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- 6 June 2002 [shall come into force on 5 July 2002];
- 8 December 2005 [shall come into force on 5 January 2006];
- 13 November 2008 [shall come into force on 1 July 2009];
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- 28 February 2013 [shall come into force on 29 March 2013];
- 29 May 2014 [shall come into force on 18 June 2014].

If a whole or part of a section has been amended, the date of the amending law appears in square brackets at the end of the section. If a whole section, paragraph or clause has been deleted, the date of the deletion appears in square brackets beside the deleted section, paragraph or clause.

The *Saeima*<sup>1</sup> has adopted and  
the President has proclaimed the following Law:

## Library Law

### Section 1. Terms Used in this Law

The following terms are used in this Law:

- 1) **database** - a specially organised collection of data, which includes information concerning documents, their contents, features and interrelationships, which is accessible to users of a library;
- 2) **depository library** - a library, in which little used printed publications and other documents from libraries are accepted for storage;
- 3) **document** - written information, which in the process of documentation may be considered as one unit, regardless of its physical form and characteristic features;
- 4) **electronic publication** - information that is recorded by means of audio recording, video recording or computer recording, which is duplicated on cassettes, computer disks, compact disks and which, with the aid of appropriate equipment and software, is accessible to users;
- 5) **printed publication** - a self-contained publication, editorially processed by a publishing house or other publishing agency, produced and duplicated as a polygraphically printed or off-printed publication, brochure, publication for the visually impaired, cartographic publication, newspaper, technical publication, printed music or similar publication;
- 6) **information system** - the whole of the equipment, procedures and personnel, which is developed, operated and maintained in order to gather, process, store and utilise information;
- 7) **information technology** - all of the methods of information collection, processing, storage and conversion, used in data processing and communication systems;
- 8) [8 December 2005];
- 9) **mandatory copy of publication** - a copy of a printed publication or electronic publication, which, in accordance with the procedures set out by the law regulating the provision of a mandatory copy of publications, shall be received by the National Library of Latvia and other libraries;
- 10) **inter-library loan** - a form of library co-operation pursuant to which any library, for a time, receives from or lends to another library printed publications or other documents, or document copies to meet the needs of library users;
- 11) **international inter-library loan** - a form of international library co-operation within which any library, for a

time, receives from or lends to another library printed publications or other documents, or copies of document to meet the needs of library users;

12) **library** - an educational, informative and cultural institution or a structural unit thereof, which performs the functions specified in this Law and is registered in accordance with the procedures laid down in this Law;

13) **library collection** - the entirety of the existing documents in a library.

*[8 December 2005]*

## **Section 2. Purpose and Operation of this Law**

(1) The purpose of this Law is to specify public relationships in the field of libraries, in order to ensure the operation of libraries and to facilitate the preservation and development of Latvia's cultural heritage.

(2) This law applies to all libraries, which directly or indirectly receive funds from the State budget and local government budgets or State budget or local governments budgets, as well as to registered private libraries.

*[8 December 2005]*

## **Section 3. Library Functions**

A library shall perform the following functions:

1) cultural heritage of the world - printed publications, electronic publications, manuscripts and other documents - the collection, systemisation, cataloguing, bibliographic classification and storage thereof;

2) ensure public access to the library collection and its utilisation and the provision of library services.

*[8 December 2005]*

## **Section 4. Legal Basis of the Operations of Libraries**

(1) The legal basis of the operations of libraries shall be this Law, the Law On The National Library of Latvia, other laws and regulatory enactments, as well as library by-laws (articles of association).

(2) The by-laws (articles of association) of a library are approved by its founder.

## **Section 5. General Principles of the Operations of Libraries**

(1) Printed publications, electronic publications, manuscripts and other documents in library collections, regardless of their author's political, ideological, religious or other type of orientation or of information which is contained in them shall be accessible to everyone in accordance with the prescribed procedures of the library.

(2) Libraries, in relation to the formation of collections, are independent. They may not be restricted on the basis of political, ideological or religious reasons. Restrictions on the formation of library collections may be set only by law.

