NATIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHIC DATA BANK
AND SERVICES

It has been written more than once about the National Bibliographic Data Bank and its services rendered. Going back to this rather widely discussed theme it must be acknowledged that everyday practice indicates that it is still important to inform further the library public book publishers and distributors that an effective system capable to provide all-round information on documents issued in Lithuania and their publishers is already established in the country. The aim of this paper is to reveal the functions and the application sphere of the National Bibliographic Data Bank.

The National Bibliographic Data Bank (NBDB) is one of constituent part of LIBIS, intended for bibliographic information on the accumulation of Lithuanian and Lithuanian related documents and disseminating this information on domestic and world scale [1,2]. Although the LIBIS project has envisaged the creation of the NBDB, no separate financing for this assignment was granted. The NBDB has gradually developed during the creation process of the Lithuanian research libraries Union Catalogue, as well as of the acquisition and other subsystems.

The National Bibliographic Data Bank organizational and functional structure was formed in accordance with an earlier prepared and approved conception [3], to which the time made some adjustments [4,5]. For example, there was a long hesitation whether to create separate databases of current and retrospective national bibliography. Accomplishing the NBDB the project underwent changes and the development of a single Bibliographic Records Database began, allowing to save material resources and to ensure the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the search. In the Bibliographic Records Database, entries of all the documents, i.e. books, serials, electronic and other sorts of documents are being accumulated.

The LIBIS project had in mind the one-off cataloguing of documents and the multifunctional usage of bibliographic record, thus seeking to bring about the savings of staff and material resources, the accuracy of provided information, the completeness of bibliographic resources, etc.

In order to achieve this aim, the work of the subdivisions of the Bibliography and Book Science Center (BBSC) was reorganized in such way that a document having came the once to this institution should be
catalogued only one time and should serve by fulfilling multiple functions. It can be seen from the attached chart that at the BBSC a closed cycle of record processing is established in, commencing from a layout bibliographic record of a publication under preparation in a book-making CIP and closing with the distribution of a prepared bibliographic record in the form of publication or in the Internet. To achieve the amalgamation of all the BBSC processes it was necessary that all subdivisions were to apply unified software, and this was not an easy task due to various objective conditions. For instance, the ISSN Agency up to now applies the OSIRIS software obligatory to all national agencies. Seeking to link-up the records a data converter was introduced. By taking a decision on unifying software on the scale of the entire National Library it was aimed to ensure that all the BBSC units directed their work towards a united NBDB which comprised three main databases: Bibliographic Records, Authority Records and Factographic Records.

Parallel to the creation of the NBDB, efforts were made to integrate the way of processing bibliographic record from the very beginning of publication’s release. For this purpose one more unit - the Cataloguing in Publication Agency - was established and bibliographic records made in the Agency (CIP) were eventually provided in released publications. These records in adherence to corresponding requirements are included in the Bibliographic Records Database. A filled in label of the record indicates that this is a pre-publication record. Simultaneously a still unpublished document is assigned with respective standard number: ISBN, ISMN. The ISBN National Agency, having assigned international standard number to a publication to be released, working together with the CIP Agency, additionally prepares bibliographic record of respective structure.

When document is released and its legal deposit copies are delivered to the Bibliography and Book Science Centre, the staff of the Legal Deposit Acquisition and Control Department retrieves from the Bibliographic Records Database prepared pre-publication bibliographic record of a document, inserts additional data and corrections if required. In case such record is absent in the database, for a recently published document which has already arrived at the BBSC, a new bibliographic record is made.

After the registration of a document in the Legal Deposit Acquisition and Control Department, primary material is directed to the National Current Bibliography Department for a comprehensive cataloguing. Librarians of this department, on the basis of pre-publication record, prepared or upgraded by the Legal Deposit Acquisition and Control Department, prepare an exhaustive bibliographic record of the publication in line with an approved document [6]. The Press Statistics Subdivision, having available bibliographic records of documents in the Bibliographic Database, supplement them with necessary data. From this database “Lietuvos spaudos statistika” (Lithuanian Press Statistics), a publication providing versatile statistical information on the national publishing, is compiled. Statistics prepared from the Bibliographic Records Database are copied to the Factographic Records Database. The NBDB Bibliographic Records Database ensures the preparation of current national bibliography publication “Bibliografijos inios” (Bibliography News). Without probing into the structure of this publication and the modifications it underwent, it is worth mentioning that from 1997 a new series of the publication “Garso dokumentai” (Sound Recording Documents) is available. The National Retrospective Bibliography Department also contributes to the growing of the Bibliographic Records Database by supplying it with bibliographic records embracing relevant periods of their research - the records include books covering the period of 1905-1917, Lithuanian serials of the years 1823-1940, articles from the Lithuanian serials of 1832-1890, Lithuanian books published over the period of 1918-1940, the 17th-century Polish and Latin books.

