BAAC Conference, 17-19 September 2014, Riga

SAFE AND REUSABLE: IDEALS VERSUS REAL LIFE

Programme
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Museum of the Occupation of Latvia 1940-1991
September 17

Venue: National Library of Latvia, Mūkusalas 3, Rīga

09:00-10:00  Registration and morning coffee

10:00-10:30  Conference opening

10:30-12:30  SESSION 1

10:30-11:00  Aldis Pūtelis (Archives of Latvian Folklore, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia)
Document in its own right or just a means of documentation: Phonograph cylinders in the collection of the Archives of Latvian Folklore

11:00-11:30  Dr. Nijolė Bliūdžiuviienė (Director, Centre of Bibliography and Book Science, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania)
The National Archival Fund of Published Documents: Challenges to Preserve and Access

11:30-12:00  Helle Bech Madsen (Danish Broadcasting Corporation)
Beyond Accessibility. An Insight to DR Archive Initiatives

12:00-12:30  Marika Koha (National Library of Estonia)
Estonian audio cassettes and digital archive Digar in National Library of Estonia

12:30-14:00  Lunch; tour of the library

14:00-15:30  SESSION 2

14:00-14:30  Gerli Rebane (Consultant, Estonian Film Archives)
Digital Projects at Estonian Film Archives

14:30-15:00  Heiki Männik (Coordinator of Digital Archiving, Estonian Public Broadcasting)
An innovative and self-critical approach to digital archiving
15:00-15:30  **Tedd Urnes (Norway)**  
Safeguarding, protection and preservation of analogue originals of audiovisual archives, libraries and private collections in time of war, natural disasters, cultural and political conflicts. Report of the official approach to the issues made by international archival associations

15:30-16:00  Coffee

16:00-17:30  **SESSION 3**

16:00-16:30  **Ginta Zalcmane (Reference Center, The National Library of Latvia)**  
The cooperation of the national memory institutions and the users in the digital project of the National Library of Latvia „In Search of Lost Latvia“

16:30-17:00  **Sven Lepa (Archivist, National Archives of Estonia)**  
The National Archive of Estonia on Flickr Commons: One Year of Experiences

17:00-17:30  **Juris Lubējs (Audio engineer, National Library of Latvia)**  
Bellaccord – beloved prewar Latvian record company

19:00-22:00  Opening reception - Small Guild (Mazā Ģilde), Amatu iela 3/5, Riga
# September 18

Venue: National Library of Latvia, Mūkusalas 3, Rīga

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15:00-15:30  Maria Drabczyk (National Audiovisual Institute of Poland), Kamila Lewandowska (National Audiovisual Institute of Poland), Eve-Marie Oesterlen (British Universities Film & Video Council, UK)
Going EUscreenXL: on the joys and challenges of participating in a pan-European AV heritage project

15:30-16:00  Coffee

16:00-18:00  SESSION 6

16:00-16:30  Jolė Stimbirytė (Head of Documents Technical Control Department, Lithuanian Central State Archive)
Access to audiovisual material in Lithuanian Central State Archive: user versus archivist

16:30-17:00  Erkki Nurmi (Online service planner, University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy Library, Finland)
Librarian in Erasmus exchange: e-resources in academic music libraries in London

17:00-18:00  Andris Ķesteris (Canada)
Presentation and documentary film „Outside the Sphere“
September 19

Professional tours

Latvian Radio, Sound Recording Library
Start time: **10:00**
Address: Doma laukums 8 (located in the Old Town, close to the city centre)
Length: 1 hour

Sound Library was established at the Latvian Radio in 1947, although some content was stockpiled since the end of World War II in 1945. Up to 1992 the library’s audio materials consisted only of magnetic tapes recorded at various speeds, vinyl records and audio cassettes, but in 1992 first audio CDs arrived. Music of various genres comprise 75 percent of total Sound Library stock, while the remaining 25 percent can be split into literature, drama and social-political segments. In 2003, the Latvian Radio’s IT staff developed a project that targeted digitization of the sound library, with a view of creating on-line access of the audio recordings internally. Currently the database already has around 640 000 unique entry names, and around 143 000 entries for names of persons, groups, orchestras and choirs. Since March 1999 the entire Latvian Radio daily programme is archived and available to listen to on the internet. Every radio listener can buy a copy of any broadcast of the Latvian Radio.
Latvia State Archive of Audiovisual Documents
Start time: **12:00**
Address: Šmerļa street 5 (free transportation will be provided from the city centre, leaving at 11:30)
Length: 1,5 hours

Since 1963 Latvia's State Archive of Audiovisual Documents collects and stores the Latvian national audiovisual memory. In 50 years a unique archive of our life has been accumulated in films and newsreels, photographs and sound recordings. From 2006 archive stores electronic documents as well.

