

# ANNUAL REPORT / 2018



Vilnius  
University  
Library



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2018 Annual Report texts prepared according to the Library division reports by:

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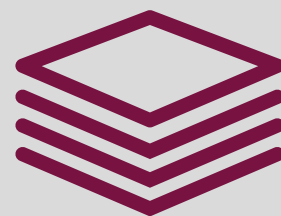
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# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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# DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PREFACE

## The year of the re-establishment of the state at Vilnius University Library



Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė

The year 2018, a centenary of the re-establishment of the state, has been an exceptionally significant and special year both for the entire Lithuania and every citizen of our state. On the eve of the centenary jubilee, on 15 February, members of staff working in science and study institutions situated in Saulėtekis Valley and the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre together with students joined their hands in a human chain of Saulėtekis Way, thus symbolically repeating the Baltic Way of 1989. A spirit of pride, joy and community that prevailed in the human chain, stretching out from the National

Centre for Physical Sciences and Technology to Vilnius Gediminas Technical University, united and accompanied participants of the event the entire year.

While celebrating together with the whole country, the Library contributed to the national festivity by organising events, the focus of which were documents kept in the rich Library collections that bear witness to the history of our statehood and its quest for freedom, and thus helping us to recall the background causes and the circumstances for the reestablishment of our state.

A catalogue, which accompanied the exhibition “Freedom, More Precious than Gold!”, inspired open discussion of researchers of Vilnius University on the ideas that helped to unite the Lithuanian state and its society throughout the century, while on 1 April, when celebrating the birthday of Vilnius University, the Library traditionally showed to the public the first printed Lithuanian book – *Catechism* by Martynas Mažvydas. By attending both thematical exhibitions and guided tours, the citizens and guests of Vilnius had an opportunity to see rare documents kept in the Library revealing the great historic moments in the creation of our country. The exhibition attracted attention of the media from abroad – German TV channel NDR in their film on a centenary of the re-establishment of the Lithuanian state included a visit of the main character of film to Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall, where the abovementioned exhibition was on display. The main character of the film, a student of medicine, who guided the journalists around various places of Vilnius, chose to come to Vilnius University Library, as it is the place where she often comes herself to study.

An exhibition “Freedom Will Not Come as a Gift” revealing the mentality of the Lithuanian nation as its title holds the words said by the inter-war Lithuanian diplomat Albertas Gerutis recorded in

the document kept in the holdings of the Manuscripts Division, as well as another exhibition “Pro patria! Pro libertate! (For Homeland! For Freedom!)” that was dedicated to the centenary of the Lithuanian Army, invited visitors of the Library to go back to the time when Lithuania fought for its freedom. The centenary year of the re-establishment of the Lithuanian state was completed with a presentation of the photographic edition of a manuscript poem written by Maironis that was prepared by the head of the Manuscripts Division Dr Inga Liepaitė in collaboration with Paulius Subačius, a professor of Vilnius University.

Having a centuries long history, Vilnius University Library has marked two significant anniversaries this year. Founded fifty years ago, the Restoration Department contributed considerably to the stabilization of the physical condition and, in many cases, even to the rescuing, of the Library’s documentary heritage. The Scholarly Communication and Information Centre – the Library welcoming in its liberal spaces all for whom knowledge and discovery give genuine pleasure – has celebrated its first five-year anniversary. It is not surprising that journalists of the Portuguese television RTP-Antena 1, who filmed a video on European projects financed by the European Regional Development Fund, have chosen to film scientific research centres and the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre of Saulėtekis in Lithuania.

In 2018 VU Library has completed its structural changes. In response to Vilnius University's strategy, in the context of changes in the Library's organizational structure, the number of the Library’s structural divisions has decreased. The structural changes have made it possible to regroup activities, to identify three main areas of activity – information services, scholarly communication and technologies, research and heritage collections, and to make more efficient use of human and financial resources, with some of them directed towards open science and scholarly communication.

This year, the implementation of the Library's strategic activity plan for 2018–2020 has been started in response to 3 strategic priorities of Vilnius University: a) a European university, b) a university strengthening Lithuania and c) a university strengthening its community. The Library is an integral part of Vilnius University, therefore its strategic directions are focused on a) the synchronisation of Library services with VU studies and science, and b) the satisfaction of customers, most of whom are members of VU community.

In 2018, while implementing the strategic goals, much attention was paid to cooperation with VU faculties in the fields of study information provision, scholarly communication and open science. The councils of the Faculty of Philosophy, Medicine and History, and the Life Sciences Centre as well as study colleges were presented with the recently established Studies and Research Support Division, the activities of which are directly related to the development and maintenance of close relationship with faculties in the field of information provision. The increase in the number of full-text documents in the information system eLABa of the Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library in 2018 and the increase in the number of data sets uploaded to MIDAS was a result of active promotion of open science and open access.

The Integration Week for the first year students that became quite a challenge for the Library staff as for the first time first-year students of all the faculties participated in the event, an ambitious project of a joint reading room for the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences located in M. K. Čiurlionio Street, a new model of acquisitions for electronic books titled Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA), an increasing number of trainings to enhance information skills – these were measures and projects with the help of which the Library aimed and continues to aim to meet the informational needs of VU science and studies as fully as possible and create a high-quality environment for students and researchers.

Constant monitoring and assessment of ongoing activities as well as user surveys and analysis of their outcomes allow for timely clarification and adjustment of the measures for the implementation of activities. This year a study on the cross reference between all study programs carried out in all faculties and the resources indicated in the lists of the study programs as well as between the top-level Vilnius University researchers' articles and the resources offered by the Library has been continued alongside with a survey of user satisfaction with the Library services. The strengths and weaknesses of service provision revealed during the survey are going to be analysed, and this will be taken into account in the future development of information services. A measure from VU strategic plan for 2018-2020 "Increasing Public Access to Cultural Heritage" is in line with the Library's effort to preserve, make accessible for users and promote its scientific and cultural heritage.

Events dedicated to VU professors and researchers who considerably contributed to Lithuanian science as well as the important dates of the country and the University, took place both inside and outside the Library. An international scientific conference, dedicated to the 290th anniversary of the birth of VU Rector and astronomer Marcin Poczobutt, which took place in the White Hall, has to be mentioned among the more than 100 events. The place for the conference was chosen having in mind the fact that Poczobutt used to work and carry out astronomical observations in the hall and it was on his initiative that modern astronomical devices, bearing witness to the high-level of science at the then Vilnius University and helping to create a special atmosphere in the hall, were acquired. This year a continued successful project "Lithuania in Vilnius University Library" has visited the museum of the Samogitian Diocese in Varniai, Maciej Kazimierz Sarbiewski Cultural Centre in Kražiai, Maironis Lithuanian Literature Museum in Kaunas, Skuodas Municipal Romualdas Granauskas Public Library and Marijampole Petras Kriauciunas Public Library.

