

12th Congress of Baltic Librarians CoBaL: **LIBRARIES – KEY TO A LITERATE SOCIETY**

1-4 December 2025, Kaunas and Vilnius, Lithuania

PROGRAMME

1 DECEMBER, MONDAY

Registration for each activity is optional and can be completed separately during the registration process

10:00–12:00 LIBRARY OF EMOTIONS. SHORT TOUR AND PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL PROJECT "LIBRARY OF EMOTIONS"

Kaunas Municipal Vincas Kudirka Public Library, Laisvės al. 57, Kaunas

12:00–13:00 BREAK/FREE TIME

13:00–14:00 TOUR OF THE RENOVATED LIBRARY: MODERNIZED SPACES AND INNOVATIVE SERVICES

Kaunas County Public Oak Grove Library, Radastų street 2, Kaunas

14:00–16:00 DISCUSSION ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIBRARIES' LITERACY MANIFESTO

Kaunas County Public Oak Grove Library, Radastų street 2, Kaunas

16:00–18:00 CITY TOUR IN KAUNAS

Start of the tour at the Church of St. Michael the Archangel, Nepriklausomybės square 14, Kaunas

12TH CONGRESS OF BALTIC LIBRARIANS COBAL: LIBRARIES – KEY TO A LITERATE SOCIETY

Radisson Hotel Kaunas, K. Donelaičio street 27, Kaunas

2 DECEMBER, TUESDAY

LOBBY

9.00-9.30 REGISTRATION, WELCOME COFFEE

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA *(Online streaming)*

MODERATOR: LUKAS KERAITIS

9.30-10.00 WELCOME SPEECHES

10:00-10:20 OFFICIAL STATEMENT. BALTIC LIBRARIES LITERACY MANIFESTO

10:20-11:00 (40 MIN) LIBRARIES ENHANCING READING: STRATEGIES, METHODS, AND CHALLENGES

Dr. Anu Ojaranta, Regional State Administrative Agency of South-West Finland, Turku, Finland

11.00-11.15 BREAK

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA *(Online streaming)*

TOPIC: LIBRARIES AS AGENTS OF CHANGE

Moderator: Lukas Keraitis

11:15-11:45 (30 MIN) EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES THROUGH LIBRARY REFORM

Ülle Talihärm, Ministry of Culture, Cultural Heritage Department, Adviser (Libraries), Estonia

11:45-12:15 (30 MIN) REIMAGINE LIBRARIES

Aušrinė Žilinskienė, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Director General, Lithuania

12:15-12:35 (20 MIN) DRIVER FOR SOCIAL COHESION: HOW LIBRARY INITIATIVES EMPOWER COMMUNITIES THROUGH INCLUSIVE PROJECTS

Iryna Brunda, Chortkiv Public Library, Director, Ukraine

12:35-12:55 (20 MIN) BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES: THE ROLE OF MUSEUMS AND LIBRARIES IN ADVANCING THE SDGS

Baiba Ivane, the Library Association of Latvia, Salaspils Regional Library, Latvia

12:55-13:15 (20 MIN) WE DEVELOP WITH THE CHANGING CITY - HELSINKI CITY LIBRARY'S STRATEGY

Lotta Muurinen, Helsinki City Library, Finland

13:15-13:55 LUNCH BREAK

(Group III)

CONFERENCE HALL DELTA

TOPIC: LIBRARIES FOR DEMOCRACY

Moderator: Viktorija Pukėnaitė - Pigagienė

11:15-11:35 (20 MIN) STRENGTHENING SOCIETY'S RESILIENCE TO THREATS: WHAT ROLE DO LIBRARIES PLAY HERE

Dr. Jolanta Budriūnienė, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania, Lithuania

11:35-12:15 (20 MIN) DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROJECTS AT KONGSBERG LIBRARY

Oda Cornelia Knudsen, Kongsberg Library, Norway

12:15-12:35 (20 MIN) PROFESSIONAL INTERNSHIPS FOR UKRAINIAN LIBRARIANS IN LITHUANIA

Larysa Sydorenko, Klaipėda County Ieva Simonaitytė Public Library, Senior Librarian, Lithuania

12:35-13:30 LUNCH BREAK

(Group II)

CONFERENCE HALL GAMMA

BIRŽIŠKOS SKAITYMAI'25 / BIRŽIŠKA READINGS'25

Moderator: Martyna Malienė

11:15-11:25 (10 MIN) VILNIUS CITY LIBRARY BIBLIOBUS (SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION)

Martyna Malienė, Vilnius City Library, Lithuania

11:25-11:45 (20 MIN) LANDMARKS OF ESTONIAN BOOK HISTORY - FOREIGN AND OWN
Helle Maaslieb, Estonian Literary Museum, Estonia