The archive currently holds:
- audiovisual documents – 94 181 items,
- photo documents – 1 583 896 items,
- audio documents – 50 338 items,
- electronic documents – 68 000 items,
- film posters - 2504 items
Abstracts

SESSION 1

Aldis Pūtelis, Archives of Latvian Folklore, Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art, University of Latvia

Document in its own right or just a means of documentation: Phonograph cylinders in the collection of the Archives of Latvian Folklore

Archives of Latvian Folklore were founded 90 years ago, with strictly set primary tasks. Among those was also the collection of folk-melodies (understood as a separate genre “folk-song” since Herder mainly refers to the poetic stanzas alone).

The regular and previously employed way of recording a melody was that of a musically educated person (in Latvian case - a composer interested in musical folklore) trying to write a musical score from listening to a performer. This is not an easy task, and it cannot be performed by just any literate school-child (as in the case of recording texts alone).

As evidenced by the minutes of the Archives Board, it has been its aim to employ available technical means for this purpose since the very first planning meetings of the aforementioned Board. At that time (1925) phonograph appeared to be the preferable option, and several such machines were purchased.

Originally the process was as follows: the folklorists carried the machines into the field-trips, then brought them back for a musician to transcribe the melodies, producing the “proper material” - the score as a paper document. The recorded samples of songs were rather short (covering a stanza or maybe two), as it was assumed that this will be sufficient for the transcription of the particular melody.
which then can be performed using the text recorded on paper - and separately.

With the change in management of the Archives a change in attitude also came about, shifting the emphasis towards documentation of the whole song.

Nevertheless, the paper document still remained the main focus. The process of transcription involved a number of different aspects, including the biases of the transcribers, musical ability of the transcribers, etc. Still it would have been impossible to learn any of that had the cylinders not been preserved and if there had been no modern technology for playback and transfer of the cylinders.
Dr. Nijolė Bliūdžiuvienė, Director, Centre of Bibliography and Book Science, Martynas Mažvydas National Library of Lithuania

The National Archival Fund of Published Documents: Challenges to Preserve and Access

The paper deals with main issues of formation, preservation and access of the essential part of the National Archival fund of published documents – audiovisual collection. National Archival Fund of published documents and legal structure of regulation is disclosed. The place of the audiovisual heritage in the National Archival Fund of published documents is displayed, as well as the idea of a common Lithuanian audiovisual heritage preservation and access is raised.
Helle Bech Madsen, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation

Beyond Accessibility.
An Insight to DR Archive Initiatives

In recent years, the Danish Broadcasting Corporation (DR) has adopted a more user-oriented approach towards digitisation. This new approach partly derives from a corporate alignment with the user driven mediamarket mechanism, but it is also a question of rational economic priority and common sense.

DR Archive is no longer only preserving, controlling metadata and making content accessible. It takes an active part in getting digitised content all the way out to the end user, almost pushing digitised content from the archives to the journalists and programme makers in house, and directly to the Danish public.

Find out more about the connection between hi-speed-digitisation, user-tagging and web-communication in this session where a central project manager from DR Archive will present practical examples and latest insights working with user-orientation in various projects.

The presentation will answer the following questions:

- What are the advantages of a strong focus on the end user, when in the midst of a process of digitisation?
- How can archives in general stimulate the use of content?

Current DR Archive projects that the session will touch on:

- “On demand digitisation of the tv-collections”.
- “Visualising the Collections”: An in-house marketing platform for DR’s audio-visual collections.
- “DR Archive in the People’s Meeting on Bornholm 2014”: “The People’s meet-
"Ing" is a political festival of people and politicians, where the Island of Bornholm provides the venue for Danish politicians to debate current political issues. DR Archive participates in the festival with different events in order to experiment with user-tagging of archive content.

- Dka.dk: A public website where DR Archive publishes digitised archive material in cooperation with the main cultural institutions in Denmark.
Marika Koha, National Library of Estonia

Estonian audio cassettes and digital archive Digar in National Library of Estonia (NLE)

There are about 2100 commercially published audio cassettes related to Estonia that are acquired and stored in NLE and being a national library, there is an obligation to preserve them continually. For that reason it has been clear that these cassettes need to be kept in a more secure format, and a decision was made to digitize all these cassettes. The digitization work was launched at the beginning of 2009. In the first place the copies were made on CDs.