In the jubilee year the professionalism and competence of the Library staff has been noted and appreciated – the title of the best librarian of the year has been awarded to the head of the Scientific Information and Data Division Dr Žibutė Petrauskienė for the development of scholarly communication tools.

Closing the centenary of the re-establishment of the Lithuanian State, we are opening the door to the 440th anniversary of the establishment of Vilnius University. I have no doubt that the year 2019 will be interesting and meaningful, that it will give many opportunities to reflect on the organizational values that arise from the rich history of the University and lead to the future, that help to preserve the harmony between science and studies and create informational and cultural environments, that encourage to follow in the tradition and to open up for new horizons.

Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė



VU Library's buildings in Saulėtekis and Vilnius Old Town



## Facts and figures

### Library users' visits and work spaces:

- **43,020** registered users
- **1,080,218** visits
- Total number of work spaces dedicated for users – **1,662**
- Total number of work spaces with computer access – **316**
- Open stacks contain **448,809** items



### Information resources and their usage:

- **€459,785.55** were allocated for the acquisition of information resources (books, periodicals, databases)
- **5,032,600** items total stored in the library
- As of 31 December 2018, the online catalogue contained bibliographic records of **915,809** titles (**1,983,568** copies in total)
- Manuscripts Division has **334** archival collections and **335,144** different documents
- Collection of the Division of Graphic Arts contains **94,894** items
- Rare Books Division collection consists of **167,709** items
- Circulation statistics – **318,027** items
- In 2018, VU Library subscribed to **80** databases
- The databases were accessed **272,750** times and **876,508** searches were performed there
- Users retrieved **1,347,317** full-text documents from the databases



### Documental heritage preservation:

- **66,467** pages of the 8th category were conserved and/or restored
- **74,263** pages were digitised



### Employees, qualification improvement, volunteers, interns and trainees:

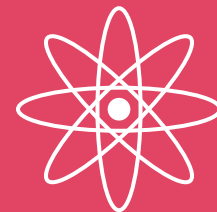
- The library had **189** employees
- **10** new employees were recruited
- **113** members of the staff improved their qualifications **182** times
- The Library had **7** volunteers
- **4** students undertook internships at the Library
- **5** foreign specialists undertook traineeships at the library



### Guided tours and events:

- **604** guided tours around the old campus of Vilnius University and the library were given; **8,247** people from **56** countries participated in the guided tours
- **17** guided tours around the Scholarly Communication and Information Centre were given to 205 visitors
- Over **20,000** people visited Adam Mickiewicz Museum
- The Library organised **106** events, **46** of which were exhibitions

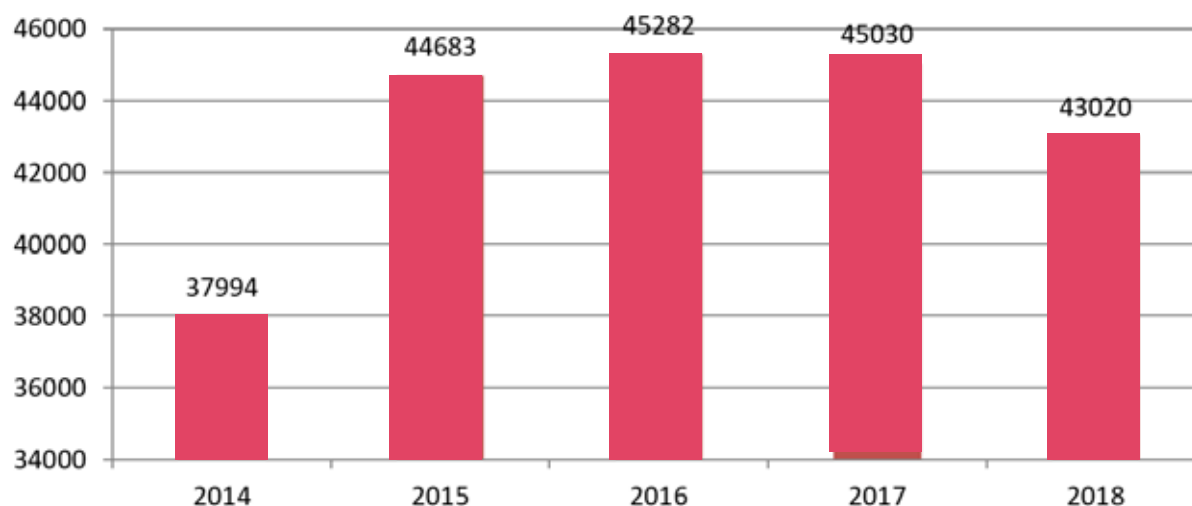




# I. INFORMATION SERVICES FOR SCIENCE AND STUDIES

## Library users and visitors

**Registered VU Library users.** In 2018, VU Library has registered 6,508 new users (4 per cent more than in 2017). The total number of library users was 43,020 (4 per cent less than in 2017). A slight decrease in the total number of library users is related to the fact that user cards issued in 2013, when the SCIC opened the door to its first users, expired in 2018. In 2018, there was a new group of VU Library users singled out – VU alumni to whom a special package of services was offered.



Registered VU Library users, 2014-2018

**Visits to VU Library.** In 2018, the total number of visits paid to SCIC was registered to be 4 per cent greater than in 2017 while there was a tendency for library users' visits to Central Library and faculty reading rooms to decrease in the period from 2015 to 2018. Since the largest decrease was observed in faculty reading rooms, and visits to SCIC tended to grow, it can be assumed that users prefer such learning and research environments that offer the most favourable and comfortable conditions: long opening hours, group and individual work rooms, recreation areas, convenient IT infrastructure.

## New visual style of VU Library

VU Library has changed its visual style according to VU Brand Style Guidelines. The Library will follow unified style guidelines that describe the main elements of style: the logo, colours, fonts, and information and communication tools.



