for Competence Development and Cultural Education (CCDCE) of the National Library was launched. Its main activities are the implementation of policy on cultural education and increasing access to cultural education, as well as the implementation of programmes or projects for the development of competences of cultural and library staff.

## 2022 05 06

The name 'Education Lab' was given to the Laimė Lukošūnienė Hall. This space is dedicated to the cultural, cognitive educational, learning, creative and self-expressive needs of National Library visitors.

## 2022 07 20

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania approved the merger of the Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Centre with the National Library of Lithuania. On 1 January 2023, all rights and obligations of the Science and Encyclopaedia Publishing Centre were set to be transferred to the Library of Lithuania.

## 2022 07 29

The National Library, together with the Public Affairs Section of the Embassy of the United States of America in Lithuania, signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the establishment of an American Reading Room in the Library.

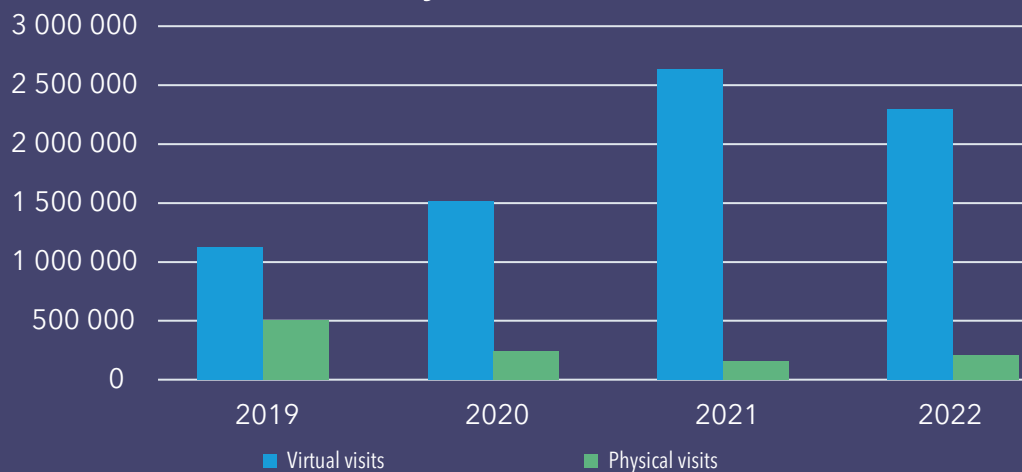
## 2022 10 01

The National Library launched the project Restoration and Conservation of the Personal Collection of Jewish Books of Matas Strašūnas. Over a period of two years, the personal Jewish book collection (1640 prints) of the famous bibliophile will be conserved and restored.

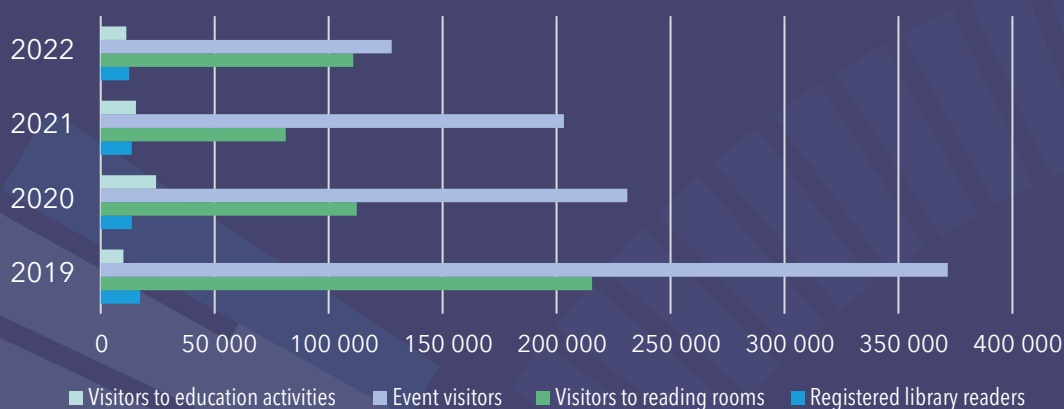


# NATIONAL LIBRARY ACTIVITIES IN NUMBERS

## National Library visitors



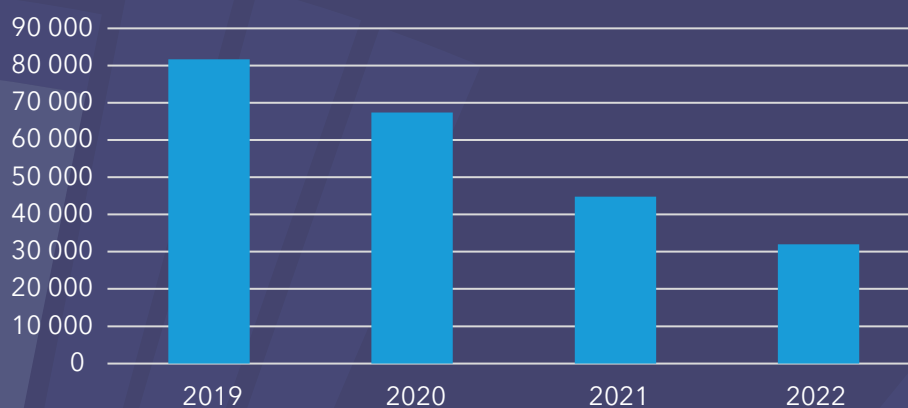
## User service



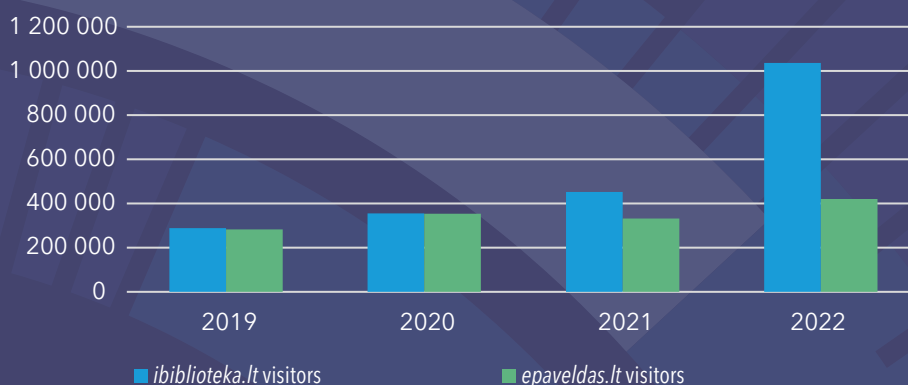
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Publications lent	789 706	478 395	409 834	471 695
Number of content views in Lithuanian and foreign licenced databases	36 766	43 765	54 430	505 420
Helpdesk tickets answered	26 478	19 560	22 766	24 158
Number of consultations	49 926	47 896	36 633	43 646



