

# LATVIJAS ARHĪVI

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## ARCHIVES

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### INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS IN PRACTICE: THE LITHUANIAN APPROACH

The focus in this paper is the application of international standards in Lithuania today and in the past, on disseminating drafts of Lithuanian standards, on the activities of the LST TC 47 Technical Committee, "Information and Documentation", as well as on the expansion of standardisation work in Lithuania and the future prospects for these processes. The authors offer a review of the currently situation with the implementation of ISO and IFLA standards in Lithuania. Nearly 40 ISO standards have been adopted already, half of them involving the publication of identical texts, the other half involving endorsements. IFLA standards used in Lithuanian libraries match the framework of the new IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards (ICABS). One of the fundamental projects in ICABS-ISBD development obliges national bibliographic agencies to take responsibility for creating a definite record for each bibliographic resource that is issued in the relevant country. Documents which have been presented to the library community by the Permanent UNIMARC Committee as part of major ICABS activities have provided information and linguistic support for the Lithuanian Integral Library Information System (LIBIS).

*Keywords:* LST TK 47 Technical Committee, Lithuanian standards, ISO standards, IFLA standards.

#### The LST TC 47 Technical Committee

Lithuania and the other Baltic countries began their standardisation efforts in response to the requirements of international and European standardisation institutions almost simultaneously in the early 1990s, because all three countries faced a very similar social and economic situation. At this point, standardisation activities in the Baltic States are guided by ISO and European regulations, as well as IFLA standards. In Lithuania, a law on standardisation was adopted in 2000 and updated in 2007.<sup>1</sup>

Before the restoration of independence from the Soviet Union, Lithuania had no standards of its own. Initially after the regaining of independence, standards were often prepared at the initiative of relevant individuals. It was at the end of 1997 that the Lithuanian Standards Board (LST) began to change the process of drafting standards in the hope of developing and improving the standardisation system. Since that time, the establishment of technical committees has been mandatory in the process of drafting standards.

Late in 1998, the Lithuanian Standards Board approached the National Martynas Mažvydas Library's Centre for Bibliography and Book Science – an institution which had considerable experience in the adoption of ISO standards – to establish a specific technical committee in this regard. The result was the TC 47 Technical Committee on Library Science, and it began to work on standardisation at Lithuania's libraries. New standards were developed for library science, bibliography and publishing, and these were all based on the relevant international and European standards. The Mažvydas Library offered the necessary impulse to expand the committee's work, and since then it has conducted oversight of the aforementioned activities. Libraries, museums, archives and other relevant public and private institutions have been actively involved in the process since 2003.<sup>2</sup> The number of representatives from major libraries has increased from five at the beginning to 24 now. They represent various institutions, including museums and archives. In 2007, the Technical Committee established a new working group, "Cinematographic Works." Representatives of the group are participating in the work of the CEN/BT/TF 179 technical committee of the European Standardisation Committee, which works on film identification standards.

*Table 1*

Participants in the LST TC 47 Committee

1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
5	5	5	5	5	18	21	22	21	24

Table 2

Number of representatives from libraries, archives  
museums and other institutions

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Libraries	5	5	5	5	5	7	7	6	6	7
Museums	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	3	3
Archives	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	7	6	7
Others	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	6	6	7
Total	5	5	5	5	5	18	21	22	21	24

The work of the LST TC 47 Committee, “Information and Documentation”, mirrors that of the ISO TC 47 Committee. The Lithuanian Standards Board became an observer member of all four of that organisation’s subcommittees in February 2002 – SC 4 (Technical Interoperability), SC 8 (Quality – Statistics and Performance Evaluation), SC 9 (Identification and Description), and SC 11 (Archives/Records Management).

In 2003, the Committee underwent fundamental transformation in its structural framework. Several memory institutions and other relevant organisations became involved in the standardisation activities. TC 47 Library Science changed its name to Information and Documentation. At this writing, it has three subcommittees – SC 1 (Information and Linguistic Support), SC 2 (Archives and Records Management), and SC 3 (Museums). In March 2004, the Lithuanian Standards board approved new regulations for TC 47 Information and Documentation.

Lithuanian standards are prepared in accordance with an approved standards programme and schedule. Information about the programme is regularly published by the Standards Board. Its Website offers the Lithuanian Standards Catalogue.<sup>3</sup>

LST TK 47 annually presents its standards programme to the Standards Board for adoption. Subsidies are provided for expert translation and terminology assignments.

### Lithuanian Standards

Prior to 1998, a total of 13 Lithuanian standards were adopted. They were based on Soviet-era GOST standards, although consideration was also given to the relevant ISO standards. Six of these standards were withdrawn at the

beginning of 2000. There are seven standards in the area of librarianship terms and definitions which will remain valid until such time as ISO 5127 (Information and Documentation: Vocabulary) is adopted as the national standard. This is the first exhaustive international standard on library, archive and museum terminology to date, and it represents a successful effort to combine the full scope of terms and definitions in one homogeneous document. The State Commission on the Lithuanian Language has its own rules on the adoption of standards.<sup>4</sup> The ISO 5127 standard has been presented to it for its approval.

Standards related to international standard numbers and ISO publishing standards were given top priority in the adoption process, because they are closely related to the practices of the Centre for Bibliography and Book Science – the primary institution in the production of the National Bibliography.