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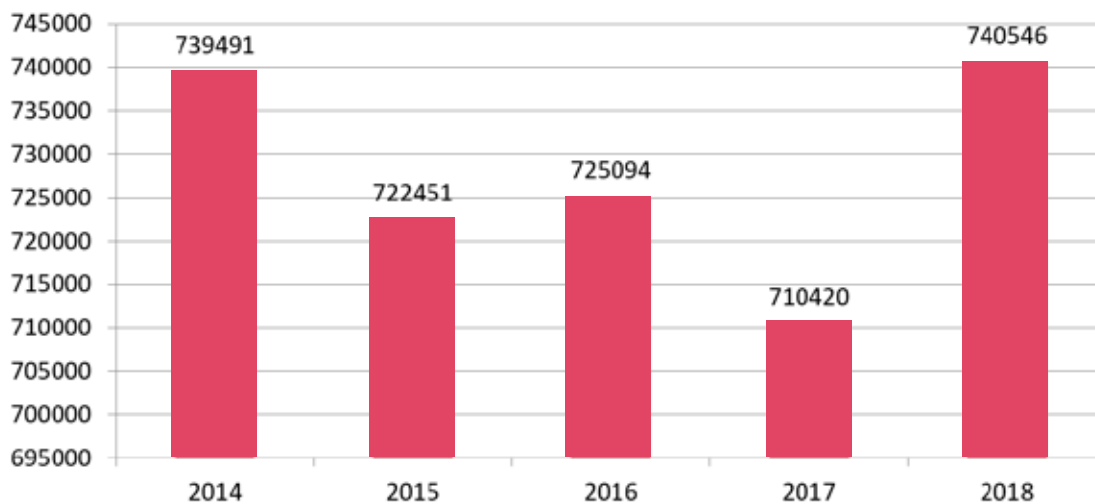


Vilnius  
University  
Library



Vilnius University Library



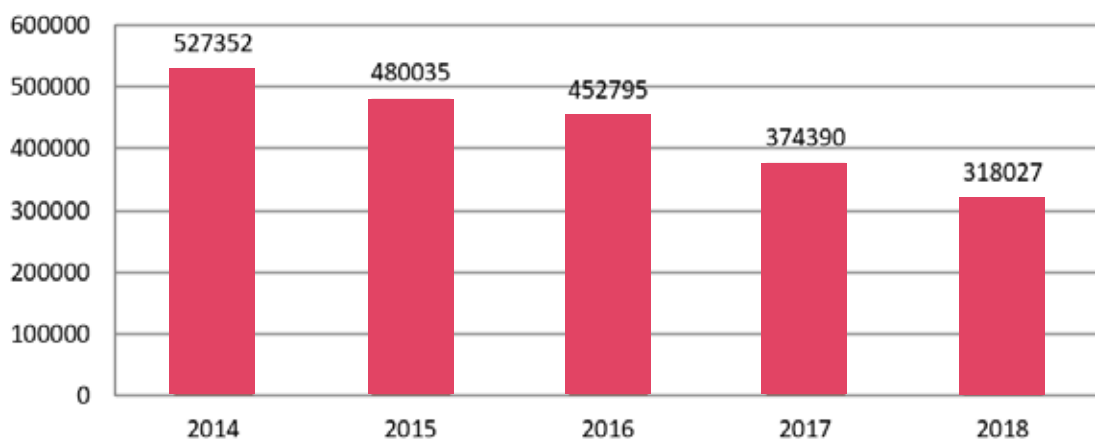


Library users' visits to SCIC, 2014-2018

**The most active users' groups:** In SCIC, the most active library users were students of the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Economics and Business Administration while in Central Library – students of the Faculty of Philology and the Faculty of Philosophy. Items from faculty reading rooms were borrowed most by students of the Faculty of Mathematics and Informatics, the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences, and the Faculty of History.

## Information resources

**Usage of traditional and electronic information resources.** In 2018, circulation statistics of traditional information resources at VU Library has reduced by 15 per cent – down to 318,027. The decrease in circulation statistics was recorded for a fifth consecutive year.

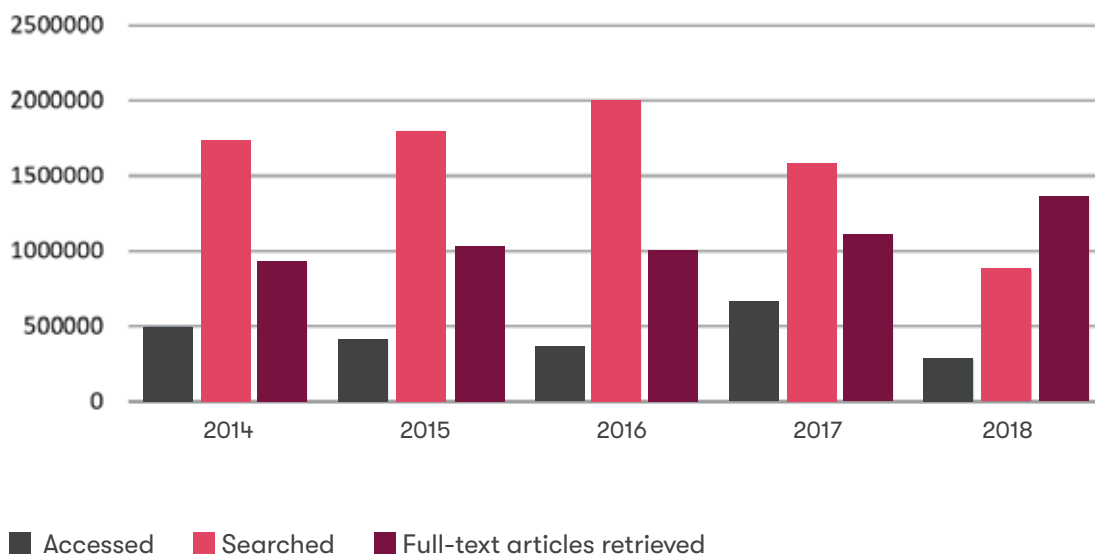


Dynamics of traditional information resources circulation statistics, 2014-2018

The more information resources are available online, the lower the usage of traditional information resources. This trend is common to all academic libraries around the world.

In 2018, VU Library users had access to 77 subscribed databases and 5 archives.