(3) The provision of services to users of State and local government libraries and the utilisation of library information systems shall be free of charge. Those library services for which charges shall apply shall be laid down in the by-laws (articles of association) of the library and in the regulations for the use of the library. The types of paid services provided by State libraries and the methodology for the determination of rates shall be determined by the Cabinet, but for the types of paid services provided by local government libraries and the amount of payment shall be determined by the relevant local government council.

*[8 December 2005; 13 November 2008]*

## **Section 6. Founding, Reorganisation and Liquidation of Libraries**

(1) A State library shall be founded, reorganised and liquidated by the Cabinet, on the basis of a recommendation of the minister to which the library is subordinated, as well as the relevant derived public law legal person (except local governments).

(2) In the event of the abolition of a State library, the Cabinet or the relevant derived public law legal person shall ensure that the library collection is retained as property of the State and shall determine the procedures for its further storage and use, taking into account the recommendation of the Latvian Library Council.

(3) A local government library shall be founded, reorganised and liquidated by the local government concerned, taking into account the recommendation of the Latvian Library Council.

(4) In the case of liquidation of a local government library, the regional - municipality or city main library (hereinafter - regional main library) shall organise the transfer of the library collection to other interested libraries, co-ordinating it with the respective local government.

(5) Private libraries shall be founded, reorganised and liquidated by natural persons or private law legal persons.

*[8 December 2005; 13 November 2008]*

### **Section 7. Legal Status of Libraries**

(1) A State library is an institution established by the Cabinet or a structural unit thereof, as well as by derived public law legal person (except local governments) established institutions (agencies) or the structural units thereof, in the possession of which is located the library collection.

(2) A local government library is an institution established by a local government or the structural unit thereof, in the possession of which is located the library collection.

(3) A private library is a private law legal person, in the ownership or possession of which is located the library collection. Its founder shall determine the legal status of a private library.

*[8 December 2005]*

### **Section 8. Registration of Libraries and the Necessary Documents for Registration**

(1) Every library shall be registered at the Ministry of Culture within a month of its founding.

(2) The registration of a library shall be ensured by its founder. A submission shall be submitted by the authorised representative of the founder to the Ministry of Culture for the registration of a library and it shall include the following information:

- 1) the name of the library, its legal address;
- 2) the founder of the library, its legal status;
- 3) a copy of the library's founding documents;
- 4) the size of the library collection;
- 5) the number of employees of the library;
- 6) the area of the premises of the library, technical facilities;
- 7) the source and procedures for financing of the library.

(3) The by-laws (articles of association) for the operations of the library, which have been approved by the founder of the library, shall be appended to the submission for the registration of a library.

(4) Within a month from the date of submission of the documents referred to in Paragraphs two and three of this Section, the library shall be entered in the Library Register and shall be issued a certificate of registration.

(5) *[8 December 2005]*

*[6 June 2002; 8 December 2005]*

### **Section 9. Accreditation of Libraries**

(1) A library founded by the State or local governments has a duty to become accredited in accordance with the procedures and within the time period stipulated by the Cabinet. Accreditation is not mandatory for private libraries.

(2) A library shall be accredited if it satisfies the following conditions:

- 1) it has approved by-laws (regulations, articles of association);
- 2) it has an organised collection of printed publications and other types of documents (the registration of the collection has been performed, the library's information system has been developed);
- 3) it has the necessary premises, equipment, security systems and other property for the storage and systematisation of the library collection and for its operations in accordance with the provisions of Section 18 of this Law;
- 4) it has ensured permanent financing in accordance with the provisions of Section 17 of this Law;
- 5) it has employees whose qualifications conform to the nature of the operations of the library and the status gained as a result of accreditation;

6) user access to the library collection has been ensured;

7) regulations for the use of the library have been formulated in accordance with the by-laws (articles of association) of the library;

8) it fully complies with the provisions of Section 11, 12 or 13 of this Law.

(3) The accreditation of libraries shall be carried out once every five years in accordance with accreditation regulations issued by the Cabinet. Accreditation shall be conducted and accreditation documents shall be issued by the Ministry of Culture, taking into account the recommendation of the Latvian Library Council.

(4) If a State or local government library does not receive accreditation, it must resubmit the necessary documents for accreditation within a year from the date it was refused accreditation. If the library again is refused accreditation, it shall be liquidated in accordance with the provisions of Section 6 of this Law, and shall be vacated from the Library register.

