

ANNUAL REPORT / 2022



**Vilnius
University
Library**



**Vilnius
University
Library**



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Contents

Director General's preface	4
Facts and figures	7
Information services for science and studies	8
Users and visitors of the Library	8
Registered users of Vilnius University Library.....	8
Visits to VU Library.....	8
The most active users of printed resources.....	9
Information resources	10
The use of traditional and electronic information resources.....	10
Electronic book collection development.....	11
Scholarly communication	12
Open access.....	12
Scientometrics.....	14
Scientific Research Data Management.....	14
eLABa full-text documents' repository.....	15
Studies and research support	16
Freshers' Welcome Days #StudentAUK.....	16
Information literacy training.....	17
Information literacy training development at VU Library.....	17
Science and culture heritage	19
Accumulation and preservation of heritage collections	19
Preservation of heritage collections	20
Digitisation	20
Scholarly research and dissemination	22
Vilnius University Library: visible and highly valued	23
Outstanding exhibitions and events	23
Project activities	27
Expert activities	29
Members of international organizations	29
Special guests	29



DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PREFACE

2022 at Vilnius University Library: The Year of Return



Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė

2022 was the year of return from the pandemic to our casual life. Students and tourists returned to the spaces of Vilnius University Library (hereinafter referred to as the Library), events started to take place again, and we all regained the opportunity to work at our physical workplaces, to meet each other and to communicate. However, the said year was marked with extreme concern, uncertainty and a sense of loss. The war in Ukraine and the armed assault of this country shook each of us. On the other hand, geopolitical events and the resulting stream of refugees opened people's hearts and their door to Ukrainian people retreating to our country from the horror of the war. The Library

people contributed to the support making all the effort possible as they accepted Ukrainians running away from the war in their families, they donated money and volunteered at reception centres for asylum seekers and refugees.

Although the changes in the geopolitical and economic situation are worrying, they do not stop the flow of life. We had no opportunities for live communication during the pandemic, so there was a great need for events upon its end. Many guests visited the Library; we got royal and presidential attention this year. The visit at the Library and getting acquainted with objects of cultural heritage preserved here testifying to the relations between Lithuania and the country from which the guests came were included in the visit programmes of the Belgian royal couple King Philippe and Queen Mathilde accompanied by President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda and Greek President Katerina Sakelaropulu. The opening of the Taiwan Resource Centre for Chinese Studies became an exceptional event.

The Library based its activities of 2022 on several planning documents: 1) VU Strategic Action Plan of 2021-2025, 2) VU Strategic Plan of 2021-2024 according to the higher education financing methodology, 3) VU Library Strategic Action Plan of 2022-2025 (hereinafter referred to as the Strategic Plan) and 4) VU Library Annual Action Plan of 2022 (hereinafter referred to as the Annual Plan).

This year is the first year of implementation of VU Library Strategic Plan of 2022-2025. The strategic priorities of the plan correspond with VU strategic priorities, and its long-term goals are oriented towards the development of the Library operating in the cooperating and sustainable University creating the society and the state.



It is encouraging that during the first year of the Strategic Plan, VU Open Science Guidelines were approved, and their implementation plan started to be implemented. These are coherent steps towards the active implementation of open science at the University. The concept of information competence development centre was prepared, individualised services provided by the Library were reviewed and their development opportunities were assessed, and preparatory work for the transfer to the new library service platform was carried out; these are the measures intended for improving user information provision and meeting their informational needs. As the Digital collections platform was further developed, the information system architecture was renewed, the editor section functionality was installed, and the system was applied for the publication in the portal of new type of heritage, namely scientific periodicals. As the 700th anniversary of Vilnius was celebrated the following year, a programme of events intended for this occasion was prepared at the Library which was based on the relation between the city and the University as revealed by means of cultural heritage documents preserved at the Library.

Successful implementation of measures provided for in all the planning documents of 2022 in the fields of open science and scientific communication, information provision meeting the needs of VU community and the necessary infrastructure, as well as scientific and cultural heritage management enabled us to achieve, and in some cases even to exceed, the values of targeted performance indicators of the Library. The indicator results of *the number of open access documents in VU / VU Library information systems and portals as well as the number of participants and persons reached during the Library's open science promotion initiatives* are encouraging as they testify that open science culture is gradually gaining ground on the University's environment. Indicator values of *use of information resources and visits at physical and virtual Library spaces* amounting to millions prove the significant need of the academic community and the public for the information services and the use of them. *The number of academic hours of trainings exceeded twice* shows that the development of competences of high-quality information search and science communication is valued, and it also indicates that the community trusts the Library as the competence educator.

Some performance indicators of the Library, one of the largest repository of documentary cultural heritage in Lithuania, are related with the preservation of scientific and cultural heritage and its opening. Their values revealed in the scope statistics of the *events organised by the Library, documents restored and digital contents created* demonstrate the society's interest in its regional heritage and its research.

2022 is the year of important anniversaries. Exhibitions dedicated to the 500th anniversary of the first printing house of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in Vilnius and the first book printed there, to the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science, and the anniversary exhibition of the former VU rector Mykolas Biržiška, professors Bonifacas Stundžia and Vanda Zaborskaitė attracted genuine attention. Exhibits from rich Library stocks complemented several international exhibitions from which the exhibition *An Untroubled Age. Childhood in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania* at the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania was outstanding in terms of the number of exhibits borrowed. Meanwhile, as the year was approaching its end, the publication titled *Fearless to Die for the Homeland* dedicated to Jan Karol Chodkiewicz prepared on the basis of the last year's exhibition meant to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of the great hetman saw the light of day.

We are glad about the opportunity that emerged this year to contribute to a project by Vilnius University Press of thesis decoration: from this year on, all theses defended at VU are decorated with the marks of old prints of the Library. When one talks about theses, one cannot go without

mentioning the project implemented for the second year and financed by the Research Council of Lithuania titled *The VuDIS Research of the Old Vilnius University's (1579-1773) Dissertations*. The research is also carried out in the field of stock: this year, the research of 17th century parchment bindings preserved at the Rare Books Department was carried out this year.

10 articles were published in Lithuanian and foreign scientific press, 14 scientific conference presentations, 10 reviews and 1 publication were prepared on the basis of the Library's research in 2022.

This year, some changes occurred in the field of staff management: the models of hybrid work and team building in structural divisions started to be applied, and there was active participation in the trainings for managers organised by the University.

We are pleased about the results of the survey of the Library's user service opinion carried out for the second year in a row by means of the popular LIBQUAL tool used in the world of libraries. In 2022, the Library's user service opinion remained the same: in the 9-point system, the Library services, judging by the average, retained 8 points.

Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė



The buildings of Vilnius University Library in Vilnius Old Town and Sauletekis

Facts and figures



- Library holdings – **4,894,680** items
- Electronic holdings – **694,103** items
- Manuscripts Division has **340** archival units and **348,359** documents of various types
- Collection of the Graphic Arts Cabinet consists of **97,921** works
- Rare Books Division has **167,960** books
- Open stacks have **481,945** items

- Registered users – **39,808**
- Visits – **641,414**
- Borrowed items – **180,406**
- On average **4.5** documents were borrowed by a registered user
- Number of study spaces for users – **1,800**
- Study spaces with PCs for users – **329**
- On 31 December 2022, Library's electronic catalogue had **1,398,451** bibliographic records on **2,617,977** copies

- Users had access to **95** subscribed databases (DB)
- Database users downloaded **1,915,506** full-text documents
- In 2022 (23,517 students studied at VU), a student performed **30** searches and downloaded **81** full-text documents on average in databases subscribed by VU Library

- Restored/preserved **55,128** nominal pages of VIII category
- **98,512** pages digitised
- **5,776** digital copies of various cultural heritage objects made for users

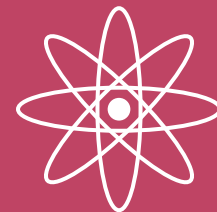
- **176** members of Library staff (**161** positions)
- **25** new members of staff recruited

- Expenditure for information resources (books, periodicals, databases) – **1,122,188 €**

- **4,194** persons from **37** countries participated in **304** guided tours around the old campus of VU and the Library
- **12** guided tours around the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre. **182** persons participated in the tours

