



**Vilnius
universiteto
biblioteka**



Managing heritage: collections security in Vilnius University Library

Tartu, 2019 09 05



Content

General overview

Physical environment (buildings, storages)

Services (reading rooms, terms and conditions)

Regulations (guidelines, plans etc.)

Final remarks



Vilnius University Library

Jesuit college library

Founded in 1570

Library of state importance

1+1=1 philosophy

Situated in the city Center (Central Library)

and

In the student campus (SCI Center)



PIRMASIAI LIETUVISKAI KNYGAI 1547-1997





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Scholarly Communication and Information Center

Modern building opened in March 2013

24/7

Modern systems (e.g. fire extinguishing system
by fog, RFID etc.)

Modern collections for students' needs

Self service (even in some part of stacks)

Space for learning and creating



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Central Library

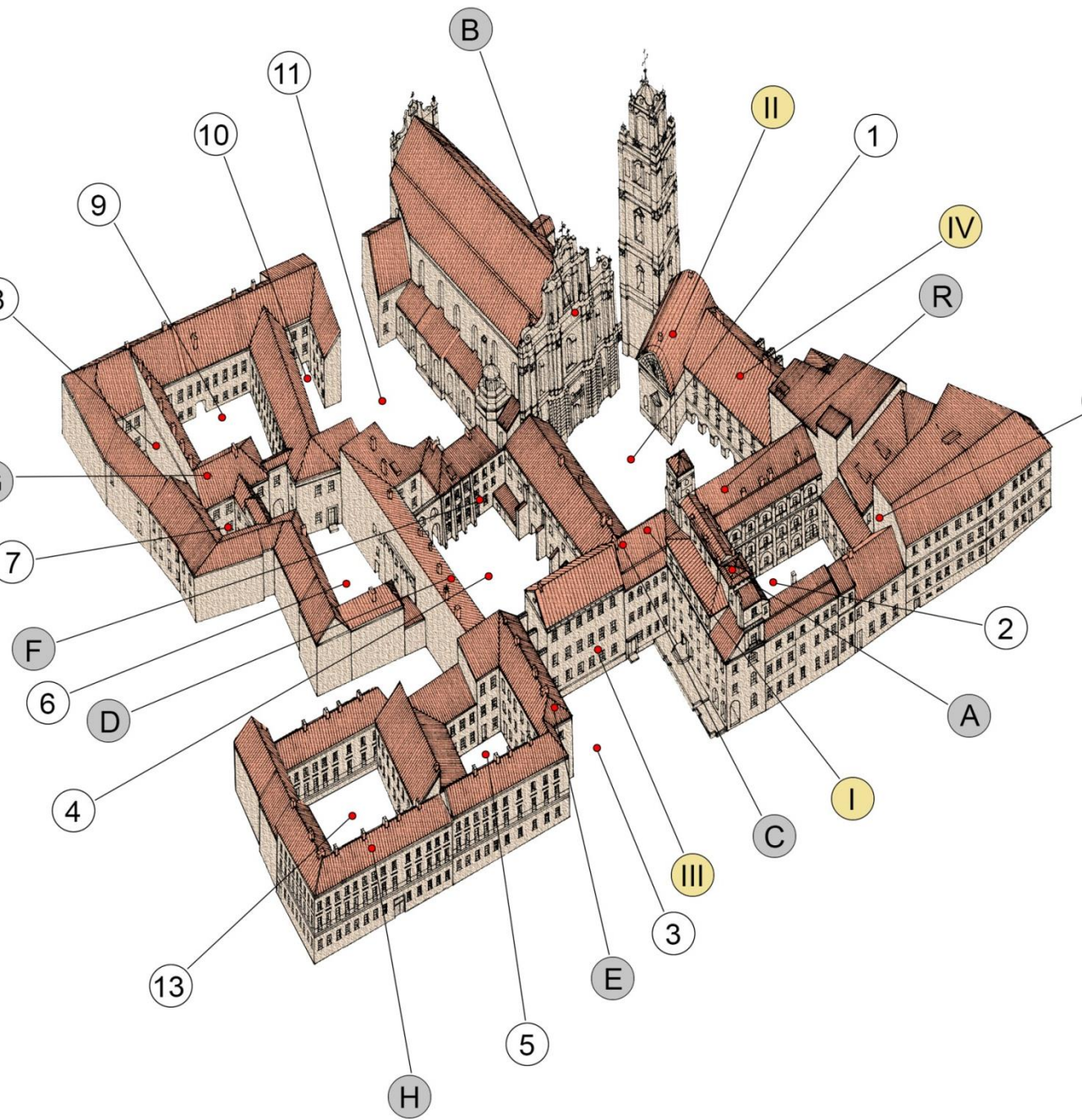
Home for Heritage Collections

Situated in various parts of historical ensemble of Vilnius University (protected by UNESCO)

Storages (since 1970s) – 13 floors (apx 350 m³ each) in two buildings

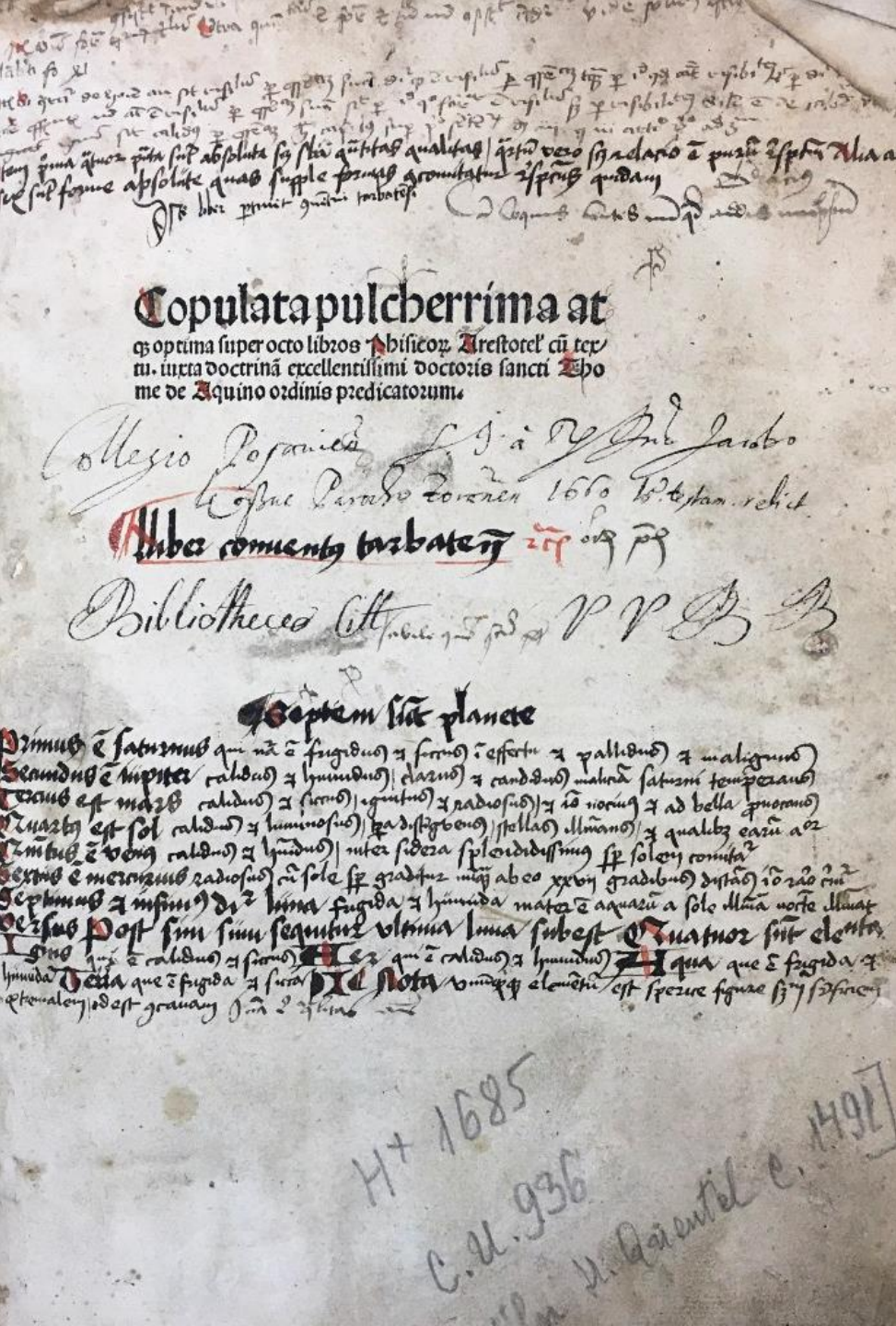
4 floors dedicated to Heritage Collections