*[6 June 2002; 8 December 2005]*

### **Section 10. Status of Accredited Libraries**

As a result of accreditation libraries shall acquire the status of official State level libraries, regional main libraries or official Local level libraries.

### **Section 11. Official Local Level Library**

A library may be accredited as an official State level library, if, in addition to the conditions referred to in Section 9, Paragraph two of this Law, it conforms to the following conditions:

1) [8 December 2005];

2) its collection is general or is specialised in a specific branch of science or several branches of science and is a significant component part of the national libraries collection;

3) it ensures every user access to its collection, database and information system, as well as to the collections of other libraries within the State or outside it, using inter-library loan services;

4) it ensures the development of a database and information system in the respective branch and access for every library to it;

5) it provides methodological assistance to every library in compliance with the direction of its operations;

6) it ensures that acquisitions for the library collection are co-ordinated;

7) it performs scientific research work.

*[8 December 2005]*

### **Section 12. Regional Main Library**

(1) A library may be accredited as a regional main library, if, in addition to the conditions referred to in Section 9, Paragraph two of this Law, it conforms to the following conditions:

1) [8 December 2005];

2) its collection is general and is formed in compliance with the development interests of the administrative territory concerned;

3) it ensures every user's access to its collection, database and information system, as well as to the collections of other libraries utilising inter-library loan services;

4) it has developed a unified catalogue of the collections of the libraries in the respective administrative territory and ensures access to the catalogue for each of these libraries;

5) it ensures that acquisitions for the library collections of the administrative territory concerned are co-ordinated;

6) in co-operation with children's libraries it performs the functions of a main library for children in the administrative territory concerned;

7) it provides consultative and methodological assistance to all libraries in the administrative territory concerned and popularise their work;

8) it performs the functions of a depository library;

9) it provides the users of the library with information prepared and published by State institutions and local government institutions in the respective administrative territory.

(2) The municipality council and city council, upon mutual agreement and taking into account recommendations of the Latvian Library Council, shall nominate one of the libraries existing in the respective territory for the status of the regional main library, specifying its tasks and ensuring the financial resources necessary for its operation.

*[8 December 2005; 13 November 2008]*

### **Section 13. Official Local Level Library**

A library may be accredited as an official local level library, if, in addition to the conditions referred to in Section 9, Paragraph two of this Law, it conforms to the following conditions:

1) it ensures library services to users in close proximity to their residence, workplace, school, recreation facilities and other places;

2) it collects and systematises printed publications of a general or specialised nature and other types of documents, which satisfy the requirements of the users of the library concerned;

3) it is able to satisfy the demands of library users for printed publications and other types of documents and information with the assistance of other libraries (by informing of the availability of the requested document at other libraries, by ordering the required document from another library, etc.).

### **Section 14. Lists of Accredited Libraries** [8 December 2005]

#### **Section 15. Duties of Libraries**

(1) Every library has a duty:

1) to observe the laws governing the operations of libraries and other laws and regulations, as well as the by-laws (articles of association) for its operations;

2) to ensure the acquisition of printed publications and other documents necessary for the library;

3) to carry out the organisation of the library collection (systemisation, cataloguing and bibliographic classification) and its supplementation;

4) to ensure free access to the national libraries collection and information systems;

5) to provide operative and qualitative library services to the users of the library;

6) to organise the regular training of library employees;

7) to provide the unified national catalogue with the necessary information concerning the library collection;

8) to provide opportunities for library users to use the library services, regardless of their gender, age, race, nationality, physical status, place of residence and location and other factors, as well as to develop appropriate equipment for the use of the library by persons with impaired movement and vision;

9) to participate in the national inter-library loan system and the international inter-library loan system;

10) to familiarise users of the library with the regulations for the use of the library;

11) to ensure the conservation and other types of storage as well as restoration of the library's collection of rare books, manuscripts, old prints in accordance with the provisions of Section 19 of this Law;

12) to ensure the introduction of new information technology to the library;

13) to perform the work processes of the library in compliance with the national standards for library work developed by the Latvian National Standardisation and Metrology Centre.

