ANNUAL REPORT / 2019

Vilnius
University
Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PREFACE

The Library in the 440th year of Vilnius University's existence

Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė

The first Jesuits came to Vilnius in 1569 and established a college the following year, which after nine years was reorganized into a predecessor of Vilnius University – the Jesuit Academy of Vilnius. The present Vilnius University Library (hereinafter referred to as *the Library*) started operating within the structure of the college in the same year; therefore, the commemoration of the 450th anniversary of the Jesuit mission in Lithuania in 2019 has, without a doubt, been a very special event for the Library. A dedicated exhibition *Unus non sufficit orbis: One World Is Not Enough*, its catalogue, and exhibits covering rich and diverse activities of the brothers of the Order both in Lithuania and the world show their input into the creation of our country's education system as well as their contribution to cultural and academic life.

The year 2019 is the 440th year of the establishment of Vilnius University, and this motif echoed through various events organized by the Library. The traditional display of the first printed Lithuanian book *Catechism* by Martynas Mažvydas on the 1st of April – the foundation day of Vilnius University – the exhibitions "Honorary Diplomas of Academics of the Old Vilnius University" and "Philosophia Est Ars Vitae" (*Philosophy is the Art of Life*; dedicated to the 30th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Faculty of Philosophy at Vilnius University) bore witness to the tradition to donate documents and bequeath libraries to the Jesuit Academy of Vilnius since its very foundation, to the academic relationships of professors of the old university with the most prominent academic and scholarly societies of Europe and presented the output of research carried out in modern times by the first faculty of Vilnius University – the Faculty of Philosophy. A theatrical event "Time Rewound" within the framework of the Culture Night festival, through historical personalities of the University and past events brought to life, helped attendees to get to know and to see for themselves the life of the old University that took place several centuries ago.

This year marks a centenary of a particular period of existence of Vilnius University – Stephen Báthory University. An exhibition "Stephen Báthory University in the Years 1919-1939" – prepared by the Library and containing unique manuscripts from the Manuscripts Division presented to the public for the first time – became a part of international scientific conference program. Greetings and congratulations sent by various scientific and educational institutions as well as societies and

fellowships of Lithuania and Poland for the university re-established in 1919 under the title of Stephen Báthory University were displayed to the public.

The year 2019 has been the second year of the *Library Strategic Plan for 2018-2020* that was started with a strategic session for the Library department heads at the beginning of the year. During the session, strategic goals were specified, the progress of the plan's measures and projects as well as the level of their implementation was assessed and assessment criteria for certain measures were adjusted. While striving to achieve strategic goals of the period, the Library took steps to ensure that the needs of academics for information resources would be satisfied to an even greater extent, to develop the competences of academic personnel in the field of scholarly communication, to enhance the dissemination of VU scientific outcomes, to ensure an informational support for studies, to improve information skills of students, to create and/or improve a modern high-quality infrastructure as well as maintain and develop public accessibility to scientific and cultural heritage kept in the Library.

An increase in the use of electronic resources and a decrease in the use of printed materials, the development of electronic services, a rapid increase in the use of mobile devices in the last few years have shown a change in user needs. The measures of the Library Strategic Plan that have been implemented this year helped to satisfy those needs. When applying new ways of acquiring electronic books, the Library was able to respond more flexibly to individual informational needs of scientists and researchers and in a short period of time create access to the necessary electronic resources. A survey on relevance between the literature given in VU study programs and the Library resources has been completed in 2019. The outcomes of the survey provided a possibility to comprehensively assess an informational supply of students with the literature that is necessary for their studies. While improving an informational supply for study process, the outcomes of the survey will also help to take evidence-based decisions in the future.

A "live chat" option on the internet website of the Library, the development of integrated training courses for enhancing information competences, adapting the mobile application for all devices and well as an enhancing its functionality, informational events for the first-year VU students during an integration week – these are the measures that have been implemented this year to create both services that would meet the needs of users and an environment necessary for studies. In completing a two-year project, the Library has improved the physical infrastructure for studies. The 2019/2020 academic year has started with an opening event of a newly developed joint reading room of two divisions of VU – the Faculty of Medicine and the Institute of Geosciences under the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences. Modern environment suitable for studies, cosy spaces, study spaces for individual and group work, with a soon-to-be possibility of being open 24/7, should make this reading room a popular place among students studying in the faculties situated in M. K. Čiurlionio Street. After consulting with the results of a user survey, many efforts were made to improve the quality of wireless services throughout the Block B of the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre.

On 1 January 2019, VU Senate's *Decision on the Procedure for the Approval of the Regulations on Open Access to Science (Art) and Study Outcomes of Vilnius University* entered into force, thus allowing publications accepted for publishing to be uploaded to eLABa and opened up to the public. However, so far this measure did not provide the desired effect. Out of all VU scientific publications registered in the eLABa system, only 3.81 per cent were opened up for public access. Higher percentage growth is observed in MIDAS archive which this year has been integrated into the catalogue of Europe's Open Science Cloud (EOSC). The total number of research data in it has increased by 16.96 per cent over the year and exceeded the indicator provided in the Strategic Plan of the Library.

The implementation of the VU Strategic Plan for 2018–2020 measure "Increasing Public Access to Cultural Heritage" has led to significant changes in the areas of opening and promotion of cultural heritage. A lot of new digital content has been opened up to the public in the innovative Library

Digital Collection's website (*kolekcijos.biblioteka.vu.lt/en*). Through adding all bibliographic records of incunabula that are kept in the Library to the database Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) that was initiated by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), through entering a unique document bearing an autograph of Martynas Mažvydas on the UNESCO program's "Memory of the World" Lithuanian National Register, through publishing sources of epistolary heritage as well as through the exhibitions of the project "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library" that reached Kupiškis, Šiauliai, Tauragė and Rokiškis, this year the Library has significantly increased the visibility and publicity of both Vilnius University and the collections of cultural heritage of the Library, the significance of which often surpasses the borders of our country.

The Library has been the first institution of memory of our country to start the collaboration with Google and this year it has prepared and published an impressive virtual exhibition "Map of Threads" on the international art and culture platform *Google Arts & Culture*. The exhibition shows fragments of books written by one of the most distinguished Jesuit scholars of the 17th century Athanasius Kircher that are kept in the Library. This project marks a new era in preparing modern online exhibitions.

Alongside the promotion of scientific and cultural heritage, an important part of the Library activities is the research of early documents and collections. In 2019, 20 reports have been delivered in scientific conferences as well as 15 articles written by the Library staff have been prepared and published in Lithuanian and foreign periodicals. The Library is delighted with doctoral dissertations defended by the members of the staff Ina Kažuro and Veronika Girininkaitė, who focused their research on the documents of cultural heritage kept in the Library holdings.

While closing the door to the 440th year of the existence of Vilnius University, the Library opens the door to its 450th anniversary. In 2020, while celebrating the honourable Library anniversary, we will reflect on its history, its role in the life of the University as well as in the country's informational and cultural life and at the same time discuss scenarios of its future. A year of an outstanding celebration is ahead of us!

Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė

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

Facts and figures

- Library holdings – **4,879,394** physical items
- Manuscripts Division has **336** archival units containing **338,957** documents of various types
- Collection of Division of Graphic Arts consists of **95,027** pieces of art
- Rare Books collection has **167,775** printed items
- Open stacks contain **493,921** documents

- **41,169** registered users
- **1,006,898** visits to the Library
- **159,802** hours of booked Library study spaces
- Circulation of documents – **285,186**
- Every registered user borrowed **7** items on average
- **1,698** study spaces for users
- **322** study spaces with computer access
- On 31 December 2019, the Library online catalogue had **948,488** bibliographical records and **2,046,225** items
- Users had access to **92** subscribed databases
- **107,102** accesses to databases
- **53,669** searches in databases
- Users read **1,397,762** full-text documents from databases
- In 2019 (when VU had 19,050 students) an average student accessed databases approx. **5.6** times, performed **2.8** searches and read **73** full-text documents
- **64,539** nominal pages of VIII category were restored/preserved
- **127,439** pages were digitised
- **4,862** copies of various cultural heritage objects were made for users
- The Library had **189** members of staff (170 full-time positions)
- The Library recruited **18** new members of staff
- Finances for the acquisition of information resources (books, periodicals, databases) – **€529,366.07**
- **515** guided tours around the old campus of VU and the Library given
- Guided tours attended by **6,674** persons from **46** countries of the world
- **23** guided tours around the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre, attended by **553** persons
- Adam Mickiewicz Museum of the Library received more than **22,000** visitors
- **7** specialists from abroad libraries had their traineeships at the Library
- **7** students participated in internships at the Library
- **3** volunteers worked at the Library
- **106** events – out of which **36** were exhibitions – were held in the Library
- **78** members of staff improved their qualifications on **270** separate occasions
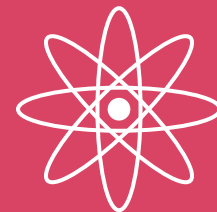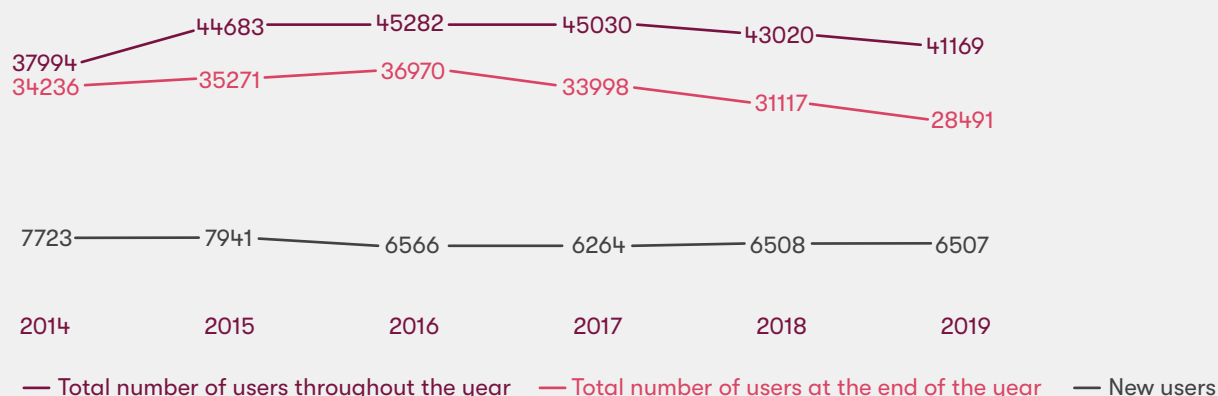
INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SCIENCE AND STUDIES

Library users and visitors

Registered users at VU Library

On 31 December 2019, the Library had **28,491** registered users with a valid registration. However, throughout entire year of 2019, the total number of registered users of the Library was **41,169**.
In comparison with the year 2018, the number of registered users is stable; however, the total number of registered users throughout and at the end of the year has dropped.

The change of registered users (2014-2019)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total number of users throughout the year	37994	44683	45282	45030	43020	41169
Total number of users at the end of the year	34236	35271	36970	33998	31117	28491
New users	7723	7941	6566	6264	6508	6507

— Total number of users throughout the year   — Total number of users at the end of the year   — New users

Visits to the Library

In 2019, users visited the Library 1,006,898 times. In 2018 – 1,080,218 times; therefore, visits have decreased 6.8 per cent. Visits to the Library have started decreasing every year from 2016; between 2016 and 2018 they decreased 4,3 percent on average annually.

Visits to the Library (2014-2019)

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
1180061	1231071	1174635	1136905	1080218	1006898

Booking of individual and group study spaces is one of the most popular services provided by the Library. In 2019 study spaces were booked for 159,802 hours; individual and group study spaces at the Scholarly Communication and information Centre of VU Library were nearly at 100 per cent capacity.

Opening of the Joint Reading Room for the Faculty of Medicine and the Institute of Geosciences

The Medicine and Geosciences Reading Room was opened to the public in September 2019. The reading room offers 68 study spaces for users, two rooms for group work as well as spaces with settees and a kitchenette. The reading room holds more than 20 thousand publications that students can borrow or return with the help of self-service machines. The Medicine and Geosciences Reading Room is a new and modern reading room where students are provided with most relevant printed and electronic resources as well as study spaces that meet their needs, while the installed self-service machines ensure the reading room will be open 24/7.
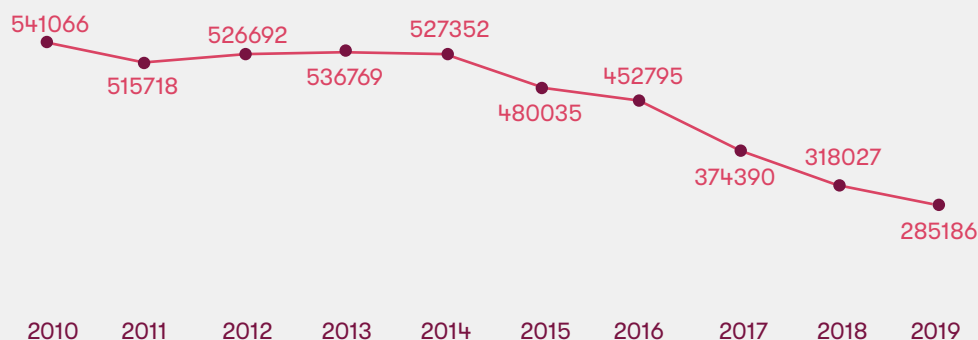

Information resources

The use of traditional and electronic information resources

In 2019 the circulation of printed materials at VU Library has **decreased by 10 per cent**

Circulation dynamics (2010–2019)

| 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |

Data points: 541066, 515718, 526692, 536769, 527352, 480035, 452795, 374390, 318027, 285186

In earlier years the decrease in circulation was greater: in 2017 circulation fell by 17 per cent (-78,404), while in 2018 – by 15 per cent (-56,363). In 2019, the decrease of issued publications was mostly influenced by falling circulation in faculty reading rooms: circulation in faculty reading rooms decreased by 13.6 per cent (-9,546), in SCIC – by 9.7 per cent (-13,253), while in Central Library – by 9 per cent (-10,042).

