

# The Journal *Relevant Tomorrow* Continues and Updates the Tradition of the Scholarly Publishing of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

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It is not common international practice for a periodical research journal to have a foreword. In this journal, a foreword may mark some exceptional event, the journal's anniversary or some other important occasion. This time such an exceptional event is the appearance of the first volume of 2021 of the journal *Relevant Tomorrow*, which continues and updates the tradition of the scholarly publishing of the Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania (hereinafter 'National Library'). The volume, therefore, deserves to include a brief annotation about the circumstances of its origin, subject matter, and structure.

In 2020, the National Library updated its strategy for the publishing of its scholarly journals and dissemination of their content. One of the outcomes of this updating has been the appearance of a new periodical scholarly journal, *Relevant Tomorrow*, namely its Volume 1(19). The basis for such a journal was formed by the continuing research publications *Bibliografija* ('Bibliography')<sup>1</sup> and *Bibliotekų tyrimai Lietuvoje* ('Library Research in Lithuania'),<sup>2</sup> but the journal *Relevant Tomorrow* not only continues the tradition of the National Library's scholarly publishing but also marks its updating. All this is apparent from the numeration of Volume 1(19)<sup>3</sup> as well as texts published in it.

Extremely rapid social, economic, and political developments undergoing in Lithuania as well as global telematization tendencies, which, in the words of the philosopher Marius P. Šaulauskas, pervade arguably the entire sphere of coexistence,<sup>4</sup> require critical reflection. Without reflection, there can be no targeted forecasting of the national development. Such realities and developments made the impetus to broaden the journal's scope: alongside traditional studies in bibliography and information control, it was

<sup>1</sup> Published from 1997 until 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Published from 2015 until 2019.

<sup>3</sup> 4 issues of *Bibliotekų tyrimai Lietuvoje* and 14 issues of *Bibliografija* were published. The issues are available in the section 'Archive' of the Website of *Relevant Tomorrow* <https://journals.lnb.lt/relevant-tomorrow/issue/archive>.

<sup>4</sup> Šaulauskas, M. P. Po dviejų *homo irretitus* dekadų: neviltytys ir svajos. *Informacijos mokslai*, 2011, t. 58, p. 21. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.15388/Im.2011.0.3125>.

decided to publish articles on safety of information environment, media and information literacy, information policy and communication processes, and methodological issues. All this makes the bulk of the journal's subject matter. In order to establish academic discourse and interdisciplinary communication, the journal will present material from the fields of political and social sciences and history research. All these thematic fields of research will provide the journal's mandatory structural part, i.e., articles.

Another very important and explicit area of the journal's focus is the increasing of its transnational aspect from thematic and linguistic points of view. The journal is bilingual: it publishes articles in Lithuanian and English. We invite you to submit manuscripts analysing today's social changes (related to the journal's aim and scope) from a comparative and international perspective.

The journal will publish surveys of significant events and conferences and other information of current interest conforming to its scope as well as reviews and annotations of research monographs and studies published in Lithuania and abroad that are important as regards its subject matter. These texts will make up the journal's second structural part 'Surveys / Chronicle' and 'Reviews'. In order to achieve the stated objectives, an international editorial board has been established. The journal is and will continue to be published in electronic form. It is noteworthy that it is a diamond open access journal.<sup>5</sup>

The articles of the first volume of *Relevant Tomorrow* reflect both the continuity of the journal's tradition (of the research studies *Bibliografija* and *Bibliotekų tyrimai Lietuvoje*) and the broadening of its focus. The articles are arranged into the following thematic categories: (1) 'Lithuanian Libraries in Today's Reality', (2) 'Social Policy', and (3) 'History Research'. Thus the volume features texts on communication and information, political science, and history research, which reflect the journal's interdisciplinary quality.

It is the first (and the largest) thematic category 'Lithuanian Libraries in Today's Reality' that best reflects the continuity of the journal's tradition. It begins with the article by Regina Varnienė-Janssen and Jūratė Kuprienė 'Linked Open Data as a Strategic Orientation of Lithuanian Libraries'. The article has the purpose to initiate a broader discussion among Lithuanian libraries as well as draw the attention of cultural policy makers to the necessity that, in a strategic document on library development, the transformation of library data management be oriented at linked open data by emphasizing the integrity of data within the library sector and that financial support for the realization of such transformation be provided. Daiva Janavičienė's article 'Transformations of the Lithuanian Librarian's Profession: Professionalism and Development of Competences' also reflects the endeavour of Lithuanian libraries to satisfy today's requirements. The article's currency is determined by the contemporary realities of librarianship in Lithuania. More specifically, there is no single system for professional training and developing the library staff's competences in Lithuania. Because of the absence of applicants, there are no librarianship study programmes at higher education establishments. The article, by drawing on the conception of professionalism of today's librarian and on qualitative empirical research, analyses competences determining the Lithuanian librarian's professionalism and the main obstacles and challenges facing the development of such competences. The article by Rasa Januševičienė 'Activities of Lithuanian Public Libraries in the Face of the COVID-19 Pandemic and Migrant Crisis: the Endeavour to Ensure Human Rights' discusses the role of Lithuanian libraries under the circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. It, by drawing on subject literature analysis and results from empirical research, generalizes activities of Lithuania's public libraries in ensuring the reinforcement of human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic and migrant crisis as well as presents recommendations for public libraries how to contribute to solving issues caused by today's crises in Lithuania. The article by Petras Biveinis 'Project Activities of Lithuanian Municipal Public Libraries in 1995–2017' closes this thematic cluster devoted to the analysis of the place of Lithua-

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<sup>5</sup> The journal's content is free to access, read, download, copy, and print. There are no publication fees, and authors retain full copyright and related rights to their work.

nian libraries in the contemporary world. It presents a panoramic survey of project activities undertaken by Lithuania's municipal public libraries during the period of 1995–2017.

The second thematic category 'Social Policy' is represented by article 'The Functioning of Parliamentary Libraries and the Principle of the Separation of Powers' (in the English language) by Magnus Tomas Kėvišas. The article's main conclusion is that a parliamentary library in its services and products is to include as consistent as possible monitoring of the public discourse in order to allow for the expression of 'parliamentarianism' in its analytic interpretation.

The third thematic category, 'History Research', features the article 'A New Reading of Stafford Cripps's Memorandum of 22 October 1940' (translated into Lithuanian by Andrius Vaišnys), the author of which is the Polish historian Magdalena Hułas. The article's currency is determined by geopolitical shifts in Europe during the recent decades. It elaborates on a British proposal for the Soviet government to balance bilateral relations at the time when the Soviet Union had already reached an agreement with the Third Reich (to divide spheres of influence in Central and Eastern Europe). In order to weaken this agreement, the Government of Great Britain offered beneficial opportunities for the USSR, especially related to post-war solutions in the States of Eastern and Central Europe (Poland, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania and, lastly, in Romania). The article analyses the process of the preparation of the memorandum and the reaction of the Polish government in exile to efforts of Great Britain in seeking an agreement with Moscow.

The second structural part of the journal 'Reviews' presents the text by Daiva Janavičienė 'The Healing Power of Reading Books: About Implementation Activities of the Project "Application of Bibliotherapy at Libraries" at Lithuania's County Public Libraries". It briefly surveys the 2020–2021 project for the development of bibliotherapy competences, which was the first such project in Lithuania with regard to its scope and which had the purpose to develop skills of the staff of public libraries in solving problems of social exclusion and increasing accessibility of culture by the general public.

We are thankful to anonymous reviewers for critical remarks and constructive suggestions regarding the improvement of manuscripts submitted to the journal.

Translated by Tomas Auškálnis