(2) State and local government libraries have special duties:

1) to ensure that the information prepared and published by State and local government institutions is accessible to library users;

2) to ensure public access to library's public annual report;

3) to provide free of charge, for a time period, printed publications and other documents and their compilations at the request of other libraries;

4) to ensure users of the library free of charge access to the Internet and generally available electronic information resources, as well as to ensure the possibility of utilising computers free of charge. The procedures for free of charge use of computers shall be determined by the use of library regulations.

(3) Libraries, which provide services to children and young people, have the obligation to pay special attention to improving the quality of the library collection, to introduce new information technology in order to encourage the inclination of children and young people to read, and to improve their skills in mastering information technology and information resources.

*[8 December 2005 / Clause 4 of Paragraph two shall come into force on 1 January 2007. See Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 16. Rights of Libraries**

(1) A library has the right:

1) to independently perform the operations provided for in its by-laws (articles of association), and to determine the direction of these operations and procedures for the use of the library;

2) in accordance with procedures laid down in the by-laws (articles of association) of the library, to develop the structure of the library, and to establish divisions and branches;

3) to receive the necessary resources specified in Section 17 of this Law from the State budget or local government budget, or financial resources from the founder of the library and to use them;

4) to receive donations and gifts from legal and natural persons as well as donations and gifts that are to be used in accordance with the instructions of the donor or giver;

5) to receive from the State budget resources which are specially provided for the realisation of projects and programmes related to the development of libraries;

6) in accordance with the procedures laid down in the by-laws (articles of association) of the library, to provide paid library services to the users of the library and to determine the fees for these services provided;

7) in accordance with the procedures laid down in the by-laws (articles of association) of the library, to determine late fees, evaluate losses and receive compensation for printed publications and other documents which have been loaned to the users of the library and damaged, not returned when due or not returned at all;

8) to carry out economic activities for the development of the operations of the library;

9) to use the resources from services, donations or gifts as well as resources gained as a result of economic activities for the development of the operations of the library - to improve the professional knowledge of employees, to ensure scientific research work, to increase the library collection, to provide material incentives for employees and to improve work procedures;

10) to enter into legal transactions to ensure the storage and growth of the library collection, the enhancement of the qualifications of employees, the provision of services to users and the performance of the other duties specified in Section 15 of this Law;

11) to join together in associations, unions, societies and other voluntary organisations;

12) to make copies of publications subject to the requirements of the Copyright Law;

13) to maintain inter-library loan connections, to exchange printed publications and other documents with libraries in the Republic of Latvia and in foreign countries, and with other legal and natural persons;

14) to receive methodological assistance in matters pertaining to professional activities;

15) to send, for a time period, from the collection of the library, printed publications and other documents to foreign countries subject to the requirements of this Law and the Law On the Protection of Cultural Monuments;

16) [8 December 2005];

17) [8 December 2005];

18) to independently co-operate with libraries in foreign countries, to join international library organisations and to take part in their activities.

(2) Libraries which are specified in the law regulating the provision of a mandatory copy of publications have the right to receive from the publishers mandatory, free of charge, copies of printed publications and other types of publications in the quantities specified.

*[8 December 2005]*

## **Section 17. Financing of Libraries**

(1) State library financial resources are formed by a grant from the State budget, income from paid services provided and from other own income, donations, gifts and foreign financial assistance resources. Local government libraries are funded by an appropriation from the local government budget made in accordance with the procedures laid down in the Law On Budget and Financial Management and the Law On Local Government Budgets in conformity with the funds approved for this purpose by the council.

(2) The State and local governments shall finance those libraries, which they own and ensure resources for:

1) the organisation of library collections, their growth, restoration, conservation and other kind of storage, as well as their physical security (security, protection, fire-safety and other equipment) in accordance with the Cabinet regulations on the national libraries collection;

2) maintenance of library buildings, premises, equipment, technical facilities, introduction and maintenance of new information technology;

3) rent for library premises, public utility payments, taxes and land lease payments;

4) ensuring public access to the library collections;

5) library co-operation, and also international co-operation;

6) capital investments for construction and reconstruction of library buildings;

7) salaries for library employees;

8) raising the level of qualifications of the employees of libraries;

9) popularising the operations of libraries;

10) ensuring public access to computers, Internet and generally available electronic information resources.