3 special reading rooms for Heritage Collections



Heritage collections

- Manuscripts (archives)
- Rare books
- Graphical prints and drawings
- The 19th century collection





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Origins - donations of :

- kings and dukes (e.g. Sigismundus Augustus),
- bishops (Georgius Albinus, Valerianus Protasewicz etc.)
- Noble families (Sapieha, Radziwill, Pac etc.)
- Professors and students of the university
- And many others

- Manuscripts – more than 325 000 documents and still growing
- Rare books – more than 160 000 items
- Graphics – over 92 000 artworks

The 19th century collection (circa 150 000 items)

1900-1945 books (over 450 000 items)

Manuscripts

1. Vilnius University
2. Vytautas Magnus University in Kaunas
3. Societies and organizations
4. Church institutions
5. Courts
6. Sets formed by the VUL
7. Personal archives

ra quasi absinthium
fallace que potest in
De eodem
In ordi



dit qualis sit eius
debemus. Et n
postoli iam erat in
ra maneret. eo mo
li. i. e. qui in

Rare books

1. Incunabula
2. The 16th-18th century prints
3. Old Lithuanian books
4. Cartography
5. Public libraries
6. Personal libraries
7. Bibliophilic editions

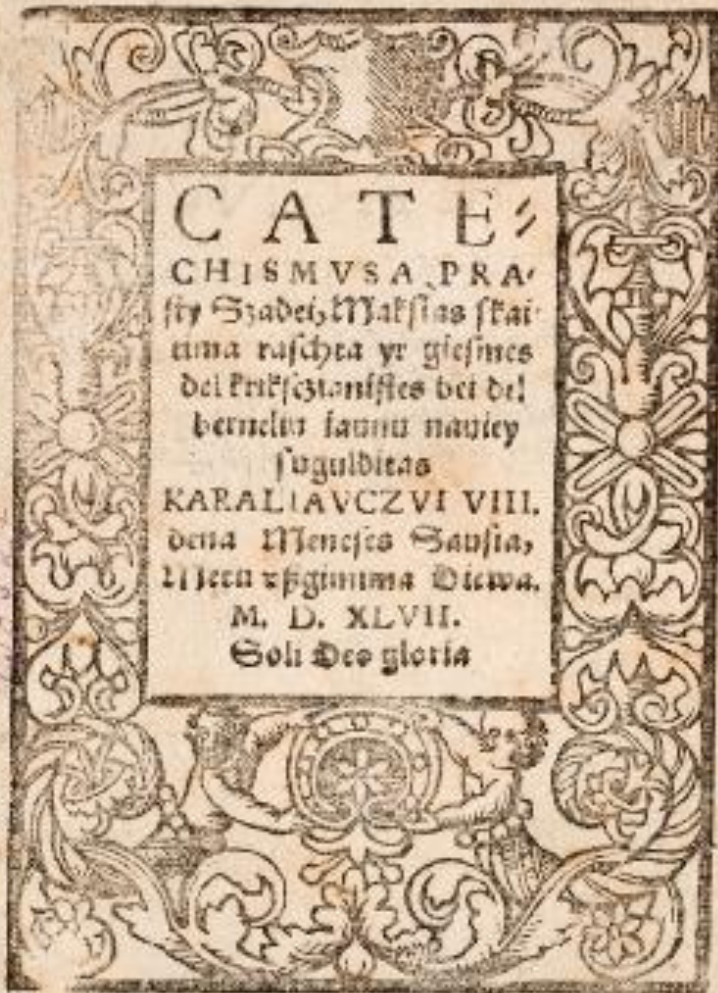


Graphics

1. Old graphics (the 16th-19th centuries)
2. Contemporary Lithuanian graphics
3. Works of foreign authors
4. Exlibris collection

Some treasures

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The first Lithuanian book (M. Mažvydas. *Catechismus prasty szadei...* Königsberg, 1547)

The first Lithuanian book in GDL (Daukša, Mikalojus. *Katechizmas arba mokslas kiekvienam krikščionii priwalus*. [Vilnius: Akademijos sp.], 1595. [108] p.)