At the same time NLE developed a digital archive Digar, in order to collect and store e-publications. First it was meant to collect print files and digitized printed materials. From 2013 also sound files of digitized audio cassettes are put into Digar. In the presentation there will be introduction to Digar in its two interfaces: digar.nlib.ee and www.digar.ee
SESSION 2

Gerli Rebane, Consultant, Estonian Film Archives

Digital Projects at Estonian Film Archives

• digitization projects at EFA – nitro project -> never seen before nitro film scraps were scanned and are now still being described and put in order
• digitized films in database FIS – enables researches from Estonia and abroad to choose material for their projects -> choosing timecodes -> receiving files of wished format. This has lead to newsreel material being used in feature films and in foreign documentaries
• expectations of users – 2K -> scanner

We digitized our BETA-tapes but this no longer meets the requirements of present day filmmakers who are all interested in receiving 2K images. Thus they need to have the negative print scanned. We don’t own a scanner but are in collaboration with the NPO which owns it.

• nation-wide digitization project -> in the coming years a mass-digitization project is about to be undertaken to digitize all national audiovisual heritage. EFA has a big role to play in it.

Taking part in the EFG1914 project

• choosing the material – film + photo
• digitizing the material for the project
• keywording the films and photos
• XML files for ingestion
• EFA films and images on EFG1914 portal
Heiki Männik, Coordinator of Digital Archiving, Estonian Public Broadcasting

An innovative and self-critical approach to digital archiving

Gaining balance between investments to the technology, human resources, time and expectations is a tricky thing, but can be achieved. Great innovation on our long road from dust to digital is possible. Without problems it would be boring and solving them is a great challenge.
Tedd Urnes (Norway)

Safeguarding, protection and preservation of analogue originals of audiovisual archives, libraries and private collections in time of war, natural disasters, cultural and political conflicts. Report of the official approach to the issues made by international archival associations

The official policy of safeguarding, preservation of old books, old films, sound recordings, periodicals, music recordings and analogue originals of the cultural heritage of nations, are threatened by introduction of the policy of digitisation. Old books are not only a matter of concern for preservation by the administration of a new technology. Old films, old sound recordings, videotapes, books, are also objects for international protection in times like war, cultural cleansing, natural disasters like earthquakes, floods or accidental fires. Destruction of libraries have taken place since 206 BC when Xiang Yu, rebelling against Emperor Qin Er Shi, ordered the destruction of the Epang Palace in Xianyang in Qin China. The most famous library destruction is the destruction and fire of the Library of Alexandria in ancient Egypt. What is the situation in year 2014? Is the destruction of public libraries an object for political and military actions today? Do the libraries have a disaster management and a recovery plan ready for action? What about international action against destructions of libraries worldwide independent of the aim of the political conflict?
SESSION 3

Ginta Zalcmane, Reference Center, The National Library of Latvia

The cooperation of the national memory institutions and the users in the digital project of the National Library of Latvia

In Search of Lost Latvia

Historico-cultural project „In Search of Lost Latvia” is implemented by the National digital library Letonica, uniting unique information about lost and altered historico-cultural values in Latvia. Project is developed by the National Library of Latvia, in co-operation with national memory institutions – libraries, museums, cultural heritage protection and preservation organizations and individuals. The project contains digital copies of ancient drawings, postcards, photos from the end of the 19th century till nowadays, and descriptions of objects. Co-operation among cultural heritage organizations, and also the participation of citizens in a determined resource formation makes this project unique among other library digital projects. The project encourages the memory institutions, especially museums, to digitize their collections, as well as it is an environment in which the private collectors can enrich the digital collection. Project metadata and digital objects are available through the European digital library Europeana www.europeana.eu.

The project „In Search of Lost Latvia” is available online at www.zudusilatvia.lv. The users of the portal at the same time are the creators of the content. Participants continually enrich the project with a variety of digital objects from collections of institutions or individual collections. The content of the portal offers a possibility for every Latvian resident to identify himself with some location in Latvia.

The functionality of the portal is designed to encourage every user to become an active participant. Registered users can add new objects. These objects are re-
viewed and approved by the portal editor. Registered users can also make a comment about the image and edit the object description. To place object on the map, it is possible to add geographic coordinates. Therefore „In Search of Lost Latvia“ portal is developed as a virtual environment for everybody – it provides an opportunity to make the research of the cultural history and family genealogy more profound. The portal also enables to do a cross-border research of the history of three Baltic States, Germany, Poland and Russia.