11:45-12:05 (20 MIN) TABLE TOP ROLEPLAYING GAMES AS A READING PROMOTION
Igor Korotinsky, Jurmala Central Library, Latvia

12:05-12:50 LUNCH BREAK
(Group I)

12:50-13:10 (20 MIN) CLIENT JOURNEY AND EVALUATION OF SATISFACTION - WHY AND HOW?
Krista Visas, Estonian Librarians Association, Estonia

13:10-13:30 (20 MIN) THE IMPORTANCE OF SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT FOR PROMOTING READING
Daniel Forsman, City Librarian of Stockholm, Sweden

STUDENTŲ SKVERAS S. DAUKANTO STR. 28, KAUNAS

WE INVITE YOU TO TAKE THE TIME TO VISIT THE VILNIUS CITY LIBRARY BIBLIOBUS, WHICH HAS ARRIVED AT THE CONGRESS IN KAUNAS.

11:30-16:30 BIBLIOBUS – THE TRAVELLING LIBRARY IN VILNIUS

KAUNO VINCO KUDIRKOS VIEŠOJI BIBLIOTEKA

Laisvės al. 57, Kaunas

BIRŽIŠKOS SKAITYMAI'25

WORKSHOP IN THE LITHUANIAN LANGUAGE

Moderator: Kristina Barakauskė, Tauragės rajono savivaldybės Birutės Baltrušaitytės viešoji biblioteka

11:15-12:05

I DALIS

BIBLIOTEKOS KAIP ĮKVĖPIMO ŠALTINIS: KOMUNIKACIJA, KURI SKATINA SKAITYTI
(kūrybinės dirbtuvės, būtina išankstinė registracija)

12:05-12:50 LUNCH BREAK
(Group I)

12:50-13:10

II DALIS

BIBLIOTEKOS KAIP ĮKVĖPIMO ŠALTINIS: KOMUNIKACIJA, KURI SKATINA SKAITYTI
(kūrybinės dirbtuvės, būtina registracija)

ALFA LOBBY POSTER PRESENTATION AREA

13:10-14:10 POSTER PRESENTATIONS SESSION

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA (Online streaming)

Moderator: Lukas Keraitis

14:10-14:50 (40 MIN) MAKE DEMOCRACY THRIVE AGAIN – LIBRARIES MUST SAVE THE WORLD!

Martin Memet Könick, Landskrona City Library in the South of Sweden, Library Director; Swedish Library Association, Board Member, Sweden; IFLA Public Libraries Section SC, Elected Member

14:50-15:20 (30 MIN) LIBRARIES AS RESILIENCE FORTRESSES

Assoc. prof. dr. Viktor Denisenko, Head of the Centre for Communication Influences and Propaganda Research, Vilnius University, Faculty of Communication, Lithuania

15:20-15:40 (20 MIN) ENLIGHTENMENT, SOLITUDE, AND ROBINSON CRUSOE: THE FUTURE OF READING AND WRITING FROM A HISTORIAN'S PERSPECTIVE

Assoc. prof. dr. Tomas Vaiseta, Vilnius University, Faculty of History, Department of Modern History, Lithuania

15.40-16.20 COFFEE BREAK

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA (Online streaming)

TOPIC: LIBRARIES AS CHANGEMAKERS

Moderator: Lukas Keraitis

16:20-16:40 (20 MIN) LIBRARIANSHIP TODAY: PROFESSIONAL GROWTH FOR A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Žydrūnė Tichanavičienė, Vilnius County Adomas Mickevičius Public Library, Lithuania

16:40-17:00 (20 MIN) CHANGE YOURSELF. CHANGE YOUR LIBRARY. CHANGE YOUR COUNTRY. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Oksana Brui, Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine, Ukrainian Library Association; Oleh Serbin, Yaroslav Mudryi National Library of Ukraine, Ukrainian Library Association, Ukraine

17:00-17:20 (20 MIN) DESIGNING INCLUSIVE LIBRARIES: INSIGHTS FROM TALLINN LIBRARIES

Kristi Veeber, Tallinn Libraries, Estonian Librarians Association, Estonia

17:20-17:40 (20 MIN) THE BEGINNING OF READING PROMOTION PROGRAM. FROM „SUMMER CHALLENGES“ TO YEAR-ROUND ENGAGEMENT: THE ROLE OF LIBRARIES IN FOSTERING READING IN LITHUANIA

Rūta Lazauskaitė, Advisor in Professional Creativity and Internationality Policy Group, Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Lithuania;

Dr. Rasa Railaitė, Education Coordinator, Panevėžys County Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Public Library; Šarūnė Leikienė, Senior Librarian-Methodologist, Panevėžys County Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Public Library, Lithuania

