Vilniaus universiteto biblioteka

Moving Collections in an emergency: Vilnius University Library

Vienna, 2022 09 07

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Main points

1. Planning and preparations
2. Protecting the collections
3. Trusted partners / staff and procedusres
4. Appropriate and trusted storage



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Jesuit colledge library

Founded in 1570

Library of state importance

1+1=1 philosophy

Situated in the city Center (Central Library)

and

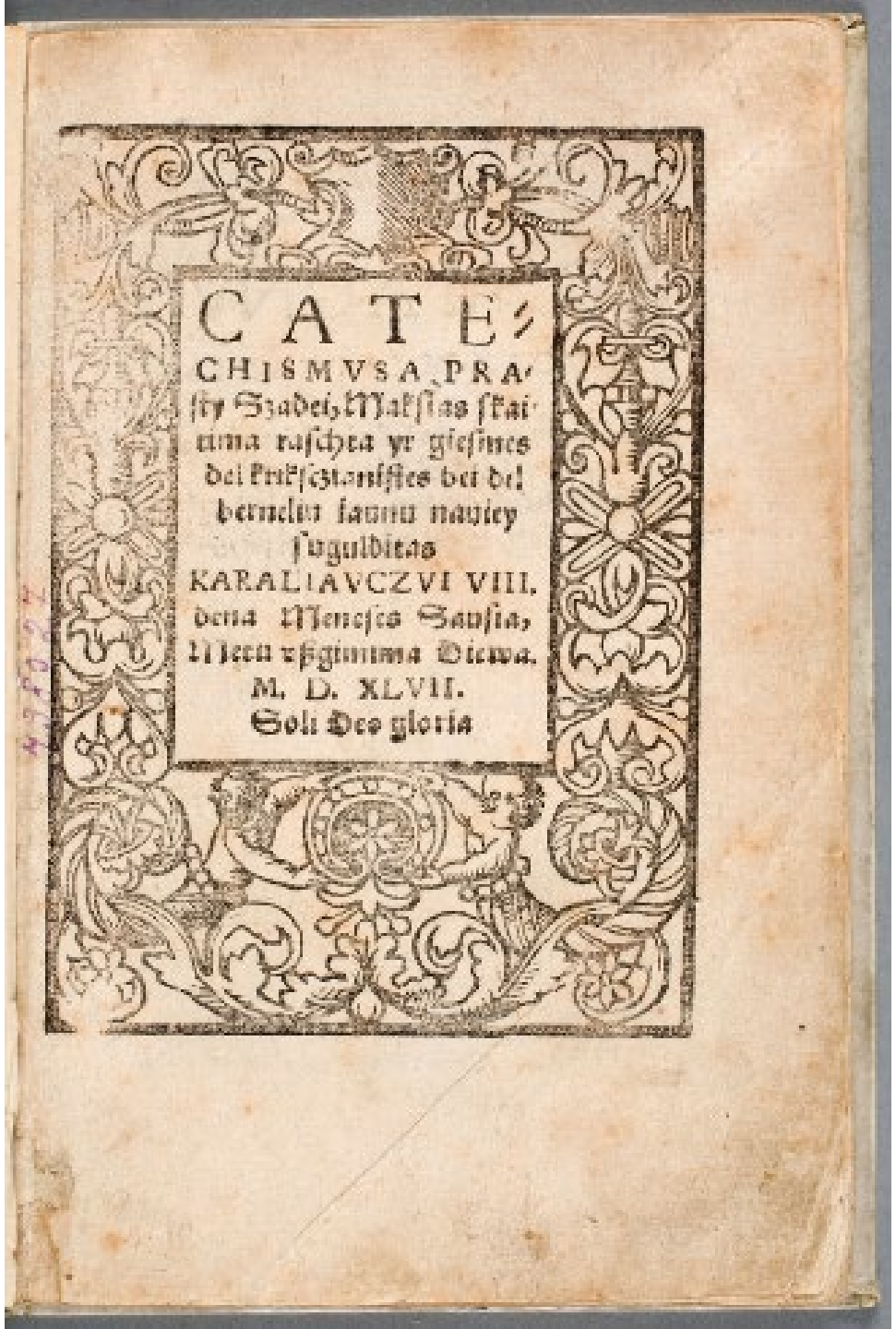
In the student campus (SCI Center)