„In Search of Lost Latvia“ is like a bridge between past and present, which brings a cultural and historical content in the modern information space. The main task of the library specialists is to efficiently maintain a link among the digital collection and the user. The digital library collection should become one of the key
online resources available for education.  

Sven Lepa, Archivist, National Archives of Estonia

**The National Archive of Estonia on Flickr Commons: One Year of Experiences**

In 2008 the image hosting site Flickr started its cooperation with the Library of Congress to bring historical images to a larger audience. This partnership grew into The Commons, which now has over 80 participating memory institutions from all over the world. The National Archive of Estonia officially became a member on 26th June 2013, and has slowly but steadily been adding to our account ever since.

As the National Archive already has a database for the photographs in our collections called FOTIS, we don’t see The Commons as a platform to catch the users attention with quantity. Instead, it enables us to present our photographic collections in ways not possible in our own database, allowing us to draw attention to certain image sets or create new sets of photographs not belonging together by provenance.

Although user interaction doesn’t take place as often as hoped, this doesn’t make The Commons a less worthy project to participate in. What makes Flickr Commons such a great platform is its good reputation, guaranteeing an international viewership for your collections. We have also seen users themselves spreading our collections through Flickr to other social media platforms, thus helping us get attention even more.
Juris Lubējs, audio engineer, National Library of Latvia

Bellaccord – beloved prewar Latvian record company

A brief history of Latvian record company, dreamt and realized by enthusiastic Latvian businessman Herberts Rudzitis in the period of 1930ties - Latvian “peace” time. Presentation will highlight some aspects of importance and success of his enterprise in historical context as well as some technical aspects of prewar achievements of record industry in general. The other part of presentation will be dedicated to problems and solutions affecting collection and preservation of Bellaccord records in Latvia, as well as contribution of Latvia’s private collectors and specialists of the National Library of Latvia in this field. The presentation will include sound examples.
SESSION 4

Klaus A J Riederer, Dr. (tech), KAR Ltd, Lokkikuja 1 A 00200 Helsinki

Seeing is believing: how to make OCR work in practice

You cannot do this! The most experienced institution in Finland (National Library) said so, and so did others in the field as well! There is no way optical character recognition (OCR) will work on such a demanding medium. The Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yleisradio, YLE) with their ca. 25000 paperback special typewriter(s) written index cards of 1960s – 1970s vinyl records had been facing up the wall for years. In this presentation you will see with videos and real-time demos how KAR Ltd solved the case in 2013 by applying numerous machine vision techniques, custom-tailored algorithms and work processes. The contrast/lightness –optimized 400 dpi monochrome digitization was done card-by-card with a robust high-speed document scanner. With different customized approaches, the scanned image was pre-split into eight content-varying and –dependent regions. The dimensions of each region were verified and re-adjusted per hand if needed, after which the system updated the dimensions of the next region. After a suitable batch of 20 cards, all regions were quickly re-checked manually to be error-free.

The automated OCRing created text files that were parsed into Excel databases. The unforeseen high accuracy by the OCR (ca.95 %) was obtained by vigorous training with almost 4000 characters and ligatures based on the first 100 cards. Furthermore, the truncated character set was optimized.

The customer will further process the text files; parse the data into song-based information that will be incorporated to YLE’s media asset management system (presented at BAAC conference in 2012).
Nicole Jacquemin, Regional Sales Manager at Front Porch Digital

**AXF in the Cloud: Revolutionizing the Way You Transport, Store and Protect Your Content**

The Archive eXchange Format (AXF) has revolutionized the way management systems archive, store and preserve file-based assets, providing a standardized and open file-system and encapsulation mechanism for files of all types and sizes - not just media assets. But this is only part of the story and reach of AXF. AXF is also key to reliable cloud-transport of file assets (and asset collections) providing stream-based exchange, in-path payload/file validation, full provenance history and more all in a fully self-describing package along with the carriage of related structured and unstructured metadata. AXF is key to several cloud-based services available today proving its significance and relevance outside of archive applications.
Maksims Mišura, Latvia State Archive of Audiovisual documents, Electronic documents department

Storage of magnetic phonogram, it's technical data and process of digitalization in Latvia State Archive of Audiovisual Documents

Problem: Over time, the national documentary heritage - audio tapes can be lost since ferromagnetic layer has started to separate from the tape substrate. This process is continuous and irreversible. The only solution can be urgent digitization of all tapes. So, magnetic tape digitization is a necessary and important process.