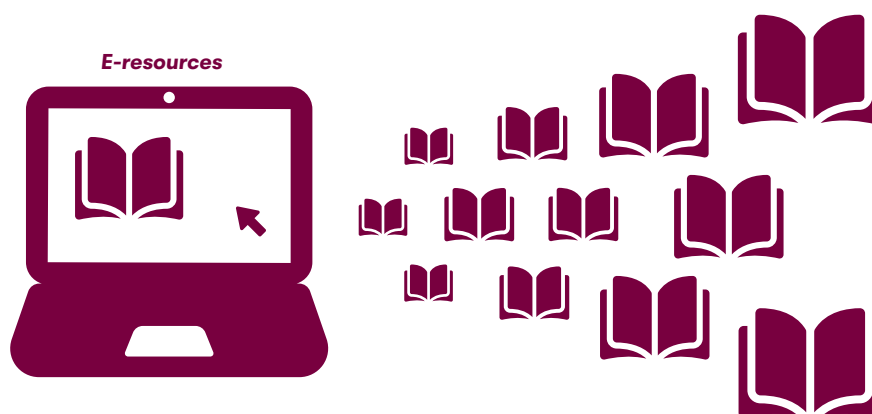
- In 2018, users have accessed database platforms 272,750 times, have performed 876,508 searches there, and have used 1,347,317 full-text articles.



Usage of databases, 2014-2018

According to the data provided by 28 per cent of our database suppliers, the number of downloads of full-text articles has been steadily growing, although the number of searches on database platforms has been decreasing since 2016. This data lead to the conclusion that library users' behaviour is changing: users are able to find a necessary document faster. It is likely that the change has been influenced by information literacy seminars organised by the Library. However, some searches are performed using other search engines, the data of which are not included in the total number of searches.

**E-books.** In 2018, Evidence Based Acquisition (EBA) model of the purchase of individual e-books was chosen, according to which library users are provided with access to the selected e-book collection for 12 months, and a final list of publications with permanent access is compiled on the basis of usage statistics. Since library users had a growing interest in Cambridge University Press (CUP) e-books, on 1 July 2018, a full CUP e-book collection consisting of 35,000 titles was selected (from that time 38,673 chapters were downloaded). In 2017, when VU community had access to 139 purchased e-books, 578 chapters were downloaded.



## Survey of library users' satisfaction with the Library's services

In 2018, a survey of library users' satisfaction with the Library's services was conducted for which online questionnaire of closed-ended questions was used. Also, respondents were able to make suggestions in the open-ended section. Quantitative and qualitative analysis of the obtained results was performed. The average quantitative assessment – 8.5 (on a 10-point scale): students – 8.51, employees – 8.38, other registered users – 8.66. The results were analysed by evaluating the Library's services according to their importance and quality.

The library users identified the following Library's services as most important: WiFi, borrowing books for home reading, non-computerised workspaces, Virtual Library, printing service. At the top on the list of quality services there are the following Library's services: ability to read publications in the Library, non-computerised and computerised workspaces, librarians' consultations.

The results of the survey were presented to the Library's staff working with library users during the seminar "What Does the Organisation's Orientation to the Client Mean", librarians' suggestions were collected for possible innovations or corrections. In the seminar, personnel managers of the banking organisation Swedbank and the retail chain Rimi shared their experience of working with clients; their experience will help the Library improve the quality of its services.

While cooperating with the long-term social partner the Goethe-Institut in Vilnius, the Library organised a seminar "Information Behavior of Target Groups. Client Research for Practitioners" given by Hans Christoph Hobohm, professor of Postdam University of Applied Sciences (Germany). The participants of the seminar were introduced to the most effective client research methods and had a chance to try them in the practical part of the seminar.



Participants of the seminar not only heard presentations, but also performed practical tasks

## Scholarly communication

**Open Access.** In 2018, the Library started a communication campaign for the new Regulations Specifying Vilnius University's Open Access to Scientific (Art) and Study Works. VU Library prepared an open access memorandum highlighting the changes in the registration of scientific articles and conference proceedings from the date of entry into force of the new regulations, i.e. from 1 January 2019.

During the Open Access Week that was held in October, the Library invited VU community members to accept the open access challenge by publicly announcing the decision to open their scientific articles at eLABa, open their research data or their metadata at MIDAS, apply open content license CC BY for their output, and encourage other researchers to follow suit. The open access challenge was accepted by more than 10 VU researchers.

In order to draw attention to the problem of openness of science, VU community members were introduced to an educational board game by Chris Morrison and Jane Secker *The Publishing Trap*, which was translated into Lithuanian.



Publishing Trap playthrough



**Scientometrics.** VU Department of Doctoral and Postdoctoral Studies, in cooperation with the Library, organised general skills development training for PhD students entitled “Scientific Information: Search, Scientometrics, Data Repositories” that included a lecture “The Specifics of Science Evaluation Databases”.

In order to clarify the need for bibliometric research, in summer, a presentation was given to the representatives of VU administration, in which the experience of foreign institutions in performing bibliometric analyses was briefly covered, and the content of bibliometric research was discussed in detail with the focus on the challenges being faced while carrying out such analyses. After VU Faculty of Medicine became interested in the possibilities of bibliometric research of scientific activity, in 2018, five bibliometric analyses were performed for the faculty.

Taking into account the knowledge received from the scientometric training at European Summer School, and requests from the representatives of other VU faculties, the content of the annual general bibliometric analysis of VU researchers' publications was updated and supplemented with new indicators.

In addition, the following analyses were carried out in 2018:

- three bibliometric analyses of the faculties of Vilnius University (based on InCites data);
- a general quantitative analysis of VU researchers' publications (based on the bibliometric indicators given by Web of Science);
- three personal bibliometric analyses of researchers.

In 2018, at the invitation of the Society of Endocrinology (Vilnius), the Library participated in a cycle of research and practice conferences in which a lecture on the databases dedicated to research assessment was delivered in Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos.

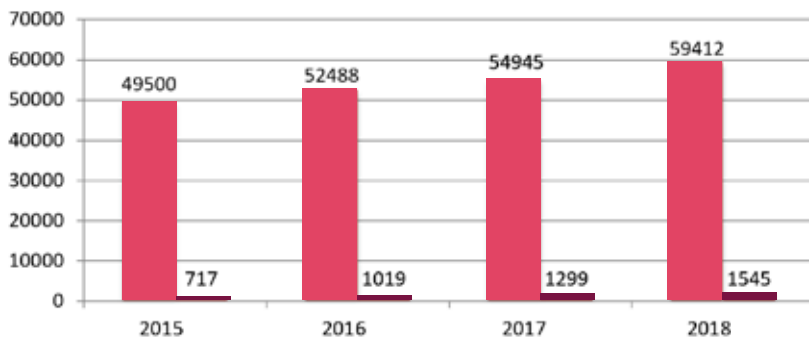
**Research data management.** MIDAS – a unified and publicly accessible national digital archive of research data allowing to provide e-services, collect and store research data and other related information from different disciplines, enabling all users to access it free of charge, easily, and conveniently through the updated MIDAS portal.

