

ANNUAL REPORT / 2020



Vilnius
University
Library



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University
Library**



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PREFACE

The year 2020 at Vilnius University Library: a jubilee in the pandemic year



Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė

As our experience shows, life is full of unexpected surprises, however, no one could have foreseen the surprises that were brought to us by the year 2020. The 450th jubilee year of Vilnius University Library (hereinafter referred to as the *Library*) that was expected to be the year of festive rush, joy and pride, getting together with colleagues and like-minded people, became the year of the pandemic and strenuous efforts to tackle its outcomes. It was the year when long-time-cherished plans were drastically changed, when the main attitude could be expressed through the words *adapt to the new reality*. We had swiftly, without hesitation or long reflection, respond to and adapt to it.

New words appearing in our life such as *pandemic*, *COVID-19*, *quarantine*, *remote work* and actions carried out to handle this unconventional situation have transformed our reality.

The long cherished Library's 450-year jubilee programme that included exhibitions, an international conference and festive events, in response to the situation dictated by the pandemic, had to be transferred to the virtual space. The first event dedicated to the occasion actually took place as planned – the jubilee year of the Library started with the celebration of the centenary of the Library's patron and friend Dr Vaclovas Dargužas, which was attended by his relatives from Switzerland.

The first virtual event of the festive programme was an exhibition "The Art of the Book. Documents from the Collections of Vilnius University Library" that was organized together with the conference dedicated to the Library and held by Vilnius Academy of Arts "Material Body of the Book: Between Tradition and Innovation". It was decided to replace the jubilee exhibition of physical copies of rarities with an exhibition "Books and Non-Books" that was organized in a very short time on the platform *Google Arts and Culture* and was given lots of attention and acknowledgement by attendees from various countries of the world.

Exceptional tours around usually out-of-sight parts of the Library were organized for small groups; many intriguing stories were published on the Library's internet website conveying the message about the vast treasures of the Library and many unread and uncovered narratives that can be found in there. The jubilee year was completed by the Library's decision to attribute to the objects

of the digital collections the mark *public domain*. This step promoting openness was presented as a jubilee gift to the public, to its both loyal and new users of the Library services.

The pandemic of the year 2020 and two quarantines imposed on the staff and users have completely changed the usual workflow and activities of the Library. It was quite a challenge to organize the work and manage technologies in a way that would ensure successful transition to effective remote work and a provision of high-quality remote services. The most complex event of the year has been the closure of the Library door. It is always our great attempt that people would come to our Library and use it as much as possible and now, all of a sudden, we had to lock it. On the other hand, it was the pandemic that helped to realize – people and the University community have a great need for the Library.

This new reality encouraged users to search for electronic information resources administered by the Library, therefore, the usage of electronic information has considerably increased; remote trainings and consultations for various groups of the community on how to search for electronic resources and use them have been carried out intensively. Vilnius University has approved downloading of full-text document copies that would not be publicly available in eLABa system. Besides that, a service has been set up providing automated import of articles' metadata as well as full-text files from Vilnius University Press *Open Journal System* to eLABa repository. New rules for cataloguing documents (RDA) have been put in place so that to enable more effective search of electronic resources. If compared with earlier years, this decision resulted in the yearly increase of 2.8 times of full-text documents in eLABa repository. Much attention was given to the augmentation of scientific research data archive MIDAS – the number of new data sets has increased by 14.5 per cent. Availability of digital content to the public has augmented by nearly 66 per cent, while the number of visitors on Digital Collections website has increased by 116.4 per cent and the number of page views – by 157.41 per cent.

As usual, we welcome freshers at the beginning of an academic year, but this time, due to the pandemic, this was done in a different way. Instead of traditional freshers' week events at the SCIC, this time we invited first-year students to get to know the Library by watching a video on information services, to come to the Library and attend tours in small groups, while real live contacts with the new members of our community were made at the University Contact Fair.

The outcomes of the research of the cultural heritage kept in the Library have been presented in 16 articles prepared and published in the year 2020 in Lithuanian and foreign periodicals as well as in 8 reports delivered in research conferences. Three large-scale heritage research projects have been continued such as investigation of documents written in iron gall ink, research of the structure of handwritten court books of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania as well as the parchment book bindings of the 17th century.

In 2020, integration of Šiauliai University into Vilnius University has started and this process was carried out in the Library as well. In the context of the implementation of the integration of universities, preparation of the concept of Vilnius University Library and Šiauliai Academy Information Centre activities was started, planning of merging of resources of both libraries as well as other preparatory works were carried out. The Library has also made some preparations for another structural change – from the 1st of January of the coming year Adam Mickiewicz Museum will be incorporated into the University Museum.

We were happy to hold a meeting with a new rector of Vilnius University, his team, and management of the Library. An exchange of insights regarding the development of the Library

activities and its role in academic and research life, took place during the meeting. In 2020 three members of the Library staff were invited to participate in a strategic session to prepare VU strategic activity plan for the coming years and its further development. We are proud that hard work and experience of the Library specialists in the field of open science and scholarly communication prepared the ground for including the measures of these fields in the strategic plan of Vilnius University for 2021–2025.

The year 2020 was the last year for implementation of the measures of the Library's strategic plan for 2018–2020. For that period, the Library had two strategic directions: 1) satisfaction of clients with provided services; 2) Library services as an integral part of studies and research.

In summing up the three-year goals and projects, we can take joy in the fact that, while implementing the projects of strategic action plan, all planned results have been reached: an expansion of the model of supply with electronic resources (EBA principle has been applied), a study of the Library resources' compliance with the lists of literature provided in VU research publications as well as a study of the representative sample of study subject descriptions were completed, competences of academic staff in the field of scientific communication were being developed, dissemination of VU scientific output as well as accessibility of scientific and cultural heritage in electronic and physical environment was enhanced, research of cultural heritage objects was carried out. Newly arranged Medicine and Geosciences Reading Room in M. K. Čiurlionio street offers modern and high-quality environment for students. The Library information search system *Primo* was improved. The restoration of Joachim Lelewel Hall was completed so after the pandemic the hall will be opened to the public and various representative events will be held in this hall.

The COVID–19 pandemic has halted implementation of certain goals of the strategic plan. On the other hand, the pandemic showed a great need for digital services, therefore new models of work and information supply for clients were being applied and all this will undoubtedly be reflected in the goals and daily activities of the Library strategic plan for the coming period.

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 – **4,756,076** items
- Manuscripts Division has **339** archival units and **343,889** documents of various types
- Collection of the Graphic Arts Cabinet consists of **95,172** works
- Rare Books Division has **473,934** publications

- **39,697** registered users
- **371 124** visits

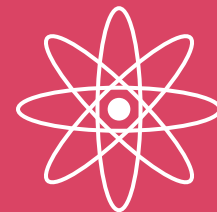


- Duration of booking of study spaces in 2020 – **33,863** hours
- Borrowed documents – **155,622** items
- On average **4** documents were borrowed by a registered user
- Number of study spaces for users – **1,698**
- Study spaces with PCs for users – **322**
- On 31 December 2020, Library's electronic catalogue had **978,578** bibliographic records on **2,113,491** copies
- Users had access to **96** subscribed databases
- Database users read **1,729,901** full-text documents
- Expenditure for information resources (books, periodicals, databases) – **531,587.58** €
- Restored/preserved **73,667** nominal pages of VIII category
- **148,133** pages digitised
- **4,488** digital copies of various cultural heritage objects made for users



- **186** members of Library staff (165 full-time positions)
- **12** new members of staff recruited
- **150** members of staff improved their qualification **357** times
- **116** guided tours around the old campus of VU and the Library. **1,145** persons participated in the tours
- **4** guided tours around the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre. **72** persons participated in the tours
- **1** specialist from abroad had traineeship in the Library
- Due to the pandemic, no internships were organized at VU Library in 2020
- **4** volunteers worked in the Library
- **61** events were held in the Library, **23** out of them exhibitions, **2** virtual exhibitions





INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SCIENCE AND STUDIES

Library users and visitors

Registered users at Vilnius University Library

On 31 December 2020, the Library had 30,680 registered users with an unexpired Library user card. However, throughout the year 2020, total number of Library users was 39,697. This table presents detailed data about the registration of the Library users.

7,349 – new users that is the users that were registered in the Library in 2020.