### National bibliographic entries prepared



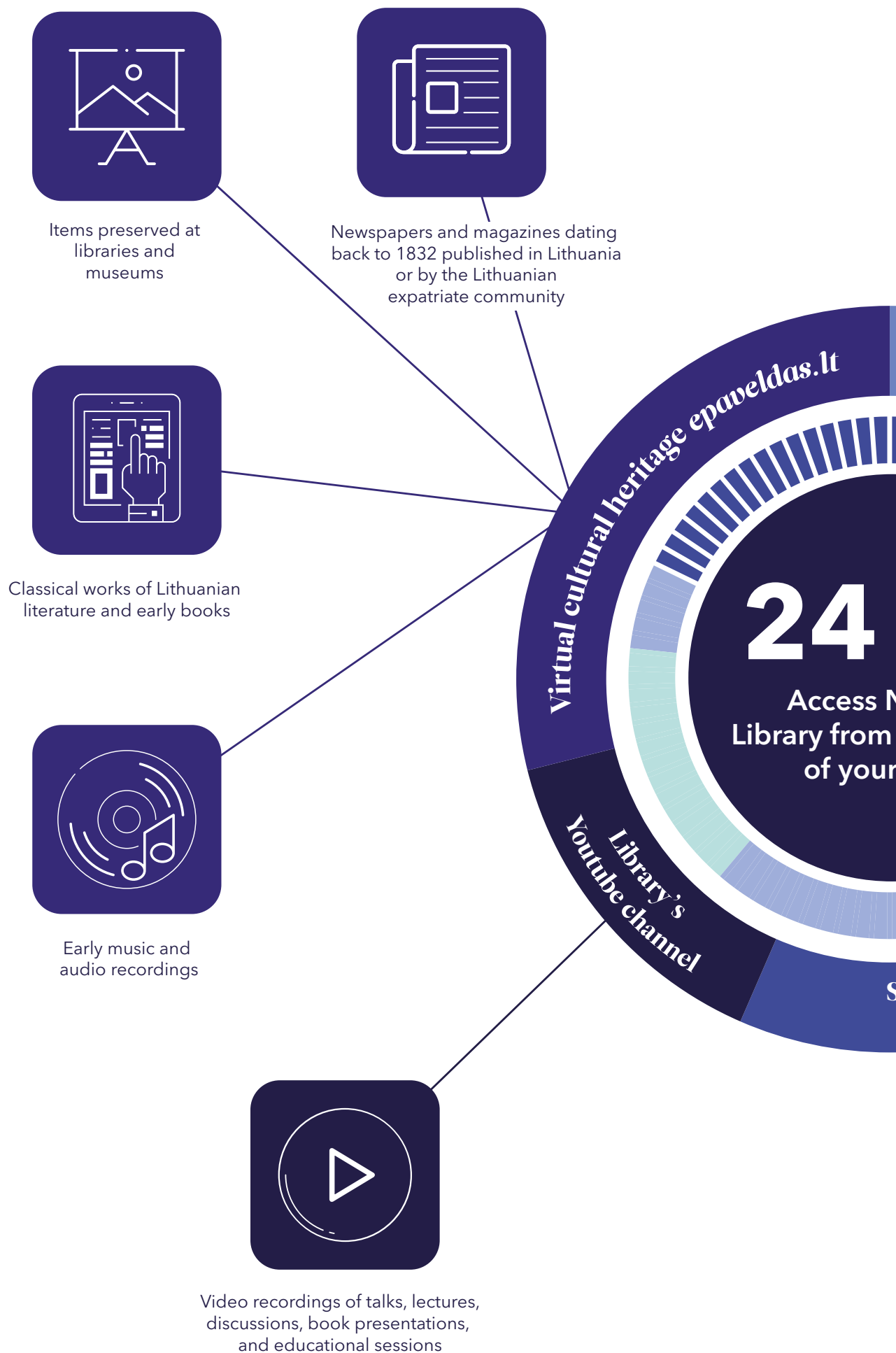
### Access to *ibiblioteka.lt* and *epaveldas.lt* portals

