



**Vilnius
University
Library**

Leadership in Open Science Strategic Activities: Vilnius University Library's experience

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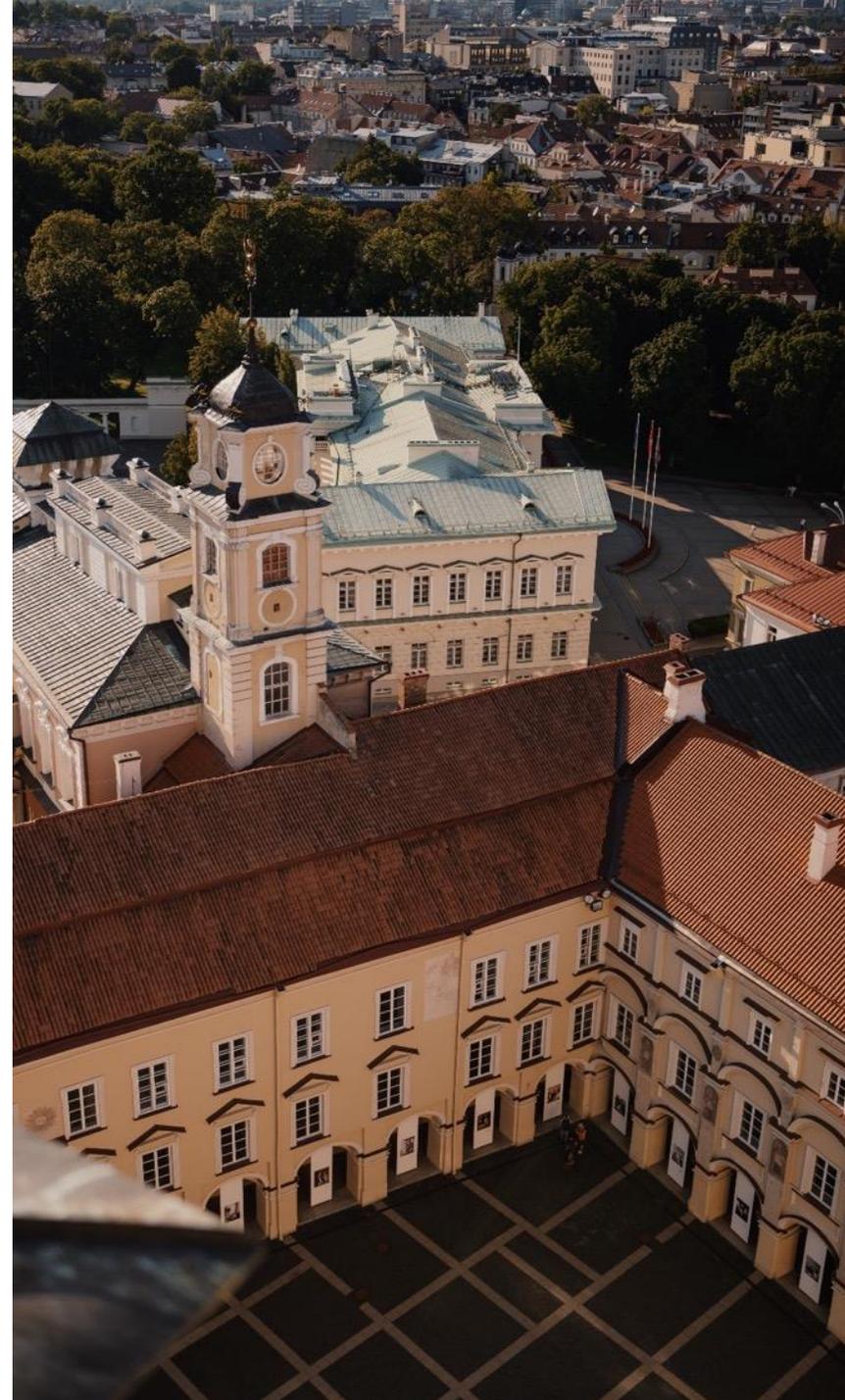
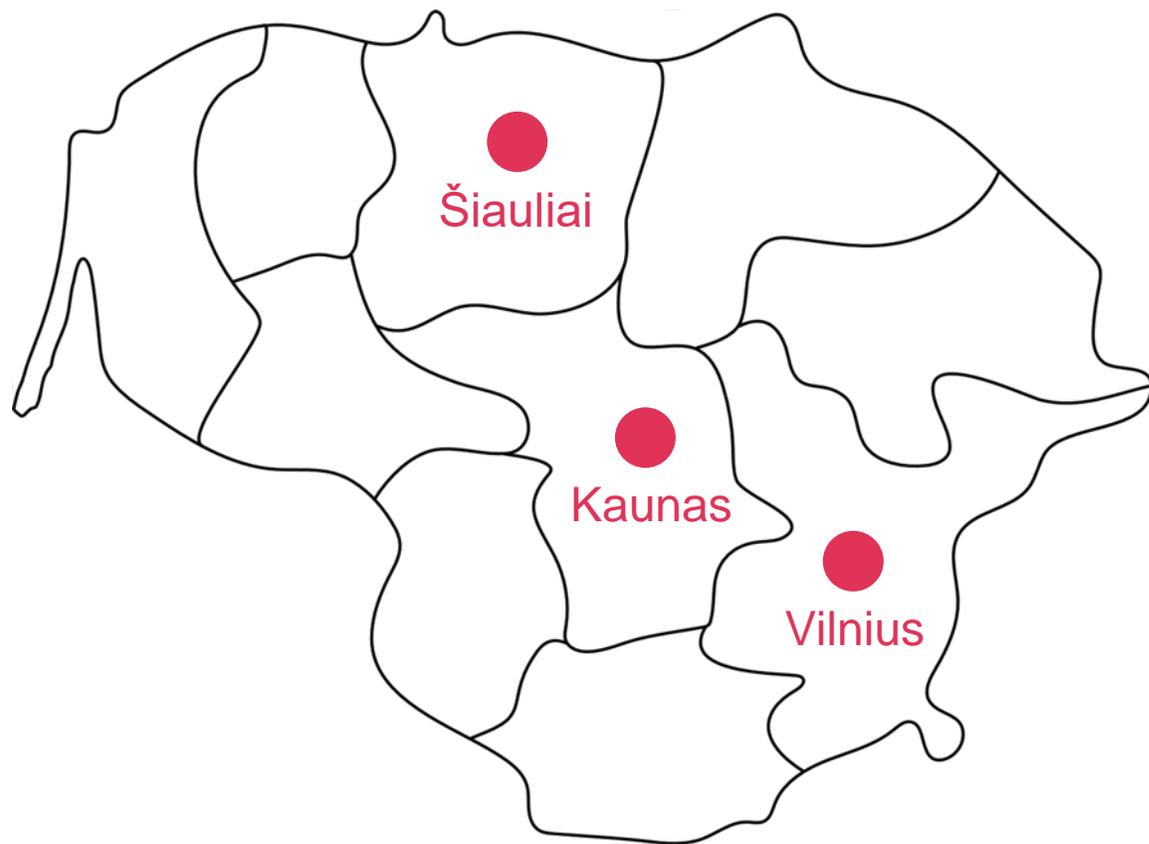
- Established in 1579.
- The first and largest comprehensive university in Lithuania.
- Research university.
- Among the top 473 in the world (QS Rankings 2023).