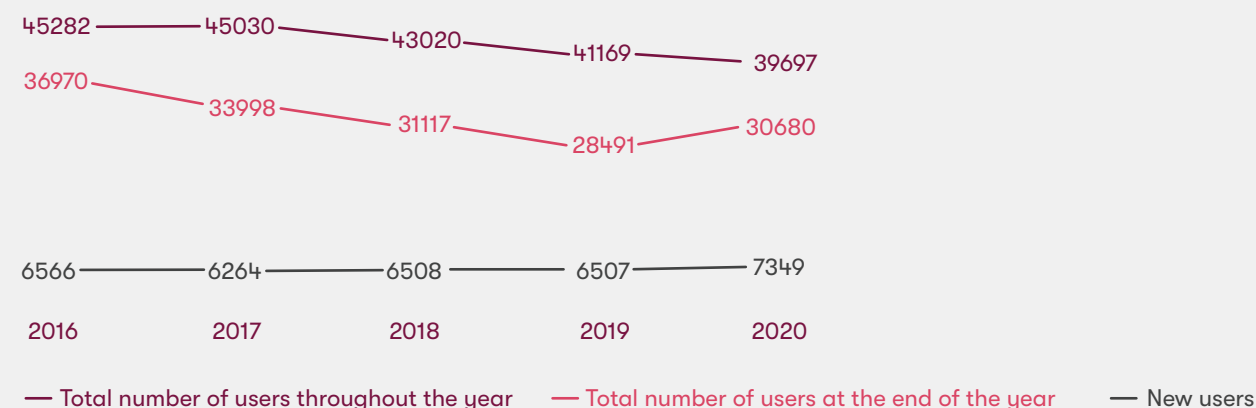
39,697 – the total number of users throughout 2020 that is all users that had valid Library user cards in 2020.

30,680 – number of users at the end of 2020 (the number of users who had user cards that were valid until 31 December 2020).

The change in registered users between 2016 and 2020.

New users; total number of users throughout the year/total number of users at the end of the year

The change of registered users (2016–2020)



User service during COVID-19 pandemic

Book borrowing

Having in view needs of users for information resources, the Library even during the first quarantine of COVID-19 pandemic made huge efforts to meet these demands at least minimally. From 6 April to 29 May, when the Library reading rooms were closed, books were borrowed to graduates and VU staff by placing requests via email in a contactless way.

During the second quarantine, books were borrowed starting from the first day of the closure of reading rooms. From 11 November to 24 November books were borrowed in the same way as in spring, that is by placing a request for a book via email. From 24 November requests for books had to be placed through the Virtual Library of Vilnius University (Vilnius University Library's electronic catalogue).

Book borrowing during the quarantine

	CL*		FL**		SCIC***		VU Library****
	Borrowed	Renewals	Borrowed	Renewals	Borrowed	Renewals	
1st quarantine (04.06-05.29)	769	822	446	336	805	821	3 999
In total:	1 591		782		1626		
2nd quarantine (11.11-12.31)	1926	1950	1093	713	1725	1850	9 257
In total:	3 876		1 806		3 575		

* Central Library

** Faculty libraries

*** Scholarly Communication and Information Centre

**** Cumulative results of borrowing from all branches of the Library

There were several reasons explaining why the number of borrowings doubled during the second quarantine. First of all, all members of academic community were able to borrow books. Secondly, based on the previous experience, certain preparations were made for the quarantine and that produced results.

The decrease in borrowing of printed information resources has been observed for many years and that is a common trend of the academic libraries all over the world. The more information resources are available in digital form, the wider is the dissemination of open science and open access ideas, the less is the use of printed information resources. This gives an impetus to the revision of collection building policy as well as for the design of the interiors of reading rooms and other. It is estimated that every year the use of printed information resources will decrease around 10 per cent. It should be noted that the quarantine had the less impact on the use of fiction (decrease around 30 per cent), while the use of materials in some reading rooms decreased nearly by 60 per cent. (Life Sciences Reading Room – 58 per cent, Technology Reading Room – 59 per cent).

Live chat queries

Since 2019, the Library website has a live chat functionality which proved to be very useful and popular during the quarantine because at that time users' need to be informed on urgent topics and as quick as possible was important as never before. Throughout the year 2020 live chat received 2,001 queries.

It was calculated that on average 5 queries were received per day and it took 6,5 minutes to answer one inquiry. Queries can be divided into three main groups: information about library resources, renewing the loan and information about library services. In 2020, the largest number of queries was about activities and services of the Library during the quarantine.

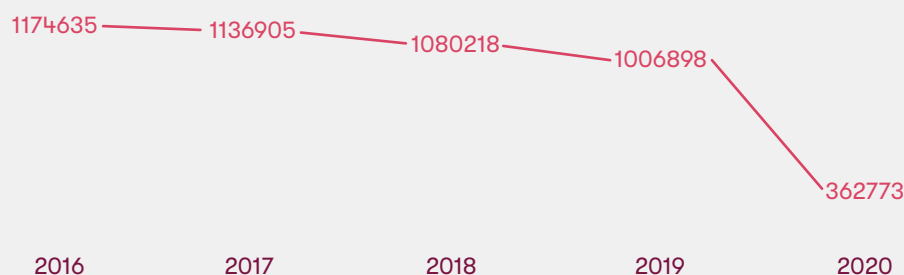


Visits to VU Library

In 2020, there were 362,773 visits to the Library, whereas in 2019 – 1,006,898. Number of visits decreased by 36 per cent.

Number of visits has been decreasing every year since 2016; in 2016–2018 on average by 4,3 per cent, while in 2019 by 6,8 per cent.

Visits to Vilnius University Library 2016–2020



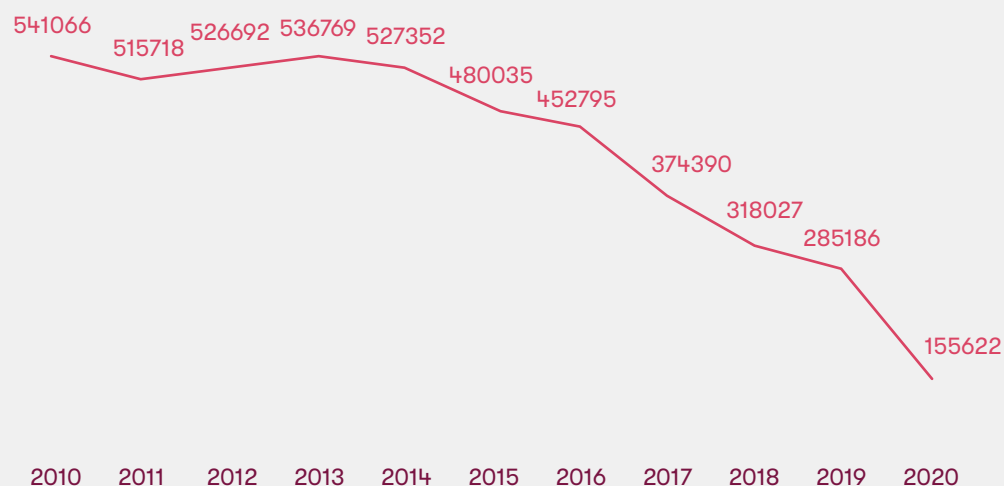
Information resources

The use of printed and electronic information resources

In 2020, the Library has loaned 155,622 printed items in total, 51,704 out of them in the Central Library (CL), 37,426 in the faculty libraries (FL), 66,492 in the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre (SCIC).

In all branches of Vilnius University Library, the number of loaned items has decreased: in FL by 62 per cent, in CL by 49 per cent, in SCIC by 46 per cent. On the whole, the number of loaned items has decreased by 45 per cent.

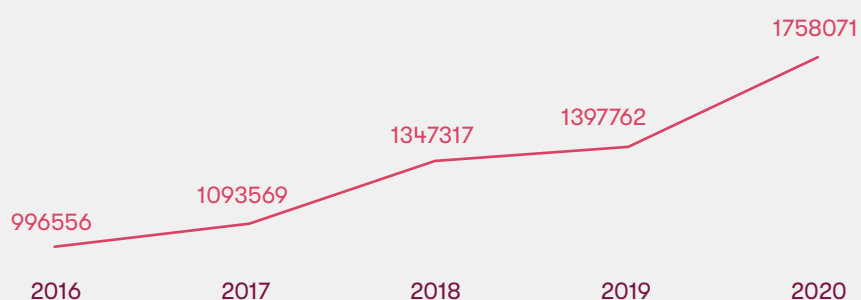
Dynamics of borrowing 2010–2020



The year 2020 was marked by two quarantine periods, which undoubtedly impacted all services provided by the Library, including borrowing of printed information resources. Although the Library managed to adapt to the situation, remote studies and restriction of movement for students, without any doubt, had a great impact and can be clearly seen in the numbers in the annual report. It might be said that it is complicated and pointless comparing indicators of borrowing from 2020 with earlier years as the decline of this year was undoubtedly caused by the quarantine.

In 2020, 1,729,901 full-text documents were downloaded out of full-text databases (DB). The number of views of content items was 139,970 (DB the content of which consists of analytical information, multimedia, images and other). Drawing on the data of the usage from 2016–2020, the number of downloads of full-text articles has been constantly increasing. In 2020, 1,758,071 full-text documents have been downloaded from the subscribed DB. If compared with the year 2019, the number of full-text document downloads in 2020 has increased by 26 per cent. This considerable increase was brought about by remote studies, limited possibilities to come to the Library and borrow printed materials during the quarantine. Information literacy trainings were being actively organized mostly focusing on students' competencies necessary in using electronic resources for studies, in view of that lecturers have changed their lists of useful printed literature with electronic resources.

