



EESTI RAAMATUKOGUHOIDJATE
ÜHING ESTONIAN LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION

Story of Estonian
Librarians Association

Tuuliki Tõiste

President of ELA Board



Established 24.02.1923

EESTI
RAAMATUKOGU-
HOIDJATE
ÜHING



Author of the idea to create an association for the librarians in Estonia was **Aleksander Sibul**

I Estonian librarians congress 24.-25.02 1923

I ELA Statute prepared 1922

Goals of the Association in the first Statutes:

- promotion of librarianship
- development of vocational education for librarians
- the protection of vocational interests of librarians

I Congress 1923: development needs for the library field

Resolutions:

- Libraries should be equal with schools
- Need to consolidate and diversify the library network
- Need to regulate the books acquisition subsidy
- Need to establish professional education for librarians
- Need to establish wage system for librarians

ELA 1923-1940: the Association could only function for 17 years

ELA started practically from zero

- No university degree in librarianship offered in Estonia
- No state network of libraries existed
- Libraries did not have their own buildings or rooms or financing
- Almost all librarians worked without salary

ELA prepared the Libraries Act for the Parliament (in force 1.01.1925)

- Estonian Ministry of Education created a position for an advisor who addressed the problems in libraries
- In 1923 the association started publishing their own journal called *Raamatukogu*
- In 1924 1st courses for librarians (all together 49, more than 1000 people)

In 1940 all the associations and societies were prohibited by Soviet Union

V congress of the Estonian librarians 9.06.1988 - Re-establishment of the association

Working group prepared a call for action and
published it in national newspapers

Professional association should:

- raise the problems and find the solutions
- broaden librarians' horizon, including international cooperation
- act as an advisor on professional/ vocational education
- offer continuing education on librarianship
- empower librarians as experts on librarianship



*Veicam atdzimušo
Igaunijas bibliotekāru
biedrību !*

Latvijas bibliotekāri

09.06.88.

NGO Estonian Librarians Association in 2023

670 members: General Assembly

ELA Board

ELA Office

11 structural units:

sections, committees

working groups, clubs



Estonian Librarians Association (ELA) Structure





Purpose and goals of ELA

Mission: We are acting on behalf of the common interests of librarians, we value libraries and our profession and support lifelong learning and reading culture in Estonia.



Our main goals in development plan 2019-2024

Standing for the development and popularization of the library field

Supporting professional development of librarians

Our organisation is professionally managed and results-driven



Actions to reach the goals: **Standing for the development and popularization of the library field**

Raamatukogusõnastik

Terminikogu on koostanud valdkonna eksperdid Eesti Keele Instituudi koostööpartnerina.

Imporditud Raamatukogusõnastik. Põhineb Eesti Rahvusraamatukogu peetaval andmebaasil ja sisaldab Eesti Raamatukoguhoidjate Ühingu terminoloogiatöimkonnas läbiarutatud ja heakskiidetud termineid, sh eestikeelsetes raamatukogutöös seotud standardites määratletud terminite kirjeld