- Manuscripts – more than 347 000 documents and still growing
- Rare books – more than 165 000 items
- Graphics – over 95 000 artwoks

The 19th century collection (circa 150 000 items)

1900-1945 books (over 450 000 items)

Digital collections (18 000 digital objects, ~ 1 million pages)


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Metu vſgimima Dieua.
M. D. XLVII.
Soli Deo gloria

Some treasures

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

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

342 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

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

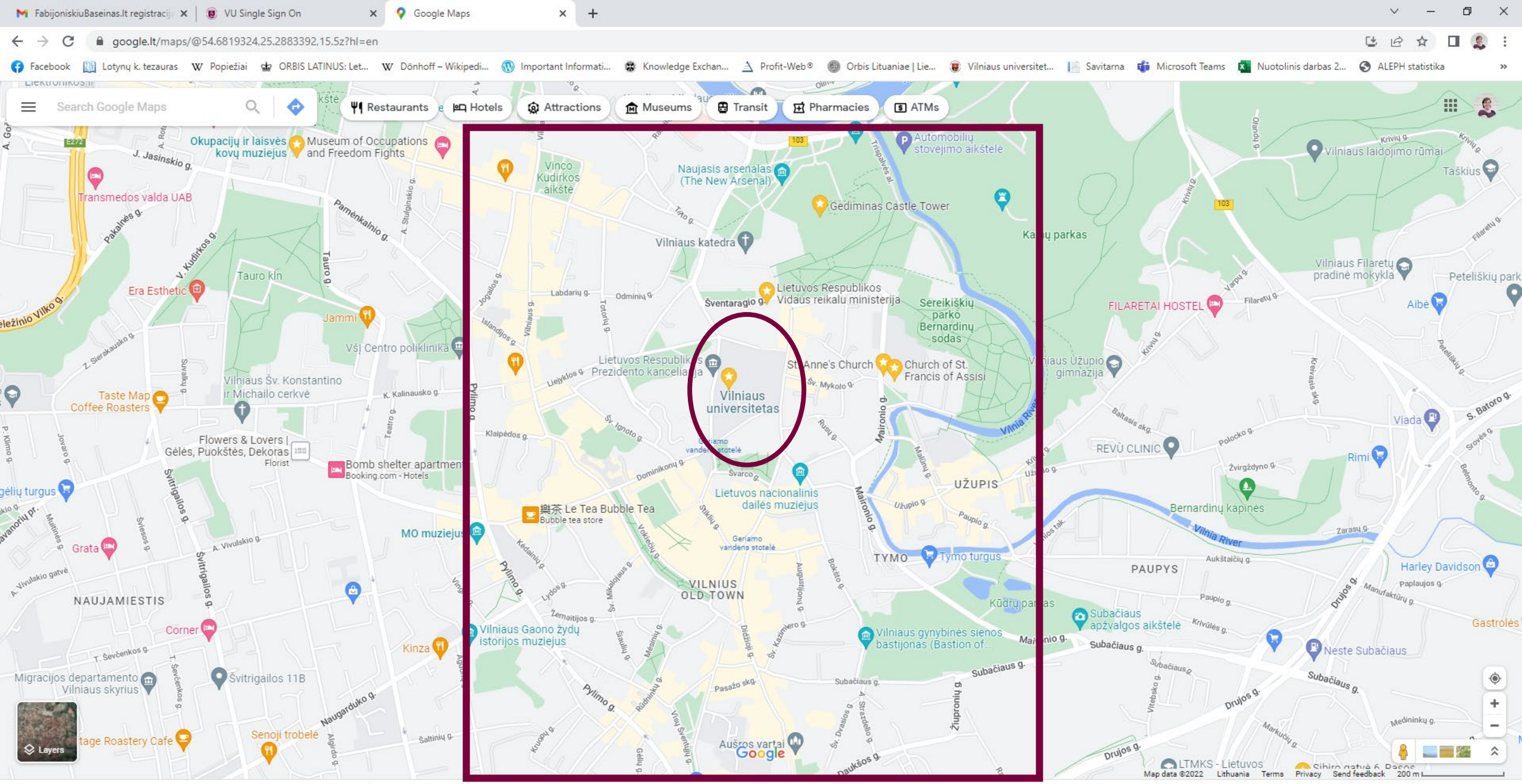
Scholarly Communication and Information Center