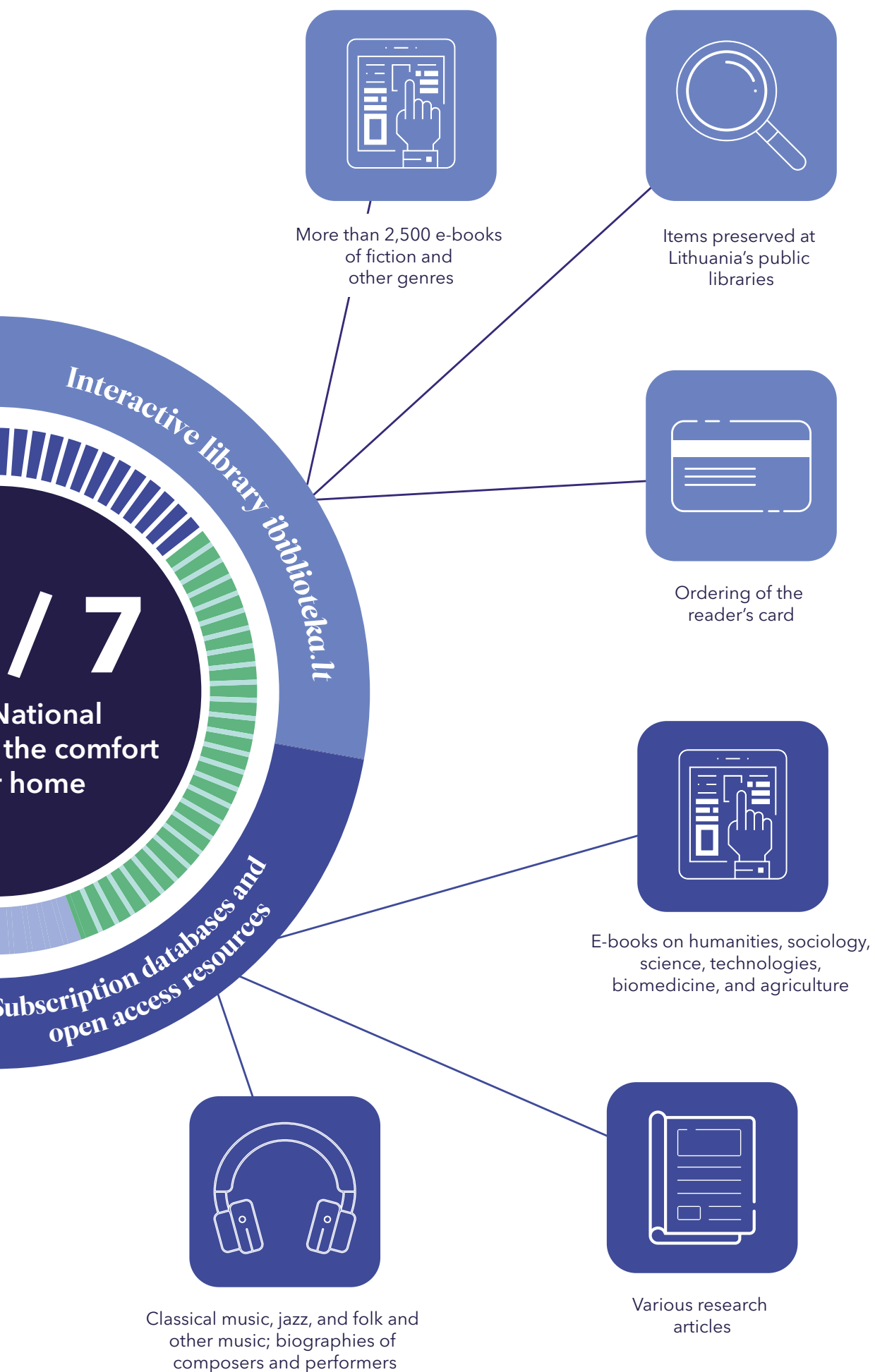


### National Library document foundation



## NATIONAL LIBRARY IS AN INSTITUTION THAT CONTINUOUSLY REINVENTS ITSELF AND SEEKS TO PROVIDE USERS WITH HIGH ADDED-VALUE SERVICES





# ENCOURAGING SMART INTERNET ACCESS FOR CITIZENS ON UPGRADED PUBLIC INTERNET ACCESS INFRASTRUCTURE

## SOURCE AND VALUE OF PROJECT FUNDING (EUR)

The project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Project value – EUR 10.7 million

## IMPLEMENTATION TIME-PERIOD

January 2018 - January 2022

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To develop and upgrade public access computer and internet infrastructure in public libraries, enabling citizens to participate in digital literacy and local digital content creation and other digital information initiatives.

## PROJECT RESULTS

1. 1219 public Internet access points in libraries upgraded:

- 4350 computers;
- 1214 multifunctional printers;
- 1207 wireless routers;
- 843 projectors;
- 370 televisions;
- 69 touchscreen terminals;
- 66 creative packages;
- 58 engineering packages;
- 67 programming packages;
- 66 experimental packages;
- 34 equipment packages for the blind and partially sighted;
- 10 training centre packages.

2. 500 libraries provided with faster internet access. At least 30 Mbps speeds are available at all points.

3. More than 3000 library professionals trained on the purchased equipment.



# DEVELOPING A VIRTUAL CULTURAL SPACE THAT MEETS THE NEEDS OF SOCIETY

## SOURCE AND VALUE OF PROJECT FUNDING (EUR)

The project is financed by the European Regional Development Fund of the European Union. Project value – EUR 9 911 532

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTED

June 2018 - July 2021

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Developing a gateway to digital cultural heritage. To make cultural heritage more accessible and attractive to the public through modern means. The focus was on the preservation, digitisation of cultural heritage and the introduction of various interactive modern solutions for displaying and activating the heritage in the Virtual Electronic Heritage Information System VEPIs and its public access portal *epaveldas.lt*.

## PROJECT RESULTS

Nine new e-services have been developed to facilitate the discovery, collection, management and use of digitised cultural content for education, research and other purposes relevant to *epaveldas.lt* users:

- Geolocation of digital content service;
- Digital content management service;
- A one-stop shop service;
- Digital content analysis and research service;
- Personalised virtual exhibitions service;
- Service for providing the status of the work and its licensing conditions;
- Music from sheet music service;
- Mapping service;
- Virtual and augmented reality exhibition service.

Other project results: a more efficient and accurate search system for digitised cultural objects; a more interactive presentation of information on cultural content; increased dissemination of cultural content; a larger pool of digitised cultural heritage objects; three new e-learning tools developed to update digital content.

# THE LITHUANIAN INTEGRATED LIBRARY INFORMATION SYSTEM (LIBIS)

## SOURCE AND VALUE OF PROJECT FUNDING (EUR)

Two LIBIS development projects have been implemented:

- "Preservation and Dissemination of Modern Electronic Content", financed by the European Regional Development Fund. Project value – 2.6 million
- "Development of LIBIS, an integrated information system for libraries of the Republic of Lithuania", financed from the budget of the Republic of Lithuania. Project value – EUR 1.9 million

## PROJECTS IMPLEMENTED

2018-2021

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

The Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System LIBIS is intended for the management of library information resources and data management processes and for the implementation of reader services and information provision activities. LIBIS has been implemented in the National Library of Lithuania, 65 public libraries, six Lithuanian museums and five special libraries. LIBIS modernisation projects aimed to contribute to the implementation of Lithuania's Digital Agenda by integrating LIBIS into the State's cloud computing infrastructure. This enables all LIBIS libraries to work and provide e-services on a one-stop shop basis. The National Library of Lithuania, as part of the LIBIS projects, has completed the merging and transfer of databases from the libraries to the central infrastructure.