- **3** specialists from abroad had a traineeship in the Library
- **3** persons had their internships at VU Library
- **87** events were held in the Library, **47** out of them were exhibitions
- **41** members of Library staff improved their qualification





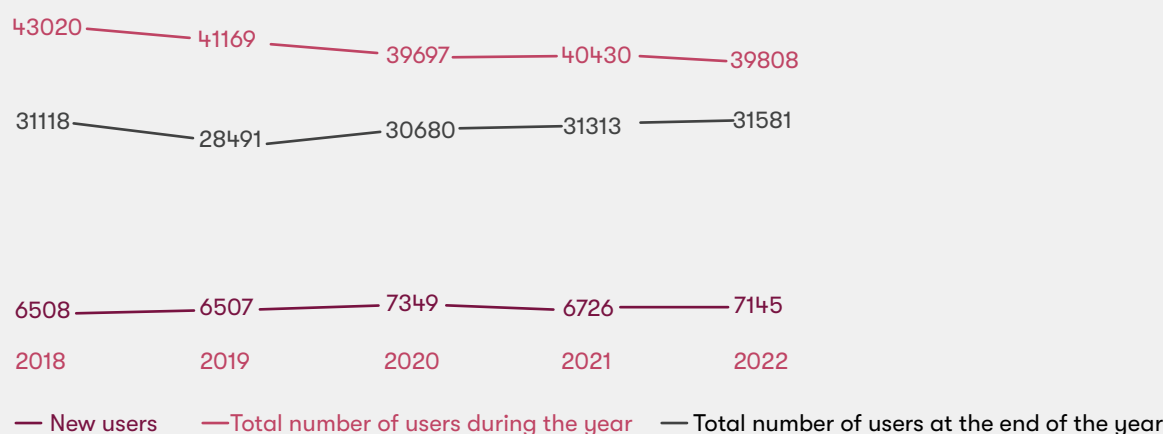
INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SCIENCE AND STUDIES

Users and visitors of the Library

Registered users of Vilnius University Library

On 31 December 2022, the Library had **31,581** registered users with a valid Library user card. However, throughout the entire year 2022, the total number of the Library's registered users had reached **39,808**. **7,148** new users were registered in 2022. If compared with the year 2021, the increase in the number of new users (by 8 per cent) can be seen; however, the total number of registered users has decreased during the year.

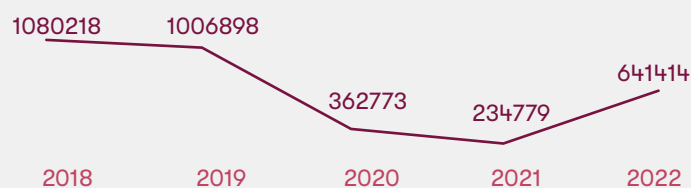
Change of registered users between the years 2018 and 2022



Visits to Vilnius University Library

In 2022, there were **641,414** visits to the Library, while in 2021 the number of visits was **234,779**. The number of visits has increased by **272** per cent or **2.7** times. If compared with the pre-quarantine period, the year 2019, the number of visits has decreased by 35 per cent.

Visits to Vilnius University Library between the years 2018 and 2022



In 2022, there were **924,900** virtual visits to the Library's internet website, the Virtual Library and catalogues.



Virtual Gallery of Vilnius University Library has been opened to the public

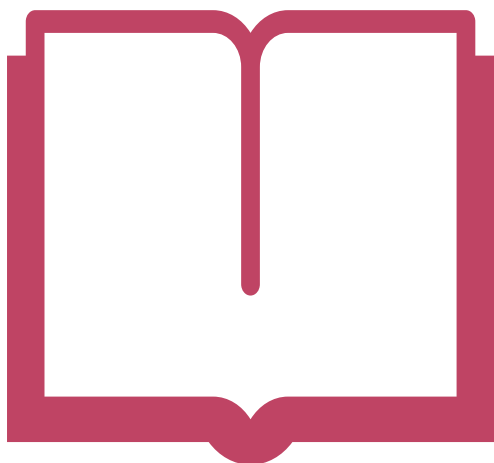
The Virtual Gallery was designed to house all photo albums presenting various exhibitions and events held by Vilnius University Library, as well as its spaces. The gallery can be accessed at <https://galerija.biblioteka.vu.lt/en/galerijos>.



The most active users of printed resources

Out of all Vilnius University's faculties, the most active are the following: the Faculty of History (63.2 per cent), the Faculty of Chemistry (61 per cent), the Faculty of Law (59.3 per cent). Students of both the Faculty of Physics (54.6 per cent) and the Life Sciences Centre (52.3 per cent) were also quite active users of the Library's printed resources.

Students of the following faculties: the Business School (11.6 per cent) and Šiauliai Academy (16.5 per cent) are the least active users. Students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics (21.1 per cent) and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration (23.0 per cent) can be attributed to the less active users of printed resources.

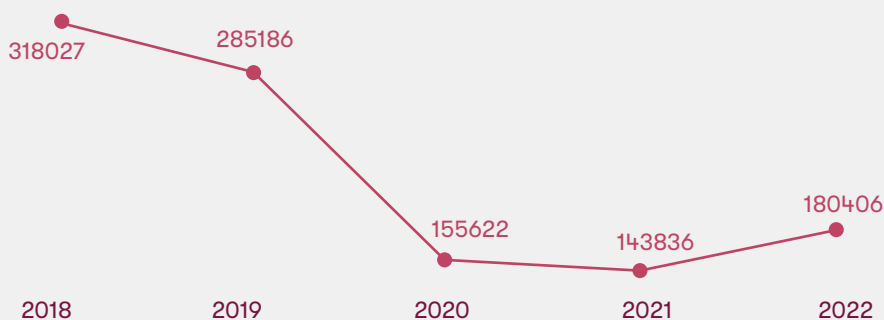


Information resources

The use of traditional and electronic information resources

The decrease in the loans of printed information resources has been observed since 2013. The last five years this trend remained the same: in 2018, the loans of printed information resources decreased by 15 per cent, in 2019 – by 10 per cent, in 2020 – by 45 per cent and in 2021 – by 8 per cent. After the current years that were highly influenced by the quarantine, the loans of printed information resources have considerably gone up and increased by **20 per cent**.

Dynamics of the loans of printed resources between the years 2018 and 2022



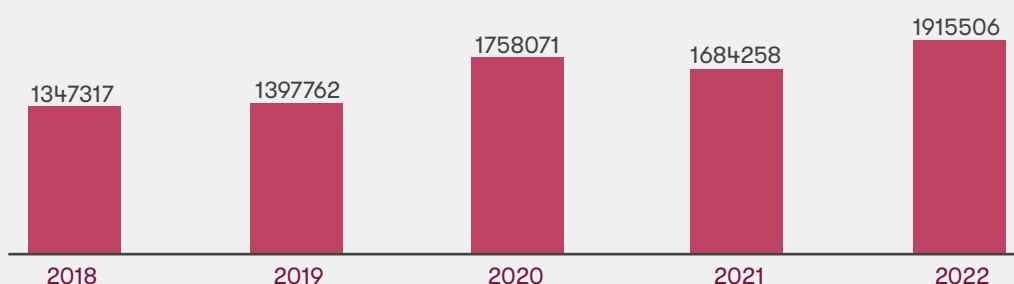
If compared with the year 2021, the increase in loans could be observed in the Central Library (by 19 per cent), faculty libraries (by 17 per cent) and in the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre (further the SCIC) (by 26 per cent).

The more information resources are available in electronic format, the less is the use of traditional information resources. The number of the loans of traditional printed resources has been decreasing, as the Library offers the users more and more collections of electronic resources and databases, the content of which is constantly updated, so the user has access to the latest and most relevant content. Such a trend is characteristic for the academic libraries all over the world.

In 2022, Library users had access to **95** subscribed databases (DB): **49,127** titles of electronic journals, **533,557** titles of electronic books and **111,419** titles of other objects (videos, patents, conference materials and other). The Library provides permanent access to **4,781** titles of electronic books. In 2022, **1,915,506** full-text documents were downloaded from databases.