In 2018, while presenting MIDAS, the Library organised the days of data – DuoDI – at three faculties of the university: Life Sciences Centre, the Faculty of Physics, and the Faculty of Chemistry and Geosciences. In 2018, 171 research data collections were uploaded to MIDAS (in 2017 – 149 collections).

- VU researchers were given 11 consultations on the development of a data management plan (DMP).

**eLABa, a full-text document repository.** eLABa – a national information system, launched in 2015 after the implementation of the EU Structural Funds project “Creation and Development of the Integrated Services for the Electronic Information System eLABa”. The aim of the project is to centrally manage the production and results of scientific activity of Lithuanian research and studies institutions by means of information technologies. The full-text document repository eLABa consists of Science Publications Database (PDB), Electronic Theses and Dissertations Database (ETD), and a plagiarism detection subsystem.

- In 2018, 4,467 records of VU scientific publications were created at eLABa repository, 246 of which were with publicly available full-text documents.



■ Total number of records at eLABa ■ VU records with full-text documents

The majority of publications with full-text documents registered at eLABa consist of research articles licensed under the open content license CC BY (application of open content licenses allows to ensure that other people can legally use works published online under the conditions specified by the copyright holders), and retrospectively uploaded articles from journals published by Vilnius University Press.

- 140 dissertations and 123 dissertation summaries were submitted to eLABa and approved (70 per cent of them are open access), 207 full-text documents were uploaded, 9,170 previously prepared records were edited.

## SCIC is 5!

In February, it was five years since VU Library opened the doors of Scientific Communication and Information Centre (SCIC). The Library decided to celebrate this anniversary together with its visitors – after the words of congratulation there was a sweet gift waiting for them.



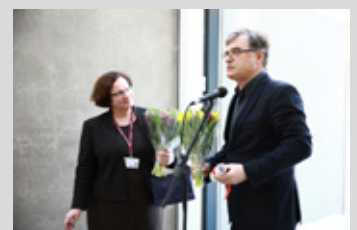
A delicious gift to the party guests: a cake in the shape of SCIC



Director General of Vilnius University Library Irena Krivienė congratulates the guests



VU Pro-Rector Prof. Rimantas Jankauskas (left) and VU Faculty of Medicine Pro-Dean Dr Aleksas Pikturna



The director of neighbouring VU Life Sciences' Centre Dr Gintaras Valinčius

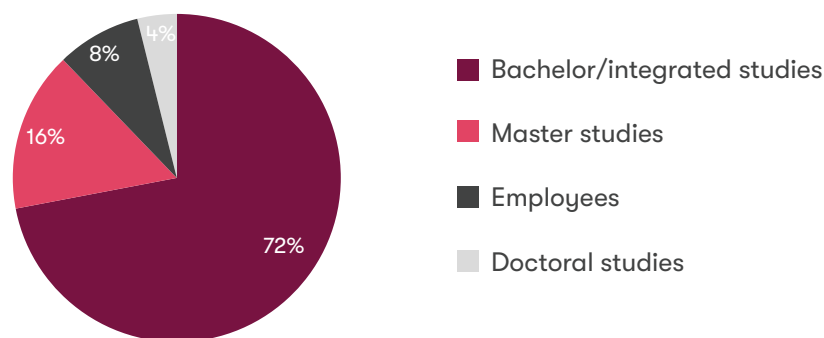
## Study and research support

In 2018, a new division of VU Library started its activities – Studies and Research Support Division. The division was established to ensure close cooperation with the academic units of the university, to respond to the needs of studies and research by supporting the existing and developing new library's services.

**Activities of information and media literacy.** The subject librarians working in this division are responsible for the development of information competences of academic units assigned to them (organisation of training), provision of the necessary information resources and communication of the library's services and other relevant information.

- A refined training model has been developed – a course of 6 academic hours is offered covering the following topics: planning and conducting a scientific information search, selection and storage of information resources, and ethical information use. The aim is to integrate the information literacy course into study subjects.
- In 2018, the staff of Studies and Research Support Division provided VU community members (BA, MA and PhD students, academic personnel) with training of 147 academic hours in total in Lithuanian and English.
- During the Integration Week 20 presentations were made in Lithuanian and attended by 1,800 students – around 53 per cent of all students enrolled in BA programmes in 2018; 9 lectures and 14 guided tours were given to students of Erasmus exchange programme and international full-time students, attended by more than 400 foreign students in total.

### Distribution of information literacy training by target audience



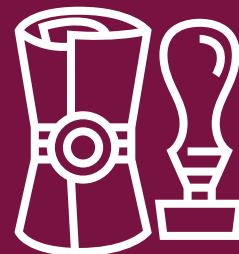
**Information resources meeting VU community's needs.** While cooperating with VU academic units, subject librarians expend much effort to ensure that the Library's collections of information resources would be relevant and responsive to the needs of studies and research at Vilnius University. The needs to purchase items are received from VU community's direct requests or through a completed form Suggest a Book on the Library's website.

With the aim to make evidence-based decisions and ensure appropriate provision of relevant and up-to-date information resources for studies, the following research is being conducted:

- Analysis of the provision of necessary information resources for studies (specified in the descriptions of study subjects);
- Analysis of the correspondence between information resources used in VU researchers' publications and the ones owned/subscribed by the Library.

The results of these analyses will allow to determine the current level of provision of information resources for studies and research, and find out electronic and print resources relevant to different fields of science. Taking into account the findings of the analyses and the newest trends, the Library's collections of information resources will be compiled more purposefully, meeting the needs of contemporary researchers and students from different fields of science.