Otsi sõnade tähendusi ja tõlkeid



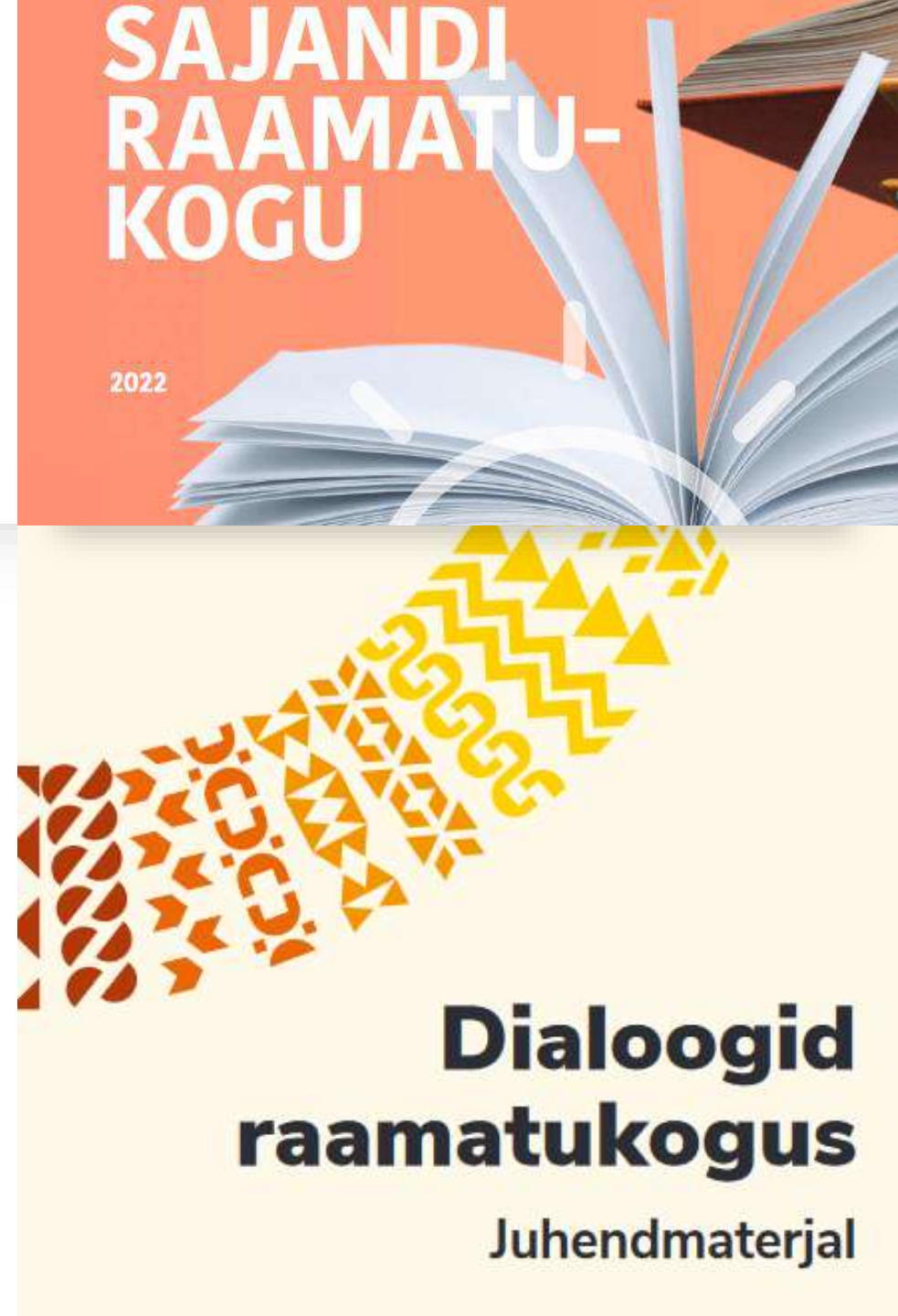
- Library days „Let’s meet in the library!“
- Letters and public addresses, input for the library legislation
- Journal [Raamatukogu](#)
- [Library dictionary and terms](#)

Actions to reach the goals:

Standing for the development and popularization of the library field

Tools for librarians to develop libraries:

- Vision document „[The 21st Century library](#)“
- Self assessment model for public libraries to asses their services
- Project competition „Libraries-Museums-Youth Centres“
- Dialogues in Libraries
- Green Library
- Translations of IFLA manifestos
- How to merge public and school library etc.



Actions to reach the goals: **Supporting professional development of librarians**



Trainings, seminars, conferences, congresses, creative gatherings, summer camps etc.



ELA is an awarding body of vocational qualifications



ELA is awarding body of best librarians and library deeds

Every year the association recognizes its most valuable members in ten categories



Project „[Librarians of the Century](#)“



ERBA - biographical database of librarianship



ELA Yearbook



Code of Ethics for librarians

Actions to reach the goals:

Our organisation is professionally managed and results-driven



CoBaL
2020

NGO ELA is a voluntary association of persons acting in the public interest

We act according to national and international laws and our Statutes

- Partnerships with different organisations, NGOs, Ministry of Culture
- **International cooperation:** IFLA, EBLIDA, Latvia, Lithuania, Finland and others



What next?

Questionnaire for members
„How do you see ELA's future?“

**Estonian Librarians
Association is and will be:**

smart, good role model,
inspiring, positive, in the
middle of life, adjustable,
connector and enabler