Goal: Show exactly how Archive is trying to save national documentary heritage by copying the information to the new digital media. Also explain the digitization process, from the audio tapes to electronic documents.

Agenda:
• LVKFFDA structure, history and description of the tasks
• History of the sound magnetic phonogram
• LVKFFDA collection of magnetic phonograms
• Storage rules
• Planning of LVKFFDA digitalization process
• LVKFFDA MP digitalization
• Description and accounting of digitized magnetic phonograms
• Addition of digitized MP metadata
• Storage of digitized magnetic phonograms
• Future plans
Marco Rendina, Istituto Luce – Cinecittà, Italy

The Presto4U project: Supporting the Adoption of AV Preservation Research Results

The long-term preservation of digital audiovisual media presents a range of complex technological, organisational, economic and rights-related issues, which have been the subject of intensive research over the past fifteen years at national, European and international levels. Although good solutions are emerging, and there is a large body of expertise at a few specialist centres, it is very difficult for the great majority of media owners to gain access to advanced audiovisual preservation technologies. Presto4U will focus research efforts onto useful technological solutions, raise awareness and improve the adoption of audiovisual preservation research results, both by service providers and media owners, and with a particular emphasis on meeting the needs of smaller collections, private sector media owners and new stakeholders.

The project aims to:

• create a series of Communities of Practice in the principal sub-sectors of audiovisual media preservation, which will develop a body of knowledge on the status of digital preservation practice, outstanding problems and needs for access to research results;
• identify useful results of research into digital audiovisual preservation;
• promote the take-up of promising research results by users, technology vendors and service providers, based on results of hands-on technology assessment, promotion of standards, analysis of economic and licensing models, and provision of brokering services;
• raise awareness of the need for audiovisual media preservation and disseminate information about project results;
• evaluate the impact of the project and develop plans for long-term sustainability.

The resulting knowledge, tools and services produced by the project will be maintained by PrestoCentre, the European Competence Centre for audiovisual preservation.

https://www.prestocentre.org/4u
SESSION 5

Jānis Ziediņš, Project manager, Culture Information Systems Centre

Solutions for online access of audio visual material

Culture Information Systems Centre is a state institution which implements different culture related IT projects. Among them there are ERDF financed projects “Cultural Memory Institutions Information Management System”, “Ensuring the digital availability of Latvian audio-visual material”.

Implemented activities are focused on providing access to digitized audiovisual materials. Everything is kept in safe data center using unified storage solutions from IBM and providing preservation for these materials.

Culture Information Systems Centre in cooperation with other cultural institutions has built Latvian movies portal www.filmas.lv, where user can watch movies in any public library free of charge. Other option for institutions is to use special online content platform where there is a possibility to order high quality movie for download. National Film Centre supervises that and provides access to download. Each digital file is protected by digital watermark and special access control using world’s leading content protection software Adobe Access. It gives the right to watch a movie at a certain time and only for authorized user, therefore risk for illegal activities is minimized.

Project “Ensuring the digital availability of Latvian audio-visual material” is aimed at the digitization and online accessibility of audio-visual material of Latvian Television and audio material of Latvian Radio. During the project until the summer of 2015 approximately 10% of materials deposited in Latvian Television and Latvian Radio archives will be digitized. 4200 hours of audio materials and 3818 hours of audio-visual materials will be made available to users either through the safe virtual private network of public libraries or through the joint state portal of e-services latvija.lv.
Richard Ranft, Head of Sound & Vision, The British Library, UK

Improving access to Europe’s digital audio archives

Many of Europe’s leading cultural heritage institutions have large, high-quality audio collections which are in great demand by researchers and the general public, but online access to them is constrained by copyright and fragmented among many different platforms. The Europeana Sounds project brings together for the first time major European audio archives and web innovators to solve the problem. Funded by the European Union from 2014-2017, the project will aggregate through new thematic channels on Europeana’s web portal over 0.5 million audio metadata records and 0.2m related music scores, images and videos. It will work with publishers, the recorded music industry, rights holders, and libraries to improve access to out-of-commerce and geo-locked audio content and it will improve conditions for the creative re-use of some of the content. Furthermore, it will enrich metadata records using crowdsourcing and automated semantic linking. This will enable, for example the cross-media linking of selected music scores with recorded performances from different collections. Finally, the project aims to be a catalyst for the inclusion of a significant quantity of items from collection holders not yet engaged with Europeana, and a new network will be created under the auspices of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, to sustain the project’s outcomes in the long term.
Maria Drabczyk, National Audiovisual Institute of Poland, Kamila Lewandowska, National Audiovisual Institute of Poland, Eve-Marie Oesterlen, British Universities Film & Video Council