## II. SCIENCE AND CULTURE HERITAGE



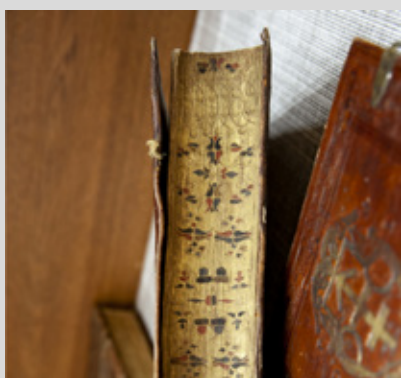
### Accumulation of heritage collections



On 31 December 2018, the **Manuscripts Division** had 334 archives containing **335,144** documents of various types. In 2018, 14 personal archives and 7 other archives were supplemented with groups of documents or individual documents; the Manuscripts Division also formed 3 new personal archives of Vincas Urbutis, Jonas Glemža and Juozapas Šimkus. At auctions, the Library purchased 8 manuscripts and photographs significantly enriching the collections stored at the Library: works of photographers Józef Czechowicz and Jan Bułhak, vignette photographs of the Lithuanian parliament in 1936, manuscripts of writer Vincas Krėvė-Mickevičius and linguist Jonas Jablonskis.



**Graphic Arts'** collection contained **94,894** items. In 2018, the collection was supplemented with works of graphics and drawings by Dalia Genovaitė Mažeikytė, Astrida Žilinskaitė, Antanas Rimantas Šakalys, Nijolė Meškauskaitė, and Algirdas Pakeliūnas.



The archive of **Rare Books Division** stores **165,450** old and rare publications dating back from the 15th century to the beginning of the 20th century. As in the previous year, the Library's heritage collections grew while transferring publications from the general archives, i.e. while describing items from the general archives, librarians find some books dating back to 17th–18th centuries which, according to their chronology, belong to the category of rare books. The old collections were also supplemented with gifts (13 items): Nijolė Bulotaitė gave the Library a collection of 16th century texts and one Lithuanian book; the Library received a legacy of five books of 18th century from VU Professor Vincas Urbutis; researcher of the Institute of the Lithuanian Language Assoc. Prof. Dr Juozas Karaciejus gave the Library four books assigned to the Archive of Lithuanian Books.

## Preservation of heritage collections

In 2018, chemical and microbiological examination of the documents stored at the VU Library storage and reading rooms was performed. Paper conservation and restoration took place when preparing documents for exhibition and digitization.

- **66,467** pages of 8th category were conserved and (or) restored.



Book restored by restorers Nijolė Sinkevičienė and Ieva Ruseikaitė (before and after)

In 2018, three long-term studies of VU Library's heritage collections were initiated: a study of the stabilising effect of KBr on paper written with iron gall ink and the influence on its aging processes (in cooperation with the Document Conservation and Restoration Unit at Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania); a study of the structure of manuscript court books preserved in the Archive of Judicial Acts of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (F7), and a study of the bindings of parchment books stored in the Archive of 17th century prints. The studies will allow us to extend our knowledge of the condition of the stored documents, and based on the obtained results, to improve working methods and plan work more effectively.



## 50 years of restoration

After a fire broke out at the Library on the night of 1 April 1968, the Library's director Jurgis Tornau initiated the establishment of the Restoration Division – the first Lithuanian library documents' restoration centre. While the conservation and restoration methods were changing in 1968, the goal remained the same – to preserve the old objects of cultural heritage: books, their bindings, manuscripts, cartographic documents, drawings. In 2018, the Restoration Division became the Documental Heritage Preservation Division.



## Digitisation

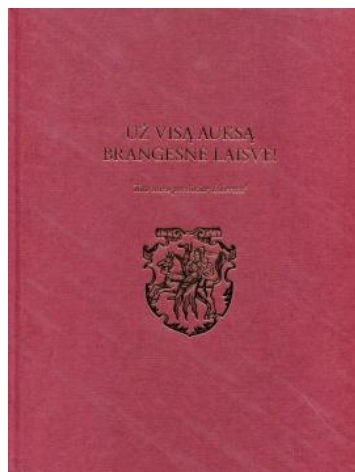
In 2018, 74,263 pages of different documents were digitised. In order to meet the needs of VU community, in addition to manuscripts and rare documents, VU scientific journals, sets of the newspapers “The Soviet Student” and “Universitas Vilnensis” were being digitised.

In 2018, the documents digitised by VU Library could be accessed on:

- the Library's website [atmintis.mb.vu.lt](http://atmintis.mb.vu.lt) – 20 collections containing 3,436 various cultural heritage documents;
- the virtual cultural heritage system (VCHS) [epaveldas.lt](http://epaveldas.lt) – 1,082 cultural heritage objects;
- the website of the project “Virtual Historical Lithuania: Grand Duchy of Lithuania” [ldkistorija.lt](http://ldkistorija.lt) – 405 digital copies of atlases from Joachim Lelewel's collection stored at the Library.

## Scholarly research and dissemination

**Publications.** In 2018, the Library prepared and published 4 items, two of which were dedicated to the 100-year anniversary of Lithuania's restored statehood.



The exhibition catalogue “Freedom is more precious than gold” published in Lithuanian and English, and containing introductory articles by several scholars, gave a chance to become acquainted with 125 objects (rare books, manuscripts, works of graphics, photographs) that best reflect the path of Lithuania from the ancient times to today.



Facsimile edition of the yet-unpublished manuscript of Maironis' poem "Lithuania" prepared in cooperation with Prof. Paulius V. Subačius of VU Faculty of Philology, A. J. Greimas Centre for Semiotics and Literary Theory.

**Scientific publications and reports.** In 2018, 12 articles and reports were prepared and published by Lithuanian and foreign presses, and 12 reports were delivered at various scientific conferences.

**International cooperation.** In 2018, the Library continued its consistent cooperation with the European Consortium of Research Libraries (CERL) in adding data to CERL initiated database Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI) aimed at the detailed description of incunabula and their provenance.

**Dissemination of VU Library's documents abroad.** In October 2018, the Polish edition of Prof. Mykolas Romeris' "Diaries", the originals of which are stored at VU Library and the Wroblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, was solemnly presented at the University of Warsaw. Lithuanian and Polish researchers who spoke during the event thanked for the opportunity to become acquainted with the document of exceptional value.

## Conference

On 6 April 2018, a scientific conference entitled "Vilnius University: traditions continuity, breaks and inventions" was held at VU Senate Hall. The conference was organised by VU Museum, VU Library, the Faculty of Communication, the Faculty of History, and VU Department for Community Development. In 2019 an electronic publication containing six articles written on the basis of conference reports by researchers with diverse backgrounds was published.