(3) State and local government libraries may receive supplementary financial resources:

1) in the form of donations and gifts;

2) by providing charged-for services in the cases provided for in the by-laws (articles of association) of the library;

3) from other income.

(4) The financial resources referred to in Paragraph three of this Section shall be paid into a special budget account of the library concerned and shall be used only for the development of library operations.

(5) The financial resources of a Regional main library shall be formed by:

1) financial resources of the founder;

2) in the form of a State earmarked grant;

3) financial resources, which are granted by local governments that have taken a co-ordinated decision to nominate the respective library for the status of the regional main library, for the performance of specific tasks according to a mutual agreement.

(6) The Cabinet shall determine the necessary funding standards for the operations of libraries.

(7) Financing of private libraries shall be in accordance with the procedures laid down in the by-laws (articles of association) thereof.

(8) Libraries may also receive those financial resources from the State budget or local government budgets, which are intended for the realisation of special programmes and projects connected with library operations, development and scientific research. Public access to computers, Internet and generally accessible electronic information resources at local government libraries shall be ensured, using co-financing from the State budget. The procedures, by which the abovementioned co-financing from the State budget shall be granted to local government libraries, shall be determined by the Cabinet.

*[8 December 2005; 13 November 2008; 28 February 2013; 29 May 2014 / Amendments to Paragraph eight shall come into force on 1 January 2015. See Paragraph 11 of Transitional Provisions]*

## **Section 18. Material and Technical Basis of Libraries**

Library buildings, premises, equipment, security systems and other property form the material and technical basis of a library. The material and technical basis shall be formed and ensured by the founder of the library in accordance with standards stipulated by the Cabinet. A library shall develop its own material and technical basis using the resources granted by its founder and from additional financial sources.

### **Section 19. National Libraries Collection**

(1) The national libraries collection is the aggregate of all the accredited library collections, which shall be organised in accordance with specific principles and included in a unified national catalogue of printed publications and other documents.

(2) The national libraries collection is part of the wealth of the nation and shall be under protection of the State.

(3) Printed publications and other documents in the national libraries collection which, at the same time, are also included in the national archival collection or are acknowledged as cultural monuments, are recorded, stored and used, as well as transactions with respect to them performed in accordance with this Law, the Law On Archives and the Law On the Protection of Cultural Monuments.

(4) Restoration and conservation of old prints, rare books, manuscripts and other cultural monuments that are in the national libraries collection shall be performed by the Latvian National library.

(5) Storage (digitalisation, copying, microfilming, etc.) of old prints, rare books, manuscripts and other cultural monuments that are in the national libraries collection shall be performed by the Latvian National library and other official State libraries.

(6) The national libraries collection may be supplemented:

- 1) by libraries receiving mandatory copies of publications in accordance with the procedures laid down in law;
- 2) as a result of entering into legal transactions;
- 3) by receiving donations and gifts.

(7) Rarely used printed publications and other documents from the national libraries collection shall be transferred for storage to depository libraries.

(8) It is prohibited to locate the national libraries collection in buildings and premises, which do not conform to the Cabinet regulations regarding the necessary material and technical basis for the operations of libraries and the national libraries collection.

(9) The Cabinet shall issue regulations regarding the national libraries collection, in which the formation, increase, maintenance, recording, storage, as well as the procedures for restoring and conserving old prints, rare books, manuscripts and other cultural monuments of the collection shall be determined.

*[5 May 2011]*

### **Section 20. Unified National Catalogue**

(1) The unified national catalogue is a compendium of information on all State accredited library collections of printed publications and other documents.

(2) The Latvian National Library shall develop the unified national catalogue.

(3) Every accredited library shall participate in the development of the unified national catalogue, regularly providing information free of charge on printed publications and other documents in their collections and changes, which have occurred in them.

(4) The scope of information to be included in the unified national catalogue, the development of the catalogue and the procedures for its utilisation shall be determined by the Cabinet.