The more information resources become accessible in electronic format, the more the use of traditional printed materials shrinks. The decrease in circulation of traditional printed materials can be explained by the fact that the Library offers an increasing number of electronic resources, collections and databases, the content of which is being constantly supplemented, therefore users have access to the most up-to-date and relevant content. This trend can be detected in all academic libraries of the world. In 2019, the users of VU Library had access to 92 databases and 1 bibliography and reference management tool *Refworks*. Users could access more than 33 thousand electronic journals, 435 thousand e-book titles and 44 thousand other item titles (videos, patents, incomplete text documents and other).

In 2019, users accessed 1,397,762 full-text articles, accessed databases 107,102 times and performed 53,669 searches. If compared to 2018, the number of full-text documents increased by 3.7 per cent.

Full-text articles: download dynamics in 2015–2019

Year	Downloads
2015	1022721
2016	996556
2017	1093569
2018	1347317
2019	1397762
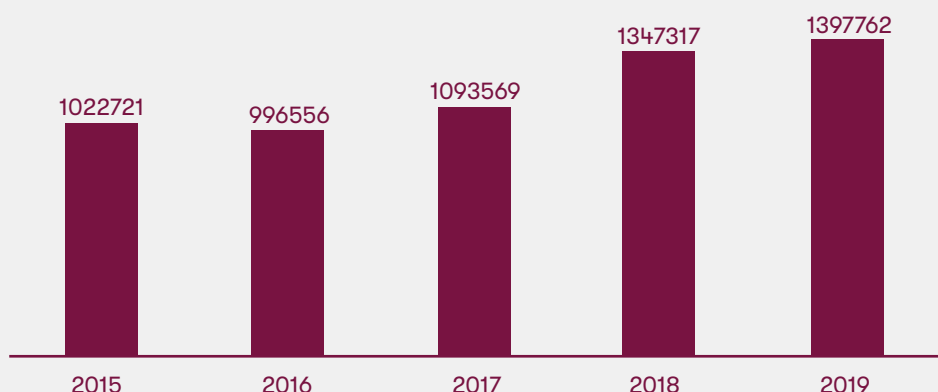
E-book collection development

In 2019 the Library successfully continued the practice of several years – evidence based acquisition (EBA), where users can access the selected e-book collection for 12 months, after which, based on statistics of use, the most read and relevant books are being provided for permanent access. In 2019, 206 e-books from *Cambridge University Press* collection were acquired in this way. From 2020, the Library will have access to *Oxford Scholarship Online* e-book collection and the same model for e-book acquisitions will be applied.
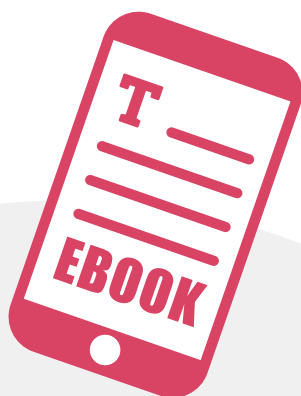
Interactive service for acquisitions and borrowing of individual e-books

Vilnius University Library is the first library in Lithuania to offer its users interactive service for acquisitions and borrowing of individual e-books. So far the dominant model for e-book acquisitions was temporary subscriptions of certain limited collections selected by suppliers or subscriptions where at the end of subscription the most used titles would usually be acquired. Since October of 2019, users were offered an alternative option on the ProQuest platform Ebook Central which offers users to borrow or for an unlimited period get access to the selected most relevant e-books that are necessary for research and studies for a desired period (from 1 day to 4 weeks). Users can choose among more than 1 million prestigious books published by the distinguished scientific publishers. This new service ensures the possibility to effectively (flexibly and without delay) meet various needs of VU community for e-books.

Scholarly Communication

Open Access

For many years Vilnius University Library has been promoting in various ways the application of open access principles for scholarly communication. This year the Library continued providing information and consultations, as well as gave trainings for the improvement of practical skills and carried out various educational activities for the academic community of VU.

In 2019, as the new *Regulations on Open Access to Science (Art) and Study Outcomes of Vilnius University* came into force, January through June the Library organized trainings for researchers, registrars and doctoral students from various University divisions. During the events, members of VU community were provided with information on open access implementation requirements and the changes made in the updated eLABa information system. The Library held 18 events that were attended by 209 participants.

Just like every year, in October the Library hosted Open Access Week that was dedicated to addressing various issues related to open access. This year the event focused on science of citizens and designing equitable foundations for the public to participate in carrying out scientific research. In this context open science is perceived as not only sharing of information but also as the pursuit of openness in various forms through cooperation between the scientific community and the public. Although engagement of citizens into science is being increasingly promoted in the European Union, so far in Lithuania this topic has not been properly discussed.

On 12-22 November 2019, the librarians gave doctoral students of the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences a series of trainings to enhance general scholarly communication skills. During the spring and autumn semesters, in cooperation with the Department of Research and Innovation's Department for Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies, the Library held lectures for doctoral students. The lectures were on topics of publishing of research outcomes, management of scientific research data, open access, and databases of scientometry. The lectures were attended by more than 60 young researchers.

Scholarly communication differently, or improvement of open access skills through the means of a board game

We strive that trainings provided by the Library would not only be useful in terms of content, but also interesting and attractive. Therefore, a slightly different lecture has been added to a course of trainings intended for doctoral students. During this lecture, an educational table game *Publishing Trap* was played, intended for the researchers to gain awareness of the choices they make in their career in the area of scholarly communication.

While playing the *Publishing Trap*, players are provided with information on open access regulations, open access publishing (categories of journals, addenda to a publishing agreement), self-archiving (specifying open access regulations of publishers, versions of files), and open content licenses.

Publishing Trap board game playthrough

Scientometry

The activities that were mainly carried out in the field were scientometry training and bibliometric analysis. During the training for doctoral students participants were presented with formal assessment of research and what benefits it brings to researchers; thus increasing the capacity of young researchers to apply the knowledge of research assessment. Intensive trainings on Web of Science database, with an exhaustive overview of InCities tool and the structure of bibliometric analysis, were given to the subject librarians.

This year VU bibliometric analysis was presented not only to the top leaders of VU administration, but also distributed to all researchers of VU. That fuelled heated discussions involving Rector Artūras Žukauskas, Vice-Rector Rimantas Jankauskas and other leaders of divisions that work in the field of research evaluation. According to participants of the discussion, although the bibliometric analysis of VU researchers that was carried out is a huge, exhaustive and necessary work, it has some shortcomings that need improvement. It is aspired that next year the Library will closely collaborate with the Department of Research and Innovation so that analyses-to-be would meet the needs and requirements of researchers.