Dynamics of the usage of full-text documents in 2016–2020



Applying RDA cataloguing standard at Vilnius University Library

In 2020, a new challenge for cataloguers of the Information Resources Management Division as well as those from the other Library divisions has been the implementation of new RDA cataloguing rules.

The purpose of the RDA (Resource, Description, Access) rules is to update previously applied cataloguing rules so as to adapt them to the digital environment of the 21st century by revising and making them more consistent and international, in line with metadata communities outside the Library thus enabling an easier exchange of data for users of all-format information resources. The RDA rules are focused on the user as data is provided in a more flexible way, it is divided in smaller elements, therefore, it is easier for the user to find, identify and choose resources.

Scholarly communication

Open Access

For many years Vilnius University Library has been promoting in various ways the appliance of the principles of open science in scholarly communication. Informing, providing with consultations and developing of VU academic community's practical skills alongside with various forms of teaching and education, were steadfastly carried out this year. In January–June of 2020, trainings for researchers, registrars of the faculties and doctoral students were held in various branches of the University. During the events, members of VU community were presented with the requirements for implementation of open access, publishing of research outcomes according to scientific assessment criteria as well as changes in the updated eLABa information system. The Library held 12 events that were attended by 430 participants.

In 2020, a new service has been offered by the Library to the University community – compiling of lists of VU researchers' publications in *Web of Science* and *Scopus* databases.

Every week the University community was provided with information on the updates of the abovementioned databases with the entries of VU researchers' publications thus giving an opportunity for researchers and faculty registrars to register these publications in eLABa system in the shortest possible way.

As every year, in October the Library held "Open Access Week" that was dedicated to various issues related to the open access. The main topic of this year's event was devoted to justice and integration, meaningful openness for better inclusion and structural equality. Within this context, open science is perceived not only as information sharing but also as striving for openness while encouraging collaboration between scholarly community and the public in various forms. Openness might become an instrument for building a fairer knowledge sharing system through which knowledge can be shared and disseminated. Open access helps to diminish structural racism, isolation and to re-establish justice and equality in disseminating scientific knowledge.

On 18–20 November 2020, the Library held a cycle of trainings for the enhancement of scholarly communication competences "Data Days" that was intended for the researchers of the faculties of Philosophy and History and attended by 50 participants. Lectures for doctoral students were also delivered in spring and autumn semesters in cooperation with the Department for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies under the Research and Innovation Department of Vilnius University. The lectures were on publication of research outcomes, scientific research data management, open access and scientometrics databases. These events were attended by more than 349 young researchers. Intensive trainings "Scientific Research Data Management. Open Access" were held for subject librarians.



From 22 October a newsletter dedicated to the issues of open "Science Card" has been started in aiming both to gather together members of academic community who are interested in the topics of open science and to improve the communication of open science.

Scientometrics

Trainings on scientometrics and bibliometric analysis – major activities that were actively undertaken in this field. Trainings for doctoral students were carried out, where participants familiarised themselves with formal research evaluation, significance and benefits of it; young researchers were taught to apply in their work research evaluation competences.

Besides, the traditional annual bibliometric analysis of the University researchers, heads of VU branches were offered a bibliometric analysis for smaller units such as departments or divisions. Bibliometric analyses of four branches such as the Faculty of Philosophy, Faculty of Economics and Business Administration, Faculty of History and the Institute of International Relations and Political Science, were carried out at their request. The analysis data might serve as an overview of the past year and assist in planning of changes and in preparing new strategic plans of the division.

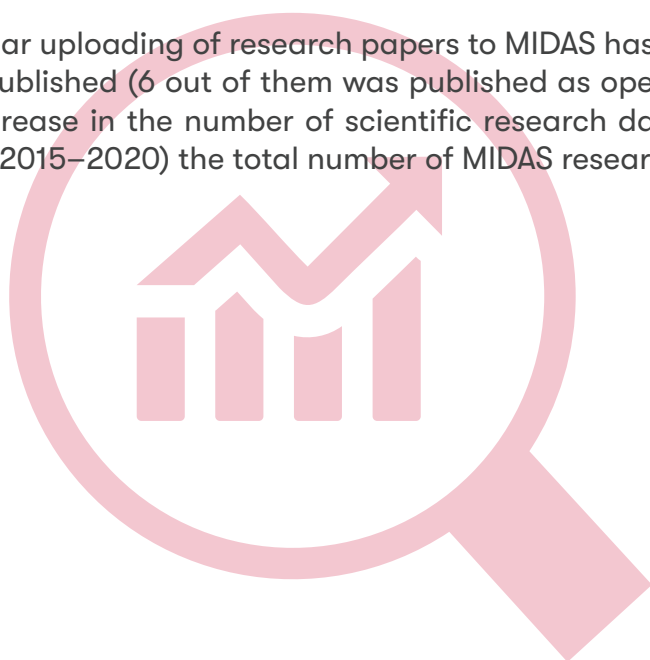
Bibliometric and *InCites* analyses of publications prepared by VU researchers, published in the year 2019 and registered in WoSCC, were carried out and supplemented with diagrams

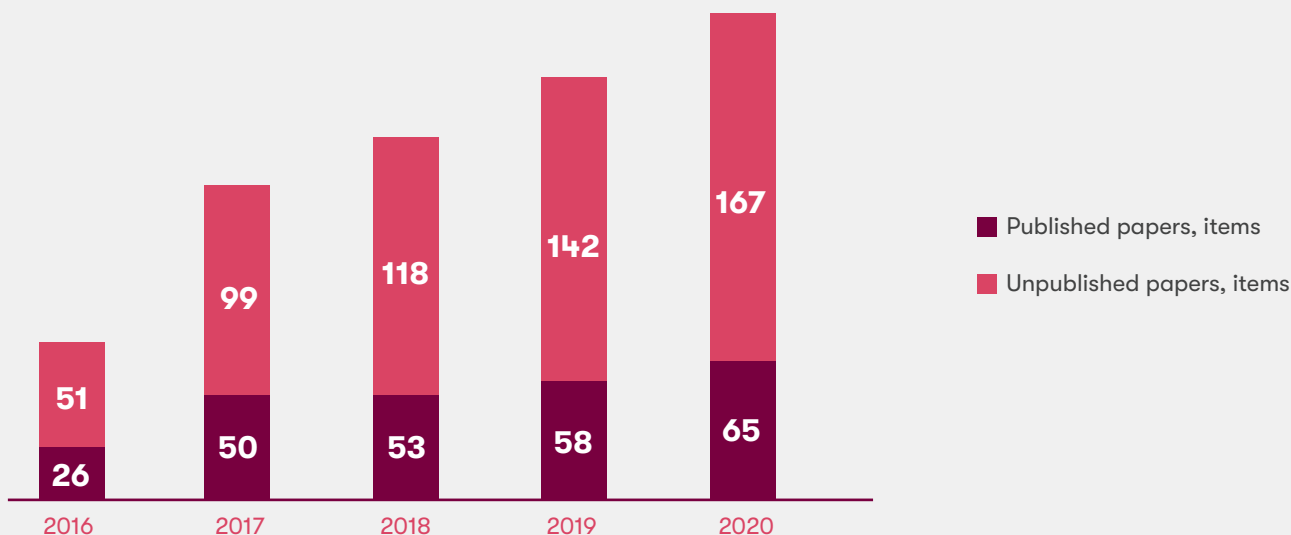
Scientific research data management

MIDAS is a united and open national scientific research data digital archive that enables 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.

In 2020, while continuing the last year's promotion of scientific data research management, Data Days "DuoDi" have been organized in the branches of the University. The main objective of the event was to draw the VU academic community's attention to the importance of scientific research data management in the context of the development of open science as well as to familiarise VU academic community with scientific research data management and options of MIDAS, encourage download data to this repository and publish it. In 2020, Data Days were organized in two faculties – the Faculty of History and the Faculty of Philosophy.

This year uploading of research papers to MIDAS has increased by around 30 items, 7 out of them were published (6 out of them was published as open access) and 23 were unpublished. In total, the increase in the number of scientific research data in 2020 has reached 14,5 per cent. In six years (2015–2020) the total number of MIDAS research papers has increased by around 170 items.





On 27 April 2020, by the decree of Vilnius University’s Rector, a management group of the National Open Access Scientific Research Data Archive (MIDAS) has been established and from now on the group will be responsible for taking decisions related to MIDAS strategy and development, its stability, safety and continuity as well as for monitoring of the archive quality and user experience. The first meeting of the group took place on 4 May 2020, while a survey of VU academic community and interview with users on their experience of using MIDAS were carried out on the group’s initiative on 1–15 June. Results of the survey were conveyed to the working group of MIDAS development project that started its activities in November. This project, which is a part of the project helping to implement the integration of Vilnius and Šiauliai universities, foresees an upgrade of MIDAS software so that the archive could better perform “FAIR” (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) data principles. MIDAS development project will continue until April 2022.

