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## PREFACE

At the end of December 2009 Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania marked its 90th anniversary. The undergoing reconstruction of the library's main building and financial shortage prevented us from paying as appropriate tribute to this date as it deserves. Therefore the National Library has committed to present major areas of its activities through publications dedicated to this anniversary.

This research publication includes seven articles by the National Library's staff members. They cover multiple areas of the cultural heritage, thus revealing the wide span of their authors' professional interest.

Milda Baranauskienė surveys the project for the retroconversion of card catalogues and the national retrospective bibliography, which aims at providing ready and convenient access to information about the National Library's collections and the Lithuanian documentary heritage.

The National Library holds a robust collection of Hebrew and Yiddish documents. Larisa Lempertienė analyses the stage in the history of journalism and periodical press of Jewish enlighteners (*maskilim*) which is related to Vilnius, where the first Hebrew periodicals in the Russian Empire were published by S. J. Finas in 1844–1880.

Jadvyga Misiūnienė's article is also concerned with the National Library's documentary heritage collections. It presents a comprehensive analysis of Bibles from 15th–18th centuries.

Modernization of bibliographic control of documents has been one of the most significant transformative changes undertaken by the National Library. It has made Lithuania an equal partner in the programme of the Universal Bibliographic Control, enabling it to collect and disseminate information about Lithuanian national values as well as the language, traditions and current creative process of this country reflected in the published documents. Virginija Savickienė describes one area of this activity: preparation of the retrospective bibliography during 1999–2009.

Framing of memory institutions' organizational structures is often determined by sectoral factors, though a work of art, an authorial manuscript of this work or a review of this same work – all of them share the same cultural and historical context. Regina Varnienė-Janssen writes in her article about the development of a common approach to the cultural heritage, establishment of this approach within strategic documents on Lithuanian cultural policy and its realization.

Silvija Vėlavičienė presents two articles: one of them discusses the ways by which the documentary heritage of Lithuanian emigrants found its place in the virtual electronic heritage system which is being created, and the other unfolds the process of the search for emigration archives and their preservation.

Jonas Mačiulis analyses the coverage of Lithuanian pseudonyms in several international digests of pseudonyms.

*Bibliografija* has a tradition of presenting materials from annual IFLA general conferences. This issue also includes reports by foreign authors delivered at the 75th IFLA conference in Milan, Italy, in 2009.

Erin Coburn, Elisa Lanzi, Elizabeth O'Keefe, Regine Stein and Ann Whiteside discuss *Cataloging Cultural Objects*, a practical guide to description, documentation and cataloguing of cultural works and their images, and its influence and implementation in cataloguing settings for the museum and image library community.

Gordon Dunsire introduces the new metadata standard *RDA: Resource Description and Access* developed for describing the content of information resources and facilitating identification and access of this content in the context of associated models and the Semantic Web.

Gabriella Contardi describes the Italian National Library Service (SBN) and the newly created SBN system, which represent a cooperative library service infrastructure and bibliographic control.

Jan Pisanski, Maja Žumer and Trond Aalberg in their article "Frbrisation: Towards a Bright New Future for National Bibliographies" investigate application of the FRBR conceptual model for modernization of the display of bibliographic information. FRBR has the power to eliminate duplication of data in databases, helps establish order and has the potential to turn linear library databases into a true networked environment.

Mirna Willer writes about changes and additions to the third edition of *UNIMARC Manual: Authorities Format*, which permit more concise description of objects, also facilitate access to them.

Barbara B. Tillett presents the International Cataloguing Principles (ICP) report.

This collection of articles also introduces the publication *National Bibliographies in the Digital Age: Guidance and New Directions*, among the authors of which is the representative of Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania.

Regina Varnienė-Janssen