In addition to annual bibliometric analysis of the University researchers, leaders of VU divisions such as faculties and departments were offered smaller scale analyses. On request bibliometric analyses were carried out for the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, the remaining departments of Clinical Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine, Departments of Anatomy, Histology and Anthropology and other departments on the request of Vice-Rector. The outcomes of the analyses will help to evaluate the last year, consider possible changes as well as assist in drawing new strategic plans of the department.

Scientific research data management

MIDAS is a freely accessible united national scientific research data digital archive providing electronic services, collecting and preserving scientific research data from various fields of sciences as well as other information related to scientific research. All users can easily access the collected data free of charge through the updated MIDAS portal.

Continuing the promotion of scientific research data management of the last years, in 2019 the Library organized DuoDi (*Duomenų dienos*, English: Days of Data) in various faculties and departments of the University. The aim of this event is not only to highlight the importance of scientific research data management in the context of the development of open science for the members of VU community, but also to present the research community of VU with the options of MIDAS and encourage them to download their data to this repository and publish it. In 2019 Days of Data were held in the Institute of the International Relations and Political Science and the Faculty of Communication.

This year the number of MIDAS research increased by 29 items —5 out of which were published. In 2019 the general increase in scientific research data reached 16.96 per cent. Over five years (2015–2019) the total number of MIDAS research increased by 140 items.
2019's DuoDi: Days of Data was included in the book *Engaging Researchers with Research Data Management. The Cookbook* prepared by the Research Data Alliance of the European Commission as one of the best practices of collaboration with academic community.

Lithuanian scientific research data accessible through an international cloud

Since April 2019 scientific research data that is published in the National Open Access Scientific Research Data Archive (MIDAS) is accessible for users of European Open Science Cloud services. By becoming an official participant and supplier of European Open Science Cloud services, the Library implements the main principles and requirements of open science, promotes visibility and citation of scientific research data of Lithuanian scientists and researchers in the context of both the European and the global scientific research, enhances accessibility of data of research carried out by VU researchers, and gains more possibilities for international cooperation.


EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD

eLABa repository of full-text documents

eLABa is a national information system which was put into operation in 2015 after the implementation of the EU Structural Funds project *Creation and Development of eLABa Integral Services*. The aim of the project was to centrally manage the output of Lithuanian research and study institutions and outcomes of scientific activities through the means of information technologies.

eLABa full-text documents repository consists of: Scientific publications database (PDB), Electronic thesis and dissertations database (ETD), and document plagiarism detection subsystem.

In 2019 eLABa VU PDB subsystem has been supplemented by 3,378 scientific publication records. In total 62,792 scientific publications are registered in the system, 2,397 out of which (or 3.81 per cent) are publicly available.

Scientific publications in eLABa VU PDB subsystem and conditions of its availability (2015-2019)
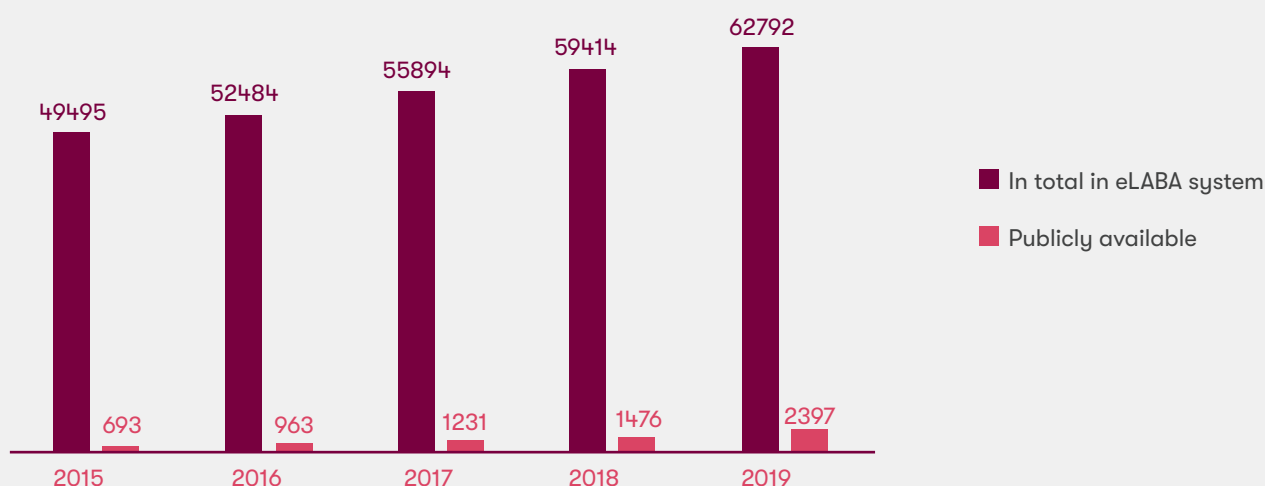
The major part of publications registered in eLABa with full-text documents is research articles licenced with an open content licence CC BY (application of open content licences allows to ensure that other persons could lawfully use the works on the Internet under the conditions specified by the copyright holders) and retrospectively load articles from the journals published by VU Press.

This year, as the *Regulations on VU Open Access to Scientific (Art) and Studies Outcomes* came into force, and after creating conditions to register scientific works as soon as they are submitted for publishing, there should be an increase of VU scientific publications with full-text files in eLABa repository. According to SHERPA/RoMEO data, a large part of publishers expresses their support to opening submitted manuscripts in institutional repositories.

In 2019, 228 doctoral dissertations and their abstracts were uploaded to eLABa and approved (73.24 per cent are available through open access), as well as 4,228 full text documents were uploaded and 8,530 earlier records were revised.

Study and research support

Integration Week **for the first-year students**

In 2019, Vilnius University held Integration Week for the first-year students of all 14 university faculties and centres for the fourth time. Integration Week was organised on 2–6 September; lectures and tours took place in the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre (SCIC).

In 2019, the Library delivered 20 lectures and guided 70 tours for the first-year and foreign students of all faculties and centres of the university.

Just as every year, VU Students' Representation carried out a survey of the first-year students who participated in Integration Week. In 2019 students gave an exceptionally high evaluation to the Library presentation and it took the 3rd place out of 13 best presentations (32.65 per cent of respondents evaluated the presentation as excellent, 24.74 per cent as good, 7.9 per cent as neither good, nor bad and 1 per cent as bad). The higher evaluation was given only to *ABC of Studies* (1st place) and *The First Lecture with a Curator* (2nd place).

Proving that the information provided for the first-years during Integration Week is useful for them, the question *Please indicate if you agree with the provided statements: I am aware of study resources provided by the University (library services, databases, e-training environment, software; I know whom to approach for help)* was answered by 32.24 per cent of respondents as "Definitely agree", and by 51.56 per cent as "Agree".