In 1992, even before the establishment of LST TC, the Centre for Bibliography and Book Science of the Mažvydas Library was assigned the duty of supervising the implementation of publishing standards. There was no provision for this in the 1992 regulations for the National Library, but a new regulation, adopted in 2006, assigns it the obligation of overseeing the implementation of publishing standards. Information about these standards is available on the library's Website.<sup>5</sup> Several thousand monographs, periodicals and other publications are examined each year. Publishers are notified about publishing data inaccuracies by E-mail, phone or letter.<sup>6</sup>

It is also recommended that publishers apply those international standards which have been accepted as national standards. All but two ISO standards have been adopted as such standards. The two exceptions are standards which are classified according to ICS 01.140.20. Lithuania's law on public information, which was adopted in 2006, declared that "each publication shall indicate its circulation and other publishing data, as specified by the Lithuanian standard, as well as the international standard number of the document (ISBN, ISSN, ISMN, et al.)."<sup>7</sup>

Lithuania's ISBN, ISSN and ISMN agencies operate at the Centre for Bibliography and Book Science of the Martynas Mažvydas Library. Approximately 90% of monographs, periodicals and printed musical

documents in Lithuania bear an international ID number. Approximately 95% of books have an ISBN number, and 80% of printed musical documents have an ISMN number. According to the Lithuanian ISSN agency, approximately 90% of periodicals have an ISSN number.

The LST ISO 690 and ISO 690-2 bibliographic reference standards are extensively used in academia in Lithuania. Some universities publish study pamphlets on bibliographic references so as to introduce students to reference standards and their application. Such standards are also mandatory for most research papers that are published in Lithuania.

The development of the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System has stimulated the adoption of international standards that are used to general application programmes. One, Dublin Core, is now available in Lithuania for use by museums and archives.

The International Library Statistics Standard is the most popular standard among librarians. Standards in Lithuania, as in other European countries, are applied on a voluntary basis, but the use of the International Library Statistics Standard at libraries is governed by instructions from the Lithuanian culture minister. It is obligatory for all libraries in terms of the recording of statistical data. Lithuanian libraries use statistical data and accession list forms prepared by the National Library on the basis of the international standard.

Of particular significance of museums and other memory institutions is ISO 21127:2006 "Information and Documentation: A Reference Ontology for the Exchange of Cultural Heritage Information". It was included into the national Technical Committee's standards programme in 2007 and was translated into Lithuanian.

ISO 15489 is the first international standard on best practices in records management. It has also been translated into Lithuania and is useful for record-keeping professionals in the development of new approaches to records management.

Another significant area of standardisation operations involves the use of IFLA standards in Lithuania. A fresh start in this regard was given by the foundation of the IFLA-CDNL Alliance for Bibliographical Standards (ICABS) in 2003. The Permanent UNIMARC Committee (PUC), which was established in 1991, is a division of the alliance. The UNIMARC format has

been approved as the national machine-readable standard for the creation of bibliographic and authority files in Lithuania. All of the documents of the PUC have been translated into Lithuanian, and they are indispensable for libraries which are installing or accepting new information technologies. The latest documents issued by the PUC and implemented in Lithuania are Manual Bibliographic Format/1994 Update 5; Guidelines No. 6 Electronic Resources; Guidelines No. 7 Music; and Guidelines No. 8 Periodicals and Other Continuing Resources.

Further development of the machine-readable format depends on the success of the worldwide information community in terms of the evolution of technological innovations. Projects such as ISBD, FRBR, FRANAR, etc., are of considerable relevance, as are projects which relate to the creation of cataloguing rules.

The International Standard Bibliographic Description is universally accepted. All ISBD publications have been translated into Lithuanian, and the ISBD system is in place in the country. A decisive push in revising the ISBD involved a new IFLA project – Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records. A consolidated ISBD, adopted as an IFLA standard, will be translated into Lithuanian. Other ISBD editions will be revised accordingly.

Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records is not a standard as such, just a reference model to update computer software. These requirements have been translated into Lithuanian and are used to update the LIBIS cataloguing subsystem.

This brief review of the application of ISO and IFLA standards in Lithuania may serve as an example of how standardisation activities offer a favourable opportunity for international and domestic collaboration among libraries, museums and archives in pursuit of their common aims: long-term preservation of cultural and intellectual heritage, provision of up-to-date access to that heritage, and satisfying the challenges of the modern digital information environment.

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## INTERNACIONĀLIE STANDARTI PRAKSĒ: LIETUVAS PIEEJA

Raksta uzmanības centrā ir internacionālo standartu lietošana Lietuvā šobrīd un nesenā pagātnē – Lietuvas standartu projektu izstrāde un aprobācija, LST TC 47 Tehniskās komitejas darbība, kā arī standartizācijas darba Lietuvā attīstība un tā nākotnes perspektīvas. Aplūkots arī ISO un IFLA standartu lietojums mūsdienās. Gandrīz 40 ISO standarti ir pieņemti, puse no tiem tiek lietoti identisku tekstu publikācijās, bet pārējie tiek apgūti. IFLA standartu lietošana Lietuvas bibliotēkās saskaņota jaunās LA-CDNL Bibliogrāfisko standartu alianses (ICABS) ietvaros. Šis fundamentālais projekts ICABS-ISBD attīstībā uzliek bibliogrāfiskajām aģentūrām pienākumu uzņemties atbildību par noteikta pieraksta veidošanu katram bibliogrāfiskajam resursam, kas radīts/izdots šajā valstī. Dokumenti, ko Patstāvīgā UNIMARC komiteja prezentēja bibliotēku darbiniekiem kā ICABS darbības būtisku sastāvdaļu, piedāvāja Lietuvas starpbibliotēku informācijas sistēmai (LIBIS) informatīvu un lingvistisku atbalstu.

*Atslēgvārdi:* LST TK 47 Tehniskā komiteja, Lietuvas standarti, ISO standarti, IFLA standarti.