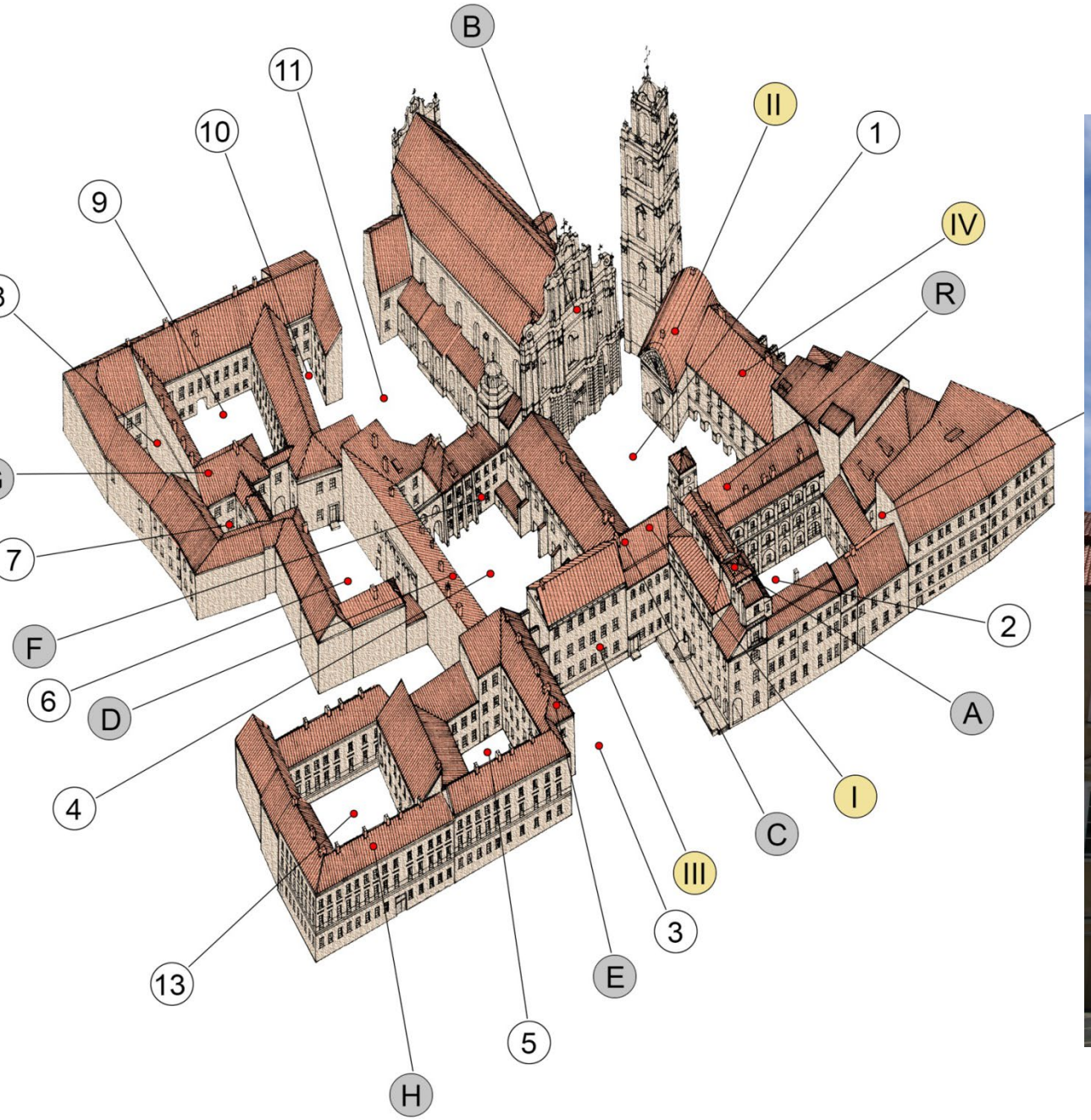
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Central Library





