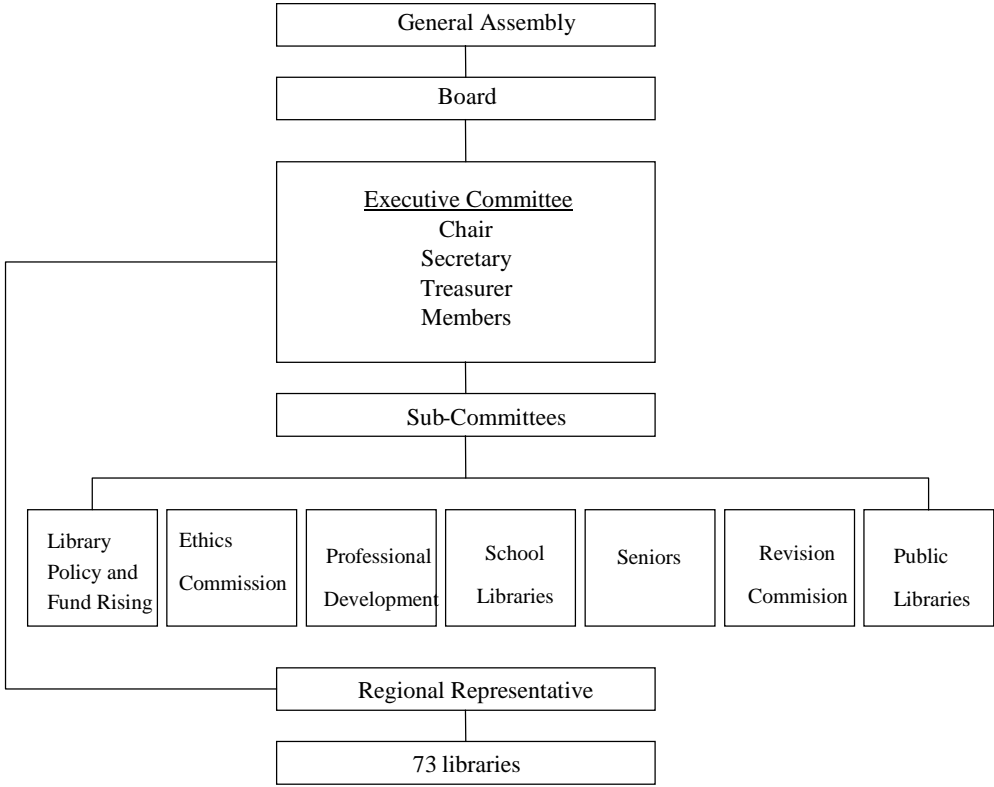




The Lithuanian Librarians' Association is the organisation of natural persons that has 68 divisions all over Lithuania and combines over 2 300 employees of various libraries – national, state, academic, public and special. It makes 38% of all Lithuanian librarians. The Association has been involved in close co-operation with the associations of research and public libraries (both from counties and municipalities).



1 chart

The supreme authority of the Association is the General Assembly that is organised once in every three years. The assembly elects a chairman and a board comprised of 15 representatives in total. It also approves a statute and operational programme for three-year period; the revision commission is also elected. The Association conference is convened each year.

The elected board that also closely co-operates with various divisions and co-ordinates their activity operates between congresses. The board is comprised of working groups responsible for the work of research, public and school libraries, professional development and international relations. A representative responsible for relations with seniors, i.e. long-term library employees that are no longer employed in libraries, is also incorporated into the board.

80 % of Lithuanian Librarians' Association members are public libraries staff. They also have a decisive opinion in this organisation because these libraries still encounter with the most painstaking problems in the country.



The new programming period will be launched at 2008 and it will be possible to subject any project related to:

- development of computer infrastructure within cultural institutions;
- creation of e-content and e-services;
- improvement of computer abilities; and
- creation of continuously learning regions on the basis of existing centres.

Another focus of the Lithuanian Librarians' Association is the National Library Week that has been already organised for six times. It always takes place on 23<sup>rd</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> of April. This year the event was dedicated to the promotion of reading and invited to "Read. Cognise. Enjoy". A special poster was published on the occasion of the event and distributed to all libraries.

The sponsor of this library week as well as previously was the Ministry of Culture and the National Radio and Television of Lithuania. Advertising videos were broadcast on the national radio and TV. A 30 second video was shown on the main national TV channel for forty times and Programme 1 of the National Radio played the advertising tune for 174 times. Due to the following actions the attendance and visibility of libraries increase as well as library staff itself becomes better visible.

The Lithuanian Librarians' Association also organises the annual competition for the title of the Best Librarian and the Ministry of Culture has established three awards, namely the main award and two incentive prizes. The prizes are established by other library sponsors as well.

This year the Lithuanian Librarians' Association supported by the Ministry of Culture introduced a public library portal <http://www.bibliotekos.lt> (<http://www.library.lt>). The portal currently provides information on all Lithuanian public libraries, which is supplemented and updated by seven public libraries (having administration rights). The portal has already become one more form of libraries' visibility and one of the ways of professional development of librarians and international co-operation.

International co-operation has been one of the most important activity spheres of the Association since its establishment in 1931 when the first contacts with the neighbouring Latvia and Estonia have been established. Thus, probably the closest relations with the neighbours, i.e. Latvia, Estonia and Byelorussia still remain. The co-operation contracts have been also concluded with Russia, United Kingdom and other countries. Likewise the Association has been participating in the activities of various international organisations.