CONFERENCE HALL DELTA

BIRŽIŠKOS SKAITYMAI'25 / BIRŽIŠKA READINGS'25

Moderator: Ugnė Rinkevičiūtė

16:20-16:40 (20 MIN) EARLY READING PROMOTION: BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM

Justinas Vancevičius, Head of Children and Youth Literature Centre at the Martynas Mažvydas Lithuanian National Library, Lithuania

16:40-17:00 (20 MIN) STAYING OFFLINE: COLLECTIVE READING AS A FORM OF MEDIA ECOLOGY
Donata Bocullo, Kaunas County Public Oak Grove Library, Lithuania

17:00-17:10 (10 MIN) THE LIBRARY AS A CENTER OF INFORMAL EDUCATION FOR COMMUNITY RESIDENTS (SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION)
Nadiia Vlezko, Ivan Kotlyarevsky Poltava Regional Universal Scientific Library, Director, Ukraine

17:10-17:20 (10 MIN) PROJECT "VOICES OF LIVING HISTORY" (SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION)
Halyna Slotiuk, Vinnytsia Regional Universal Scientific Library named after Valentyn Otamanovsky, Director, Ukraine

17:20-17:30 (10 MIN) LIBRARY AND WAR (SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION)
Olga Romaniuk Lesia Ukrainka Public Library, Director, Kyiv, Ukraine

17:30-17:40 (10 MIN) PROJECTS OF ZAKARPATSKA REGIONAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY (SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION)
Maryana Hrihash, Zakarpatska Regional Scientific Library, Deputy Director, Ukraine

CONFERENCE HALL GAMMA

TOPIC: TECHNOLOGIES IN LIBRARIES

Moderator: Monika Balsevičienė

16:20-16:40 (20 MIN) LIBRARY BUILDS COMPREHENSIVE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROFILE
*Lina Blovesčiūnienė;
dr. Giedrė Sabaitytė;
Vilius Kučiukas, Vytautas Magnus University Lithuania*

16:40-17:00 (20 MIN) BEYOND SEARCH: AI AS A PARTNER IN LIBRARY SERVICES
Artūrs Žogla, National Library of Latvia, Latvia

17:00-17:20 (20 MIN) THE BOOK METAVERSE – WHERE STORIES BECOME WORLDS
Rasa Antanavičiūtė, Kaunas Municipal Vincas Kudirka Public Library, Girstupis branch, Lithuania

3 DECEMBER, WEDNESDAY

LOBBY

9.00-9.30 WELCOME COFFEE

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA

TOPIC: LIBRARIES FOR DEMOCRACY

Moderator: Viktorija Pukėnaitė - Pigagienė

09:30-09:50 (20 MIN) PRACTISING EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY THROUGH DIALOGUE
Dr. Ieva Dryžaitė, Kaunas County Public Oak Grove Library, Lithuania

09:50-10:20 (30 MIN) LATVIAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES' APPROACH TO COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT POLICIES SINCE 2022: REALITIES, DILEMMAS, AND RESPONSES

Baiba Ivane, the Library Association of Latvia, Salaspils Regional Library, Latvia

10:20-10:40 (20 MIN) WILL LIBRARIES SAVE OUR DEMOCRACY?

Kairi Tilga, Estonian Cooperation Assembly, Estonia

10:40-11:10 (30 MIN) HOW TO MEASURE LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY

Dalia Balčytė, Klementina Gečaitė, Lithuanian Audiosensory Library, Lithuania

11:10-11:30 (20 MIN) CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION. WHY LITHUANIAN LIBRARIANS SUPPORT THE CULTURAL ASSEMBLY

Dr. Laura Šimkevičė, Lithuanian Librarians' Association, Chairwoman; Vilnius University, Faculty of Communication, Lithuania

CONFERENCE HALL DELTA

TOPIC: CREATIVITY IN COMMUNITIES

Moderator: Plungė's Public Library (Lithuania) Team

09:30-11:30 WORKSHOP: EXPERIMENTAL ORCHESTRA. EXPLORING IMPROVISATION

(creative workshops, registration required)

CONFERENCE HALL GAMMA

TOPIC: THE ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN IN A CHANGING WORLD

Moderator: Julija Gajauskienė

09:30-09:50 (20 MIN) INFORMATION SPECIALIST OF THE 21ST CENTURY - WHAT COMPETENCIES DOES HE NEED?

