

PREFACE

The present volume of research articles was intended to provide a diverse range of issues related to cultural heritage preservation and access. We hope that this purpose has been achieved – the volume presents publications by Lithuanian scholars and professionals concerning unique and varied issues which extend beyond the typical subject matter of *Bibliografija*.

The broad spectrum of subjects within this volume ranges from the analysis of the strategy and programmes for long-term preservation of the cultural heritage (Regina Varnienė-Janssen) to discussing the Lithuanian national identity (Romualdas Grigas).

Discussion on strategic and philosophical issues of cultural heritage is well complemented by articles on digital content creation, which considerably extends the possibilities for the access and use of the preserved cultural assets. Loreta Meškelevičienė writes about digitization of works of art, paintings, photographs, exhibits of bionistics, sphragistics, and numerous other objects preserved at the Lithuanian Art Museum under the joint project together with the National Library of Lithuania and the Lithuanian Archives Department. The digital content of the cultural heritage is enriched by the “revived voices” from digitized Lithuanian shellac records. The publication by Eglė Marčėnienė, besides its main focus on the project for digitization of shellac records undertaken by the National Library, presents much valuable information about specific features of shellac record production and the contemporary sound recording context.

The Lithuanian cultural heritage digitization initiatives as well as creation of the integral space for digital content are in direct connection with the national digital library of the cultural heritage, the vision of which, in its turn, emanates from the European Digital Library Initiative. In her article, Zinaida Manžuch discusses the strategy for the European Digital Library Initiative and its implementation.

The national cultural heritage is also enriched by the creative legacy of Lithuanian emigrants, which, after a certain period of time, is finding its way back to the native soil. Every year the holdings of the National Library of Lithuania are increased with a supplement of valuable archival documents, manuscripts, and library collections which belonged to Lithuanians who lived and created abroad. Dalia Tarailienė introduces the archival legacy of the USA journalist, traveller, public and cultural figure Matas Šalčius preserved at the National Library of Lithuania. The publication by Viktorija Vaitkevičiūtė-Verbickienė is about incunabula within the Rare Book and

Manuscript Collection of the National Library of Lithuania.

The surprise of the present volume is the publication by Sandra Kuliešienė devoted to illustrations of the old Lithuanian book. The author focuses on one particular feature of book typography – ornamentation elements, which, as the author puts it, “...laid foundations for the development of the modern national book art in Lithuania”.

Audronė Matijošienė, having an extensive experience in the field of analytical bibliography, summarizes the preparation of *Lietuvos bibliografija. Serija C. Lietuviškų periodinių leidinių publikacijos* (“The Bibliography of Lithuania”. Series C. Publications of Lithuanian Periodicals”), describes the compilation process of the individual volumes of the series, and determines the role of fiction in the development of the Lithuanian periodical press.

The publication by the long-time member of *Bibliografija*'s editorial board Osvaldas Janonis features a new monograph on the retrospective bibliography of Russia.

It has become a tradition to present materials from IFLA's annual general conferences in *Bibliografija*. This volume contains reports by authors from various countries presented at IFLA conferences. Part of these reports deal with the practice of bibliographic control in different countries: *National Bibliographies: Past, Present and Future – the Korean Experience* (Yeon-Kyoung Chung), *National Bibliographies: the Chinese Experience* (Ben Gu), *Status of National Bibliographies in the CIS Countries of Central Asia* (Aleksandr Dzhigo and Aleksandra Teplitskaya).

The other part of the publications by foreign authors is devoted to innovations in cataloguing. Besides presenting these innovations to the professional community, we were guided by the aim of encouraging their implementation in libraries and other memory institutions of Lithuania. The publication by Rick Bennett and colleagues investigates creation of the Virtual International Authority File. Alan Danskin provides the answer to the question that he himself raises: is the end of cataloguing inevitable? Mauro Guerrini and colleagues discuss the subject of corporate authorship and production of archival authority records.

I hope that the present volume of *Bibliografija* will be helpful not only to librarians. Some of the issues covered in it may be of interest to colleagues from museums and archives as well as university students.

Regina Varnienė-Janssen