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.

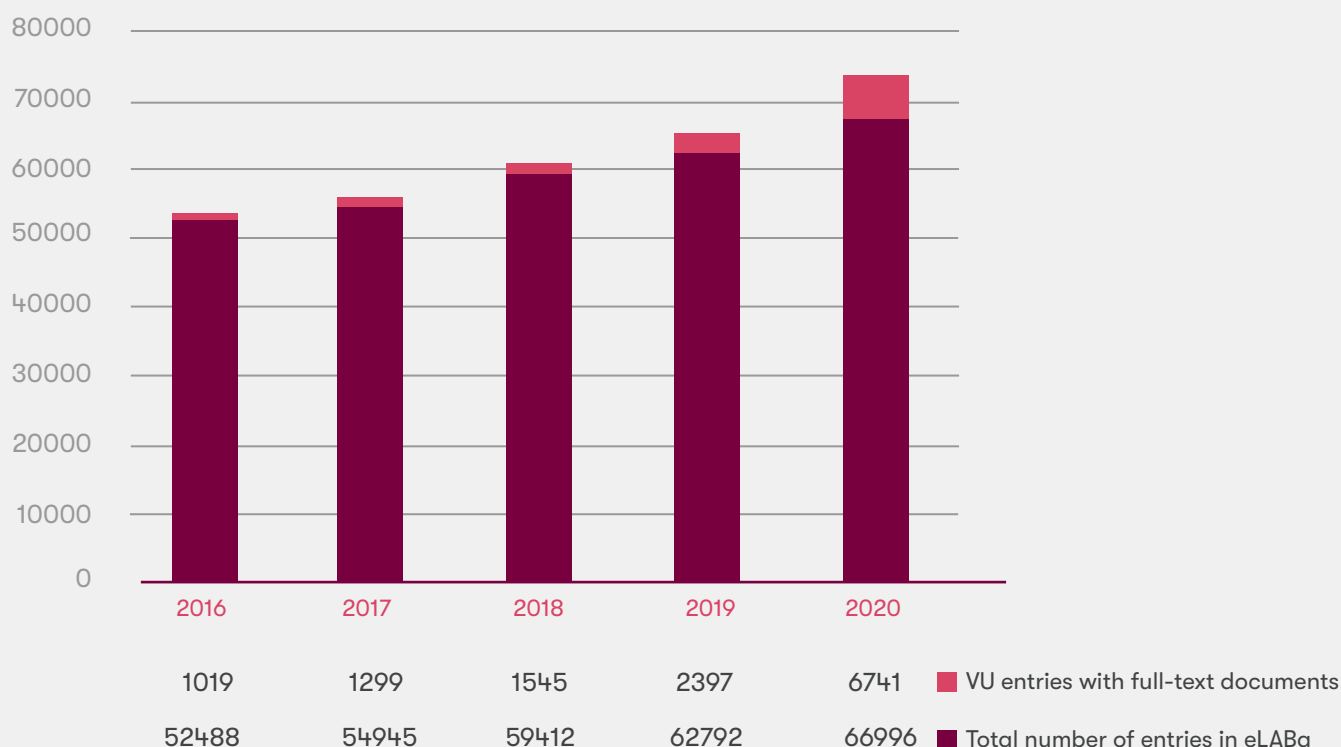
Full-text documents’ repository eLABa consists of Scientific Publications Database (PDB), Electronic Theses and Dissertations Database (ETD) and Plagiarism Check subsystem.

In 2020 eLABa PDB subsystem of VU was supplemented with 4,217 entries of scientific publications. On the whole, 66,996 scientific publications are registered in VU repository, 6,741 out of them (that is 10,06 per cent) are publicly available through open access.

An automated service importing metadata of articles from VU Press *Open Journal System* (OJS) to eLABa repository and, at set intervals, importing metadata or full-text files of newly downloaded articles from eLABa’s indicated OJS servers, has been launched in 2020. The search in external databases (*PubMed*, *ScienceDirect*, *Scopus*, *Web of Science*) as well as data importing to eLABa interface were upgraded this year. Increasing integration with the Research Council of Lithuania’s system “Vieversys” facilitates submission of annual VU scientific research and experimental activities’ reports. In 2020, based on the decree No R-575 of Rector of Vilnius University issued on 29 October 2019, a change has been introduced in eLABa repository enabling to keep out of public

access publications, which, following their publishers' policy, cannot be publicly available through open access (with embargo period or without it). "Rules for Downloading and Use of Unpublished Files" were prepared and reviewed by lawyers. The system was upgraded in a way that allowed eLABa users who familiarised themselves with the rules of use of such files in eLABa system and who gave personal indefinite consent, to upload and download unpublished files. 1,102 authors gave consent to upload their unpublished files. In 2020, works related to interface upgrade were carried out in eLABa repository. At present the system can link the publication registered in eLABa repository with scientific research data uploaded to MIDAS.

Scientific publications in eLABa PDB of VU subsystem and their availability (2016–2020)



The major part of publications with full-text documents registered in eLABa consists of both scientific articles that are licenced with open content licence CC BY (the application of open content licenses ensures that others can legally use works on the Internet under the conditions specified by the copyright holders of the content) and articles from the journals published by VU Press uploaded retrospectively.

eLABa system was updated with 206 doctoral dissertations and their abstracts (75,36 per cent accessible through an open access), 4,629 full-text documents, while 7,299 entries were revised in 2020.



Studies and research support

Freshers' integration week

In 2020, Vilnius University freshers' integration was carried out in a non-traditional way. The pandemic did not allow to organize events for large groups in closed spaces.

In observing all safety requirements, the usual presentation of the Library services in a lecture format this year was changed with a prepared video that provided freshers with the most useful information about the Library services and spaces. This video was placed on the website studentauk.vu.lt in the section "Video Guide". Video about VU Library in Lithuanian language was viewed 1,565 times (data collected on 15 January). Integration week video about VU Library in Lithuanian language is available [here](#).

A discussion festival "Ad Astra" and a fair #studentAUK for the integrations of freshers took place on 12 September. During the fair students could get acquainted with the University, its community and organizations. The stand of the Library attracted much attention and students' questions about printed and electronic resources that are necessary for studies, spaces of Central Library and SCIC, Library services, career and volunteering opportunities were answered. The stand was visited by around 200 first-year students.

During the integration week, tours presenting the Library and its services were organized for freshers of every faculty. During the tours students usually get information on the Library services and spaces. They are shown where to find reading rooms and textbook collection, how to find a book in the virtual library and reading room, how operate self-service machines; students are usually led to the minus first floor to see the book transportation system. Integration week's tours around the SCIC took place on 15–28 September and were guided for small groups (up to 20 persons), the time and form of the tours was coordinated with VU Students' Representation and curators of registered students' groups.

Integration week

- A video presenting the Library in Lithuanian and English language was prepared (more than 2 thousand views)
- **54 tours** around the SCIC for freshers; 3 lectures, 12 tours for exchange or full-time students from abroad;
- Participation in students' integration fair #studentAUK.

Media and information literacy platform: increasing number of visits in 2020 – 246 thousand visits (for instance, if compared with last 8 months (2019) since the launch of the course, from May to December – 58 thousand visitors). An increase of views shows a common trend that during the pandemic, due to remote studies and work, much more attention was given to easily and openly accessible resources that can be accessed in a remote way.



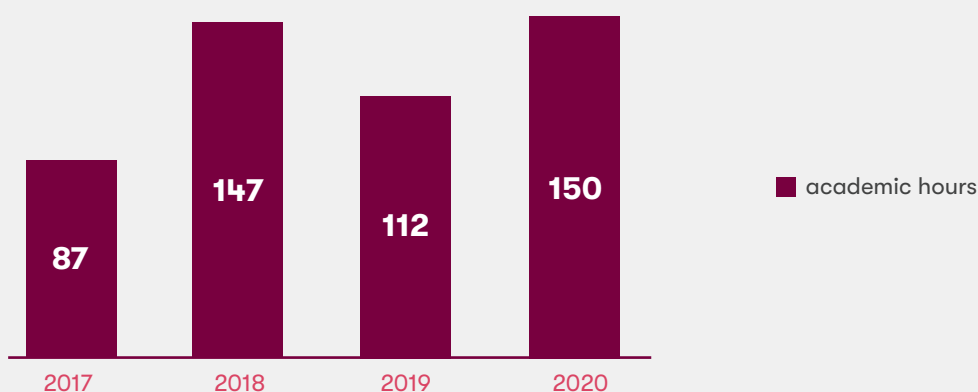
VU Library team during Integration Week



VU Library gives students and members of the staff information literacy trainings. Main topics of the trainings: search for scholarly information, search systems, selection, ethical use of information (copyright regulations, citation, preparation of bibliographic record and tools for information management and storage). One hundred and fifty academic hours of information literacy trainings were carried out in 2020 that is 34 per cent more than the previous year. This increase might be related to the remote studies taking place in 2020 and popularity of electronic resources that resulted in the need to improve their skills to use the electronic scientific information resources.