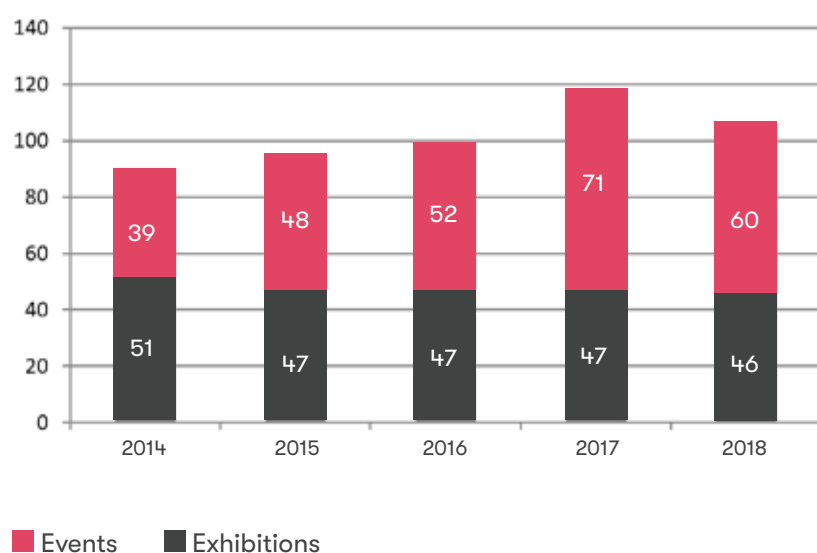


# III. VILNIUS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: VISIBLE AND HIGHLY VALUED

## Outstanding exhibitions and events

The events that take place in the Library present the cultural and scientific heritage stored at the VU Library, provide space for discussions. The events and exhibitions that were open to the public were held at Central Library, Scientific Communication and Information Centre, Adam Mickiewicz Museum, and outside the Library (events of the project “Lithuania at Vilnius University Library”).

The number of participants in the events organised by VU Library has been recorded since 2017. That year 118 events took place; they were attended by 4,860 people. In 2018, 3,646 people participated in 106 events.



The total number of events and exhibitions, 2014-2018

Most memorable events:

- The opening of the exhibition “Freedom is more precious than gold” dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania’s statehood, and the presentation of VU Library’s published catalogue of the same title and discussion “Ideas unifying Lithuania: history and present”.
- The display of Martynas Mažvydas’ original *Catechism* held on 4 April.
- *Culture Night* event “Back in Time, or Images of Living History” that took place on 15 June. The event was organised in cooperation with VU administration, VU IF, FsF, FIF, TSPMI, and LMTA. The event was partly funded by the Lithuanian Council for Culture (LKT).

- Exhibitions and events of the project “Lithuania at Vilnius University Library” (in Varniai, Kražiai, Kaunas, Skuodas and Marijampolė). The aim of the project is to acquaint the communities of Lithuanian regions with the cultural heritage that is important to the history and culture of their region and that is stored at VU Library. The project is partly funded by LKT.



VU Prof. Dr Dainora Pociūtė-Abukevičienė tells about Stephen Báthory, the Ddke of GDL and king of Poland, to listeners in Kaunas



The exhibition in Marijampolė received attention from the local media



VU Library Day at Samogitian Diocese Museum in Varniai



People of Kražiai inspecting exhibits brought by the Library



Director Nijolė Klingaitė-Dasevičienė gives a presentation in Skuodas

## Back in time

It was the seventh time the Library has participated in the Culture Night project and the second time it has organised populal theatrical tours. Not just the students of the Faculty of History, Faculty of Philology and TSPMI students but also lecturers of the Faculty of History, the Faculty of Philosophy, the Library’s staff, representatives of VU administration contributed to the event. It was as if a time machine had taken visitors to times when Vilnius University was closed after the uprising in 1831, and the Museum of Antiquities operated in Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall.

The rich history of the university was revealed in new colours: we learned about the map of the banks of Neris River by Count Constantine Tyszkiewicz and saw its original stored at the Library, we fought a duel over the monument to Adam Mickiewicz and listened to the poetry of student Czeslaw Milosz –not to mention the participants of the National Expedition, the Senate of Stephen Báthory University with Cezaria Baudouin de Courtenay Ehrenkreutz, professor of anthropology, the issues of the young gymnasium student Pilsudski at the public library as well as chatting Professors Balys Sruoga and Vincas Krėvė with honorable Rapolas Mackonis.





Unexpected exhibits at the Museum of Antiquity



"Night of Culture" team



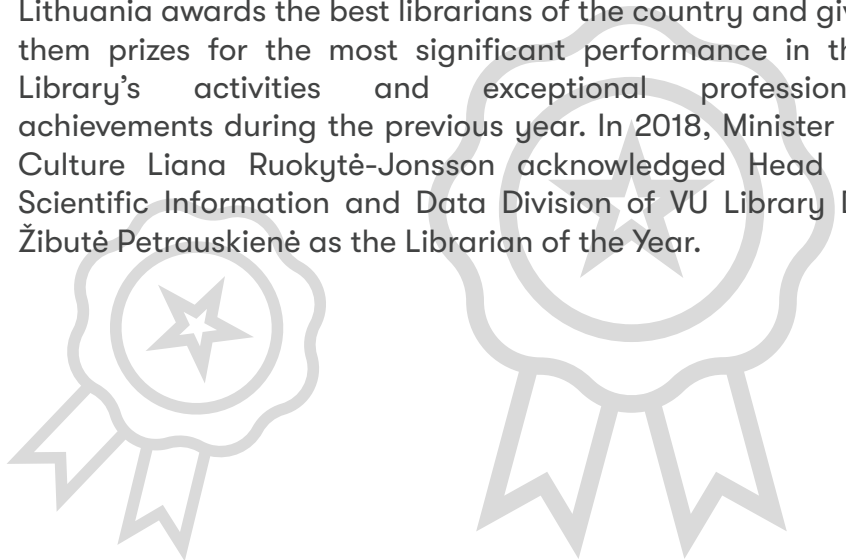
Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall turned into the Museum of Antiquity

## Certifications and awards



Dr Žibutė Petrauskienė (left) and Minister of Culture Liana Ruokytė-Jonsson (photo by Vygaudas Juozaitis)

Every year, the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania awards the best librarians of the country and give them prizes for the most significant performance in the Library's activities and exceptional professional achievements during the previous year. In 2018, Minister of Culture Liana Ruokytė-Jonsson acknowledged Head of Scientific Information and Data Division of VU Library Dr Žibutė Petrauskienė as the Librarian of the Year.