### **Section 21. Regulations on the Use of a Library**

(1) Regulations on the use of a library shall regulate the procedures as to how the services of the library are to be provided, how printed publications and other documents are to be issued to users and used, determine which library services shall be free of charge and which are to be paid for, the eligible users of the library, their rights and obligations, the value of printed publications and other documents, the amount of compensation for losses and late fees and the procedures for determining compensation for loaned printed publications or other documents that have been damaged or lost and in other cases, as well as other matters connected with the use of a library.

(2) Regulations on the use of a library shall be formulated subject to this Law, other laws and regulatory enactments. The founder of the library shall approve them. State library use regulations shall be approved by the



minister to which the library is subordinated. Use regulations of libraries established by derived public law legal persons shall be approved by the relevant derived public law person.

(3) Every user of the library shall be informed of the regulations on the use of the library. They shall be located in library premises, which are accessible to users of the library.

*[8 December 2005]*

### **Section 22. Users of a Library**

The user of the library is any legal or natural person who uses the services of a library.

### **Section 23. Rights of Users of a Library**

(1) The users of a library shall have the following rights:

1) to use a library collection and information system without any restrictions;

2) to receive complete information concerning the structure of a library collection and information system;

3) to receive for reading printed publications and other documents or their copies from the collection of a library or to receive them from the collections of other libraries, including the collections of foreign libraries, if the library concerned does not have the requested documents;

4) to use the other services offered by a library;

5) to be informed of the regulations on the use of a library;

6) to participate in the resolution of library work organisational matters and in the work of professional organisations of librarians.

(2) If the users of a State or local government library are disabled persons with movement, visual and other impairments, they have the right to receive library services at home.

(3) Users of a State or local government library have the right to use free of charge publicly accessible computers, as well as Internet and generally accessible electronic resources.

*[8 December 2005 / Paragraph three shall come into force on 1 January 2007. See Transitional Provisions]*

### **Section 24. Duties of the Users of a Library**

The users of a library shall have the following duties:

1) to conform to the regulations on the use of the library, as well as to treat with care printed publications or other documents provided for use;

2) if printed publication or other document provided for use are damaged, not returned in due time or not returned to the library at all, to reimburse the library for losses incurred or to pay late penalties in the amount and in the manner prescribed by the regulations on use of the library.

### **Section 25. Employees of a Library**

(1) The management of the work of a library and the operations of a library shall be the responsibility of the head (director) of the library, who is appointed to office and removed from office and whose rights and obligations are determined by the founder of the library.

(2) The head (the director) of a library may be a person whose has gained experience in library work and who has the appropriate education:

1) the head (the director) of an official State level library - a higher academic or higher professional education;

2) the head (the director) of a Regional main library - a higher academic, higher professional or specialised secondary education in the field of librarianship;

3) the head (the director) of an official Local level library - a higher academic, higher professional, specialised secondary education in the field of librarianship or a certificate for the completion of a continuing education course in the field of librarianship.

(3) The number of employees necessary for the work of a library, as well as the positions, for which it is necessary to have a particular academic or professional education or a certificate for the completion of a continuing education course in the field of librarianship, depending on the status, structure, scope of work and duties of the library shall be determined by the Cabinet.

## **Section 26. Ministry of Culture**

The Ministry of Culture shall develop State policy in the field of libraries in conformity with the library development national concepts and States programmes, as well as organise the implementation thereof.

*[6 June 2002]*

## **Section 27. Latvian Library Council**

(1) The Latvian Library Council is a public consultative institution, which shall participate in the formulation of a national strategy in the field of libraries, facilitate library development and co-operation, as well as in decision-making on matters which pertain to the operations of libraries.

(2) [8 December 2005]

(3) [8 December 2005]

(4) The work of the Latvian Library Council shall be ensured by the Ministry of Culture.

*[6 June 2002; 8 December 2005]*

## **Section 28. Competence of the Latvian Library Council**

(1) The Latvian Library Council shall:

- 1) participate in the formulation of the national library development and co-operation concept project;
- 2) provide recommendations to the Cabinet and local governments on the draft State budget and the draft local government budgets concerning the financing of libraries, as well as other matters connected with the operations of libraries;
- 3) provide a recommendations on the foundation, reorganisation or liquidation of State and local government libraries;
- 4) provide recommendations on the conformity of libraries to accreditation requirements;
- 5) provide recommendations on matters concerning the unified national catalogue and the formation and storage of the national library collection;
- 6) provide recommendations on scientific research work in the field of library sciences and information;
- 7) provide recommendations on matters concerning library co-operation and development, as well as on international co-operation;
- 8) provide recommendations on matters concerning the professional education and continuing education of library employees;
- 9) provide recommendations on draft laws and regulations concerning library operations.