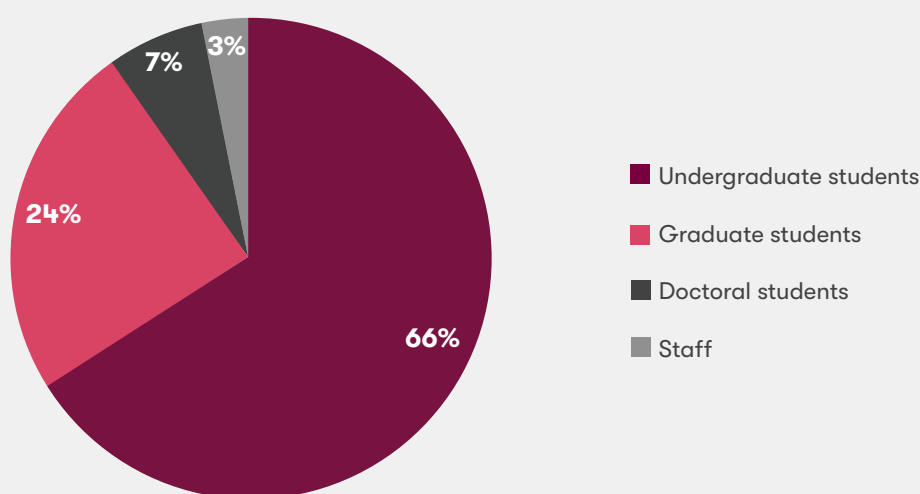
In 2020, four information literacy courses were integrated in the study programs. The most extended course was integrated in the biology study programme, in the course of Scientific Research Methods and Analysis that also includes students' assessment task.

Dynamics of Information Literacy trainings (2017–2020)



The largest number of trainings was carried out for undergraduate students, a smaller amount for graduate students and the smallest number for doctoral students. Such proportion is in line with the statistical numbers of the University students.

Trainings according to targeted audience (2020)



An analysis of research support with necessary information resources (Information resources cited in VU researchers' publications that are indexed in Scopus database)

In striving to take evidence-based decisions and ensure proper support of scientific research activities with relevant information resources, Vilnius University Library carried out an analysis on how research is supplied with necessary (indicated by scientists and researchers in their publications) information resources.

The aim of the analysis was to assess the relevance of VU Library information resources (acquired and subscribed to) while preparing high-level scientific publications (indexed in Scopus). The analysis focused on the lists of used literature that were given in the articles (while selecting the number of articles proportionally according to the field of science) that were indexed in Scopus database and reviewed in scientific journals. Scopus database was chosen because it covers a wider scope of the fields in social and humanitarian sciences.

Two hundred and eight articles (20 per cent of all publications written by VU researchers, published in 2019 and indexed in Scopus) were selected for the analysis. The total number of publications published by VU researchers in 2019 and indexed in Scopus is 1,400.

Virtual trainings of the Library

In 2020, 70 per cent of all trainings were transferred to virtual environment. The Library provided 99 academic hours of remote trainings and 51 hours of traditional trainings. The major part of trainings was virtual as the most part of the year studies were carried out only remotely. Remote trainings were carried out via MS Teams platform.

Subject librarians who deliver lectures have acquired necessary qualifications on organizing remote trainings, therefore they could easily and effectively adapt to the changing situation at work. Various measures for encouraging students' involvement were tested.

Remote trainings allow to reach a wider audience as participants of trainings are not obliged to go to a certain place and they can join a training in larger numbers and regardless of their location. On the other hand, such lecture can be recorded and sent to its participants or disseminated on a sharing platform.

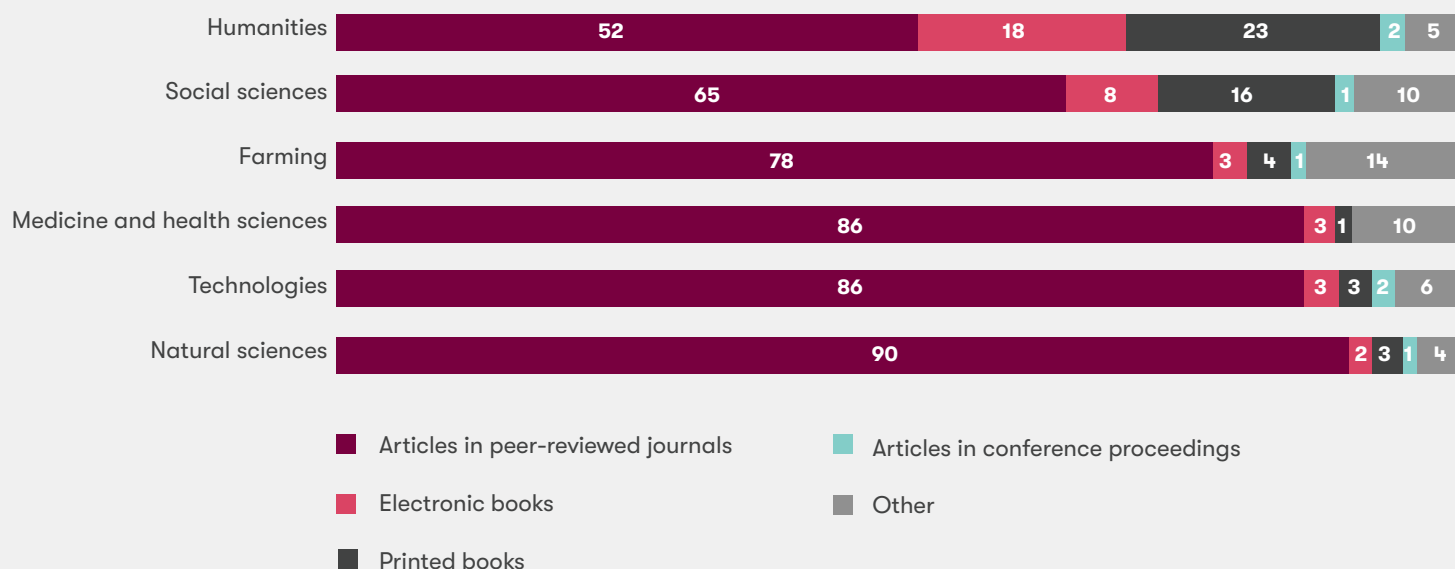
As this method of training has proved itself successful, a part of trainings will be organized remotely in the future.



The distribution of types of information resources in different categories of scientific fields showed that the most frequently used information resources by researchers in all fields are peer-reviewed journal articles. In the fields of natural, technology, medicine and health sciences, they account for 86–90 per cent of all used resources. A greater distribution of resource types is found in publications in the fields of humanities and social sciences – a significant part of the information resources used in these publications is books, respectively 41 per cent (printed – 23 per cent, electronic – 18 per cent) and 24 per cent (printed – 16 per cent, electronic – 8 per cent). In comparison, in publications of other scientific fields books make only 4–7 per cent.

While building holdings with information resources meeting the needs of various fields of science, the Library should be aware of these differences. The needs of natural, technology, medicine and health sciences can largely be met by subscriptions to peer-reviewed scientific journals and repositories. Representatives of humanities and social sciences, besides these resources, have a greater need for books (printed and electronic).

Types of information resources (per cent)

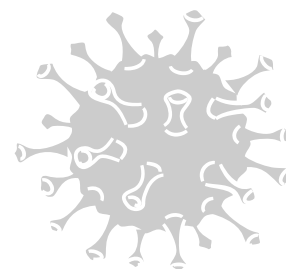
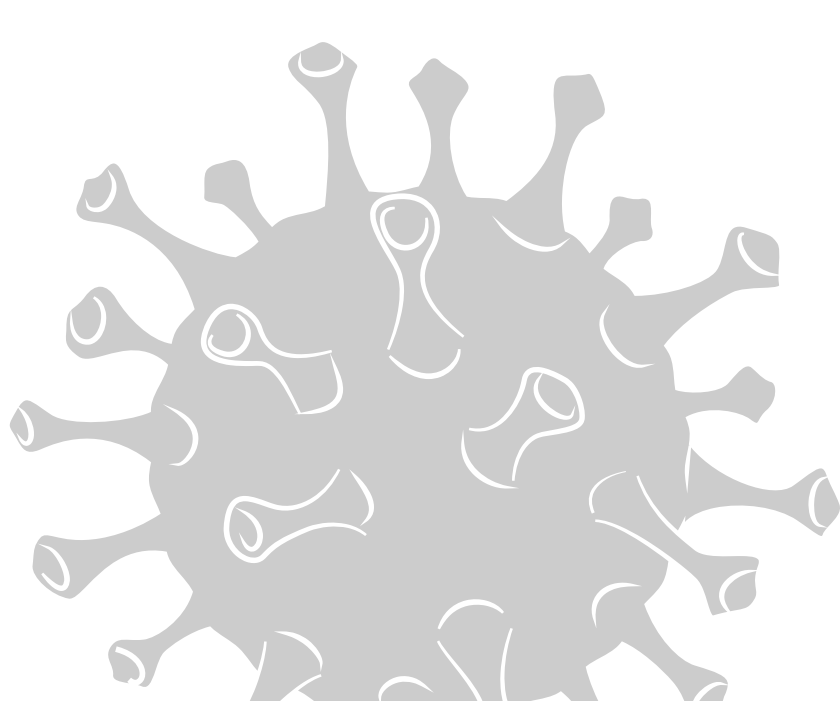


By analysing through this study the method of access to scientific information, the Library may define its potential to supply scientific research that is carried out at the University with necessary resources. Quantitative data and statistics of this study was received while performing retrospective search that is while analysing published works of the University researchers. Due to this reason, there might be some discrepancies because of the changed situation, for instance, after the embargo period, when the resource is published in an open access repository or shared in the researchers' social networks. In striving to better understand researchers' information behaviour and understand the ways they search for and receive information, additional research methods should be applied such as surveys and interviews of scientists and researchers.