Rita Jakutienė, assoc. prof. dr. Kristina Kulikauskienė, Šiauliai State College, Lithuania

09:50-10:10 (20 MIN) PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN IN A CHANGING WORLD

Katre Riisalu, Estonian Librarians Association, Vice-President, Viimsi Public Library, Director, Estonia

10:10-10:30 (20 MIN) "PROFESSIONAL" LIBRARIAN IN LATVIA: QUALIFICATION, EDUCATION, AND COMPETENCE DEVELOPMENT

Agnese Pašāne, National Library of Latvia, Latvia

10:30-11:30 DISCUSSION "THE ROLE OF THE PROFESSIONAL LIBRARIAN IN A CHANGING WORLD"

11.30-12.30 COFFEE BREAK

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA

TOPIC: LIBRARIES FOR THE READING SOCIETY

Moderator: Viktorija Žilinskaitė

12:30-13:00 (30 MIN) READING HABITS AND THE PROMOTION OF READING IN ESTONIA (ONLINE PRESENTATION)

Katrin Tonisson, Triin Soone, Estonian Children's Literature Center, Estonia

13:00-13:20 (20 MIN) UNITED FOR READING JOY: LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS HAND IN HAND
Aija Bremšmite, Ogre Central Library, Latvia

13:20-13:40 (30 MIN) READING IS A VERB: THE READING PROMOTION CHALLENGE IN TODAY'S LIBRARIES
Urtė Šulskienė, Šiauliai County Povilas Višinskis Public Library, Lithuania

CONFERENCE HALL DELTA

TOPIC: LIBRARIES FOR THE MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY

Moderator: Žydrūnė Tichanavičienė

12:30-12:50 (20 MIN) PROMOTING MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY IN LITHUANIAN LIBRARIES
Greta Kėvelaitienė, Lithuanian Librarians' Association, Vice Chairwoman, Panevėžys County Gabrielė Petkevičaitė-Bitė Public Library, Director, Lithuania

12:50-13:20 (20 MIN) LIBRA.I. PROJECT – PROMOTING AI AND MEDIA LITERACY SKILLS THROUGH THE LENS OF LATVIAN LIBRARIES
Emīls Rotgalvis, National Library of Latvia, Media Literacy Expert, Latvia

13:20-13:40 (20 MIN) ONE BOOK FOR ALL: WHY ACCESSIBILITY MATTERS FOR LIBRARIES
Julija Skerniškytė, Lithuanian Audiosensory Library, Lithuania

CONFERENCE HALL GAMMA

TOPIC: AI IN LIBRARIES

Moderator: Maris Nool, Estonian Librarians' Association, Tallinn University of Technology Library, Estonia

12:30-13:30 WORKSHOP: SUPERCHARGED BY AI: LEARNING TO SPOT SCAMS IN THE DIGITAL AGE
(registration required)

13.40-14.00 BREAK

CONFERENCE HALL ALFA

14:00-15:00 CONCLUSIONS AND DISCUSSION

LANGUAGE IN THE AGE OF AI: WILL THE TOWER OF BABEL CEASE TO EXIST?

Assoc. prof. Dainora Maumevičienė, Kaunas University of Technology, Faculty of Social Sciences, Arts and Humanities, Lithuania

15:40 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF M. K. ČIURLIONIS (CULTURAL PROGRAM WITH INVITATIONS TO MK ČIURLIONIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART)

4 DECEMBER, THURSDAY

VILNIUS

Registration for each activity is optional and can be completed separately during the registration process

I OPTION

LITHUANIAN AUDIOSENSORY LIBRARY, SKROBLŲ STREET 10, VILNIUS

13:00-14:00 AUDIENCES SERVED BY THE LAB AND THEIR NEEDS. INTRODUCTION TO THE "LIBRARY FOR ALL" INITIATIVE AND LITHUANIAN LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY MANIFESTO.

14:00-17:00 LIBRARY ACCESSIBILITY TOUR + EXHIBITION "FROM NEED TO CHANGE", HOW THE BLIND COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTED TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SOCIETY

II OPTION

VILNIUS COUNTY ADOMAS MICKEVIČIUS PUBLIC LIBRARY, TRAKU STREET 10, VILNIUS

13:00-14:00 GUIDED TOUR AT THE LIBRARY AND PRESENTATION OF SERVICES "ADAPTATION OF URBAN HERITAGE SPACES FOR LIBRARY VISITORS".

14:00-17:00 PRESENTATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION (MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY TRAINING PROGRAM; READING PROMOTING PROGRAM; "CULTURE PASSPORT" AND "SOCIAL RECIPE" PROGRAMS), SUSTAINABLE LIBRARY CONCEPT IMPLEMENTATION, MICKEVIČIANA, Q&A SESSION.

III OPTION

MARTYNAS MAŽVYDAS NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LITHUANIA; GEDIMINAS PR. 51, VILNIUS

13:00-14:00 GUIDED TOUR AT THE LIBRARY AND PRESENTATION OF SERVICES.

Organized by:



Financed by:



Partners:

