

## Development of Legal Deposit in Latvia

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### Abstract

In previous Legal Deposit Law the number of legal deposits was too large and publishers were discontent with this factor, because the expenses of publishing through years have grown, publishers didn't want to deliver legal deposits to the National Library of Latvia, and nowadays the popularity of electronic publications has increased, legislature had to provide new legal deposit law. But there are some questions - does this law change the attitude of publishers and how do the processes of electronic publications conservancy evolve. In this paper we will try to answer these questions, as well as try to show tendencies of development in this field.

### Development of Legal deposit in Latvia

The first legal deposit was established in Riga in 1588. In this year Riga Town Council found first printing - shop, and as typographer there worked N. Mollin. One of the Typographer duties was to deliver one free copy from every printed work to Riga's City Library, which was established in 1524.

Year after establishing new country Latvia, in 1919 the new government established „Edict about libraries”. The 5th clause says that all printing-house has to send 50 legal deposits from every new printed book and periodicals and 10 copies from other printed works to central library. So in this way there were made first steps to National library and legal deposit. (Vilks 2002, p. 34.-35).

In the 1920 starts period when to State library were delivered 2 legal deposits from all editions in Latvia. And this provided preservation of national literature, creation of national bibliography and secured minimum to national library collection. (Sardiko 1994, p. 66).

Starting with the same year, to National Library of Latvia were delivered legal deposit, and in 1927 there were published in Latvia published book index “State Library bulletin” which has made reposing on legal deposit.

In 1940 in State Library was made State Book section, and their main task were to divide legal deposit properly in all state and to draw up statistical inventory to all published material.

In 1941 Latvia was in Soviet Union, and starting with this Year State Library from USSR got free legal deposit from all printed materials. After one moth, State Library got free legal deposit just from territory of Latvia.

From 1944-1945 State library continued getting USSR free legal deposit and from 1959, it became rental legal deposit.

In 1949 was published recording bibliography index “Press chronicle” of Soviet Latvia. (Sardiko 1994, p. 161-169).

Ten years later Book section became independent institution, but in 1989 reorganized on Institute of Latvian Bibliography. With year 1983 they started to publish Institute of Bibliography informative bulletin "Latvian newest books" (at the moment available in internet: <http://www.lnb.lv/publikacijas/pdf/jgr08-2006-augusts.pdf>).

In 1990 there were made rules "About press and other media". One year later Cabinet of Ministers accepted decision Nr. 84 "About printed work delivery in Republic of Latvia". National Library got 5 legal deposits (Sardiko 1994, p.161.-169) the Council of Minister and Institute of Latvian Bibliography each got 1 copy.

In the 1992 there were established Latvian ISBN Agency. ISBN is voluntary and just commercial publisher took it, because of cheap bar - coding). (Vilks 2002, p. 35).

In 1993 Institute of Latvian Bibliography became a department of National Library of Latvia. (Sardiko 1994, p.161.-169).

Three years later, in 1996 there were established ISSN centre. And working together with ISBN Agency there were emerged extra possibilities to care of delivery of legal deposit and clear printers imprints. (Vilks 2002, p. 35.lpp).

In 1997, in Saeima accepted „Polygraphic and other publication free legal deposit delivery law”, and in it described order of how publications must be used, and how legal deposit are delivered and divided. In 1998 Cabinet of Minister established rules of „About polygraphic issues, electronic publications and unpublished materials, which free copy of legal deposit, must be delivered to National Library of Latvia”. In 1999 there were made amendment in „Polygraphic and other publication free legal deposit delivery law”, and there were changed the meaning of term - publisher.

Starting with year 2001 „Latvian press chronicle” were published in two parts: 1. part – books, printed music, art editions, audio-video, cassette and CD editions; 2. part – periodicals, critical reviews, and information about Latvian studies.

In the same year there were established „For library action needed funding norms”. In 2002 there was international conference in Riga “National bibliography: from written to digital”. There were discussed questions about legal deposit and bibliographical controlling.

In 2003 in Institute of Latvian Bibliography made three new sections – Legal deposit, Catalogue and Standardization section. The goal of these reorganizations is to facilitate work in institute and divide different functions to different sections. (See on internet: <http://www.lnb.lv/struktura/BI/bi.htm#Izdevumi>)

In year 2004 Cabinet of ministers established rules „About public lending” and in 2006 established “Legal deposit law”, which determine order in which legal deposit are delivered to National Library of Latvia, and order in which they are divided to all other libraries. And there are included orders how National Library of Latvia collects and archives online publications (“Legal deposit law”). Starting with year 2007, monthly national bibliography index „Latvian press chronicle” are published just in electronic format in - CD-ROM.

### **The system of Legal deposit in Latvia nowadays**

The Legal deposit fulfills 2 important functions: to collect and save national printing production, and to compose a national bibliography. An object of the Legal Deposit is all kinds of national printed output, regardless of publishing form. The main aim of the legal deposit system is to complete and save forever national documents and to register bibliographies. (Vilks 2002, p .34).

The Legal Deposit can also be an instrument how to gather information about publishers and how to control them. Nowadays the Legal Deposit Legislation in Latvia has an enormous importance, because it is the only instrument and mechanism how to control legal deposit.

Since June 20, 2006 the system of legal deposit in Latvia is regulated by the Legal deposit Law. In this law it is written that The Bibliographical Institute (BI) of the National Library of Latvia (NLL) is monitoring the delivery procedure of legal deposit. The Institute is responsible for: the completion and distribution of national publications; the organization of legal deposit archive; realizing functions of national bibliographical agency; making national statistics in publishing area, inter alias, for State Statistics Administration and UNESCO; providing the functions of international standard numeration ISBN, ISSN, ISMN in Latvia and for other functions.

### Comparison of laws (year 1997 and 2006)

The first changes have affected the title of law. In year 1997 law it was „Polytrophic and other publications gratis legal deposit delivery law”, but in year 2006 law it is changed to title „Legal Deposit Law”. These changes were needed, because the previous law title was too long and it was difficult to remember it, and after joining European Union it became a necessity to follow the experience of European and other states, where the above mentioned law was called simply „Legal deposit Law” or „Legal deposit Act”.

Council of Europe in their report „Policy Review of the Latvian Book Sector” suggested decreasing the number of legal deposit in Latvia. Changes have affected the terminology of legal deposit law. It became a necessity to establish new terms and more precise explanations of the terms. In latest version of legal deposit law there are included some terms that are connected with electronic and on-line publications. Some terms are not included.

The main changes in law are entailed with on-line publications. Some stronger legal regulations for nonobservance of the law are established. Huge change touches the copies of legal deposit that is delivered for the NLL. (See a Table 1 below).

Table 1. Changes in number of copies that are delivered for The National Library of Latvia

Type of materials	A	B
All printed material (except books, brochures and publications for the blind)	9	5
Books and brochures	14	7
Publications for the blind	1	1
Electronic publications	5	3
“Grey literature”	2	2
Additional edition of polygraphic editions	1	0

A – The number of copies in year 1997 law

B – The number of copies in year 2006 law

In the new „Legal Deposit Law” the conditions and time limits for delivery of legal deposit are changed – periodical editions’ legal deposits have to be delivered before starting their realization (in previous law they should be delivered in the day of publishing). The other legal deposits of printed materials and electronic publications have to be delivered in 14 days after publishing (before there were 5 days). There is also a new condition about the legal deposits of „grey literature” – it must be delivered in 30 days after their notification.

There are some changes in distribution of legal deposits within libraries. These changes you can see in the Table 2 below:

Table 2. Changes in distribution of legal deposits in libraries of Latvia

<b>Library</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
National Library of Latvia	5	2	2	1
Academic Library of Latvia	2	2	1	1
*Library of Latvia University	1	1	1	1
*Scholarly library of Riga technical university	1	1	1	1
*Fundamental library of Latvia Agriculture University	1	1	1	1
*Patents Technical Library of Latvia	1	1	1	1
*Medical Science Library of Latvia	1	1	1	1
*Library for the blind of Latvia	1	1	1	1
Central Library of Latgale	1	0	1	0
Central Science Library of Liepaja City	1	0	1	0
Central Science Library of Jelgava City	1	0	0	0
Central Science Library of Ventspils City	1	0	0	0

\* These libraries receive definite number of legal deposits of publications that agree with the profile of library.

A – Each kind of printed materials, 1997

B – Each kind of printed materials, 2006

C – Number of electronic publications, 1997

D – Number of electronic publications, 2006

In this table you can see that the number of legal deposit has decreased – it is benefit for publishers. But Central Science Library of Jelgava City and Central Science Library of Ventspils City do not receive legal deposit anymore; it means that libraries in this case are losers.

### **The opinion of the Institute of Bibliography of the National Library of Latvia (IB of the NLL)**

IB of the NLL fulfills further functions related with legal deposit:

- Acquisition and distribution of the national publications, organization of the legal deposit archive;
- Duty performance of the agency of the national bibliography (legal deposit is the base of the national bibliography);
- Development of the statistics of the state in the area of the publishing, int. al., the Statistics Board of the State and UNESCO (in the statistics data are used information about the legal deposits);
- Providing the operations of the International Standard Book Number (ISBN), International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) and International Standard Music Number (ISMN) in Latvia (standard numbers is a way, how to control the delivery of the legal deposit).

For its part, the job of the Department of the Legal Deposit (DLD) is to supply and to distribute the national publications and to organize the performance of the legal deposit archive.

On the interview with the head (Daila Legecina) of the DLD of the IB of the NLL (view the questions on the 1st appendix) was approved previously obtained conceptions about the necessity to carry out changes in the Law of the Legal Deposit. Firstly, with the previous law

was frustrated the publishers. Secondly, also the libraries noticed the necessity for the changes. Herewith the new law was reached two goals:

- The one of the publishers' – to reduce the amount of the legal deposit;
- The one of the NLL's – to admit the online publications as one of the kinds of the legal deposit.

The head of the DLD notified that the BI receive approximately 3,000 titles of books and brochures, 356 titles of magazines (bulletins included), 270 titles of newspapers (13 of them are new), approximately 130 cartographic publications, 81 titles of unconventional or gray literature and 23 electronic issues (data of the year of 2006).

The IB collaborates with the Central Statistical Bureau of the Republic of Latvia and delivers statistical data about legal deposits, which are incorporated into statistical information of the program of the state – sector of the culture statistics.

### **Conclusions**

The beginnings of the legal deposit in Latvia are quested 500 years ago, radically has changed the amount of the legal deposits; amount of institutions to whom it has to be delivered; inconsistent has been the legislation connected with legal deposit, though the main goal of the legal deposit has not changed – it was and is the base of the bibliography, as well as part of the culture heritage of Latvia.

Nowadays concept of “legal deposit” is used in one form – as free legal copy, there is no pay, departmental or special legal deposit.

Since 1997 till 2006 the order of deliver of the legal deposit determined Law of Delivery of Free Legal Deposit of Polygraphic and Other Publications; however it was necessary to do some changes into it, because publishers were discontented with the amount of the copy to deliver. The costs of book publishing has increased, wherewith the deliver of the great amount of the free legal deposits to the NLL to publishers became too unprofitable, as a result the legal deposit was not delivered not at all or else with persistent reminding and big delay.

There was necessity for title of law easy to remember, because the previous law was too complicated and long. Latvia followed the experience of other states and renamed the new law as Law of Legal Deposits.

Every year the amount of the electronic resources increases and there appears necessity to list them somehow, to preserve them for next generations, cause, despite of the noise of the information, we can find a lot of useful information inside them. However, there are still unsolved problem – how to summarize, classify and make accessible electronic documents for community.

All the mentioned conditions stimulated the origin of the new law – the Law of Legal Deposits became valid on the 20th of June 2006.

The obtainers of the new law are the publishers, because noticeably decreased the amount of legal deposit to deliver, but still there was no changes about the amount of copies which they delivers. Those publishers who delivered the legal deposits to the IB of the NLL continue to deliver them today, but those publishers from who were no noticeable activities did not change their attitude and position.

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