## PROJECT RESULTS

- All catalogues of Lithuanian public libraries have been merged into one, and data is systematically and centrally collected, managed, stored and catalogued. 10 221 442 bibliographic records and 24 187 898 specimen records from 77 Lithuanian libraries – national, public, museum and other specialised libraries – have been transferred to the LIBIS union catalogue.
- The *ibiblioteka.lt* portal for library electronic services was updated and five electronic services were created:
  - ♦ *ibiblioteka.lt* allows creating reader and content provider profiles, reading lists, recommending books, viewing information on e-services ordered and provided by libraries, making e-payments and viewing payment information;
  - ♦ a targeted and searchable archive of online resources, in line with international standards, can be built up through the *ibiblioteka.lt* portal;
  - ♦ publishers can provide print files and manage the information of their periodicals and readers can search and read electronic periodicals on *ibiblioteka.lt*;
  - ♦ publishers and others can create e-books and save them in the most popular formats via *ibiblioteka.lt*;
  - ♦ automated news summaries can be produced and made available to public authorities and *ibiblioteka.lt* users.

# DEVELOPING AN ADULT EDUCATION SYSTEM BY PROVIDING LEARNERS WITH GENERAL AND CORE COMPETENCES

## PROJECT PROMOTER

Centre for the Development of Qualifications and Vocational Training

## PROJECT PARTNER

National Library of Lithuania

## SOURCE AND VALUE OF PROJECT FUNDING (EUR)

The project is financed from European funds and the Lithuanian state budget. EUR 1 million has been allocated for the implementation of the project, of which EUR 678 536 are for the activities curated by the National Library of Lithuania.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

30 September 2016 – 1 September 2023 (the activities curated by National Library of Lithuania run from 17 March 2021 to 31 July 2023)

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

To promote lifelong learning among adults in the country, to offer relevant and attractive services in the field of general and core competences, professional competences, competence and qualification development of cultural workers and those active in the cultural sector in municipalities; to strengthen the functionality of the adult non-formal education and continuing learning system through quality educational content.

## EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE PROJECT

- Organisation of training on general and core competences for adults and on competences for cultural workers and those active in the cultural sector for 600 persons, including 200 unique participants;
- To organise training for staff in eight cultural fields (archives, libraries, cultural centres, museums, performing arts, concert (music), cinema, heritage);
- To organise training (2 800 academic hours in total).



# MODERNISING THE CULTURAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

## SOURCE OF FUNDING FOR THE PROJECT AND VALUE (EUR)

State budget funds allocated to the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania. Project value – almost EUR 2.2 million.

## PROJECT IMPLEMENTED

18 November 2020 – 31 October 2022

## PROJECT OBJECTIVE

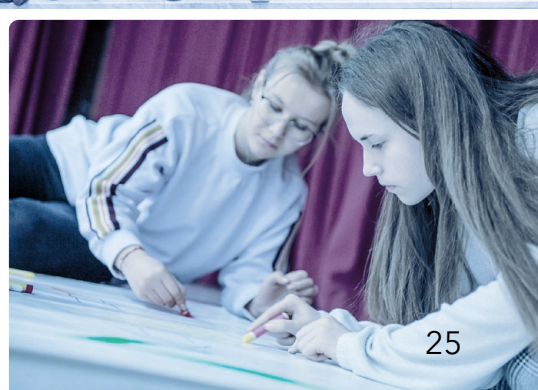
To improve the cultural education system and tools (the Cultural Passport programme, the competences and network of cultural education coordinators and cultural educators, cultural interventions and a tailor-made IT system) in order to strengthen the cultural competences of pupils and educators, to enhance creative critical thinking and to develop other skills necessary for the future.

## PROJECT RESULTS

1. The Cultural Passport platform was developed and tested. Over 350,000 users (teachers, school administrators, students, creators) are using it.
2. Access to cultural education services for all Lithuanian students ensured.
3. 40 cultural intervention partnerships created. 1027 pupils participated, including 19% of those with special needs or social, economic and cultural exclusion.
4. 400 professionals (teachers, librarians, other persons involved in cultural education) trained to work effectively in the field of cultural education.
5. By 30 April 2023, the target is to have at least 7,000 pupils that have participated in Cultural Passport activities and cultural interventions.









# NEWLY ACQUIRED DOCUMENTARY HERITAGE ITEMS (COLLECTIONS, DOCUMENTS)



In addition to researching and publicising the documentary heritage held in its collections, the National Library acquires valuable new manuscript documents every year.

The National Library's document archive collection is constantly being enriched with valuable collections of manuscript and published documents. This not only adds to the cultural and symbolic value of the Library, but also demonstrates that our cultural heritage researchers are actively monitoring the cultural field and are consistently involved in the accumulation of more archival material.

In 2020-2022, the personal library of Professor Irena Veisaitė (1928-2020), a literary researcher, theatre scholar and public figure, had become an important addition to the National Library's holdings. Books in Lithuanian, English, German and other languages collected through decades reflect her broad intellectual horizons, exceptional aesthetic tastes, and rich social, academic and cultural activities and interests. Many of the books donated by Veisaitė are autographed: people of Lithuanian and foreign culture, science and pol-

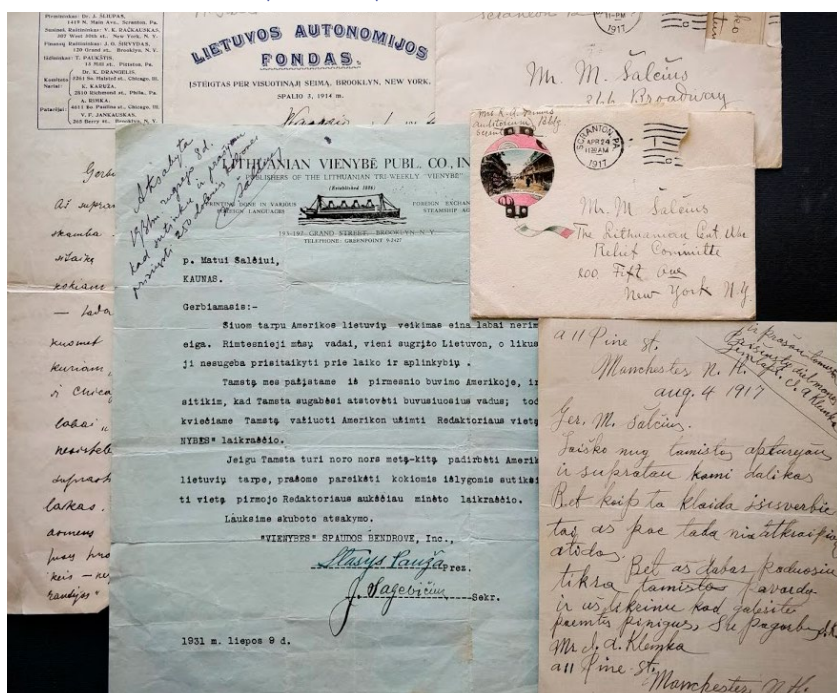
itics, colleagues and former students have gladly dedicated their books to the professor. The collection of books on theatre topics is very impressive, with a wide range of languages, including writings by playwrights, directors, actors, theatre critics and other publications.