Training

VU Library organizes information literacy training for VU students and employees. The main topics of this training is as follows: search for scholarly information, scholarly information search systems, ethical use of information: citation, copyright and compiling of bibliographic records as well as scholarly information management tools. In 2019, the Library gave 112 academic hours of information literacy training. In 2019 the amount of training provided for students of Master and Doctoral studies has increased; for master students – by 37 per cent of all training, and for doctoral students – by 10 per cent of all training. The year 2019 has been the first year that Doctoral students have received credits of general competences for the Library training. The increase of the amount of training provided for doctoral students as well as their acknowledgement at the University level (giving credits to the participants) show the relevance and importance of training. The increase in the amount of training provided and a positive feedback received after the training give proof of the Library's ability to adapt and provide relevant training materials not only to bachelor students, but also to researchers and scientists.

Information literacy training grouped according to the target audience

- **50%** Bachelor /integrated studies
- **37%** Master studies
- **10%** Doctoral studies
- **3%** Employees
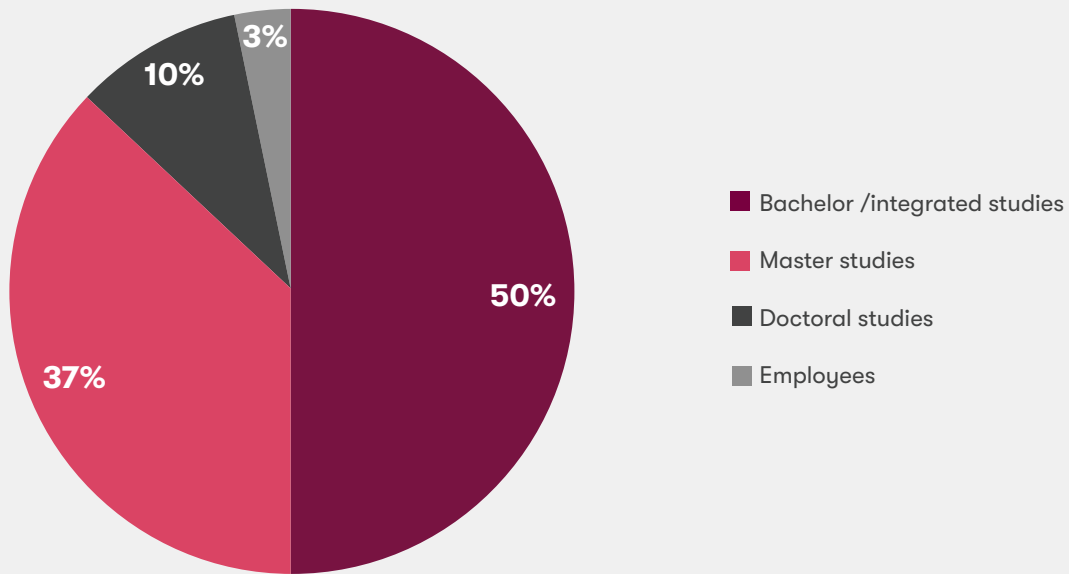
Faster internet connection for the visitors of the VU Library's SCIC

At the end of 2019, while aiming to improve the quality of internet connection in the Library, wireless internet access points located in the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre have been renewed; all equipment in Block B has been replaced with newer, technically more advanced and powerful equipment.
This significant improvement of infrastructure is the first step in the gradual foreseen renewal which will include other spaces of the SCIC as well. In the long run, it is expected to replace all the equipment in the building and thus further improve the quality of wireless internet service that would meet the needs and requirements of both the VU academic community and the general public.

The survey on the provision of information resources for studies

In striving to take evidence-based decisions and to ensure the proper provision of relevant information resources, VU Library undertook the survey on the provision of necessary (those that are listed in the descriptions of study programs) information resources. The survey has been concluded in 2019.

The scope of the survey included students of Bachelor, Master and integrated studies. Half of the total number of study years was selected to be a representative sample, that is, 3 years: Bachelor /integrated studies' 1st and 3rd study years and Master studies' 1st year, or integrated studies 5th or 6th year. In total, around 5,000 study subjects' lists of literature were examined.
The aim of the survey was to assess the current provision of necessary information resources (the literature selected by professors for the students to read) and after presenting the situation to the parties involved, depending on the positive or negative evaluation of the current situation, to proceed by taking certain measures; to determine what is the type of information resources which is used the most for studies and to establish the main trends.

Information resources for studies according to their accessibility (VU average)
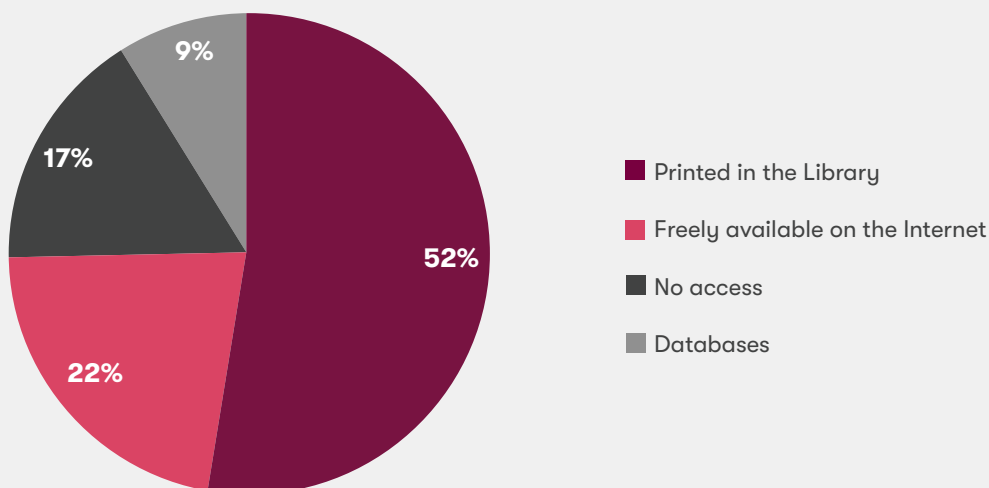
The part of resources that are not accessible for students (the Library does not provide access or there are no free copies available) on average makes 16.6 per cent of all resources that are listed in the description of study programs. The resources provided by the Library are printed collections (52 per cent) and subscribed databases (9 per cent).
A new indicator has been included in the yearly plan for 2019 stating that when students have access to 80 per cent of information resources listed in the study programs, that is to be treated and defined as a satisfactory provision of information resources. The survey outcomes show that an overall average (17 per cent resources inaccessible) can be treated as satisfactory. However, this newly introduced indicator should be regulated and discussed with the involved parties (students, professors, representatives of Study Programs Committees).
The survey helped to establish the provision level of necessary information resources, the number of missing publications, if there are enough copies for students of the particular study program, how many e-resources that the Library subscribes to are given in the lists of literature, and what is the input of the Library in providing students with the necessary information resources at present. When relying on the outcomes of the survey, the assessment could be made whether the current provision of studies with resources can be considered satisfactory and if not, what measures should be taken for improvement.