Although the number of article downloads has been increasing steadily in recent years, in 2021 it decreased by 4 per cent as due to reduced funding VU community members had no access to 31 databases. In 2022, with the financial help of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport, the number of databases subscribed through the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium increased up to 56 again; therefore, the increase in the downloads of full-text documents by 14 per cent was observed.

Dynamics of downloading full-text articles between the years 2018 and 2022



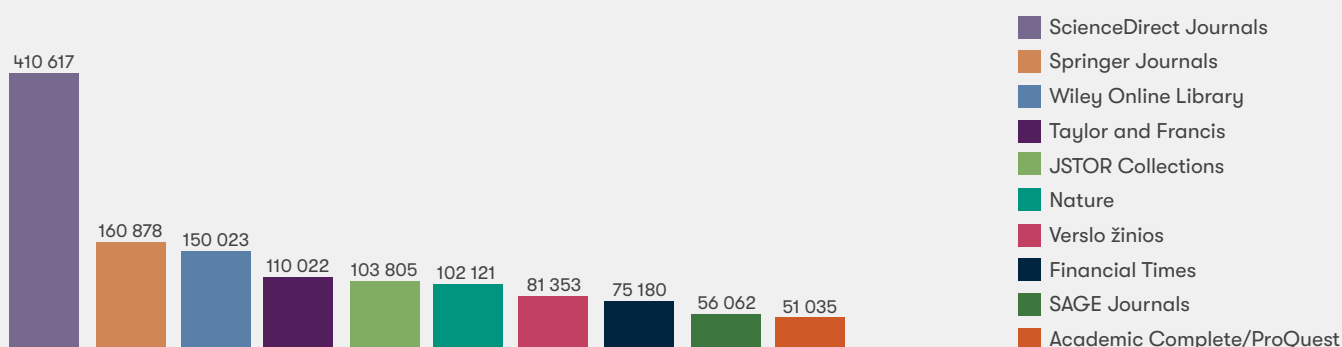
In 2022, the number of content views was **382,008** (DB containing analytic information, multimedia, images and similar). When compared with the year 2021, the number of content views in 2022 increased by approximately **56** per cent.

Much interest in 2022 was shown to the database the Library subscribes to from 2021 – an atlas of human anatomy *Complete Anatomy (Elsevier)*. In 2022, it had **128,170** content views (while in 2021 there were 21,104 content views).

In 2022, the most read collection was *Science Direct Journals* – **410,617** full-text documents were downloaded from there. *Scientific Reports*, an open access science journal published by Springer Nature, is at the top of the TOP 10 most popular journals: **33,499** full-text documents were downloaded.

Users are actively using textbooks published by Lithuanian publishers. The book *Arnoldina Pabedinskaitė. Kiekybiniai sprendimų metodai. I d. Koreliacinė regresinė analizė. Prognozavimas. Vilnius: Technika, 2008.* makes it to the top of this year's list of electronic books. In 2022, the users downloaded **2,520** chapters of the book.

10 most popular DB according to the number of full-text document downloads in 2022



Electronic book collection development

In 2022, the Library continued to use successful and reliable e-book purchasing methods such as *Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA)* and *Short-term Loan (STL)*. When applying the latter method, users are given a possibility to borrow electronic books that are necessary for studies or research for a short time period or unlimited time. This year users actively used subscribed database collections.

eBooks on Cambridge Core is a database providing access to constantly updated electronic book collection of more than 40,000 titles published by *Cambridge University Press* and their partners. *Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA)* model is applied to this database as well.

Books are selected based on both statistical data of usage and requests of users. Thus **242** e-books from the Cambridge Core platform were acquired, **41,226** chapters from **4,036** titles of electronic books were downloaded in 2022.

The other prestigious database that the Library subscribes to for several years is *Oxford Scholarship Online*. This monthly updated database provides access to **17,000** publications. *Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA)* model is also applied to this database. At the end of the year, the Library analyses the usage statistics and a permanent access is usually acquired to the most often used publications. Thus **164** titles of e-books from *Oxford Scholarship Online* collection were acquired, **7,365** chapters from **1,036** titles of electronic books were downloaded in 2022.

Scholarly communication

Open access

For many years, in various ways, Vilnius University Library has been promoting the application of the principles of open access in scholarly communication. In 2022, the Library continued goal-orientated activities focused on VU community's supply with information, holding consultations, enhancing practical skills and lastly educating in various forms.

The Senate has approved VU Open Science Policy Guidelines

VU Open Science Policy Guidelines were approved on 22 February during the meeting of VU Senate.

The application of the Open Science principles is becoming more and more relevant for the academic community around the world. This global movement has been changing scholarly communication, affecting many aspects of scientific research and the dissemination of scientific outcomes. Many European Union and international organizations support the Open Science initiative: the European Research Council, Scientific programs of the European Commission, UNESCO. Open Science practices are promoted and applied by the most advanced universities and other scientific institutions. The European Commission aims to make Open Science the modus operandi of all researchers. The most important selection criteria for the *Horizon Europe Programme* are the quality and applicability of Open Science practices.

VU Library has considerably contributed to the preparation of VU Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan. The prepared draft of the plan was submitted for approval.

You can familiarize yourself with the document [in here](#)

VU Open Science Policy Guidelines were approved in 2022. Director General of VU Library Irena Krivienė led *Guidelines' Preparation Working Group*, while Scholarly Communication and Technologies Department's director Dr Žibutė Petrauskienė and three members from the Scientific Information and Data Division participated in the working group. Preparation of *VU Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan* was started in 2022. Five representatives of VU Library participate in an implementation plan working group led by Director General of VU Library Irena Krivienė.

Since February of 2022, the Scientific Information and Data Division has launched regular trainings intended for VU community and researchers, who can register for the trainings by themselves individually. Thirty-three trainings were carried out (**40.87** academic hours) and attended by **240** participants. In 2022, trainings for researchers, doctoral students and other members of the University community were organized, besides that, external trainings were also provided. During the trainings, members of VU community were presented with open access implementation requirements, scientific research data management principles, eLABa system. In 2022, VU community was given **43** (58.87 academic hours) trainings attended by **784** participants.

On 7 December, the Library held a distance lecture "Open Science and Scientific Excellence" which was delivered by Magdalena Szufflita-Żurawska from Gdańsk University of Technology. 119 participants attended the lecture.

On 8 March, Dr Gintė Medzvieckaitė delivered a lecture "Data Management Plan: What is It and What Knowledge is Needed to Prepare It" in the event organized by the Research Council of

Lithuania (further RCL) “Open Science: Data Management”. Silvia Bottaro, a Legal Officer in the Open Science Unit at the European Commission’s Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, attended the event and delivered a report on the requirements of the *Horizon Europe* program for data management.

From June to December, members of the Library participated in the RCL’s expert group activities. The group has prepared a study evaluating both the application of the RCL’s Open Access to Scientific Publications and Data Guidelines and the progress achieved. It also reviews the situation of open access to scientific publications and data, and the development of related competences in Lithuania, as well as discusses the key open science policy documents of the European Union and UNESCO. Based on the insights gained during the preparation of the study, recommendations were made for updating the RCL’s Open Access to Scientific Publications and Data Guidelines.

Open Access Week

As every year, in October of 2022, VU Library invited VU community to celebrate a global Open Access Week. On that occasion, VU Library published a special issue of “Open Science Postcard”. On 26 October, on the occasion of this global event, VU Library invited the community to the lecture “We all Know It: in the Traps of the Redundant Information on Climate Change” delivered by Associated Professor of the Department of Hydrology and Climatology of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geoscience of Vilnius University Dr Justas Kažys. On the same day, the Library invited to join and play an educational Open Access game “Falling into the Publishing Trap”.



Scientometrics

Although in 2022 for a part of the year VU Library had no specialist of scientometrics, the main tasks in this field have been completed.

In February, the University community had an opportunity to join in a remote training “Research Activity Assessment Employing InCites Analytic Tool”, which was attended by more than 80 participants and received positive feedback. At Pro-Rector for Research Prof. Edita Sužiedėlienė’s request, a review of the abovementioned tool was carried out, publications of the Faculty of Chemistry and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration were uploaded and indicators for the faculties provided.

In addition to the traditional annual bibliometric analysis of the University researchers, it was proposed to prepare both bibliometric analyses of smaller structures (departments and chairs) and lists of individual publications that are indexed in WoS and Scopus DB. Taking into account the expressed needs, lists of publications written by 15 individual researchers and indexed in WoS and Scopus DB, were compiled.

