



LITHUANIAN RESEARCH LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

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“The best way to predict the future is to create it”: a feasibility study of the Lithuanian library network

About the author

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ABSTRACT

Change is the major context of existence of contemporary libraries. Diverse factors as changing user behaviour and needs, the development of information and communication technologies, information services offered by commercial organizations, the consequences of economic crisis influence library roles and activities. The context of activities of the Lithuanian libraries is similar. The achievements of the project “Libraries for innovation” in encouraging the development of innovative library vision, computerizing libraries, developing competencies of library staff; the results of library modernization programme; successful library partnerships in providing users with digital information resources and building joint information systems – these are only several examples of positive changes that have opened new opportunities for libraries. However, it should be also acknowledged that the Lithuanian libraries encounter various challenges: how to manage organization effectively in times of decreasing state funding, how to prove the value of libraries to governmental institutions and potential sponsors, how to offer users competitive information services. In order to use opportunities and cope with challenges libraries all over the world re-think their roles and priorities and determine perspectives for future development. In Lithuania the efforts to start a discussion about the future of libraries and their roles are also observed.

According to management guru Peter Drucker, “the best way to predict the future is to create it”. To stay relevant and turn challenges into opportunities libraries should think about their future today. By implementing the project LiBiTOP (A feasibility study for the optimization of the Lithuanian library network), the Lithuanian Academic Libraries Directors Association aims to develop strategic planning tools that would help library managers and governmental institutions in charge of coordinating library activities to make decisions about libraries’ future development and perspectives. The LiBiTOP project focuses on libraries of the national significance and county public libraries. However, the results of the project may be useful for all research, special and public libraries. The idea and methodological solutions of LiBiTOP project are going to be discussed in more detail in the presentation.