337 incunabula (Valturio, Roberto. *De re militari*. [Verona], 1472)

The oldest manuscript from the beginning of the 13th century

600 court books

Collection of cartography and atlases

Portraits of Radvila family, Vilnius Album

13 positions in UNESCO Memory of the world programme national and regional registers

Heritage for research and studies

- Heritage Collections and Research Department (Manuscripts, Rare Books, Documental Heritage Preservation)
- Research and dissemination projects
- Publishing




Digitization of GDL Courtbooks in
VUL (*DigiCOURT*)

Virtual reconstruction of the oldest
academic library in Lithuania
(*VIRTUS*)



COST „Republic of letters“

Material Evidence in Incunabula
(MEI) database (CERL)



Lithuania in Vilnius University Library
(*Lietuva VUB*)



Fundraising project to preserve 4
unique globes

Library in 1930s



Library in 1990s



Reconstruction

Title - Reconstrution of Old Vilnius University Library (investment project)

Period – 2006-2020

Budget – 10 500 000 € (State budget funds)

Aim – to reconstruct Old Vilnius University Library security and microclimate support systems, Library premisses and historical furniture, to purchase necessary conservation, restoration and digitisation equipment.

Beginning (2006)

Technical reconstruction of document storage (14 floors, apr 5300 m², special collections – 1600 m²)

Renovation of fire extinguishing system (gas)

Implementation of new microclimate support system and dust cleaning system



Main challenges

Library remained open

Impossible to move the collections

Reconstruction in stages

A lot of unfamiliar people

Lack of knowledge and competences in managing such situation





Results

1. New environment for special collections
2. Loss of some storage space
3. Unhappy readers / nervous staff vs better conditions for heritage
4. New service providing procedures



Storage of cultural heritage

1. Special premisses
2. Microclimate system, fire extinguishing system
3. Special conditions for document storage (boxes, drawers, folders etc.)
4. Restricted access, special order of service

Reading rooms

- Enhanced security zone
- Separate guidelines for users
- Physical security of documents



Manuscript reading room – 10 places



Rare books reading room – 10 places
Special equipment



Department of prints and drawings – 2 places





User services: regulations and guidelines

Documents can be used only in special reading rooms

No food/drinks, bags, coats

ID check, recommendation letter, request for using special collections

Limited quantity of documents

Orders – 2 times per day

Document check before and after using

Staff always present in the reading room

New order of making copies



Legal basis

Document preservation guidelines of Vilnius University Library (2016)

- General and special requirements for document storages
- Requirements for exhibitions and packing
- Preservation of documents
- Microbiological control
- General principles of document use

VUL collection policy (2014)

Guidelines for using special collections

Policy of making photo copies with personal devices (2018)

- Clear definitions for documents
- Clear restrictions for devices

Partnership

Document lending for exhibitions (6-8 every year, special procedures and requirements for exhibitions area)

Projects (digitization – unexperienced staff)

NB: documents are always evaluated by preservation staff





Preservation of cultural heritage

1. Restoration and coservation
2. Restoration of bindings
3. Digitisation

The way of the document

The storage – reading room (user) – description – back to the storage

The storage – description - preservation unit - exhibition/digitization -
preservation unit – back to the storage

Digitized objects vs originals

Heritage in virtual space

National level (*epaveldas*
<http://www.epaveldas.lt/home>; VUL digital
collections; VUL virtual exhibitions
<http://www.eparodos.mb.vu.lt> etc.)

International level (*Europeana*
<http://www.europeana.eu>; *Manuscriptorium*
<http://www.manuscriptorium.com/index.php?q=lt> ;
WDL www.worldlibrary.com)



Final remarks

Historical building is a challenge itself

Not all expectations and wishes of users can be fulfilled

User friendly environment vs security?

More information in digital form – less visitors in reading rooms





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