Educational platform for media and information literacy

The project *Educational Platform for Media and Information Literacy* has been completed in 2019. The project was financed by the Lithuanian Council for Culture; a course is available at https://rastingumas.biblioteka.vu.lt/.

The aim of the project was to develop an educational course on media and information literacy intended for schoolchildren and students for the enhancement of their information and media literacy skills. Topics like information search, selection, assessment, as well as ethical and responsible use of information were being taught during the course. It also analyses the ways medias work, what is the proper way to use them, what are the main principles of media, as well as how to detect fake news and false information. The course is taught in an interactive way, as games and tests help to better learn and assess the acquired knowledge.

The course is provided free of charge. It is available for everyone and it can be taken from any place equipped with a PC or a mobile device. The course can be taken without registration. The content of the course is protected by Creative Commons license allowing to use the content for non-commercial purpose, share and adapt it only by giving appropriate credit, while derivative content ought to be distributed under the same license. Media and Information Literacy course has been viewed more than 58 thousand times in 2019. The most popular topics were information search and ethical information use.

SCIENCE AND CULTURE HERITAGE

Accumulation of heritage collections

On 31 December 2019, the **Manuscripts Division** had **336** archival units of various scale protecting 338,957 documents of various types. In 2019, 24 archival units have been supplemented with groups or individual documents, while 2 archival units (documents of "Universitas Vilnensis" editorial board and documents of Professor Eugenija Ulčinaitė) were added. During the six auctions that took place in 2019, the Library has acquired 30 objects (26 hand-written documents and 4 pieces of graphic art) — among them Wwrks by the distinguished photographers Jan Bułhak and Józef Czechowicz, documents of Stephen Báthory University, as well as personal documents of the philosopher Vilius Storosta-Vydūnas.

The collection of the **Graphic Arts** consists of **95,027** items. In 2019 the collection has been supplemented with the works by six artists (Vaidotas Janulis, Arvydas Každailis, Charles Motte, Petras Repšys, Modestas Saukaitis, Antanas Šakalys), altogether 133 pieces of art.

Rare Books collection has **165,492** old and rare books printed between the 15th and the beginning of the 20th centuries. In 2019 the latter collection has been supplemented with 38 books that were transferred from general storage, donated or bought in auctions (4 items). A rare object *Burtikes arba Traukiamieji perkšmelei* [Tilžė, 19??] acquired in an ARS VIA auction is a collection of numbered cards (there has been no full copy so far in Lithuania) with sayings from the Bible and passages of religious hymns which were called *perkšmeliai* and circulating in Lithuania Minor. The above-mentioned object also inspired the creativity of the colleagues of the Documentary Heritage Preservation Division, as they had to produce an exclusive and special storage medium for the set of cards.

Martynas Mažvydas' autograph, unique in Lithuania, has been inducted into Lithuanian National Register of the UNESCO program Memory of the World

The only known autograph of Martynas Mažvydas, an eminent author of the first printed Lithuanian book, has been recognized as a documentary heritage object of national significance and included into Lithuanian National Register of the UNESCO program "Memory of the World" (No. 72).

Preservation of heritage collections

In 2019, 64,539 pages of the VIII category have been restored/preserved, while 653 document preservation cases of various formats and complexity have been made; 83 books have been rebound, among them 36 with new binding. Documents were being preserved and/or restored for exhibitions, digitisation or keeping in the storage. The outcomes of the undertaken work are measured in nominal pages of the VIII category (it is a derived indicator that is calculated taking into account the different document formats, the complexity of their condition and the degree of damage).

Chemical and microbiological tests performed in 2019 were carried out in several directions: tests of documents stored in VU Library storage and reading rooms, and storage and work premises (performed regularly), tests of documents before restoration/preservation (acidity of material (paper, leather, textile), ink tests, investigation of the composition of glue, investigation of lignin in paper fibres, morphological examinations), examination of documents donated to the Library before they are transferred to the storage facilities. In 2019 three long-standing examinations of VU Library heritage collections were continued: examination of KBr stabilisation effect on paper written with iron gall ink and its influence on aging process (in cooperation with Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania's Document Conservation and Restoration Unit), examination of the structure of manuscript court books from the Grand Duchy of Lithuania's court acts kept in the archival unit F7 and examination of parchment bookbindings from the 17th century book collection. The outcomes of this research will be presented in international conferences and academic publications.

Digitisation

2,085 various objects consisting of 132,301 pages have been digitized in 2019. Besides hand-written, rare documents and scientific periodicals published by VU, in striving to meet the needs of VU community (both students and researchers), the Library has been creating digital content for the project financed by the EU European Regional Development Fund *The Development of Virtual Cultural Space that Meets the Needs of Society*, the implementation of which VU Library started at the end of 2018

In 2019, documents digitised by VU Library were accessible at:

• VU Library website www.atmintis.mb.vu.lt – 20 collections comprised of 5,001 documents of cultural heritage;
• Virtual cultural heritage system (VEPS) www.epaveldas.lt – 1,082 cultural heritage objects;
• The website of the project "Virtual Historic Lithuania: The Grand Duchy of Lithuania" www.ldkistorija.lt – 405 digital copies of atlases from Joachim Lelewel Collection kept in the library.
• The website of the project "The Grand Duchy of Lithuania Court Books" www.teismuknygos.mb.vu.lt – digital copies of 205 books.

Scholarly research and dissemination

In 2019 the Library has prepared and published 6 publications of various types, among which was the significant catalogue *Unus non sufficit orbis: One World Is Not Enough*, presenting and analysing heritage (rare books, manuscripts, pieces of graphic arts) of Jesuits who had established Vilnius University, prepared to mark the 450th anniversary of the Jesuit mission in Lithuania. Besides that, the Library staff contributed their knowledge to the preparation of three more publications. A perfect example of such collaboration is a publication of sources prepared together with The Granary of Antanas Baranauskas and Antanas Vienuolis-Žukauskas Memorial House-Museum in Anykščiai *Per Tamstos laišką į mane padvelkė tikras pavasaris: Antano Vienuolio-Žukausko ir tremtinių bei politinių kalinių ir jų artimųjų epistolinis palikimas (A Real Spring is Blowing Softly Through Your Letter: the Epistolary Legacy of Antanas Vienuolis-Žukauskas and Deportees and Political Prisoners and their Relatives).*

In 2019 as many as two librarians from the Heritage Collections Department defended their doctoral dissertations!

In 2019, 29 articles and report theses have been prepared and published in Lithuanian periodicals and abroad, while 29 reports were delivered in various research conferences. The Library is proud to have two new doctors as this year two librarians successfully defended their doctoral theses, which were prepared relying on cultural heritage documents kept at Vilnius University Library.

In 2019 the Library has completed filling in Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) database that is initiated by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) and dedicated to detailed description of incunabula and their proveniences. This activity allowed to take a new look at the preserved copies of the first printed books and to reveal to the international scientific community the specificity of the heritage kept at VU Library. This is a major contribution to the promotion of the Library's incunabula and the enhancement of their visibility in Europe.