## Historical scenes are reborn at VU Library



The impressive spaces of VU Library are becoming more and more noticeable to film-makers. The episode of the film "Ashes in the Snow" (directed by Marius Markevičius) that appeared in 2018 had been filmed in the Joachim Lelewel Hall of the Library, which was transformed into a classroom of Kaunas School Library. The film "Ashes in the Snow" is based on Rūta Šepety's novel of the same title about mass deportations carried out by the Soviet government in the Baltic States.

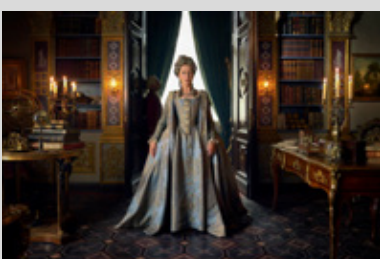


Photo by Hal Shinnie

Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall became a filming set as well – the filming of the mini-series "Catherine the Great" about the Russian Empress Catherine the Great (actress Helen Mirren), commissioned by HBO and Sky Atlantic television networks, temporarily took the Library back to the 18th century.

## Project activities

In 2018, the Library implemented or participated in the implementation of EU-funded international projects, national projects, the university's infrastructure development projects or small-scale cultural projects.

This year marks the end of a three-year project of the international programme COST for the integration of cultural heritage into the common European space "Reassembling the Republic of Letters, 1580-1800". The Library participated in the project by presenting the collection of VU Rector Marcin Poczobutt's letters stored at the Manuscripts Division.

The Library is a partner of the EU-funded national project "Opening of the Online Research Databases for Lithuania". During the project in 2018, the Library subscribed to 58 databases of electronic resources providing researchers and students with access to the main scientific information sources.

In November 2018, VU Library joined the national project "Development of a Virtual Cultural Space Satisfying the Needs of the Society" coordinated by Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania. The project team at the Library consists of 19 employees who are responsible for three main activities: creation of metadata, preparation of documents for digitisation, and digitisation. At the end of the project it is planned to transfer 6000 digital objects, most of which are digital images of manuscripts dating back from 17th to 18th centuries, to the Virtual Culture Heritage System.

In 2018, the project supported by the Lithuanian Council for Culture "Lithuania at Vilnius University Library" continued; the Library organised *Culture Night* event "Back in Time, or Images of Living History 2"; the following items were published: "Lithuanian Bibliography. Series C: Publications of Lithuanian Periodicals.1909, Vol.1" and the exhibition catalogue dedicated to the 100-year anniversary of the restoration of Lithuania's statehood "Freedom is More Precious than Gold"; an educational platform Media and Information Literacy was being developed.

In 2018, the restoration of the frescoes of Joachim Lelewel Hall was completed within the scope of the state investment project "Reconstruction of the Old Vilnius University Library" that had been implemented since 2006.



Photo by UAB Opus Optimum

## Expert activities

VU Library has its representatives in the Commission for Certification of Restorers of Movable Cultural Properties of the Republic of Lithuania, the National Memory of the World Committee, the Classical Association, the editorial board for National Bibliography, the Directors' Association of Lithuanian Academic Libraries (LABA), the Lithuanian Librarians' Association (LBD), the Technical Committee of Lithuanian Standards Board, the Organisational Psychology Committee of Lithuanian Psychological Association, the working group on the development of the National Digitisation Monitoring System, the Commission of Book Art Experts, the editorial board of the journal "Information Sciences", Lithuanian Communication Association (LTKA), and other organisations or groups.

## International organisations

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

## Special guests

Every year the university is visited by the representatives of foreign governments. In 2018, Vilnius University Library was visited by:

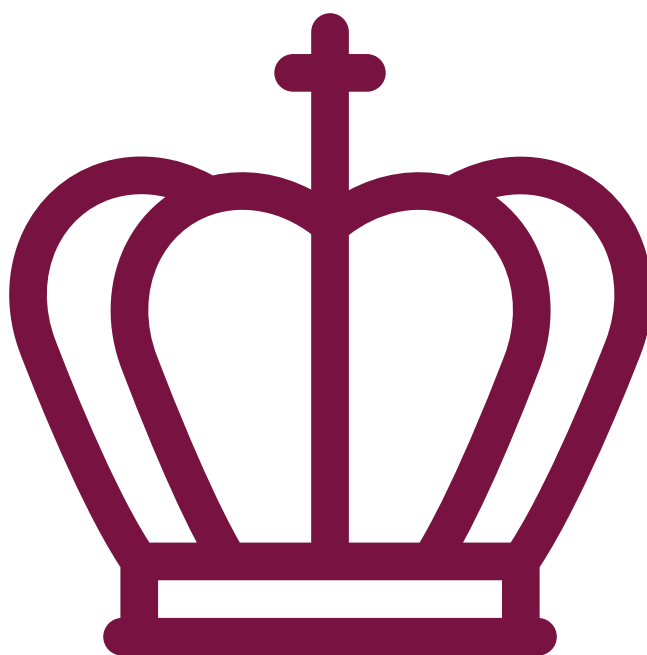
- Ambassador of Chile Julio Bravo Yubini
- President of Iceland Guðni Thorlacius Jóhannesson
- President of the Spanish Council of the State María Teresa Fernández de la Vega Sanz and Ambassador José María Robles Fraga
- Ambassador of Japan Shiro Yamasaki
- Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie, Countess of Wessex from the United Kingdom
- Ambassador of Montenegro Ljiljana Tošković and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro Prof. Dr Srdjan Darmanović
- Ambassador of China Shen Zhifei
- Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan Chingiz Aidarbekov
- Ambassador of Croatia Krešimir Kedmenec and Vice-Minister of Science and Education of Croatia Prof. Ivana Franić
- Minister of Justice of Ukraine Pavlo Petrenko

## A gift from the British royal family

On October 10, the Library was visited by the representatives of British royal family – Earl of Wessex Prince Edward and his wife Countess Sophie. The Earl and the Countess met with VU students of English Philology, visited Franciszek Smuglewicz Hall where they could see an exhibition of old British maps, plans and books by famous British scientists, philosophers and poets displayed on that occasion. Representatives of the royal family also attended an exhibition dedicated to the centenary of Lithuania's restored statehood, where they expressed interest in the smallest and largest books stored in the Library as well as astronomical instruments. The Prince presented the Library with *The Canterbury Tales* by Geoffrey Chaucer. He was the first British writer to have mentioned Lithuania – back in the 14th century.



Left to right: Nijolė Bulotaitė, Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, and Sophie, Countess of Wessex







**Vilnius  
University  
Library**