(2) The recommendations of the Latvian Library Council shall be accessible to any interested person.

(3) [8 December 2005]

*[8 December 2005]*

## **Section 29. Duties of the State and Local Government in the Field of Libraries**

(1) The State and local governments shall ensure that the library shall be the repository of the cultural heritage of the world, the main provider of information, and shall ensure the protection and maintenance of the training centre for library employees and facilitate its development.

(2) The State shall ensure the possibility, from State budget funds, to acquire higher academic or higher professional education, specialised secondary education and continuing education in the field of librarianship.

(3) The State shall ensure the participation and representation of voluntary librarian organisations (Latvian Librarian Society, Association of Latvian Academic Libraries and Association of Latvian School Librarians) in international voluntary organisations of libraries.

(4) Every local government shall ensure, within its administrative territory, that the inhabitants have access to librarian services subject to the Cabinet regulations on the official Local library network and its operations in the territory of local governments.

### **Section 30. International Co-operation of Libraries**

Libraries shall co-operate with foreign libraries, international library and librarian organisations, participate in the activities of these organisations, as well as co-operate with foreign legal and natural persons.

## **Transitional Provisions**

1. Within a year after this Law has come into force the Cabinet shall issue the necessary regulatory enactments for ensuring the operation of this Law.

2. Within four months after this Law has come into force the Cabinet shall approve the by-laws of the Latvian Library Council and its composition. The Minister for Culture shall nominate the candidates for membership of the Latvian Library Council - four representatives from the largest scientific libraries, four representatives from municipality and city libraries, three representatives from public organisations of librarians and one representative from librarian education.

*[6 June 2002]*

3. *[6 June 2002]*

4. The provisions of Section 25, Paragraph two, Clause 3 of this Law in reference to the education of heads of libraries (directors) shall come into force from 1 January 2005.

5. The funding standards necessary for the work of libraries referred to in Section 17, Paragraphs six and seven of this Law, shall come into force on 1 January 2006. Up to 31 December 2005 the State and local governments shall fund the existing libraries under the supervision thereof in accordance with the annual State budget law and the Law On Local Government Budgets.

*[6 June 2002]*

6. Amendments to Section 16, Paragraph one of this Law regarding the deletion of Clauses 16 and 17 thereof shall come into force on 1 January 2007.

*[8 December 2005]*

7. Section 15, Paragraph two, Clause 4; Section 17, Paragraph two, Clause 10 and Section 23, Paragraph three of this Law shall come into force on 1 January 2007 if target grants are provided for in the State budget in conformity with local government requests in the realisation of these norms for subscriptions to Internet connections for local government libraries and rural libraries.

*[8 December 2005]*

8. Up to 1 January 2007, the founder within the scope of budgetary resources shall ensure for each State and local government library not less than one computer workstation free of charge access to the Internet and generally accessible electronic information resources.

*[8 December 2005]*

9. The local government libraries, which are accredited until 1 July 2009, shall continue their operation in the status indicated in the accreditation certificate of the respective library until expiry of the term of accreditation.

*[13 November 2008]*

10. Municipality councils and city council, in accordance with the procedures laid down in Section 12, Paragraph two of this Law, shall bring forward a library for the status of the regional main library after the term of accreditation of the respective regional main library of the region accredited until 1 July 2009 has expired.

*[13 November 2008]*

11. Amendments to Section 17, Paragraph eight of this Law regarding the supplementation thereof with the third sentence shall come into force on 1 January 2015. The Cabinet shall, by 31 December 2014, issue the regulations referred to in the third sentence of Section 17, Paragraph eight of this Law.

*[29 May 2014]*

This Law has been adopted by the *Saeima* on 21 May 1998.

President G. Ulmanis

Rīga, 9 June 1998

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<sup>1</sup> The Parliament of the Republic of Latvia

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