Three seminars dedicated to different issues of the collection and preservation of printed and hand-written heritage, namely *The Old Books: How to Search and Place a Request for Them, and Mark Them* (dedicated to the search for old books and their bibliographical descriptions), *An Auction as a Source of Document Acquisitions for Memory Institutions* (intended for the community facing the challenge of acquiring documents in auctions), and *Archaeology of Bookbindings: Perspectives, and Opportunities* (intended for the research and issues of early bookbindings). The seminars were attended not only by members of VU community (seminars attracted from 20 to more than 60 attendees), but also by researchers of other institutions (some seminar presenters were invited to deliver their presentations in other institutions).

A fragment from Hartmann Schedel's Chronicle depicting Lithuania. 1493, incunabulum

VILNIUS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: VISIBLE AND HIGHLY VALUED
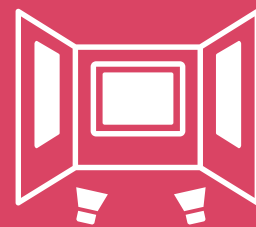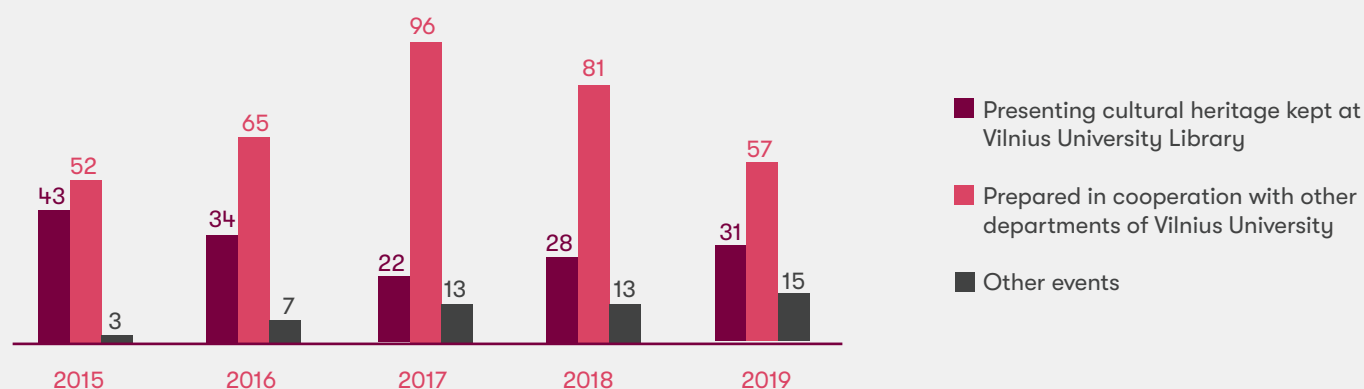
Outstanding exhibitions and events

The Library presents the 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. In 2019 events that were held by the Library were attended by more than 4,400 participants. More than one and a half thousand documents (1,574 items) were shown to the public in various exhibitions, some of them taking place in virtual environment. On the whole, in 2019 the Library has held 70 events and 36 exhibitions (106in total).

Number of events and exhibitions for the years 2015 to 2019

Year	Events	Exhibitions
2015	48	47
2016	52	47
2017	71	47
2018	60	46
2019	70	36

- ■ Events
- ■ Exhibitions
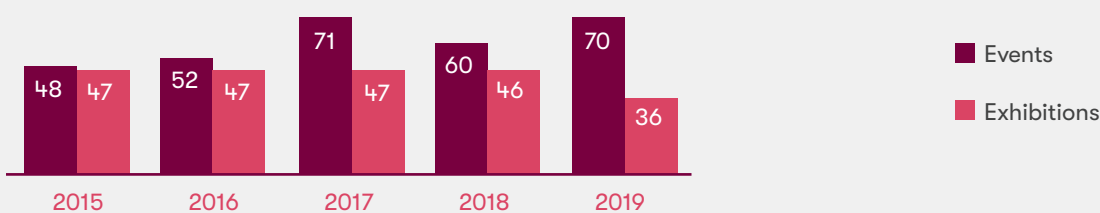
Out of 106 events and exhibitions 31 were dedicated to the promotion of the heritage kept at Vilnius University Library

### Number of events and exhibitions according to their themes for the years 2015 to 2019

Year	Presenting cultural heritage kept at Vilnius University Library	Prepared in cooperation with other departments of Vilnius University	Other events
2015	43	52	3
2016	34	65	7
2017	22	96	13
2018	28	81	13
2019	31	57	15

- ■ Presenting cultural heritage kept at Vilnius University Library
- ■ Prepared in cooperation with other departments of Vilnius University
- ■ Other events

A new landmark: Vilnius University Library's heritage presented on the international Google Arts & Culture platform

VU Library has entered into partnership with Google and presented on its international arts and culture platform a spectacular virtual exhibition *Map of Threads* that brings viewers to the world of one of the most distinguished Jesuit scholars of the 17th century – Athanasius Kircher. The digital exhibition shows fragments of more than ten of his books printed between 1602 and 1680 in Latin language that are kept at Vilnius University Library. The books present various studies of natural phenomena, technological and mechanical experiments in an impressive and eye-catching way. This virtual exhibition has been the first, but will not be the last – it marks a new trend in promoting cultural heritage, which, in striving to present culture and history to the general public through the means of the most advanced solutions and new forms of interaction, the Library hopes to develop further in the future.
The exhibition *Map of Threads* is available on Google Arts & Culture
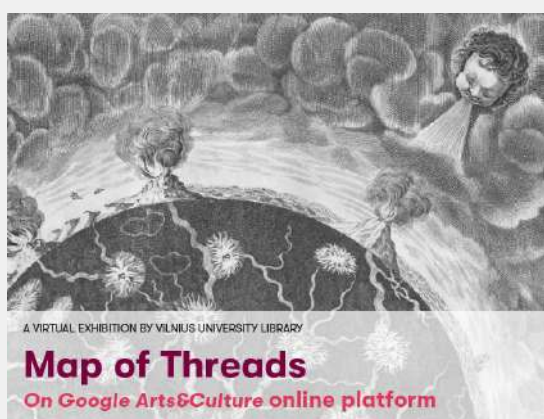
This year the University has marked its 440th anniversary, while our country celebrated the 450th anniversary of the Jesuit mission in Lithuania. The most outstanding events were dedicated to mark these anniversaries.

One World is Not Enough

The Society of Jesus – the Jesuits – have settled in Lithuania 450 years ago. Vilnius University Library presented to the public an exhibition *Unus non sufficit orbis: One World Is Not Enough* to mark this anniversary. On 30 October an opening of the exhibition was held in the White Hall, where attendees of the event were shown documents related to the history of the Jesuits in Lithuania and the world.

