



# UNIVERSITY OF TARTU LIBRARY

Tartu is among the oldest university towns in Europe. The University of Tartu, founded in 1632 by Gustavus Adolphus of Sweden, is the only classical university in Estonia today. More than 18,000 students, 700 foreign students and 1,400 doctoral students study in its nine Faculties and three separate Colleges. International co-operation with renowned universities both in Europe and all over the world is essential for the further development of the University of Tartu and its 1,700 academic staff. The University has signed co-operation agreements with 51 partner universities in 21 countries. Among universities in the Baltic countries, the University of Tartu is the only one to belong to the Coimbra Group – an association of long-established European multidisciplinary universities of a high international standard.

The University's teaching and learning is supported by the collections (3.8 million items) of the UT Library, the oldest and largest of Estonia's research libraries. Together with the re-opening of the university in 1802, the Library was created in the spirit of the Enlightenment; from its inception the Library has been open to the general public as well as to University students and staff. Today, 41% of its 53,000 registered users are not associated with the University.

The unique Library collections contain manuscripts and publications of scholarly value in all subjects, the oldest items date back to the 13th century. The Library has held the legal deposit privilege since 1812. Due to its good scholarly reputation, the Library receives plenty of valuable donations each year. Library collections include materials on all fields of science; there is a valuable map collection and a rich department of music. The Library also mediates access to a representative collection of electronic scholarly information – more than 100 databases, ca 90,000 e-books and ca 84,000 e-journals.

In 1982, the Library moved over to its present building – for years, it was the largest building in the city. The new library building was given an architecture prize in 1983.

The Library's activities are characterised by the keywords of openness and co-operation both inside the University and at a wider national and international level. The UT Library is one of the founding members of the Estonian Libraries Network Consortium which brings together 13 large Estonian libraries. The Library is a member of a number of international organisations and projects: IFLA, LIBER, IAML, IASA, BAAC, EAHIL,

ENCES, EIA, IALL, CERL, Bibliotheca Baltica, SPARC Europe, EOD, Europeana, OpenAire, etc.

Since 1992, UTL is the European Union Documentation Centre in Estonia.

By supporting the Open Access movement, the Library aims to contribute to the free dissemination of research results. The Library manages the University of Tartu Repository on DSpace, which has joined the e-theses portal DART-Europe.

In the light of the rapid rise of electronic information, the Library's task is to teach information literacy to its users at all levels, including web-based courses for high school students.

On account of its rich collections of early books, manuscripts, maps, sheet music, photographs and art, the University of Tartu Library is an important cultural treasury both in an Estonian and in a European context, being part of our common cultural memory. The Library is digitising its historical special collections, and the rising number of virtual visits from all over the world each year confirms its successful role in global scholarly communication.

The first robot-scanners in the Baltic States were installed at the UT Library.



- Library is open:  
Mon-Fri 9–22, Sat 11–20, Sun 11–17.  
During the exam period, the Night Library is open well after the midnight.
- Collections total: 3 826 572
- 36 Branch libraries with collections of 300 000 items
- Registered users: 53 159
- Visits: 228528
- Loans per year: 823 945
- Licensed databases: 113
- Library staff (FTE): 124
- Opening hours per week: 80

UT Library was the **first library in Estonia to receive legal deposit copies** – starting from 1812, the Library was given a censor's copy of all publications issued the Provinces of Estonia and Livonia.

The **first building in Tartu with a lift for public use** (installed in 1927–1928)

The **first web server** and the Library home page in spring 1993

The **first Estonian library to use an e-catalogue** and the subject thesaurus INGRID

Robot-scanner 2010

Being a member of the EUNET Consortium, we use:

- Online Catalogue ESTER (ILS Millennium)



- Database of Estonian Articles Index Scriptorum Estoniae (ISE)



- Estonian Subject Thesaurus (EMS)



## BIBLIOTHECA UNIVERSITATIS TARTUENSIS