

PREFACE

International Book Science Conference “The minority book: historical experiences and modern expressions in the global world” has taken place in Vilnius on September 24–25, 2015. This was a traditional 25th International Book Science Conference in Vilnius supported by the Institute of Book Science and Documentation at the Faculty of Communication of Vilnius University. However, this time it was exceptional. First of all, it was organised together with the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP), the Nordic-Baltic-Russian Network on the History of Books, Libraries and Reading (HIBOLIRE) and the Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The Conference gathered researchers investigating the minorities in the broad sense of the world, namely the issues of their needs for creating traditional and digital media, publishing, production and distribution of publications, and reception of different media.

The concept of minority is related to ethnic, confessional, cultural, social, linguistic and other types of society groups, their book culture and publishing are treated as a phenomenon that was visible during different historical periods and acquiring an increasing importance in the modern global world. Research in this area becomes more relevant lately because of this.

The Conference was the first book science event of great importance in the Baltic states. The president of the SHARP Prof. Ian Gadd (Bath Spa University, UK) has participated in it together with the invited speakers of international level and many other foreign scholars. Three plenary meetings were organized accomodating presentations by widely acknowledged Lithuanian and foreign researchers. Thirty nine speakers from Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, France, Finland, G. Britain, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, and the USA presented their research in six sections. The Conference was significant for Lithuanian book science as it helped to develop research in new directions (the multilingual book worlds of Europe during the first centuries of printing, book publishing of small European nations in the 19th century society, the rennaissance of book publishing in regional and ethnographic communities in 20th and 21st century, book culture of ethno-confessional communities, para-publishing during different historical periods, publishing of small countries in the global world), suggested the milestones of further research, strengthened its positions as the meeting point between humanities and social sciences, widened its scholarly contacts.

The volume 66 of “Knygotyra” incorporates the articles that were developed and prepared on the basis of the presentations at this conference. Some articles will be published in volume 67 of “Knygotyra”.

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