Time Rewound

In June the Library, as many other organizations, was involved in the organization of *The Night* of *Culture* events. This time, as the event was dedicated to mark 440th anniversary of the University, participants were invited to theatrical tours that showed the outstanding historical moments in the history of the university – Stephan Báthory donated the sceptre to Rector of Vilnius University, the distinguished poet Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski solemnly received his doctoral degree, last king of the Polish–Lithuanian Commonwealth Stanisław August Poniatowski visited the university observatory.

Lithuania in Vilnius University Library

This project has been started in 2015 while marking the 445th anniversary of VU Library and celebrating the year dedicated to ethnographic regions of Lithuania. Thus, the main concept of the project was formed – while celebrating its anniversary, the Library opts to visit all regions of Lithuania and show there the part of cultural heritage – such us manuscripts, books, cartography, pieces of graphic art and old photos – that is closely related to the history of the region. As the project progresses, more and more towns are being visited: in 2019 the Library has visited Kupiškis, Šiauliai, Tauragė and Rokiškis.

An international exhibition in VU Library

On 2 April an exhibition of photographs of the rarest books of the world *Sole Survivors: The Rarest Books in the World* was opened in the White Hall of VU Library. Four unique copies of originals were brought from Ireland for the opening. The greatest rarities that are at present kept in Marsh Library and photos of the exhibition were supplemented with the rarest books from VU Library.

Project activities

Every year the Library carries out or contributes to international, national or university infrastructure projects that are financed by the EU as well as runs some cultural projects of the smaller scale. The year 2019 was not an exception as various creative and innovative ideas have been developed and started to implement.

An EODOPEN project aiming at bringing digitally-hidden stacks to the public at European level, while dealing adequately with rights clearance questions, has been started at the end of the year. Until the year 2023, 15 libraries with the help of this project strive to digitise and open up for European community 15,000 documents and literary creations of the 20th and 21st century.

The other successfully continued national project *Development of a Virtual Cultural Environment that Meets the Needs of the Public* is also related to digitisation. 51,779 pages of 1,117 objects have been digitised within the framework of this project this year.

The EU-funded national project *eMoDB.LT: Opening of Databases to Lithuania* has been carried out for a decade, allowing the Library to subscribe to databases. In 2019 through this project the Library subscribed to 59 databases of electronic resources that provide access to the main scholarly information resources for scientists, researchers and students.

The Library continued with a project *MOBILaIT: Opening Learning Opportunities for People with Reading Disabilities* which aims to make services accessible to people who cannot read texts in ordinary formats.

Financing of the Lithuanian Council for Culture in 2019 provided an opportunity to implement ongoing projects – *Lithuania in Vilnius University Library*, thanks to which 4 circulating exhibitions had reached different regions of Lithuania, as well as a third *The Night of Culture event Time Rewound: Rulers, Prophets, Rebels*. With the financial support of the Council, the Library prepared and published a catalogue of the exhibition *One World Is Not Enough* that was dedicated to the 450th anniversary of the Jesuit mission in Lithuania.

In 2019 Media and Information Literacy Educational Platform has been completed in Moodle system; through May-December alone it had around 60 thousand views.

This year the Library has completed an investment project, the outcome of which was the Joint Medicine and Geosciences Reading Room. Well-loved by students from the first sight, the reading room offers around 40 thousand publications and 68 study spaces. An idea to create a joint space in the former Faculty of Natural Sciences was introduced as early as 2017, as an opportunity to improve library services for all academic departments working in M. K. Čiurlionio Street.

The Library app is already available to Apple smartphone owners

In the summer of this year, the Library became even more mobile – an app for Apple smartphone owners has been released on 21 August.

The updated version, which is also available to Android device owners, includes a number of enhancements, including the ability to quickly and conveniently access all information about the Library's services by communicating directly with librarians.

While using the VU Library's mobile app, you can also search for publications, view copy availability information, view issued publications and extend the return period, make a request for publications, and view the status of requests.
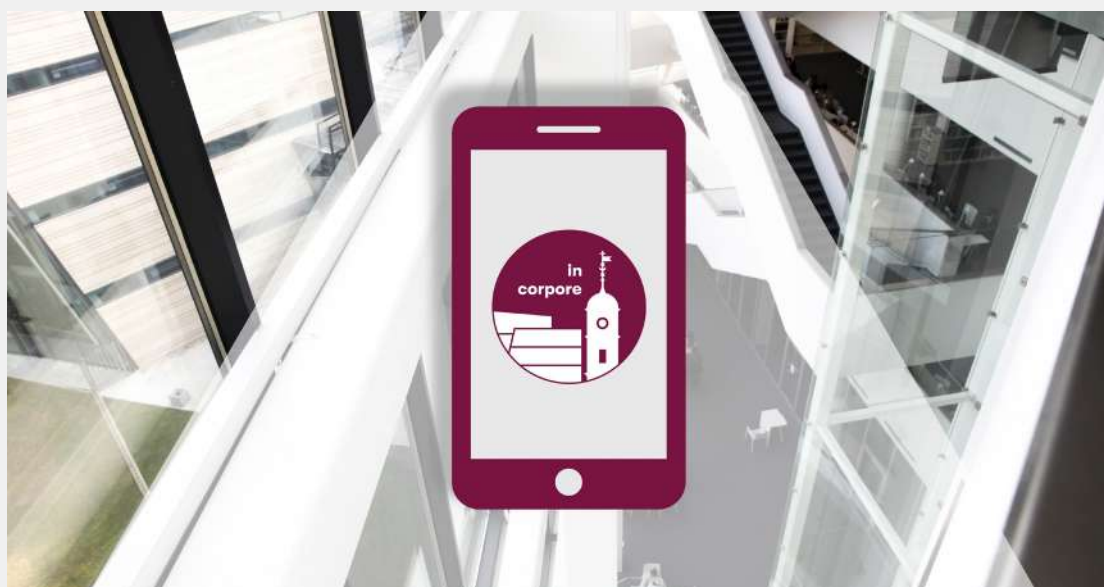
Expert activities

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, Working Group on the Development of the National Digitization Monitoring System, Alliance of Scientific Data Research, Commission of Book Art Experts, the Editorial Board of the journal "Information Sciences", Lithuanian Communication Association, Literature Council under the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania, Vilnius Bookbinding Guild and other organizations and groups.

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, as well as cooperation with Goethe-Institut.

Special guests

Many representatives of foreign countries visit the University every year. In 2019, Vilnius University Library was visited by:
• the Prime Minister of Sakartvelo Mamuka Bakhtadze
• the Ambassador of Azerbaijan Tamerlan Garayev
• the Ambassador of Turkey Gökhan Turan
• the Ambassador of Japan Toyoei Shigeeda
• the Ambassador of France Claire Lignières-Counathe
• the Ambassador of Poland Urszula Doroszewska
• the Ambassador of Estonia Jana Vanaveski
• the Ambassador of Kazakhstan Aybar Temir Bayev
• The Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic Dastan Jumabekov