The book collection of Dr. Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, a signatory of the Act of the Restoration of Independence of Lithuania, a politician, a public figure, and a theatre scholar, consists of books of various genres, fields and themes: works of Lithuanian and foreign classics, philosophical and historical literature, transcripts of the Supreme Council of the Republic of Lithuania and the Seimas, documents, chronicles of the Seimas, biographies of personalities, a series of books on the signatories to the Act of Restoration of Lithuania's Independence, encyclopaedias, handbooks, books on politics, economics, security, defence, European integration, European Union policy, human rights.





The acquisition of an exceptional Lithuanian language book – a collection of poetry in Latin by the Jesuit poet and preacher Motiejus Kazimieras Sarbievijus (1595-1640), "Lyrorum libri IV.", printed in 1632 in the famous 16th and 19th-century Plantina printing house in Antwerp. The book is decorated with an illustration by the famous Flemish artist Peter Paul Rubens (1577-1640).



Among the documents acquired by the National Library, which are important for the history of culture, are the manuscript documents of the famous traveller and journalist Matas Šalčius, which have been added to the Šalčius foundation (F189).

In the period 2020-2022, important manuscript archives were added to the National Library. The manuscripts of the renowned literary scholar, cultural figure and educator, Sąjūdis activist Albertas Zalatorius (1932-1999), materials collected during his work at Vilnius Pedagogical University and his travels to the USA, and the documents of the World Community of Lithuanian Studies, which he himself founded and headed, have been handed over to us.

As well as the valuable archives of lawyer, a long-time chairwoman of the Board of the World Lithuanian Community Regina Gytė Narušienė (1936-2022), Vincas Auryla, and Stasys Skrodenis.

We have also received a manuscript by Boris Pasternak (1890-1960), one of the most famous Russian poets, writers, translators and Nobel Prize laureates (1958) of the 20th century, a Russian translation of the English poet and playwright William Shakespeare's (1564-1616) drama *Antony and Cleopatra* (Антоний и Клеопатра). It was donated to the National Library by the brothers Algirdas and Leonidas Malcas.

Since 2018, the Library has been systematically collecting documents on the activities of cultural attachés of diplomatic missions of the Republic of Lithuania. This is a meaningful part of the National Library's cultural diplomacy – we aim to focus on the phenomena and artefacts of our country's culture as they are represented abroad. In recent years, our holdings have been enriched with the archival documents of cultural attachés who have worked at Lithuanian embassies in the United Kingdom, Germany, Russia and China.

Each year we acquire valuable Lithuanian language publications and manuscript documents through a special programme of the Lithuanian Council for Culture. In 2020-2022, manuscript documents of Aleksandras Teodoras Kuršaitis (1857-1944) and traveller, journalist Matas Šalčius (1890-1940) were acquired.

Also 50 historically important piano rolls.

The National Library's archival holdings have also been enriched by 16th-18th century publications important for Lithuanian studies, including "Lyrorum libri IV" by Motiejus Kazimieras Sarbievijus (Antwerpen: ex Officina Plantiniana, Balthasar Moreti, 1632), "Volkommene Geschütz und Büchsenmeisterey Kunst" by Kazimieras Semenavičius (Frankfurt am Main, 1676), "Der Preusche Littauer" by Theodor Lepner (Gdańsk, 1744) and other documents.



# SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

It is important to us in all areas: corporate governance, employment, human rights, the environment, consumer and service issues, and building and maintaining relationships with the community.

## PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES FOR RESPONSIBLE ACTION

The National Library is committed to results. Therefore, we base our activities on the best practices of our own institutions, national institutions and international organisations, and strive to improve our practices, introduce modern human resource management, technologies that conserve natural resources, and materials and processes that are not harmful to human health. In planning its activities, the National Library takes into account the social expectations of its visitors and partners, ensures transparent management, develops ethical relations, and introduces measures to prevent corruption. In order to be and remain a reliable partner, we initiate and contribute to the solutions of current social problems at a national level.

## SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR TRANSPARENT AND SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS

### Organisational governance

The National Library has clear decision-making procedures. The organisation's structure, strategy, action plans, working and internal rules of procedure are approved, staff selection and procurement procedures are specified, a policy against corruption and discrimination is in place, and delegation of authority documents are signed.

The National Library's legal documents are continuously improved. Managers practise and promote professional ethical behaviour, accountability and transparency. Stakeholders are involved in major decisions of the organisation: staff, governmental (regulatory) authorities, staff union.

**Ensuring the safety and health of workers**

**The way that results are delivered is crucial for the National Library**

### Employer practices

The National Library complies with the legal requirements for employer practices:

- ensuring safe and hygienic working conditions;
- no discrimination in hiring or firing decisions;
- no child or forced labour is tolerated;
- a system of employee evaluation and motivation is defined and in place.

Ensuring health and safety of workers: provision of occupational health and safety equipment, periodic occupational health and safety training, employer-funded health screening, regular vision screening.

The conditions for reconciling family and work commitments are in place: teleworking is available, and shift and holiday schedules are designed to meet the needs of the employee's family.

Social dialogue is ensured: meetings are held between management and workers' representatives, social organisations and a trade union.

## ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

The National Library practices cyclical and economical use of objects and resources: we save electricity, print double-sided, print on carbonless paper for internal use, prepare documents in the electronic document management system "Avilys" (Hive), store them on electronic media or send them by e-mail. We recycle unused items and sort waste. We support initiatives and encourage staff and visitors to be environmentally aware. We provide waste recycling bins in common areas of the library, by the stairs, in staff kitchens and elsewhere.

Every year, the library replaces incandescent and fluorescent light bulbs with environmentally friendly LEDs. Between 2020

and 2022, more than 1 700 light bulbs have been replaced with ones that are more efficient. We aim to use as many eco-friendly cleaning products as possible. For smoke disinfection, we choose mixtures that are environmentally friendly, friendly to plants and machinery. In winter, the stairs and entranceways of the National Library are sprayed with an ice-melting compound that does not damage surfaces or footwear. This mixture is 100% water soluble, so there is no residue to clog sewer pipes.