At present, the Bibliographic Record Database is being formed by applying LIBIS software - this include both current bibliography and retrospective national bibliography, records of which are transferred to the LIBIS Union Catalogue and are accessible to Lithuanian and foreign consumers using data transferring protocol Z39.50.

It is obvious that automation in essence altered the bibliographic record’s structure, its preparation and conception. Only its derivation format, which is provided in printed publications or traditional catalogue, remains close to old conception of ours. However in computerized environment, besides bibliographic records, the authority records formed for individual authors, corporate authors, series, unit titles, titles of anonymous classical works still circulate and they are linked to bibliographic records with the help of special communication technology existing in UNIMARC format structure and software means. Aiming to eliminate duplication of functions in the preparation of authority records, the sharing of responsibilities and distribution of functions among the National Library subdivisions were introduced.
A third database in the NBDB structure is that of factographic records in which material from the ISBN, ISSN and ISMN Agencies and statistical data about Lithuanian press are accumulated.

Taking into account a specific character of data and the fact that they are arranged not in UNIMARC format and besides, it must adhere to the requirements of international organisations and centres, the data are stored in a separate database.

Along with prime functions carried on by the NBDB of accumulating and forming databases of current and retrospective national bibliography and preparing publications, an effective information system publisher – national bibliographic system – book trade – library was created, enabling not only to save material, staff and technological resources and standardize the bibliographic record, but to give versatile information about documents and their publishers in the country. The establishment of such system was quickened as a result of abolition of state structures, which had regulated the publishing sphere. For this reason, the BBSC, as a sole national institution possessing at its disposal reliable information on publishers and their coming output, set about fulfilling several previously not executed functions: collecting information about publishers and preparing publications “Katalogas “Lietuvos leidejai” (Lithuanian Publishers Catalogue), “Parduodamu Lietuvos knygų katalogas” (Lithuanian Books in Print Catalogue) “Rengiamq spaudai knygu katalogas” (Books in Preparation Catalogue), the latest publication being a prospective one.

With setting up the Cataloguing in Publication Agency the creation of the system publisher – national bibliographic system – book trade – library was actually concluded. Out of currently functioning databases it is possible to collect quite precise information on documents under preparation, to standardize bibliographic record in books, to speed up the search of necessary documents according to international standard numbers (ISSN, ISBN, ISMN) and to issue various kinds of publications.

In the entire functioning cycle of this system a great deal of information is stored in various databases. Information from these bases is available to consumers not only in our country but to those abroad as well. Data from the ISSN, ISMN and ISBN Agencies get to international databases by interactive mode from where they again are reachable on-line in every point of the world.

Recently another publication for Lithuanian and foreign customers - “Lietuvos leidejai” (Lithuanian Publishers)- prepared by using the NBDB databases has came into existence. It contains names and titles of publishers of books, musical scores and serials. Thematics covered by every publisher are indicated in Lithuanian and English, and information on book publishers in separate subject fields is provided as well. In entries dealing with serial publishers, all the titles of their newspapers and journals are listed. This publication filled information gap, which emerged after the abolition of Public Information Media Board, as this caused discontinuity of some required publications.

To meet the demands of book traders and publishers “Parduodamu Lietuvos knygų katalogas” (Lithuanian Books in Print Catalogue) is prepared on the basis of data stored in the BBSC as well as provided by traders and publishers themselves, containing classified information on what books are available and where they can be obtained.

In summary, it should be said that the reform of the current and retrospective national bibliography of Lithuania was carried out after devising a conception which envisioned discontinuity of duplicating functions in cataloguing Lithuanian and related to Lithuania documents on a nation-wide scale and the creation of the National Bibliographic Data Bank. This Data Bank became a constituent part of the LIBIS project and joined the international information network through the agencies of national numbering systems.

simultaneously it sought the objective of integrating such close domains of cultural activity as publishing, book trade and librarianship. The outcome of this task is the currently existing system, allowing to unify bibliographic record in book, to facilitate the search for Lithuanian documents home and abroad via standard numbers and thereby on the basis of already stored data to provide information about Lithuanian documents and publishers.
LIST OF LITERATURE