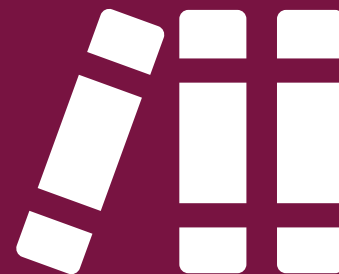
The analysis revealed the specificities of researchers' information behaviour. The outcome shows what information resources are used most often and in what ways they are usually received. The outcome might serve as a point of reference for further building of relevant information resources' collection meeting the needs of researchers by selecting the most relevant resources and observing scientific information trends and testing out hypotheses, for instance whether open access resources sufficiently satisfy the need for resources.

Alongside with the data received while carrying out earlier analysis on studies' supply with information resources, the outcome of this study allows us to get an overall view on what level research and study are supplied with resources at Vilnius University; it also helps to establish weaknesses, strengths and potential risks and that helps to plan the process of acquiring resources more carefully.

In human history the year 2020 will be remembered as the beginning of COVID-19 pandemic. The virus not only has shaken the world and severely limited the life of the people, but also changed the work of various organizations including universities and libraries. Students continued their studies remotely, however, visits to the Library were limited; borrowing of books was carried out in contactless way and some services (such as possibility to read in a reading room or book a study space) were cancelled. Library users and staff wearing masks and bumping into bottles with disinfectant at every corner became an everyday scenery. Despite of all the challenges, the Library staff, whose nature of work allowed to work from home, perfectly adapted to unusual situation and kept on working in a remote way. Part of services, events and initiatives were transferred and successfully carried out in a virtual space.



SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



Accumulation of heritage holdings

In 2020 **the rare books collection consisted of 165,542 items from the 15th to the 20th century**. This year the collection was supplemented with books that were transferred from the other divisions of the Library which chronologically can be attributed to rare prints. Forty-four publications printed in the 17th and 18th centuries were received from the Book Storage Division; six publications were received from the Manuscripts Division – several pages – fragments of incunabula and 1 micro-films with negatives of 7 dissertations that were published by the Vilnius Academy Printing House in the years 1576–1578. In 2020, a rare map of Lithuania and neighbouring countries published in 1783 was acquired in ARS VIA auction.

In 2020 **the manuscripts collection consisted of 339 archival units, 343,889 documents of various types**. Thirty-one archival unit has been supplemented with document groups or individual documents; several new archival units were formed such as ones dedicated to Skirmantas Valiulis, Liudvikas Kimtys and Vladas Pupinis. Three valuable documents – 3 single photos, a photo album and a museum piece (medal to mark 250th anniversary of Vilnius University) – which supplemented the Manuscripts Division, were acquired in auctions. Several documents should be singled out due to their significance and these are the Register of the St. Kazimieras Lithuanian Province of the Discalced Carmelites covering the years 1733–1823 and the Book of the St. Kazimieras Lithuanian Province of the Discalced Carmelites' Chapter Minutes, Registers, Documents and Copies of Letters from the Vilnius Monastery covering the years 1766–1809. Both of these manuscripts have been highly contested by private collectors at book auctions. It might be that they would have been taken out of Lithuania, therefore it is a great thing that these valuable documents will be kept at Vilnius University Library and thus become available for Lithuanian researchers.

In 2020, the collection of the Cabinet of the Graphic Arts consisted of 95,172 items. This year the collection was supplemented with 145 pieces of graphic arts by 27 artists covering the period of the 17th–20th centuries, while 12 pieces of art from the 17th to the 19th were acquired in ARS VIA auctions.

Preservation of heritage collections

Documents are being preserved and/or restored for exhibitions, digitisation and storage. In 2020 **73,667 pages of the 8th category have been restored** (14,110 pages of the 8th category were restored while undertaking project activities and 59,557 while undertaking planned work). The outcomes of the undertaken work are measured in nominal pages of the VIII category (it is a derived indicator that is calculated considering the different document formats, the complexity of their condition and the degree of damage). **One hundred and thirteen book bindings have been**

restored/preserved and 7 new book bindings have been made in 2020. Three hundred and fifteen document preservation cases of various formats and complexity have been made during this year.

While carrying out preventive maintenance of storages, the works of setting up in order the first floor so as to properly prepare the storage room for keeping periodicals, were continued in 2020. Restoration of documents kept in the Historical Sources Reading Room and the Rare Books Division were being continued as well.

Chemical and microbiological tests performed in 2020 were carried out in several directions:

1) Microbiological control of storage areas: usual testing of storage areas' (twice a year), reading rooms' (once in a quarter), work rooms' (once in a quarter) microbiological pollution was carried out at a lower intensity in 2020. Microbiological testing of newly received documents were carried out as well. On the whole, in 2020 158 samples were taken for indoor air microbiology testing, another 10 samples were taken from other surfaces (walls, etc.).

2) Tests of documents before restoration/preservation (acidity of material, ink tests, examining of the composition of glue, examining of lignin in paper fibres, morphological examinations and other).

The rare books collection has been supplemented with new pages-fragments of another incunabulum. The interesting thing is that the pages of the book from the earliest period of printing were delivered by the Manuscripts Division where they were used for manuscript's cover packaging!

Digitisation

On 7–8 May the Institute of Art Research of Vilnius Academy of Arts held an international remote conference "Material Body of the Book: Between Tradition and Innovation". This event was dedicated to the 450th anniversary of Vilnius University Library. During the event, staff members of the Rare Books Division delivered reports. Sonda Rankelienė delivered a report "Reflection on the Change of Epochs in Incunabula of Vilnius University Library: Covers, Proveniences, Marginalia and Graffiti" and Dr Ina Kažuro delivered a report "A Story of an Engraving: Phenomenon of the 18th century Book Art".

In 2020, **3,110 various objects consisting of 148,597 pages** have been digitised. Alongside with regular digitising at users' request of materials from the manuscripts, rare books collections, the collection of VU research periodicals, in response to the needs of VU community, digital content for two projects (the implementation of which VU Library started at the end of 2018) financed by the EU European Regional Development Fund "The Development of Virtual Cultural Space that Meets the Needs of Society" and the project EODOPEN, the aim of which is to open up the European collections of the 20th and 21st century, while engaging directly the communities in the processes of selection, digitisation and dissemination and at the same time while enhancing the capacity of the Library staff to address the issues related to copyrights, was being created in 2020.

Scholarly research and dissemination

On the whole, the Heritage Collections and Research Department's staff prepared 13 scholarly publications and 9 reports for research conferences/seminars (due to global pandemic, part of events were canceled, therefore some prepared reports were not delivered). Owing to the changed situation at work, the staff prepared many non-academic scholarly articles and reviews.

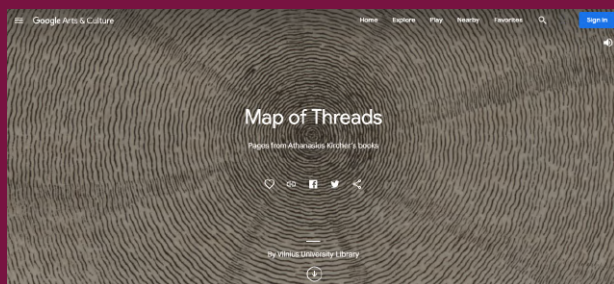
The pandemic postponed (but not completely stopped) the works of preparing and publishing "The History of Vilnius University Library" and the book "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library", which was intended as a closure of the project. The guidelines of the research project "Research of the Early Vilnius University Dissertations (1579–2020) and Creation of the Database" has been enlarged and revised twice in 2020. In that year the project application was prepared and revised based on provided comments and submitted to the Research Council of Lithuania's Lithuanian Studies and Dissemination Programme (2016–2024) for funding.