Between 2020 and 2022, the National Library has recycled:

- 1) 20 tonnes of paper and cardboard waste;
- 2) 45 m<sup>3</sup> of sorted paper and plastic;
- 3) 2.5 m<sup>3</sup> of glass waste;
- 4) 1350 kg of electronic waste.

The National Library's workshop PATS SAU – Make, Discover, Save, Be Curious, Seek, Recognise, Capture – pays a lot of attention to ecology, recycling and the green course in general. It is a place to mature ideas, create, construct and craft. The workshop is equipped with more than 20 individual workstations for students and plenty of equipment.

## **SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY - FOR EMPLOYEES, BY EMPLOYEES**

### **A learning organisation**

The National Library is a learning organisation. We are constantly evolving and using our knowledge to meet the challenges of the organisation. Our staff not only develop their own competences and participate in external training, but the National Library also runs a Knowledge Academy programme. Participants from different departments learn about the principles and methods of adult learning and independently deliver training and/or lectures on topics of interest to colleagues.

The National Library is responsible not only for organising and implementing its own training, but also for the general and specific competences of cultural workers and those active in the cultural field in general. In the period 2020-2022, 19 576 library professionals, educators and staff of memory institutions participated in professional development events organised by the Library.

On 4 April 2022, the Centre for Competence Development and Cultural Education was launched at the National Library. Its activities are related to the national policy of qualification development of cultural sector employ-

ees, and it is responsible for developing and shaping general and specific competences of Lithuanian cultural sector employees. The aim is to integrate the National Library's competence development practices, to develop the activities of the "Knowledge Academy", which brings together competent professional lecturers from the National Library, to organise nationwide training courses for the development of general and specific competences, and to implement other programmes or projects relevant for the development of competences of cultural sector workers.

### **A creative and progressive organisation**

The National Library is constantly introducing new technical and software solutions to make work processes more efficient or automated. New applications and platforms (MS Teams, Kahoot, Moodle, etc.) have been adopted and, since the start of the quarantine period, the technical conditions have been made available for most staff to work remotely. To ensure that the library's work is uninterrupted, IT specialists have introduced another product: the first bot, the library assistant robot "LNB Bitė" ("Bitė"), has been developed to facilitate internal needs and work organisation. It is an artificial intelligence product. It includes automated invoicing and sending of invoices to users for stickers printed at the National Library. Text summarisation solutions have been developed in the LIBIS system, which is being improved using artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence and process automation are becoming more and more common in the National Library.

The focus is not only on improving the technical base but also on improving the emotional environment. Solutions are being implemented to ensure more effective internal communication and to foster more successful cooperation between departments. Events and excursions are organised for staff, as well as lectures on relevant topics. We are interested not only in colleagues' professional competences, but also in their creative potential. An open exhibition of staff creativity in 2020 and an auction of treats and handicrafts made by colleagues in 2022, as well as a joint evening of creative readings and music. Children of staff members are traditionally invited to summer camps and Christmas events organised by the Children's and Youths Literature Department every year.

**The National Library is a socially responsible institution - always contributing to the most pressing community projects**

National Library staff are encouraged to volunteer and contribute to meaningful social initiatives. One of them is the planting of sakura trees in the popular Chiune Sugihara park in our capital city. In April 2022, we planted a sakura here at the expense of the National Library and its staff, and we are helping to preserve and nurture this garden.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY THROUGH PUBLIC RELATIONS**

The National Library is a socially responsible institution, always contributing to the most relevant social projects. In 2020, during the first quarantine due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our initiative to produce face shields and their parts in libraries around the country using 3D printers attracted a lot of attention and support. Donatas Kubilius, the administrator of the PATS SAU workshop at the National Library, became the curator of this initiative and advised all the libraries joining the campaign. A week later, 54 Lithuanian public libraries started to print the parts for the face shields using 3D printers. In total, more than 8,500 face shields were produced and distributed to Lithuanian medical institutions and staff working in high-risk areas during the quarantine. For these and other civic activities during the COVID-19 crisis, Virginijus Vitalijus Vilkelis, Director of the Department of Mobilisation and Civil Resistance under the Ministry of National Defence, presented a certificate of appreciation to the National Library.

In the spring of 2021, together with other libraries in the country, we joined the national initiative "Shoulders for Freedom" (Petys už laisvę) to inform the population about the possibilities of free vaccination against COVID-19. Responding to the invitation of the Minister of Culture Simonas Kairys, the Head of the Library, Prof. Dr. Renaldas Gudauskas, personally joined the initiative of the leaders of the cultural sector and in various forums, interviews, and letters to the community of the National Library, invited them to get vaccinated against the coronavirus.

As every year, we actively participated in civic, patriotic and cultural actions and initiatives such as "Memory is alive because it bears witness" (Atmintis gyva, nes liudija) and a blood donation campaign in memory of the Defenders of Freedom, the National Dictation Competition, Vilnius Book Fair, and the "Capital Days", Culture Night, Open House Vilnius, Open Architecture Weekend, Book of the Year, Francophonie Days, National Library Week, "Open the Door for Summer", and we opened up educational spaces for children and young people.

The fight against disinformation and lies about COVID-19 and Russia's war against Ukraine was of particular importance in 2020-2022. The National Library has constantly stressed the need to be particularly critical of the information published in the public domain. Like other public institutions, we have published and disseminated only reliable, verified and truthful news.

The National Library is very active in implementing valuable initiatives. During the reporting period, 276 initiatives were implemented in cooperation with state institutions, scientific and educational institutions, business organisations and other cultural institutions. During the pandemic, when an increasing number of cultural organisations moved their activities to the virtual space, the National Library was often invited as a partner, as it had the technical equipment and infrastructure to do so.

We are continuously improving our infrastructure and making it accessible to visitors with physical disabilities. An additional landing platform for wheelchairs has been added, and special paths have been built for the visually impaired. A special space for the blind and visually impaired. A computer with the "Jaws" screen reader and the "Bruno" voice reader for printed text are available. In addition, the library offers free Braille printing, lamination and spiral binding of documents.

