



LITHUANIAN RESEARCH LIBRARY CONSORTIUM

The LMBA 10th Anniversary Conference *Libraries for Science, Studies, Society*

Meilė Kretavičienė

University libraries in the age of information technologies

About the author:

Meilė Kretavičienė, Director of the Library & Information Center of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences; EAHIL (European Association for Health Information and Libraries) Board member since year 2000; Editor for Baltic states of the journal *Nordic-Baltic Forum for Scholar Communication*; President of the Association of the Lithuanian Academic Library Directors (LABA).

ABSTRACT

Technology has had more serious impact on libraries during the last twenty years than it had through the previous two hundred, and it is forcing us to re-examine the place called the library. Will the physical library have a role to play in the future? Renovations of the existing libraries and construction of new ones have often been undertaken not because they have been located in improperly constructed buildings, but because of changes that are taking place in them.

Today libraries are no longer considered to be merely spaces that stack books for a specialized few, and we must respond to the changes that are taking place in education, research and publication of scholarly information - namely digital publications, as well as in the clinical care in our university case.

Today libraries are service organizations that embody the mission and vision of institutions. The majority of world universities want their libraries to serve as a physical symbol of the search for knowledge, as a focal point for the campus and intellectual commons, as an access point and distribution center for print and electronic information, as a teaching library to support trends in education, research, and service, as a place for groups engaged in collaborative work or learning, as a functional and pleasant workplace for staff and users and an attractive gateway to the campus and a signature building.

The paper provides an overview of creation a new Library of the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, its challenges, problems, results and user feedback.