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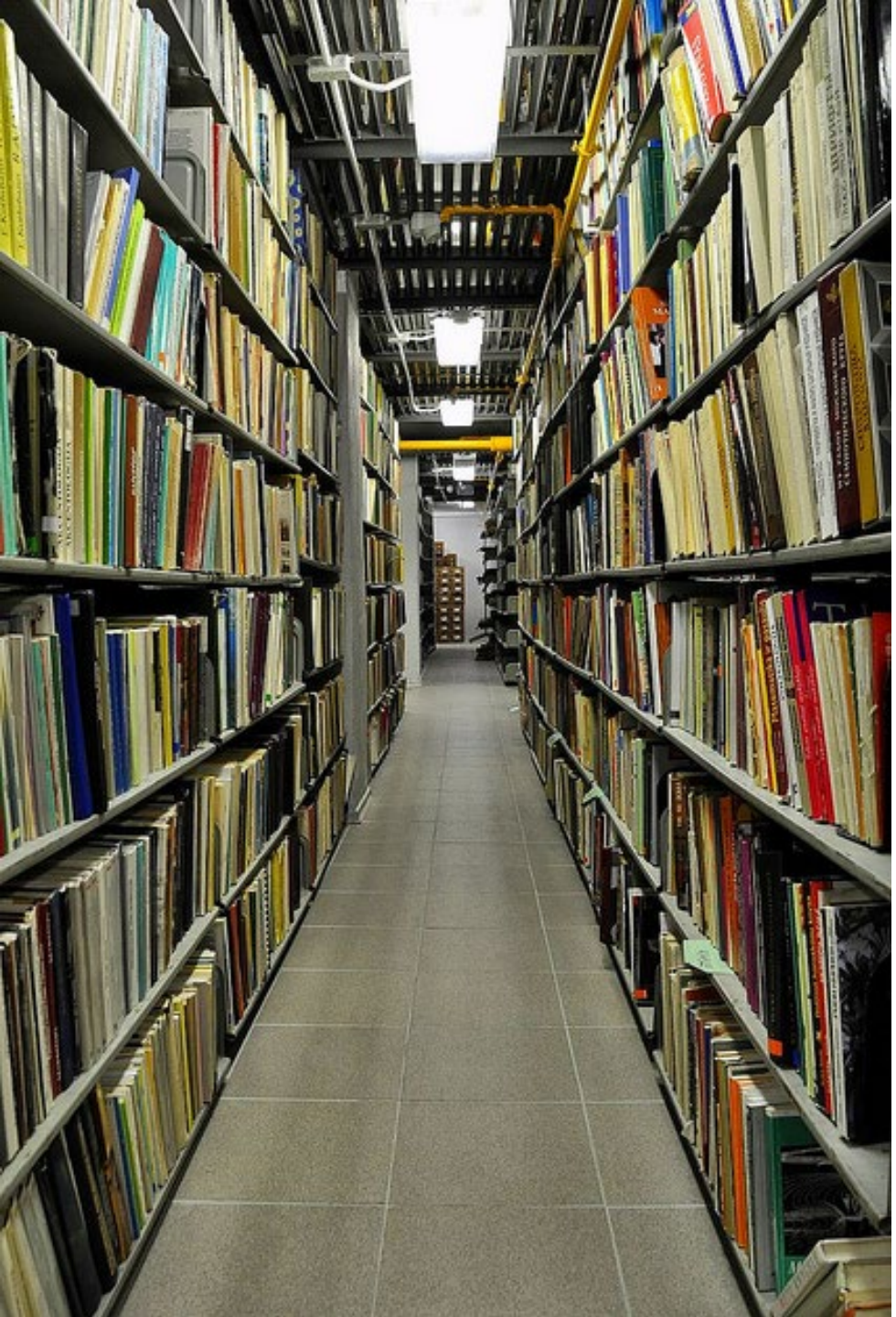