**In 2020-2022, the fight against misinformation and 'fake news' about COVID-19 and Russia's war against Ukraine was of particular importance**

This country has been fighting for freedom for more than eight years and our support is crucial. The National Library has not remained idle. The world's attention to Ukraine, which grew after the Maidan, has waned after a while, but we seek to constantly remind everyone that the fight is not over: we have organised screenings of films about Ukraine, book launches, meetings with intellectuals, debates, exhibitions of Leonardas Skirpstas' photos from the Maidan and Yuri Velichko's photos from the front. In 2016, we signed a cooperation agreement with the V. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine.

In 2022, after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, together with the National Libraries of Estonia and Latvia, we strongly condemned the war against Ukraine and appealed to the global library community to stop Russian libraries from joining international organisations. All cooperation with Russian and Belarusian libraries has ceased.

When war refugees from Ukraine started arriving in Lithuania, we did everything we could to help them adapt. We provide free reader's cards, photocopying and scanning services to those with refugee status. We have also provided facilities for events for war refugees free of charge. The Vilnius Centre for the Advancement of Education successfully used this opportunity to organise free Lithuanian language lessons for war refugees from Ukraine in the meeting rooms. In the first phase, 14 groups of adults (160 participants) were trained over three months. In the autumn, the training was extended to Ukrainians who wanted to further improve their knowledge of the Lithuanian language.

Already in the early days of the Russian war against Ukraine, the National Library became an important partner for the dissemination of reliable information. In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports, the Lithuanian National Commission for UNESCO and the British Council in Lithuania, we started broadcasting lessons to Lithuanian schoolchildren

from the Library's TV studio. The open series is aimed at introducing the history of Ukraine, the relationship between Lithuania and Ukraine, the situation of a country fighting heroically against an aggressor and the challenges of war. By the end of the school year, almost 30 lessons had been prepared and broadcast.

The team of the PATS SAU workshop immediately got involved in the activities to support Ukrainian war refugees. It took part in the day camps for Ukrainian children organised by the creative team of the LRT programme "Lithuanian Millennium Children" and volunteers at the Contemporary Art Centre. Our team gave Ukrainian children the opportunity to use the workshop equipment and sponsors' tools to create and decorate canvas bags with their own drawings. The workshop team prepared and distributed 60 challenge boxes to Ukrainian children and young people. They were given the opportunity to attend the workshop, with the curatorial team joined by their Ukrainian colleague Olena. Every week, specialists from the Department of Children's and Youth Literature invited Ukrainian children attending the Lithuanian Children and Youth Centre's day camp to book readings, educational sessions and workshops.

With the arrival of many war refugees in the country, the demand for literature in Ukrainian has clearly increased. We first selected and placed the Ukrainian language publications in prominent places in the National Library, and ordered new ones for both children and adults. Books from Ukraine were brought to the Library by volunteers of the NGO "Blue/Yellow". These include educational literature for adults and children, exercises and classic literature. The National Library staff ensured that the educational materials reached the teachers of Ukrainian pupils, and the completed sets of books were handed over to other Lithuanian public libraries.

The National Library's initiative raised private and business donations for the res-



cue and packaging of Ukrainian cultural heritage. The collected donations were handed over to the coordinator of the initiative, the National Library of Latvia, and transported via humanitarian corridors to the Cultural Heritage Rescue Centre in Lviv. Here, Ukrainian cultural heritage guardians packed the country's archive, museum and library collections and moved them to a safe place.

A cooperation agreement was signed with the Order of Malta's Relief Service to support people affected by Russia's war against Ukraine. Volunteers from the organisation were allowed to sort and distribute humanitarian aid at the National Library. We held an auction of handicrafts and treats that we had made ourselves and raised almost €1000. These funds were donated to the Order of

Malta and used to provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainians arriving in Lithuania.

We also took care of the smallest Ukrainian residents staying in Lithuania - we gave special "Book Start" boxes to families with children under two years old. The aim was to brighten up the everyday life of refugees from the war-torn country and to help parents discover the joy and benefits of reading with their little ones. A total of 550 boxes were distributed.

In the summer of 2022, we focused on Ukraine. In the Statehood Centre, we invited you to take a look at the exhibition of books about Ukraine and its struggle, to see the signs of free speech: fiction and non-fiction books on political and war topics since 2014, excerpts from the documentary "Bogdan's Happiness" by Larissa Artiugi-



In the early days of Russia's war against Ukraine, the National Library became an important partner for the dissemination of reliable information. On 3 March 2022, the first event of the Strategic Debate Series on Foreign Policy, "Fight for freedom. The US meets Russia: from deterrence to disruption?"



On the occasion of the 5th anniversary of the Maidan massacre, an exhibition of photographs "Maidan, February 2014" by the journalist Leonardas Skirpstas was opened.



The team of the PATS SAU workshop immediately became actively involved in the activities to support Ukrainian war refugees.



Oleksandr Tereshchenko's book "Life after 16:30. After seven years" (Життя після 16:30. Сім років потому) was also presented at the Palanga Summer Reading Room.





Discussion at the Centre of Statehood on "Signs of Ukrainian culture in Lithuania: present and future of cultural diplomacy".



Larissa Artiugina, director of the Ukrainian NGO "New Donbass", has visited the National Library several times.



Serhiy Holovaty, Acting President of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine, presented the Library with a unique facsimile copy of the Constitution of the Ukrainian Cossack State of 1710, in four languages - Old Slavonic, Latin, Ukrainian and English.



At the end of 2022, over 15 000 trench candles were produced at the National Library and sent to the front.

na, and interviews with Oleksandr Tereshchenko, a veteran of Ukraine's war, as well as Skirpstas' photographs of Maidan. One of the most important exhibits is a two-part book "Life after 16:30. After seven years" (*Життя після 16:30. Сім років потому*), donated by a friend of the library Oleksandr Tereshchenko. It describes the author's experiences in the war and life after active service. In 2014, while defending Donetsk airport, Tereshchenko lost both arms and part of his sight – unbroken by the enemy, Tereshchenko can serve as an example of strength and determination to live happily. In the dedication of the book, Tereshchenko writes: "To the National Library of Lithuania, in gratitude for Ukraine's endless support in the struggle. For our and your freedom!"

A beautiful and meaningful relationship with Tereshchenko has linked us throughout 2022. At the meeting with the staff of the Na-

tional Library, he presented the documentary "For Our Freedom and Your Freedom" by his friend Artiugina, and talked about the situation in Ukraine. Later, with the help of our specialists, Tereshchenko received a grant from the Lithuanian Council for Culture and at events in libraries in various cities he spoke about his experiences in his book.