Preparation works of the historical source "Lustracya Collegium Academickiego Wilenskiego anno 1773 Novembris 17 dnia ..." were being continued: the accuracy of the copy text was improved, translation of the text with notes and commentaries was carried out. Preparation works for publication of the source will continue in 2021. Publication of sources "A Selection of Published and Unpublished Letters by Antanas Vienuolis–Žukauskas" was prepared in the fourth quarter of 2020. This selection of letters is prepared in cooperation with the Director of Antanas Baranauskas and Antanas Vienuolis–Žukauskas Memorial Museum Antanas Verbickas. An application for a partial funding of the project will be submitted to the Lithuanian Council for Culture.

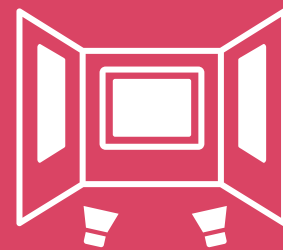
In cooperation with Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania's Document Conservation and Restoration Unit, the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences of Vilnius University and the Restoration Centre of the Lithuanian National Museum, Documental Heritage Preservation Division has continued the research "Examination of Documents Written in Iron Gall Ink and Selection and Application of Methods Stabilising the Ink". Examination of the structure of manuscript court books from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's court acts kept in the archival unit F7 was completed, while examination of parchment book bindings kept in the Rare Books Division's collection III (started in 2018) was continued in 2020.

In the fourth quarter of 2019, the Lithuanian Council for Culture has approved funding for the project "Improvement of the Staff Qualifications in Striving to Ensure Quality Preservation of Parchment Book Bindings". A seminar had to be organized on 19–23 October 2020. The aim of this cooperation was to arrange a one-week visit during which A. Hillam, a lecturer invited from USA, would teach the ways to restore parchment book bindings the Library restorers, while also consider an opportunity to have a presentation for a wider group of restorers from other restoration workshops of Lithuania. Due to the pandemic, this seminar did not take place and was postponed to 2021 alongside with funds allocated for the organization of the seminar.

In 2020 documentary heritage was transferred into virtual environment – exhibitions were held successfully, one of them was held on the popular platform "Google Arts and Culture".



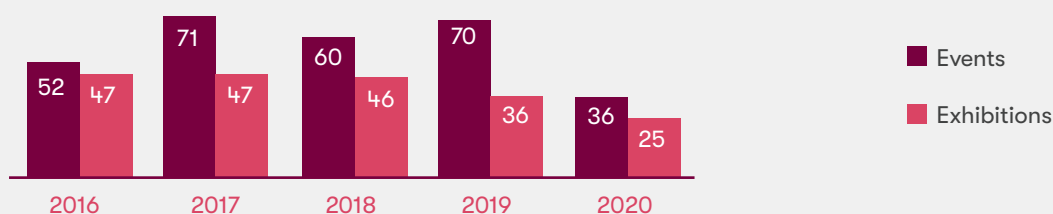
VILNIUS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: VISIBLE AND HIGHLY VALUED



Outstanding exhibitions and events

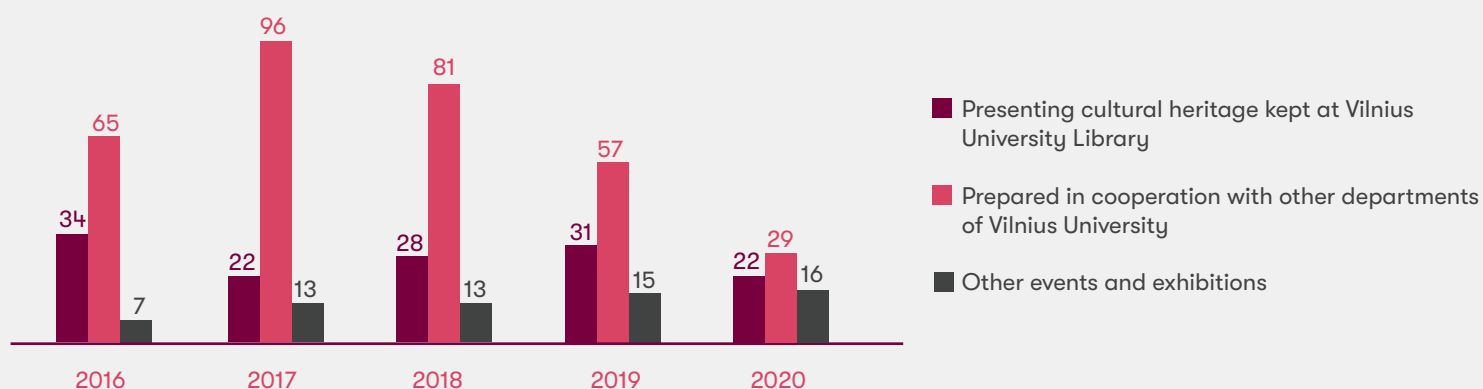
The Library presents cultural heritage documents that are kept in its holdings, invites to discuss on the issues of culture and education and encourages to get to know more on the university life through various events and exhibitions that are open to the public. Due to the pandemic (COVID-19) that shook the world in 2020, two quarantines were declared in Lithuania. Therefore, it became impossible to organize the major part of the planned events and exhibitions. Due to the quarantines that were declared during COVID-19 pandemics, around 70 exhibitions and events were cancelled (events that were dedicated to the 450th anniversary of VU Library; external events within the project "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library"; events that were organized by students' association *Philomates* and had to take place in Czesław Miłosz Reading Room and other). In 2020 events that were held by the Library were attended by more than 1,062 participants. Seven hundred and sixty-one document was shown to the public in various exhibitions, some of them taking place in virtual environment. On the whole, in 2020 the Library has held 23 exhibitions, 2 virtual exhibitions and 36 events (in total 61).

Number of events and exhibitions for the years 2016 to 2020



Out of 61 event and exhibition, 22 were dedicated to the promotion of the heritage kept at Vilnius University Library.

Number of events and exhibitions according to their themes for the years 2016 to 2020



A list of all events in Lithuanian are available in the Annex *All Exhibitions and Events 2020*

A special birthday website has been created to mark the 450th jubilee of Vilnius University Library, where the Library published both information on festive activities, events and initiatives and stories related to the history of the Library. A special logo was created for the birthday of the Library as well.



**Vilnius
University
Library**

This year VU Library marked its 450th anniversary. Due to the pandemic that hit the world, it was impossible to carry out the planned programme dedicated to the 450th jubilee, therefore part of events and exhibitions were transferred into a virtual environment. Due to operative switch to virtual reality, VU Library managed to offer to the public several notable initiatives that attracted a lot of interest.

Virtual exposition of *Catechism* by Martynas Mažvydas

In April of 2020, the quarantine has already been introduced in the country, therefore there was no possibility for physically showing the book. On the initiative of Communication and Information Office, the Library has invited the public to look through Martynas Mažvydas's *Catechism* **in the virtual environment**.

It is important to highlight that on the day of *Catechism*'s electronic display, an all-time record of Digital Collections views per day has been reached – the *Catechism* had 5,600 views.



A virtual exhibition “The Art of the Book. Documents from the Vilnius University Library Collections”

The exhibition “The Art of the Book. Documents from the Vilnius University Library Collections”, had to be shown in physical environment as a supplement to the conference “Material Body of the Book: Between Tradition and Innovation” that took place on 7–8 May 2020, was held by Vilnius Academy of Arts and dedicated to the honourable 450th anniversary of Vilnius University Library.

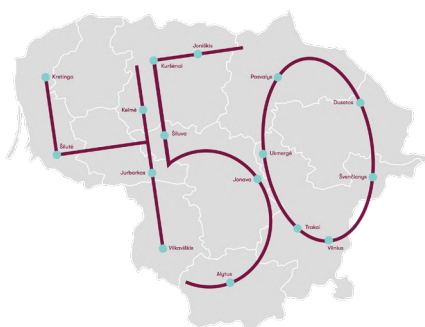
The virtual exhibition “The Art of the Book. Documents from the Vilnius University Library Collections” was intended for the participants of the conference. Taking into account the requirements for this type of exhibition (easy linear navigation, detailed captions, locations of digitised documents in the Digital Collections), the need to prepare the exhibition in a short time and the decision not to create a separate section on the Digital Collections website, and the fact that there is no other alternative, Flickr was chosen as a viewing platform for the exhibition.

Marija Šaboršinitė and Lina Dumbravaitė looked through the documents selected for the exhibition, carried out documents’ graphic adjustment to the virtual format, uploaded them and captions to the platform Flickr, created their metadata and placed appropriate references. Marija Šaboršinitė worked in a content editor’s capacity. The exhibition consists of 156 images that were viewed by 1,803 visitors.