Historical halls

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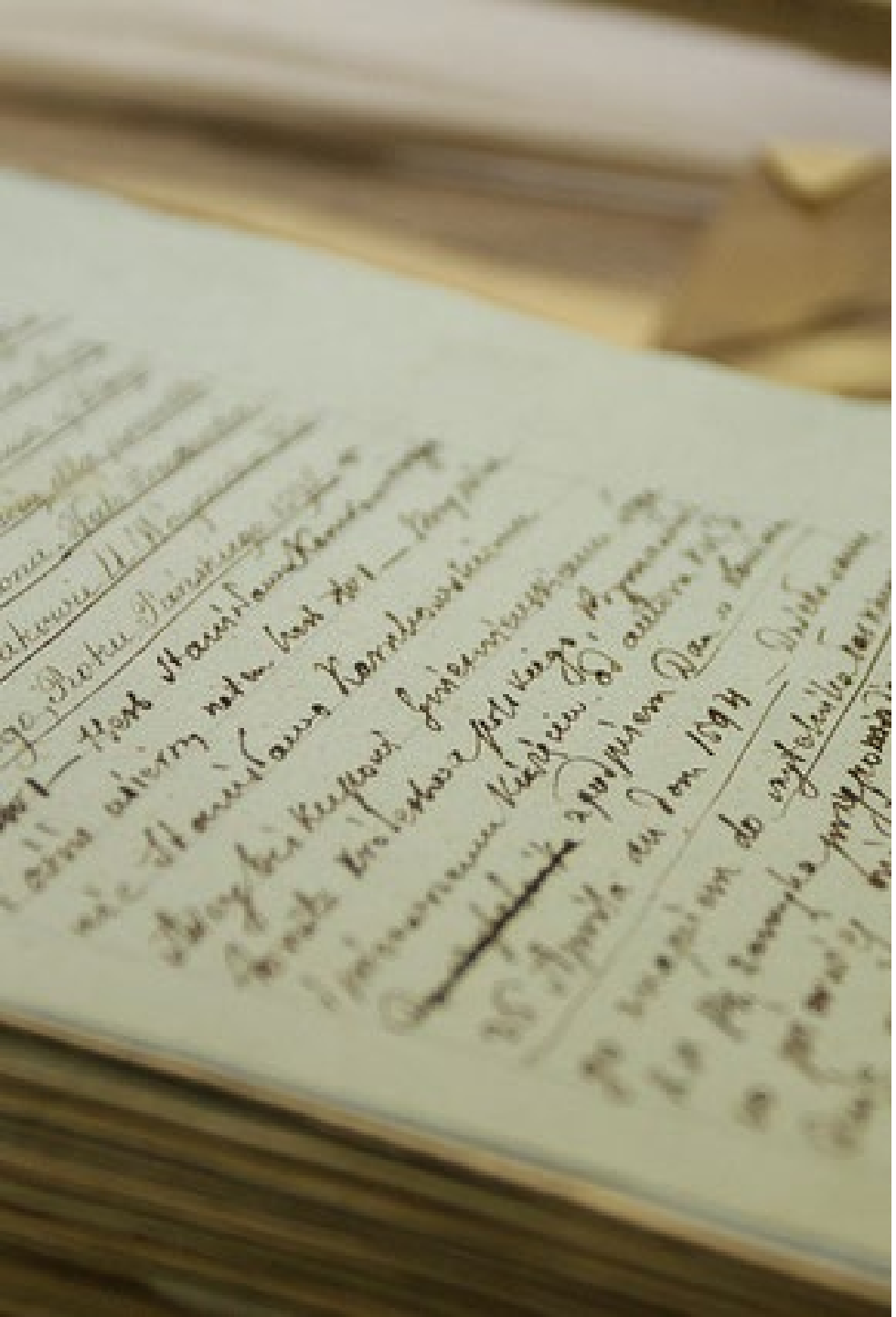




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Storage of cultural heritage