At the end of the year, we initiated the production of trench candles for Ukrainian soldiers. At first we invited colleagues to join us, but soon the word spread and the materials people collected and bought to make the candles began to arrive at the library: tins, leftover paraffin and wax, cardboard packaging. Companies and foundations also made important contributions. We had at least a dozen volunteers every day, making the blanks for the trench candles, and pouring them in on weekends. In total, 15 000 trench candles were produced and sent to the front.







# KEY STRATEGIC PLANS AND ACTIONS FOR 2023

- 1 Ensure the sustainability of the results of the project “Modernisation of the Cultural Education System” from 2020-2022: manage and promote the Cultural Education Information System and the Culture Passport programme to strengthen students’ cultural competences, creative critical thinking and other skills for the future.
- 2 The project “Consolidation and Modernisation of Cultural Heritage Information Systems” will be implemented together with the partner Department of Cultural Heritage under the Ministry of Culture in order to create an integrated access to cultural heritage data, content and quality digital services that meet the needs of users (in the Register of Cultural Property and the Information System for Cultural Heritage Electronic Services), as well as to upgrade and consolidate the services provided.
- 3 Participate in and implement the measures of the National Reading Promotion Programme. Focus on:
  - Developing the skills and competences of cultural and educational workers and reading promotion specialists;
  - the development of a model for the coordination of bibliotherapeutic activities.
- 4 To organise and implement the general competences development process for cultural sector employees and to further develop the activities of the Professional Centre of Excellence for Lithuanian Libraries, as part of the Ministry of Culture’s Culture and Creativity Development Programme progress measure “Increasing access to high artistic value, diverse and inclusive cultural content”.
- 5 In order to better activate social communication competences and to strengthen the importance and added value of cultural heritage, in 2023 the National Library has been entrusted with the implementation of two activities of the progress measure “Creating sustainable preconditions and incentives for the actualisation of cultural heritage”: the formation of cognitive skills (organising trainings for educators) and the dissemination of positive knowledge about cultural heritage (events and trainings for active communities).
- 6 The National Library is planning to launch an “eCulture” project programme with at least 12 partners. Its main objective is to create convenient one-stop access to cultural content, data and information resources, and to develop quality digital content in the sector and increase its accessibility to the public. The main outcome of this project is the creation of an “eCulture” platform: a single portal for digitised and digital cultural and audiovisual content, e-services and distribution.

**Martynas Mažvydas  
National Library of Lithuania  
2020-2022  
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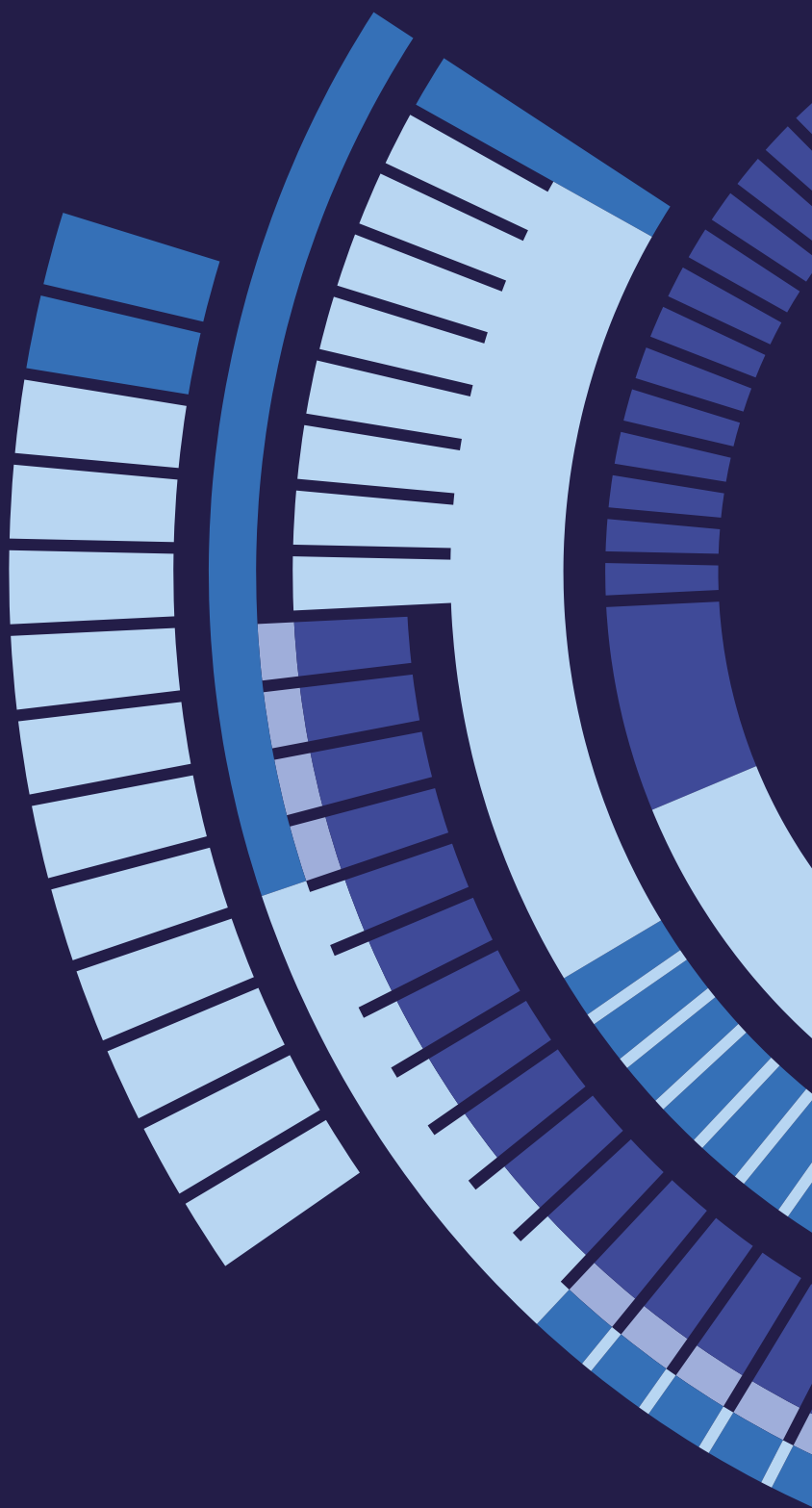
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