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Amendments to the Library Law in Latvia

Definitions
Aim of the Law
Functions of Libraries
Library Network
General Collection and National Collection

Definitions

New definition for «Library»

An educational, information, cultural and social participation institution or its structural unit with a permanent library collection and material and technical basis, which performs the functions specified in this law.

Also includes new definitions for:

Library collection

a collection of documents, information, and knowledge resources in a library and digital materials held by the library.

Library service

a service within the framework of which the library provides access to the library's collection and cultural heritage, promotes the promotion of reading, as well as provides support for education, science, information literacy, the development of digital skills and public participation, ensuring a publicly accessible and inclusive environment

Library typology

Classification according to applicable standards.

The Aim of the Law

> *By using the opportunities provided by libraries and promoting the development of libraries, to ensure free and unrestricted access to information, knowledge and cultural heritage for everyone, to support education and science, to promote lifelong learning, as well as to promote civic participation of society in democratic processes and the strengthening of statehood.*

- Free Access
- Education & Science
- Lifelong Learning
- Civic Participation

New, Extended Library Functions

All Libraries

1. Manages, accumulates, catalogues and preserves cultural heritage — printed works, manuscripts and other documents
2. Ensures access to and use of the library collection and services
3. Supports education (including lifelong learning), science and culture
4. Promotes reading, media literacy and information literacy
5. Strengthens democratic values and promotes civic participation
6. Ensures a publicly accessible and inclusive space for public participation
7. Provides support for digital skills and use of e-government services

Municipal Libraries (additional functions)

1. Local history function — creates, preserves and popularises local cultural heritage
2. Supports the formation and strengthening of local communities and their identity

Library Network

Definition

A balanced, coherent and unified set of state, municipal and private libraries covering the entire territory of Latvia.

Composition

Consists of the National Library of Latvia, public libraries, libraries of higher education institutions, libraries of general and vocational education institutions, and special libraries.

Coordination Centre

The National Library of Latvia serves as the methodological, advisory, information systems management and interest advocacy centre of the network.

Latvian Library Network

LIBRARY TYPES

National
Library,
serving the entire country.

Public
Libraries providing services to the community
at a local level.

Higher Education Institution
Libraries supporting higher education and research processes.

General and Vocational Education Institution
Libraries supporting General and vocational education.

Special
Libraries with a specialized collection and target user group.

FOUNDER

National Library
A state institution established by law

State
Library founded by state institutions and derived public entities

Municipal
Library founded by municipalities.

Private
Library founded by private individuals or organizations.

Latvian Library Network

ACCREDITATION

National significance
Library with national significance status.

Regional main
Library fulfilling the functions of the main regional library.

Local significance
Library with local significance status.

Summary
The Latvian library network consists of various types of libraries founded by the state, state institutions, municipalities or private individuals / organizations.
Through accreditation, libraries can obtain the status of a library of national, regional or local significance.

Library Collection

The National Library collection is separated from the general library collection in Latvia due to special preservation requirements.

It forms part of the Library's general collection, consisting of:

1

Legal Deposit & Unique Copies

Legal deposit copies and the only copies of publications published in Latvia (Latvian and foreign languages), plus publications published outside Latvia in Latvian about Latvia and Latvian society.

2

Specially Protected Documents

Documents of the National Library Collection protected under the Council of Europe Convention on Offences relating to Cultural Property.

3

Significant Unpublished Materials

Materials of local cultural heritage — manuscripts, photographs and audiovisual materials.

Thank you!

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