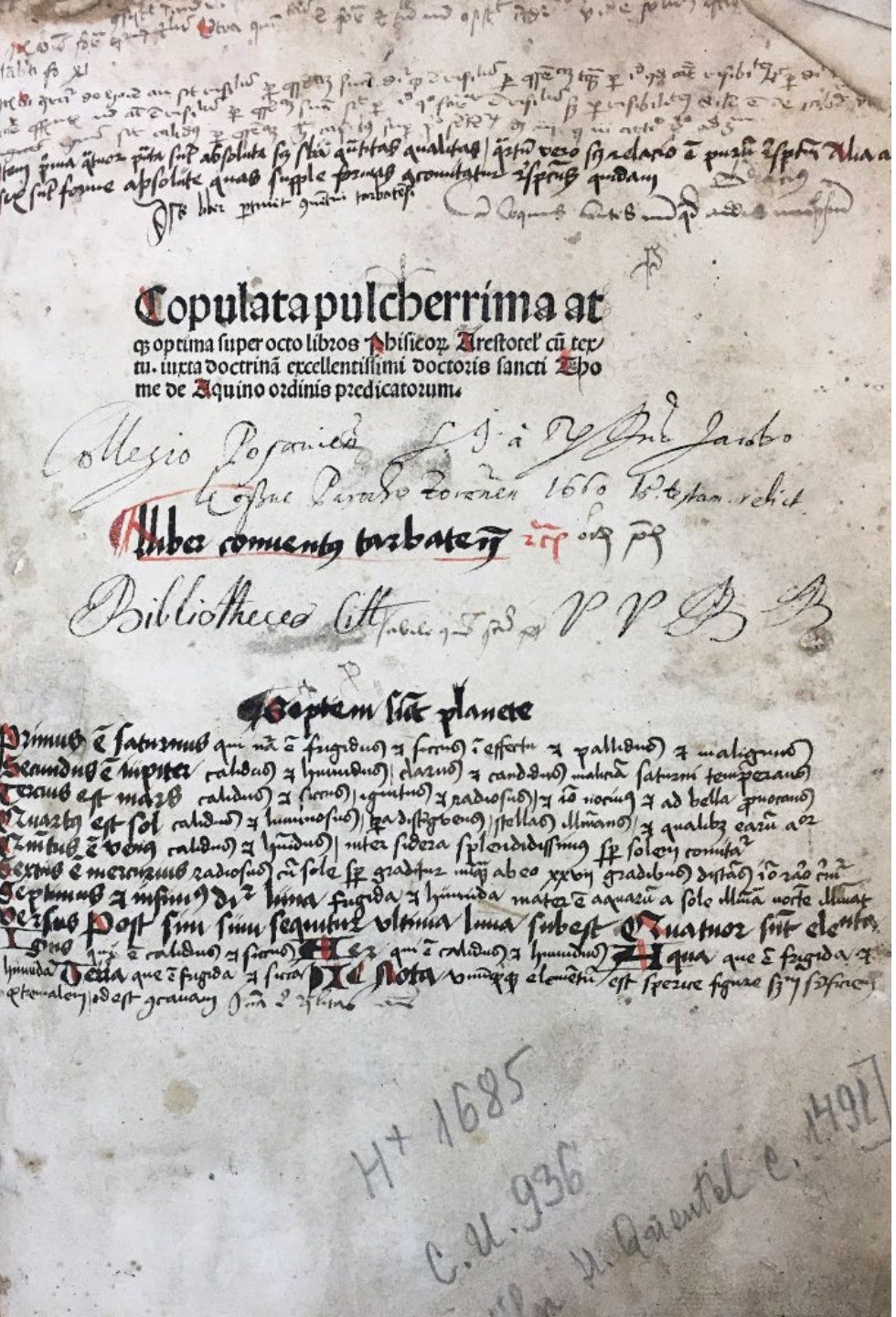
1. Special premisses
2. 14 floors, apr 5300 m2, special collections – 1600 m2
3. Microclimate system, fire extinguishing system
4. Special conditions for document storage (boxes, drawers, folders etc.)
5. Restricted access, special order of service



Legal basis

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1. Emergency management plan of Vilnius University (2018)
2. 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
3. VUL collection policy (2014)
4. Guidelines for using special collections



Step by step

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- Collection assessment (prioritised):
  - High priority (UNESCO protected documents, documents that are particularly important for the historical, cultural and political identity of the state and nation of Lithuania and that have social, cultural and economic value)
  - Medium priority (prints to 1800, manuscripts to 1945)
  - Low priority (prints to 1945, contemporary manuscripts)

- Personnel mobilization lists prepared and approved, all the related persons informed
- VUL core team was formed (main people responsible for the emergency activities)
- Quick response scenarios prepared
- The most necessary materials have been purchased;
- Important collection accounting documents were digitized, their copies were taken to a secure location



Chalenges

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1. Decision making
2. Requirement not to disclose too much information
3. Work without publicizing information, having only part of the information
4. There are no specialists to advise us, everything is focused on civil safety
5. Limited funds, storage space limit

Main questions discussed:

- to move collections or to leave them in storages?
- Move where (another building, old building basements)?
- How to pack?
- How to move around the building?
- How to transport?

Final remarks

- Tested scenarios showed some flaws we hadn't thought of
- The storage location has not yet been decided
- We haven't held any exercises yet



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Contacts

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