Going EUscreenXL: on the joys and challenges of participating in a pan-European AV heritage project

This presentation aims to give a peep behind the scenes of ‘work in progress’ at EUscreenXL, a major pan-European multimedia initiative originally funded by the European Commission in 2009, which is now positioning itself as the key player in the aggregation of audiovisual material in Europe.

The focus of the presentation will be on the practical challenges and benefits of making audiovisual content and metadata searchable, findable, and accessible for future re-use from the perspective of:

• the EUscreenXL metadata and content manager (BUFVC), whose responsibility it is to ensure the timely delivery of enriched and standardised quality metadata and content from 20 different partners;
• a content provider who has newly joined the XL project (NInA) and is facing a new reality of collaboration within an international network.

There will also be a sneak preview of EUscreenXL’s new multi-platform development portal which addresses the project’s concern with user engagement, discoverability and contextualisation as ways of fully unlocking the potential of our common digital cultural heritage.
SESSION 6

Jolė Stimbirytė, the Head of Documents Technical Control Department, Lithuanian Central State Archive

Access to audiovisual material in Lithuanian Central State Archive: user versus archivist

We all know that any archival document remains alive only when it is used in some way. Audiovisual documents in Lithuanian Central State Archive are used quite intensively, especially nowadays when more and more of them are digitised and can be accessed by user now and here. But does user always get what he wants? Is every audiovisual material accessible for user now or a little bit later? Nowadays user wants to see audiovisual material on the Internet and to access it sitting at home or at office. But sometimes his expectations can’t be fulfilled as audiovisual material is protected by copyright laws. On the other hand, even when there is a possibility to use audiovisual material through Internet user can dislike it’s quality, format or even the design of Internet website. So what can the archivist offer to such a user? Finally, how much the archivist can and wants to popularize audiovisual material? We are facing all these questions everyday and still looking for answers.
Erkki Nurmi, Online service planner, University of the Arts Helsinki, Sibelius Academy Library

Librarian in Erasmus exchange: e-resources in academic music libraries in London

In May 2014, supported by Erasmus Staff Exchange grant I traveled to London for a week to visit several higher education institutions’ libraries. I focused on libraries of higher education institutions that train musicians and music researchers. My main area of interest in the libraries was how they handle licenced electronic resources. The proportion of licenced electronic content in university libraries’ collections is constantly increasing, especially on scientific journals. Recorded music is also following suit with subscription based services offering streamed content. Books and especially musical scores are still mostly used in printed form, but tendency is to move towards electronic content. I visited seven libraries in London and interviewed staff (with a Zoom sound recorder) on how they use electronic resources: how do they offer access to the resources on- and off-site, how are they used by the teachers, are there connections between physical and electronic versions of material, and what kind of discovery tools are they using to make content easily findable (metasearch tools, central indexes etc). The interviews often wandered into all kinds of directions. I will discuss my findings on these subjects. I will also discuss the Erasmus staff exchange program, probably the least famous of the Erasmus exchange programs, and how and why you should use this option to travel abroad.
Andris Ķesteris, Canada

Presentation and documentary film „Outside the Sphere”

„Outside the Sphere” is a 47-minute film documentary by Marcus Kolga and Andris Ķesteris made in collaboration with the Independent Producers Initiative program of OMNI-TV in Toronto. An excerpt was shown at the BAAC Conference in Vilnius and attracted a great deal of interest and demand.

Through specific milestones, the film relates the history of the Baltic Communities in Canada and their role in a post-Second World War environment. Victims of the infamous Hitler-Stalin Pact, the story tells of their plight as refugees and immigrants. The struggle to maintain their culture in exile continues through the decades to the collapse of the Soviet Union. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are finally accepted as NATO members, though the pressures from the East continue. The question posed is about the future of the Baltic diaspora and the survival of the three Baltic States themselves.

The film relies on archival and new footage coming from various institutional and community sources. It includes interviews of prominent government officials filmed in locations such as Afghanistan, Belgium, USA, Canada and the Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

The presentation covers some of the aspects of researching, locating and use of the film and video materials.