Scientific Research Data Management

MIDAS is a united and open national scientific research data digital archive that enables one to provide electronic services, to collect and preserve data of various fields and areas of science as well as other information related to scientific research thus providing users with possibility to access this data easily, conveniently and free of charge through the updated MIDAS portal. While continuing the practice of promoting scientific research data management, in 2022 "DuoDi" → Data days were held in various divisions of the University. The purpose of the event is not only to draw the attention of the VU academic community to the importance of research data management in the context of the development of Open Science but also to familiarize the VU scientific community with research data management and the possibilities of MIDAS, to encourage them to store and publish data in this repository. During 2022, the number of MIDAS research studies increased by 70 items, 21 out of them were published and 49 unpublished. Overall, research data growth in 2022 amounted to 25.35 per cent and open access to 4.93 per cent. In total, between the years 2015 and 2021, data and/or metadata of 92 research studies were published in MIDAS.

eLABa full-text documents' repository

eLABa is a national information system that was put into operation in 2015 when implementing the project of EU structural funds “Creation and Development of eLABa Integral Services”. The objective of the project is to centrally manage the outcomes of Lithuanian science and study institutions and results of scholarly activities by means of information technologies. Full-text documents' repository eLABa consists of Scientific Publications Database (PDB), Electronic Theses and Dissertations Database (ETD), and Plagiarism Check subsystem.

In 2022, eLABa VU PDB subsystem was supplemented with **17,264** records of scholarly publications, **3,328** out of which were with full-text documents. The majority of eLABa registered publications with full-text documents consist of scientific articles licensed under the CC BY open content license (the application of open content licenses allows one to ensure that others can legally use works on the Internet under the conditions specified by the property copyright holders).

In 2022, eLABa VU PDB subsystem was supplemented with VU Šiauliai Academy scientific outcomes produced until the year 2022. Since the start of operation, a total of **88,372** VU scholarly publications have been registered in the system, and **11,259** (12.7 per cent) of these publications have open access.

Scholarly publications in eLABa of VU's PDB subsystem and their access status (2018–2022)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total number of VU entries in eLABa	59 245	62 792	66 996	71 108	88 372
VU entries with full-text documents	2 625	5 182	6 741	8 491	11 819
VU entries with open access full-text documents	3 502	4 089	6 158	8 076	11 259

In 2022, **235** doctoral dissertations with VU attribution were uploaded to the system (increase of 13.34 per cent). The total number of VU doctoral dissertations in the eLABa system: **1,997** (98.9 per cent out of them or 1,833 are open access).

MIDAS modernization project

From November to June of 2022, a modernization project of MIDAS archive was carried out. During the three iterations of the project, some changes were made in external, internal and administrative settings of MIDAS. Design of the main page of MIDAS portal was updated thus enhancing the visibility of scientific research data published in the archive, as well as providing an option for users of MIDAS to write a feedback or contact the administrator via a contact form. The updated process of data publication allows attributing of DOI automatically; in cases when data or metadata is opened up, it is obligatory to indicate the license issued for the data set. Another metadata addition implemented with the second iteration is an option for authors to indicate their ORCID identifier.

Throughout the year 2022, the total number of VU documents in both databases of eLABa system (PDB and EDT) has increased by **24,758** documents (by 27.82 per cent), out of them full-text documents increased by **10,740** documents (by **53.87** per cent), while open access full-text documents by **10,357** (53.85 per cent).

Number of bibliographic records in eLABa's PDB+EDT subsystems and their access status (2018–2022)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total number of VU bibliographic records PDB+EDT	74539	78824	83388	88987	113745
VU bibliographic records with full-text documents PDB+EDT	12813	14765	16683	19934	30674
VU bibliographic records with open access full-text documents PDB+EDT	12401	13450	15894	19231	29588

Studies and research support

Freshers' Welcome Days #StudentAUK



In September 2022, VU's Freshers' Integration Week #StudentAUK has been held for the seventh time. From 3 August to 9 September there were lectures delivered, tours guided, meetings and events held. The aim of all these activities was to introduce the University and its Library to freshers, to inform them about their studies and give an opportunity to socialize with other students.

On 31 August, a contact fair for the freshers #StudentAUK, a participant of which the Library was, took place in the Grand Courtyard. During the fair, students had an opportunity to get to know more about non-academic branches of Vilnius University, students' organizations and their activities. During the fair, students could get information on services and resources that are important for their studies. They could explore the Library's spaces and learn about the career and volunteering possibilities. It has been the third year that the Library participates in the

contact fair #StudentAUK and attracts interest of Lithuanian and foreign students. **More than 200** students attended the Library's booth.

During the integration week, students were also invited to visit the Library, to listen to a short informational presentation and participate in a practical tour in the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre (SCIC). Presentations and tours for students were organized from 2 to 9 September, while on 1 September exchange students from abroad had visited the Library. Overall, during the integration week, **30** lectures were delivered to bachelor, master, integrated and exchange students from abroad, as well as **36** practical tours were organized. More than **1,000** students attended the lectures and the tours.

First year students had an opportunity to attend historical tours organized by Vilnius University Museum and the Library and get to know about the University in the city. Historical tours in Lithuanian and English languages were also organized in the Central Library. During the tours, students were invited to stroll around the spectacular halls of the Library such as Franciszek Smuglewicz, Joachim Lelewel halls, the White Hall, which some time ago served as an astronomical observatory and where students could climb up to the observatory tower to admire a beautiful view of the city.

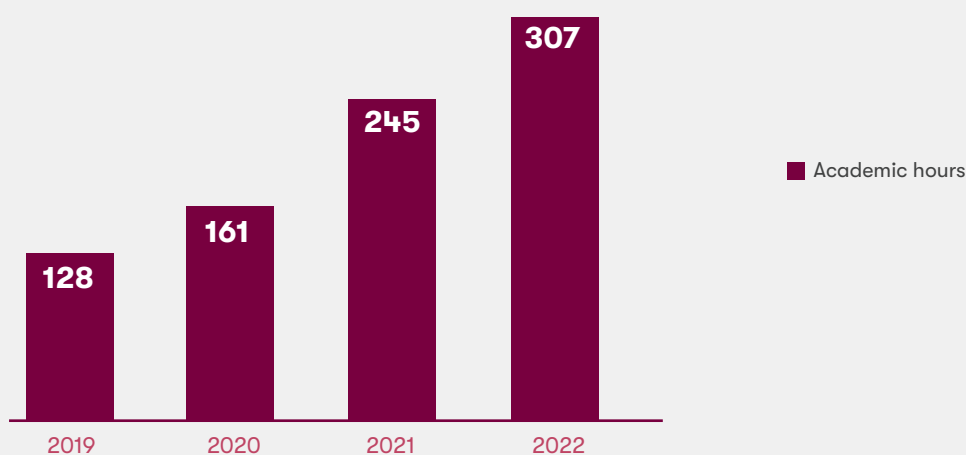
Information literacy trainings

VU Library organizes information literacy trainings for VU students, researchers and scholars. The key topics of trainings are the following: search for scholarly information, scholarly information search tools, ethical use of information, citation, copyright and bibliographic description, and tools for management of scholarly information, open access, research data management, eLABa system. In 2022, 307 academic hours of information literacy trainings were carried out. That is a total number of all trainings held by the Library. Two divisions of the Library usually deliver the trainings, these are Studies and Research Support Division and Scientific Information and Data

Division. Staff of both of the divisions deliver trainings for various groups of the Library users. Among them there were trainings integrated into the study programmes for students of bachelor, master and integrated study programmes, trainings for general skills development for doctoral students, trainings for the entire VU community with registration open for everyone, thematic seminars, trainings for researchers and scholars. A consistent increase in the annual number of academic hours can be observed. Increasing popularity of electronic resources, the importance of academic ethics, changing requirements for research activity, updates in open science and open data might be the reasons behind the increase.



Information literacy trainings in academic hours (2019–2022)



Information literacy training development at VU Library

VU Library has been successfully carrying out information literacy and scholarly communication competence development activities for a long time. Aiming for wider recognition and target-driven development of these activities, as well as in response to the University's strategic goals, the Library decided to become a recognized information competence development centre of the University. This long-term strategic goal is set for the 2021–2025 period.

In 2022, the concept of the centre was drafted. A working group of the Library's specialists delivering trainings was formed so that to prepare the draft and carry out SWAT analysis of information competency development activities. It is expected that the concept will enable the centralized organization of information competence development activities in the Library. Taking into account the needs of the community, it will ensure better communication with the targeted groups of the Library's users, and will create opportunities to expand in a targeted manner the options of offered training topics.

SCIENCE AND CULTURE HERITAGE



Accumulation and preservation of heritage collections

31 December 2022, the **Manuscripts Division** had in its holdings **340** archival units of different amount, which contain **348,359** various types of documents. A supportive collection of the Manuscripts Division contains **4,635** items (**22** out of them are newly received, 7 were transferred from the Information Resources Management Division and 15 authors' donations).

Thirty-six archival units that are kept at the Manuscripts Division have been supplemented with groups of documents or individual documents. A new archival unite dedicated to Petras Venantas Mačiekus (F340) was formed in 2022.

The collection of **Graphic Arts Cabinet** contains **97,921** items. In 2022, the collection was supplemented with **2,381** creations by **3** artists (Rimantas Dichavičius, Vaclovas Kosciuška, Stasys Aukštuolis).

The **Rare Books** holdings consist of **167,960** old and rare books from the 15th to the 20th century and a supportive collection. This year, the holdings were supplemented with **44** documents and pieces of cartography from the 17th and 18th centuries.

In 2022, the following documents were acquired in auctions: **4** handwritten documents (a postcard by Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius, a letter written by Director of Vilnius University Library Stanislovas Ptašickis, a document by Juozas Tumas-Vaižgantas, a letter by Vydūnas), **2** photos related to Vilnius University and **1** printing (rules of the 18th century religious association, association members' responsibilities with a text in the Lithuanian language; published in Vilnius).

In 2022, objects of the following divisions: Cabinet of Graphic Arts (8 objects), Manuscripts Division (71 object), Rare Books Division (43 objects) were lent to various memory institutions, long-standing partners of Vilnius University Library: MO Museum, Dukes' Palace, Lithuanian National Museum, Church Heritage Museum, as well as Samogitian Art Museum (Plungė), Public Library of Jurbarkas District Municipality, Public Library of Trakai District Municipality. Cooperation with the Library's international partners continued as well. Fifteen documents from the Manuscripts Division were lent to the National Museum of Krakow for the exhibition "Joachim Lelewel (1786–1861). A Piece of Art by the Polish Engraver" which was on display from 21 January to 28 August 2022.



Preservation of heritage collections

In 2022, **55,128** pages of the 8th category were preserved/restored (restoration of **238** objects and **11,534** actual pages completed), while **211** document preservation cases of various formats and complexity have been made during this period. Throughout 2022, **90** bookbindings have been restored/preserved and **19** new bookbindings have been created.

Since 2018 microbiological testing showing microbiological air pollution in the Central Library and the SCIC of VU Library has been carried out regularly in the following places: in the storage (twice a year), in the reading rooms (once a quarter), working rooms (once a quarter). **283** samples of VU Library premises' air, walls and documents (**171**) were analysed in 2022.

Current VU doctoral theses decorated with images from old printings of the Library

Starting from the summer of 2022, all VU dissertations prepared for a defence and published by VU Press are being marked according to the field of science with different symbols taken from the old books kept in the Library. The new marking system is a result of a joint effort of VU Library and VU Press. When performing selection of images from the books printed between the 16th and the 18th century, which could be suitable for illustration of the five scientific fields of dissertations defended at VU, fragments of images that fitted the most to a particular field of science were chosen for the marking.

Social sciences: A fragment of the title page “Catholic Postilla”, a selection of sermons (translated by Mikalojus Daukša) written by Rector of Vilnius Jesuit College Jakub Wujek.

Technology sciences: Artillery textbook by VU alumnus Kazimieras Semenavičius with an image of the mechanical calibre gauge.

Humanities: the stringed musical instrument lyre and laurel wreath – known since Antiquity – these are symbols from a selection of poetry “Four Books of Lyrics” written by Professor of VU, Jesuit Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski.

Natural sciences: a symbol of the Earth Apple from “A Hundred Questions on Astronomy” written by VU alumnus Albert Dyblinski (presenting observations with a telescope together with VU scholar, mathematician and astronomer Oswald Krüger).

Medicine and health sciences: a Caduceus staff decorated with two snakes intertwined and coiled around it symbolising power, wisdom, disease and healing taken from the dissertation defended at the Faculty of Medicine of VU “A Medical Investigation Conducted Regarding the Primary Cause of the Fevers”.



Digitisation

2,659 objects comprised of **98,512** pages have been digitised throughout the year 2022. **1408.86 GB (1.4 TB)** – this is the amount of information made digital. **5,776** digital copies were made for users, whereas **341** digital copies were made of works under restoration.

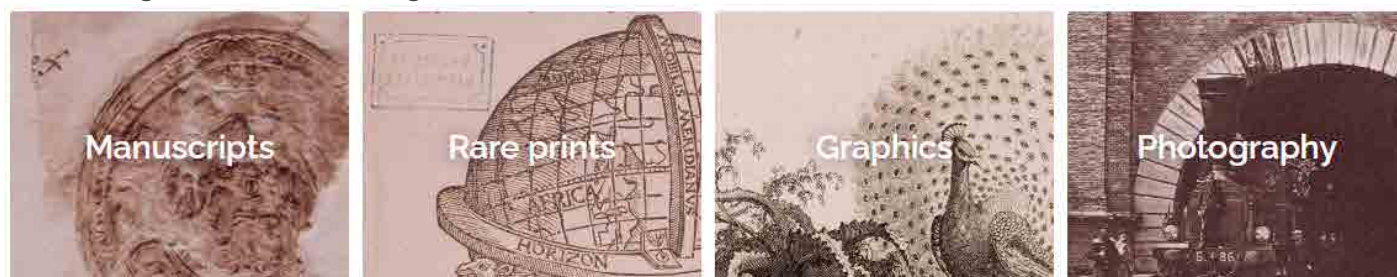
In 2022, the major part of images was restored from the following archival units:

- F3 (Handwritten treatise and research works) – **100** objects, **37,022** images;
- F1 (collection of manuscripts from Vytautas Magnus University) – **36** objects, **10,530** images;
- F2 (handwritten documents written between the 17th and the 19th century at the chancellery of the Vilnius Educational District's Administrator) – **1,434** objects, **5,358** images.

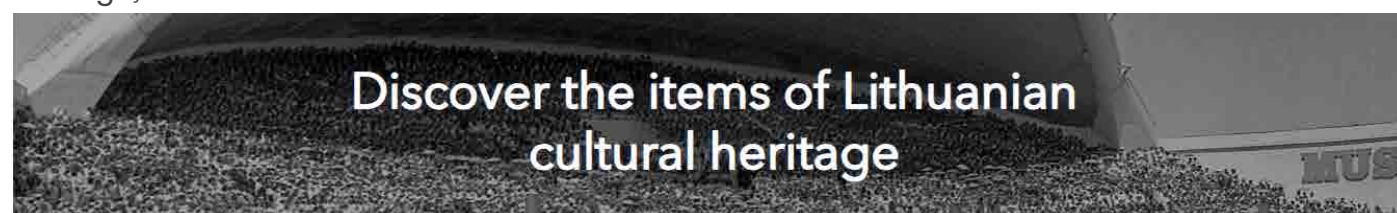
Alongside with regular digitising of manuscripts, rare documents, in response to the needs of users, after the Library cleared copyright issues with the authors, VU scholarly periodicals, academic literature from the 20th and the 21st century was also being digitised and published.

In 2022, digital documents at VU Library were available in the following places:

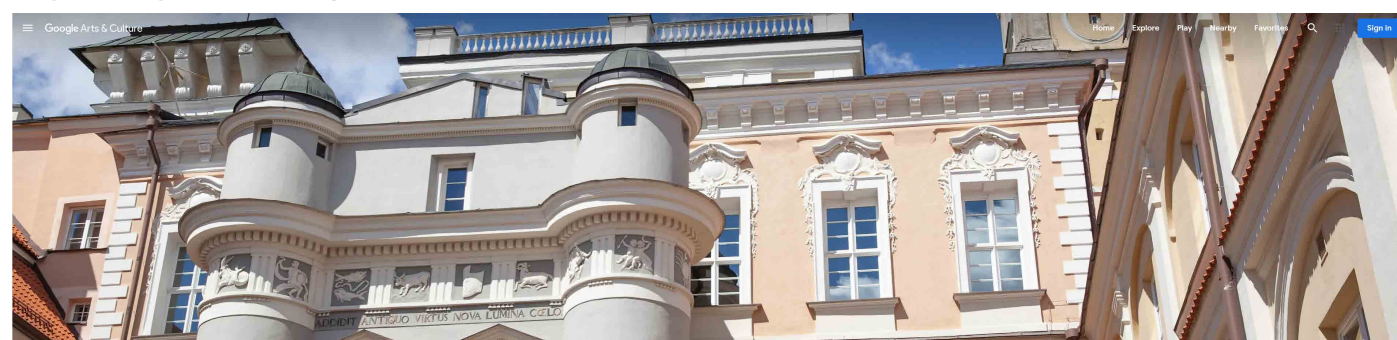
- Digital Collections of VU Library at <https://kolekcijos.biblioteka.vu.lt/en> – **18,539** objects consisting of **1,126,628** images;



- Virtual Cultural Heritage System (VEPS) at <https://www.epaveldas.lt/> – **7,105** objects of cultural heritage;

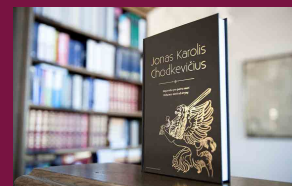


- On Google Arts & Culture platform at <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/vilnius-university-library> – **233** images from virtual exhibitions shown on the platform.



Scholarly research and dissemination

An innovative and richly illustrated book supplied with research articles dedicated to the personality of Jan Karol Chodkiewicz and his time has been prepared by the Library. The book, a result of thorough studies of the Library's collection, will present unknown or little known to the academic community data on this outstanding military leader.



The project VUDis, which is funded by the Research Council of Lithuania and the main aim of which is to carry out extensive research of theses and dissertations of Vilnius University that have survived to the present day and present it to the public on a wide scale, continued in 2022. The outcome of the research was published in various research articles, delivered in seminars as well as presented in an exhibition to the University community and guests on 1 April, while celebrating the 443rd anniversary of Vilnius University. The exhibition showed dissertations prepared between the 16th and the 18th century. Presentations on the culture of theses at the Jesuit University of Vilnius were offered to visitors of the exhibition who expressed a wish not only to see the dissertations themselves but also to get to know more on their preparation and defence at the old Vilnius University. Around **350** visitors altogether have attended the exhibition.

In 2022, specialists working in the Documental Heritage Preservation Division were also focusing on the typology and issues of the court books' bindings, thus aiming not only to analyse the collection of such documents but also, based on the analysis, to put forward some recommendations on further preservation and maintenance of the objects from this collection.

Publishing and preparation of exhibitions require lots of effort and wide range of skills and competencies of researchers. Every exhibition starts with an idea, while the implementation of the idea calls for extensive and detailed research of the collections and that requires specific competencies – good knowledge of antique languages, ability to read ancient manuscripts and profoundly deep understanding of the context. Two exceptional exhibitions, preparation of which often lasts more than a year, as a tradition, are held in Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall every year. An exhibition on the art of the book attracted lots of attention in 2022. The second exhibition, which was accompanied by popular regular tours with curators, was dedicated to the collection of books printed by the old printing houses of Vilnius. *More on the exhibitions in the section “Vilnius University Library – visible and highly valued”.*

Authors of the best dissertations, among them a member of the Library staff Dr Gintė Medzvieckaitė, received awards at the Presidential Palace

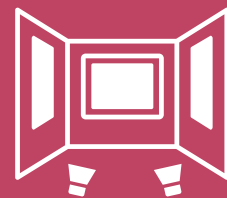
On 22 November, President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda handed out awards to the winners of the Best Dissertation Competition 2021. Dr Gintė Medzvieckaitė, a data manager working in the Scientific Information and Data Division of Vilnius University Library, was among the best authors of the dissertations. Her research work “Human Echoes of Divine Words: Spiritual Madrigals Based on Italian Poetic Paraphrases of Latin Sacred Texts” (the University of Manchester, UK) was acknowledged the best dissertation in humanities and social sciences that was defended by the Lithuanian citizen in a foreign science and studies institution.

Congratulating the scientists, among whom there was a considerable number of VU scientists, the President emphasised that their example shows how much can be achieved through intellectual courage, creativity and patience and the success of each young scientist in Lithuania is also an achievement of Lithuania as a whole.



Dr Gintė Medzvieckaitė and Gitanas Nausėda. Photo Chancellery of the Presidential Palace/by Robertas Dačkus

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY – VISIBLE AND HIGHLY VALUED

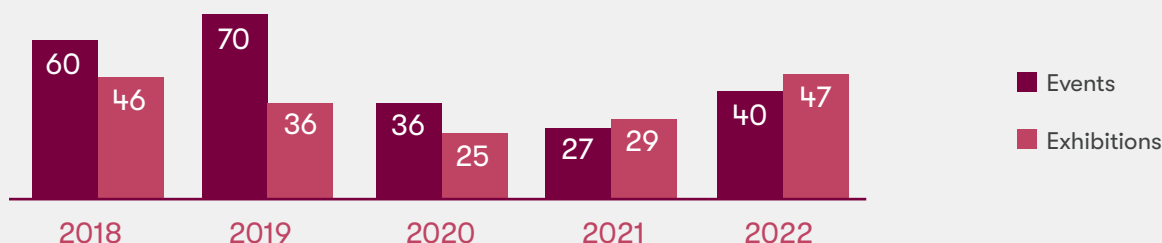


Outstanding exhibitions and events

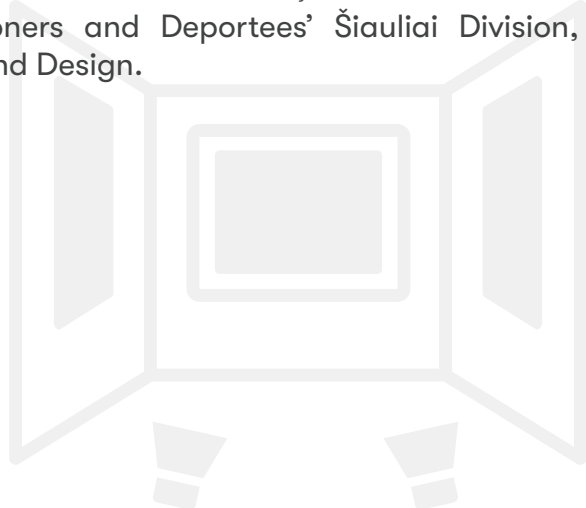
The Library presents cultural heritage documents that are kept in its holdings, invites to discuss the issues of culture and education and encourages to get to know more on the university life through various events and exhibitions that are open to the public. In 2022, **2,591** participants attended the events organized by the Library. In comparison, in 2021 **676** participants attended the Library events (the decrease in 2020–2021 was mainly influenced by the situation of the global COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions on public events and gatherings).

Nearly two thousand documents (**1,808** items) were shown to the public, some of them were presented in the virtual space. Overall, in 2022, the Library held **40** events and **47** exhibitions (**87** public events and exhibitions in total).

Number of events and exhibitions for the years 2018–2022



In 2022, exhibitions and events were held in collaboration with the Italian Embassy in Lithuania, the Italian Cultural Institute, the Goethe-Institut, the Polish Institute in Vilnius, the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science, Lithuanian National UNESCO Commission, the Institute of Lithuanian Literature and Folklore, the Lithuanian Institute of History, The Lithuanian Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees' Šiauliai Division, the Boarder Group, Vilnius College of Technology and Design.



The most outstanding events and exhibitions of 2022

Exhibition “Universe. Human. Intellect” and opening event in which Dr Urtė Neniškytė delivered a lecture “An Interface of the Brain and the Computer”

Scholarly Communication and Information Centre, 6 January 2022–25 February 2022



The Goethe-Institut and the Max Planck Society present a STEM exhibition “Universe. Human. Intellect” that aims to present the most advanced scientific research that is carried out in Germany. With the help of photos, videos and research projects, the interactive exhibition tells us about the great mysteries of humanity and implementation of scholarly ideas thus encouraging to reflect on the most urgent topics of science and society.

During the opening event, Dr Urtė Neniškytė, a scientist from the Life Sciences Centre, delivered a lecture “An Interface of the Brain and the Computer” showing a possibility to connect human brain to computers.

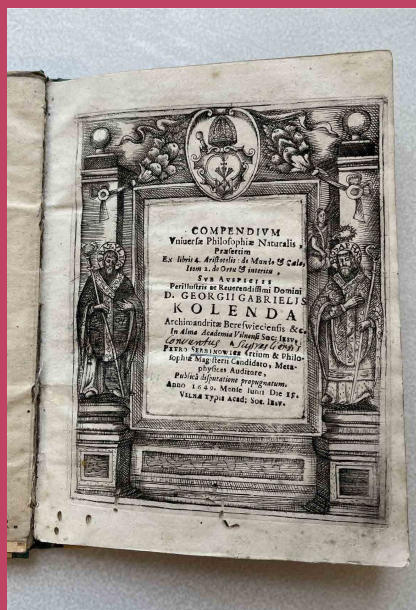
Exhibition “The Art of the Book”

Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall, from 1 April 2022 to 15 September 2022.

The basis of this exhibition was the **virtual exhibition** prepared during the quarantine which in 2022 was transformed into a physical exposition. Visitors had a possibility to see cultural heritage documents kept at VU Library that distinguish themselves by exceptional design and impressive illustrations.



Dissertations written between the 16th and the 18th century that are kept at VU Library shown to the public for the first time



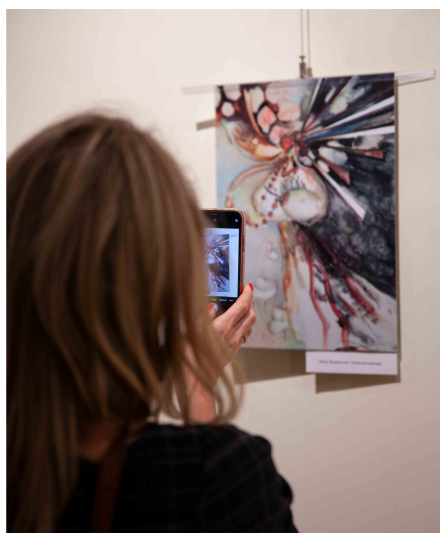
On 1 April, while marking the 443rd anniversary of Vilnius University, academic community, citizens and guests of the city were invited to see not only the first printed Lithuanian book “Catechism” by Martynas Mažvydas traditionally shown as every year in newly restored Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall but also to explore an exhibition of dissertations written by the first alumni of the University, Jesuits and other students, that was situated in Joachim Lelewel Hall. Presentations prepared and delivered by the staff of the Library helped visitors to learn more about these scholarly works more than 300 years old.

The exhibition that was prepared by VU Library, showed more than 10 old dissertations that are kept in the Library to the public. The dissertations that distinguish themselves by ornate ornaments, rich illustrations and impressive engravings reveal an academic quest and discoveries of the scholars of the past.

Exhibition “We were. We are. We will be. The Same as Ukraine!”

Gallery, from 25 April to 16 May 2022

VU Library held an exhibition of works created by the students of Kyiv’s College of Arts and Design which helped them to express their emotional shock (grief, anger, horror, hope) through the art that they all experienced because of the war. For a while students thought that these works are not suitable for public demonstration as these paintings were created while hiding from bombs and shelling in basements, while living in towns and villages occupied by the Russian troops, while leaving dangerous places on buses or while living abroad. Some of the artists have already lost their homes and the loved ones. A possibility to show these works to the wide public in universities of Europe has become a ray of hope for the students and their professors. At the same time, it is a sign of acceptance of Ukraine in the European community and the proof of its victory after receiving the support from the whole civilized world.





Accompanying exhibition to the international research conference “Joachim Lelewel and the Past, Present State, and Future of Historical Auxiliary Sciences”

Joachim Lelewel Hall, from 15 to 17 June 2022

An exhibition dedicated to the centenary from the establishment of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science. The presentation of the exhibition that took place on 22 October 2022 was a part of the programme dedicated to the centenary of the Lithuanian Catholic Academy of Science (1922-2022).

An exhibition dedicated to Rector of Vilnius University Mykolas Biržiška

White Hall, from 14 September to 12 October 2022

The exhibition was dedicated to the 140th birth and the 60th death anniversaries of Mykolas Biržiška (1882-1962). An opening of the exhibition took place on 7 October 2022, during which two professors, namely Bronius Pšibilskis (“Mykolas Biržiška – a Signatory and a Member of Political Resistance”) and Alfredas Bumblauskas (“Mykolas Biržiška as an Unpredictable Person”) delivered reports and engaged in the discussion on the former rector of VU.

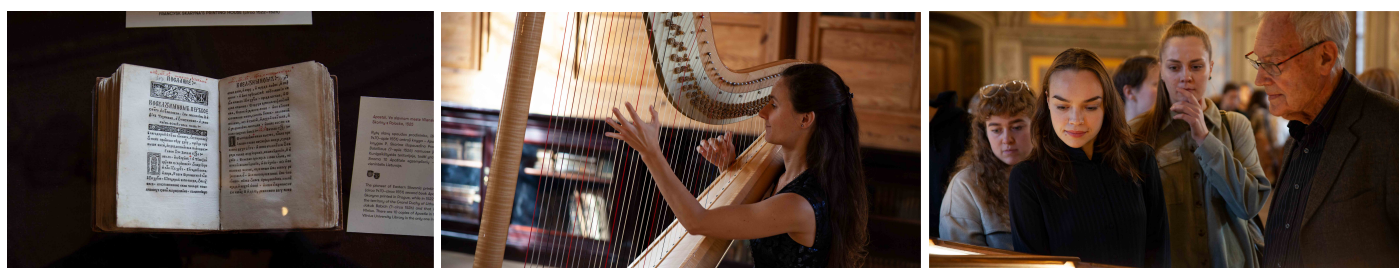


Exhibition “Inspired by Skaryna: 500 Years of Vilnius Printings”

Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall, from 21 September 2022 to 30 April 2023

The exhibition was prepared while marking the 500th anniversary of the first printing house and the first printed book – Francysk Skaryna’s Little Traveller’s Book – in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

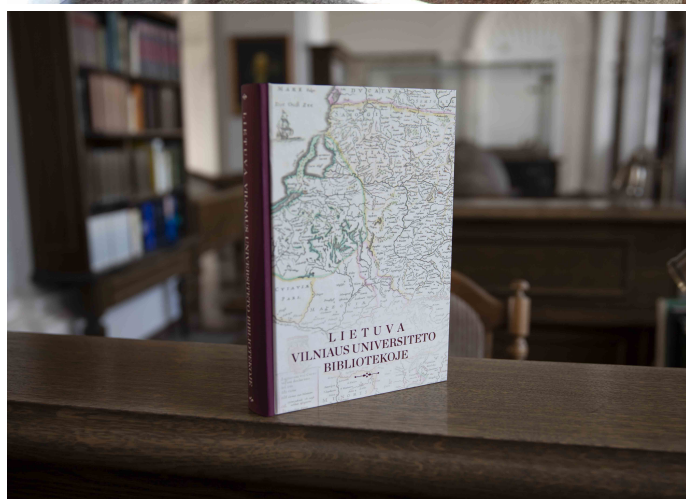
Forty-five printed books and 8 manuscript documents that are associated with the printing houses that used to operate in Vilnius such as the Karcan, the Mamonich, Jokūbas Morkūnas, Łeczycki, the Piarist, the Basilian and other printing houses were shown to the public. The Library offered an opportunity to visit the exhibition with guided tours led by the curators of the exhibition. This option has received great popularity.



“Lithuania in Vilnius University Library”: closing event and presentation of the book dedicated to the project

White Hall, 14 October 2022

Closing event and a presentation of the book dedicated to the project “Lithuania in Vilnius University Library” was held on the eve of the Library’s birthday. Many guests representing these libraries, cultural centres and museums in which documents of the Library related to particular towns, and distinguished personalities were shown during the project, participated in the event. On the day of the event, some rarest and most interesting documents, even those that were not brought to the Lithuanian cities and towns due to transportation issues, were on display in the White Hall.



Project activities

Every year the Library carries out or contributes to carrying out international, national projects financed by the EU, the University infrastructure development, or small-scale cultural projects. The year 2022 was not an exception.

- Started in 2019, the EODOPEN project, which is aiming at providing access to unreachable works in digital form throughout the entire Europe, while at the same time dealing adequately with copyrights clearance issues continued in 2022. With the help of this project, until the year 2023, 15 libraries will strive to open up 15 thousand documents and literary creations of the 20th–21st century to European netizens. In 2022, in aiming to meet the needs of EODOPEN project, periodicals' viewing solution was adopted on the platform of VU Library's Digital Collections. In 2022, while implementing EODOPEN project, **334** objects (**27,350** digital pages) were digitised.
- In 2022, the Library continued with the project **“Inventorying of VU Library Heritage Collections for Drawing Transfer Documents to VU Asset Accounting”**. During the year, **21,633** publications were inventoried (the 19th century collection and other publications).
- In aiming to carry out the research and present to the public the dissertations that were printed by the University Press in 1579–1773 and are kept at VU Library, to build their digital collection supplied with exhaustive metadata alongside with digital images of selected documents, annotations and an advanced search option, VU Library runs the project **“The Research of the Old Vilnius University's (1579–1773) Dissertations and the Creation of the Database (VUDis)”**. In 2022, a thorough analysis of the research works was performed and two research articles were prepared and submitted for publishing. Interim project results were presented in the seminar **“Pro Suprema Laurea: The Collection of Vilnius University's Final Papers (1579–1773)”** attended virtually by 50 participants. Discussion that followed the report helped participants of the project to develop the research methodology. Materials of the project are presented on the VU Library's Digital Collections platform in a visually attractive way in a separate collection **“Theses of the Old Vilnius University”** (<https://kolekcijos.biblioteka.vu.lt/en/theses-old-vilnius-university>)
- After the completion of the **eMoDB.LT** project funded by the European Structural Funds within the framework of which the Library subscribed to electronic resources databases, in 2022, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania allocated considerable finances for this purpose to the Lithuanian Research Library Consortium, a member of which VU Library is. This allowed one to restore the subscription of databases nearly at the scale of the eMoDB.LT project and thus provide VU researchers and students with a wide access to high-quality information resources.
- The Library continued with the implementation of the state investment project **“The Reconstruction of the Old Vilnius University Library”**. A technical project for the refurbishment of the attic was started in 2022.
- This year the Library carried out further work related to the project **“Optimisation of a High Education School Network and the Improvement of the Quality of Studies through the Merge of Šiauliai University into Vilnius University”** and acquired RFID self-service devices, built a new system for premises' booking; MIDAS, a scientific research data archive, was adapted to the requirements of the EU, digitisation of the cultural heritage collections kept at Šiauliai Academy Information Centre was continued.

As every year, the Lithuanian Council for Culture allocated funding for publishing and organising of events.

Snieguolė Misiūnienė, a member of VU Library staff received a recognition letter from the Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania

On 25 April, a great opening of the 22nd National Lithuanian Libraries' Week took place at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. During the event, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania Simonas Kairys extended congratulations to the community of librarians of our country and announced the best librarians of the year 2021. Speaker of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania, a patron of the event, Viktorija Čmilytė-Nielsen not only offered congratulations to all libraries on this significant occasion but also presented five librarians of the Lithuanian libraries with recognition letters. Snieguolė Misiūnienė, an exhibition curator of the Communication and Information Office of VU Library was among those who received the recognition letter. The letter was awarded for the implementation and coordination of cultural heritage promotion projects, the promotion of Lithuanian history and culture among the Lithuanian citizens of various ages, as well as the enhancement of relationship and cooperation between Lithuanian libraries, museums and cultural centres and the reduction of the cultural gap between the capital and more distant Lithuanian cities and towns and the significant community building effort.



Snieguolė Misiūnienė was a coordinator and an active participant of the VU Library's project "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library", which was started as early as in 2015. It was owing to her input that cultural and scientific heritage documents that are significant for the entire country, a certain location or region and that are kept in the holdings of VU Library had been shown to the public in 38 Lithuanian cities and towns.



Expert activities

Library employees participate in various activities of local and international organizations, carry out joint projects, and cooperate in the implementation of various ideas. VU Library has its own representatives in the following organizations: the National Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program, Quality Management Committee of Arqus European University Alliance, LIBER Scientific Research Data Management and UNICA Scholarly Communication groups, IADA International Association of Book and Paper Conservators, RDA Research Data Alliance, the Certification Commission of Restorers of Movable Cultural Property of the Republic of Lithuania, the Editorial Board for the Preparation of the National Bibliography, the Association of Classics, Lithuanian Association of Academic Library Directors, Board of the Lithuanian Research Libraries Consortium, Lithuanian Librarians' Association, Vilnius Bookbinding Guild and other organizations and groups.

Member of international organizations

Vilnius University Library is a member of the following international organizations:

- *Association of European Research Libraries* (LIBER)
- *Consortium of European Research Libraries* (CERL)
- *Bibliotheca Baltica* (BB)
- *Confederation of Open Access Repositories* (COAR)

Vilnius University Library maintains ties with the Jagiellonian University, University of Tartu and University of Latvia. A relationship has been established with Taiwan National Central Library. In 2022, VU Library held exhibitions and events in cooperation with the following institutions and organizations: Italian Embassy in Lithuania, Institute of Italian Culture, Goethe-Institut, Polish Institute in Vilnius and *Google Culture Institute*.

Special guests

Many representatives of various foreign countries such as state officials, distinguished public figures and academics visit the University every year. Numerous visits to Vilnius University Library might serve as a proof of the return to normal life after pandemics. In 2022, the following guests paid visits to the Library:

- Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium in Poland and Lithuania Rik Van Droogenbroeck
- President of the European Court of Human Rights Róbert Ragnar Spanó
- Delegation of rectors from Armenia
- Honorary doctor of VU Bruno Robert (France)
- Honorary doctor of VU Andrew Bush (United Kingdom)
- President of Greece Katerina Sakelaropulu
- Rector of the University of Szczecin Prof. Dr. hab. Waldemar Tarczyński
- Ambassador of Georgia Salome Shapakidze

- Speaker of the Taiwan's Parliament Yuan Si-Kun with the delegation
- Physicist from USA Prof. Michio Kaku
- Member of the Congress of Deputies of Spain Pau Mari-Klose
- Mr. Vichit Chitvimarn, former Ambassador of Thailand
- Diplomatic delegation from Taiwan
- Jack R. Twiss Quarles van Ufford, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Netherlands to Lithuania
- Nobel Prize winner Prof. William Daniel Phillips
- Ambassador of Philippines Leah M. Basinang-Ruiz
- Royal couple of Belgium, King Philippe and Queen Mathilde with President of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda and the First Lady Diana Nausėdienė
- Lawyers of the Constitutional Court of Europe
- President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda

Visit of King of Belgium Philippe and Queen Mathilde

On 25 October, King of Belgium Philippe and Queen Mathilde paid a visit to VU Library. The royal couple met with President of the Republic of Lithuania Gitanas Nausėda and the First Lady Diana Nausėdienė in Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall. Maps that are significant for the history of Belgium and other documents related to this country including a genealogical tree of the royal family of Belgium were shown to the honourable guests.





© Vilnius University Library, 2024

Annual report prepared according to the department provided activity reports by:

Irena Krivienė, Gitana Naudužienė,
dr. Marija Prokopčik, Jonė Šulcaitė-Brollo,
Ieva Talaikienė, Brigita Zorkienė

List of publications was compiled by: Jūratė Zvėgienė

Compiler: Ramunė Gedvilaitė

Copy editor: Eglė Kirilauskaitė

Designer: Lina Dumbravaitė

Author of the photos used in the annual report

(unless under the photo indicated otherwise): Donatas Jarutis



**Vilnius
University
Library**