“Lithuania in Vilnius University Library”

The project has started in 2015, while Vilnius University Library celebrated its 445th anniversary and Lithuania marked the Year of Ethnographic Regions. These occasions put forward an idea of the project – while marking the jubilee of VU Library, to visit all regions of Lithuania and show to them that part of cultural heritage (manuscripts, books, cartography, graphic arts, old photography) kept at the Library which is related with the history of the region. During the implementation of the project, numerous cities have been visited, while in 2020, when celebrating the 450th jubilee of VU Library, the Library was going to visit 15 of them.



As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, due to the restrictions on the organization of events and movement in the country, as many as 5 traveling exhibitions and events were held in 2020.

1. Alytus: On 10 June Vilnius University Library visited with an exhibition Alytus Jurgis Kunčinas Public Library.



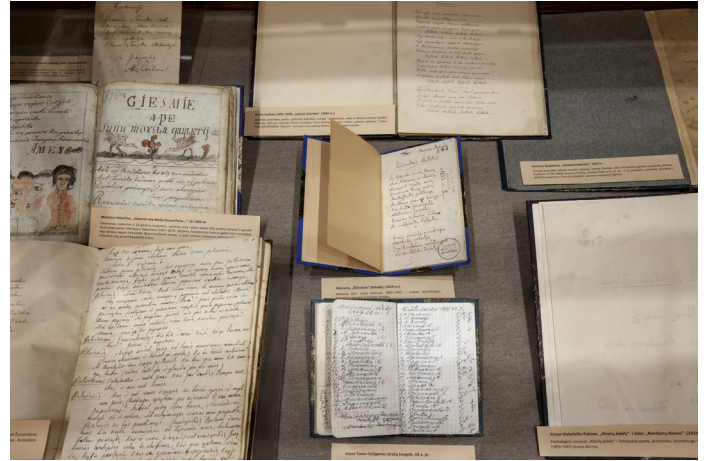
2. Švenčionys: On 12 February Vilnius University Library visited with an exhibition Švenčionys District Municipal Public Library.



3. Trakai: On 23 January Vilnius University Library travelled with an exhibition to Trakai Public Library.



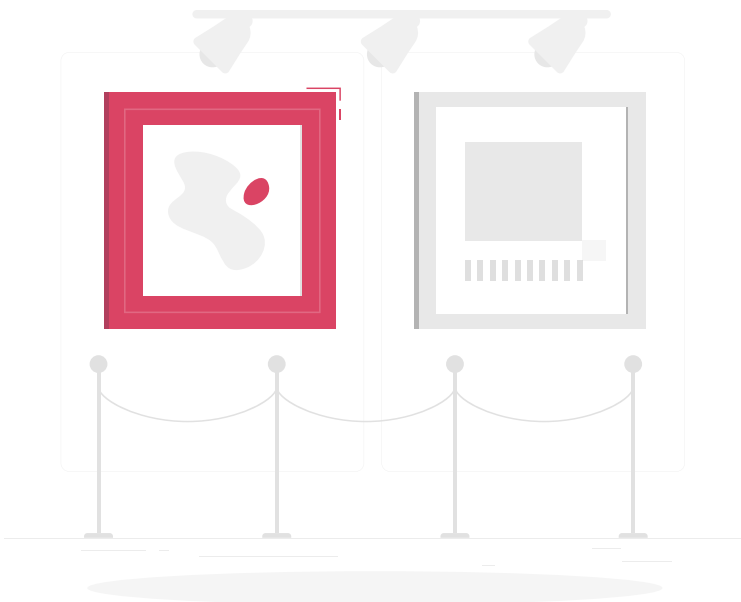
4. Ukmergė: On 17 February Vilnius University Library visited with an exhibition Vladas Šlaitas Public Library of Ukmergė District Municipality.



5. Dusetos: On 4 March Vilnius University Library visited with an exhibition Dusetos Kazimieras Būga Library.



The remaining 10 exhibitions were postponed until 2021.



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 2020 was not exceptional and rich with creational and progressive ideas that have been implemented or just started to be implemented.

VU Library Digital Collections platform has been upgraded!

While celebrating its 450th anniversary, Vilnius University Library gave users of its services a special present – upgraded Digital Collections platform.

The platform that is being supplemented with thousands of new digital objects allows users to enjoy notably simpler search options, improved object viewing and intuitive browsing.

Digital Collections platform provides access to the most valuable collections kept at VU Library. Documents from Rare Books, Manuscripts Divisions, pieces of graphic art and collections of photographs – the main collections that are kept in the Library – that are intended for studies, scholarly research and cultural education can be found on this platform. Those interested in safekeeping of cultural heritage activities in Lithuania and the world can find information on national and international digital initiatives and projects.

VU Library is one of the first country's memory institutions that started digitising documentary cultural heritage objects that are significant for Lithuania and the world. By engaging in national and international projects for preserving cultural heritage in digital environment, attempts are made to ensure availability of documentary heritage that is kept in the Library to every user.



Graphics, 18th century,
France

For the second year in a row, the Library is carrying out 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. 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. While implementing EODOPEN project, 14,367 pages or 91 objects have been digitised in 2020. Throughout the year 2020, 113 documents were digitised and published on the platform of the Digital Collections.

In 2020 development of the project's "The Research of the Old Vilnius University's (1579–1773) Dissertations and the Creation of the Database (VUDis)" idea was carried out – a methodology for selection of documents was prepared, the documents were search for and selected, a timeline of the project activities was set up, the desirable outcome of the project was determined. The project received funding from the Research Council of Lithuania.

In 2020 VU Library participated in an ongoing national digitisation project "Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage Systems". In 2020 objects of smaller scale were being digitised within this project. In 2020 2,304 objects or 68,245 pages have been digitised within the project "Development of Virtual Electronic Heritage Systems".

Part of books digitised within the EODOPEN project are presented through various Library channels: social networks, internet websites. In aiming to familiarise the public with the content of the digitised document, a creator-author is often being interviewed about the document. Thus interesting interviews that catch attention of various Lithuanian media news portals appear on the Library media. One of such texts is an interview with prof. Alfredas Bumblauskas that was published by the Lithuanian Radio and Television (LRT) "Professor Bumblauskas: On Smetona's Ghost and 30 Friends of Lithuania".

The other successfully ongoing national digitisation project focusing on digitisation activities is "The Development of Virtual Cultural Space that Meets the Needs of Society". One thousand one hundred and seventeen objects or 51,779 pages have been digitised within the project this year.

In 2020 the national project "eMODB.LT: Opening of Databases for Lithuania", which is funded by the EU and continues for eleven years, allows the Library to subscribe to databases. With the help of this project, 58 databases of electronic resources providing access to the main scholarly information resources for scientists, researchers and students have been subscribed to in 2020. RefWorks, a tool for the management of bibliographic references, has also been subscribed to through the "eMODB.LT" project.

In 2020, the Library continued with a project "MOBILaLT: Opening Learning Opportunities for People with Reading Disabilities", which aims at making services accessible to people who cannot read texts in ordinary formats.

In 2020, the Lithuanian Council for Culture financed ongoing projects carried out by VU Library: The Night of Culture event "Time Rewound" and "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library". In 2020, the Night of Culture event "Time Rewound" was cancelled due to the world pandemic and restrictions imposed on events and gatherings.

Owing to the same reasons, the project "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library" in 2020 was implemented only partially – only 5 out of 15 intended exhibitions were held, while the rest were postponed until the year 2021.

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 Certification Commission of Restorers of Movable Cultural Property of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Program, in the Association of Classics, the Editorial Board for the Preparation of the National Bibliography, Lithuanian Association of Academic Library Directors, Lithuanian Librarians' Association, Committee of Technical Experts of the Standardization Department, Alliance of Scientific Data Research, Commission of Book Art Experts, Lithuanian Communication Association, Literature Council under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius Bookbinding Guild and other organizations and groups.

Members 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)
- European Open Science Cloud Association (EOSC)

Vilnius University Library maintains ties with the Jagiellonian University, University of Tartu and University of Latvia, as well as cooperation with Goethe-Institut.

Special guests

Many representatives of foreign countries visit the University every year. In 2020, Vilnius University Library was visited by:

- the Ambassador of Hungary Gábor Diczházi (on 17 June 2020)
- the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland Wojciech Murdzek (on 3 August 2020)
- the Ambassador of Slovakia Ladislav Babčan (on 14 September 2020)
- the Ambassador of Mexico Francisco Eduardo Del Rio Lopez with wife (on 13 October 2020)
- the First Ladies of Poland and Lithuania Agata Duda and Diana Nausėdienė (on 27 November 2020)





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

Irena **Krivienė**, Dalia **Mackelienė**,
dr. Marija **Prokopčik**, Jonė **Šulcaitė-Brollo**,
Ieva **Talaikienė**, Brigita **Zorkienė**

Compiler: Ramunė **Gedvilaitė**

Translator: Kristina **Gudavičienė**

Designer: Lina **Dumbravaitė**