#1 University in Lithuania

- 23,000 students.
- 3,000+ academic staff
(58% women).
- Budget: ~140 million euros.



Campuses





Library

The Central Library is still housed in the authentic 16th-century premises, an integral part of the old campus of Vilnius University.

The Scholarly Communication and Information Centre, or the modern part of the library, is equipped with the most advanced technologies and is situated in Saulėtekis Avenue. Open 24/7.

The library holds a collection of national heritage.

**VU library activities in the field of
open science: from the beginning
to the present day**



Political and strategic documents

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- 2009 – VU Senate approved the Regulations on Open Access (OA) to VU Scholarly Works and Outcomes (updated in 2017).
- 2016 - Guidelines for Research Data Management (RDM) (VU Senate).
- 2017 - VU RDM communication strategy and plan (VU Vice-rector).
- 2022 - Open Science Policy Guidelines (VU Senate).
- 2023 - Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan (VU Rector).

Open Access

- 2009 – Open Access Week was held for the first time.
- Discussions with VU academic community.
- Screenings of films licensed under the Open Content License.
- Invitation for academics to become OA ambassadors.
- Game “Publishing Trap”...



Open Data

- National Open Access Scientific Research Data Archive (MIDAS) management group (chairman – VU Vice-rector).
- Campaign “Choose MIDAS and Win”.
- “MIDAS Friendship Days“ at VU.
- 2018 – 2024 – “Data Days” at the faculties. “Data Days” as one of the best examples of collaboration with academia has been included in the EC RDA book “Engaging Researchers with Research Data Management: The Cookbook”.
- Online tool “DMP Wizard”...



05 Bal. 2024; 13:30 - 14:30 Creative Commons Kūrybinių bendrijų licencijos
09 Bal. 2024; 13:30 - 15:00 Mokslinių tyrimų duomenų valdymo įvadas
10 Bal. 2024; 14:00 - 15:30 Grobuoniškų žurnalų detektyvai
10 Bal. 2024; 14:00 - 15:30 Zotero mokymai
12 Bal. 2024; 11:00 - 12:30 Mokslinės informacijos paieška socialinių, humanitarinių mokslų rašto darbui
15 Bal. 2024; 11:00 - 12:30 Mokslinės informacijos paieška gamtos ir technologijos mokslų rašto darbui
18 Bal. 2024; 13:30 - 14:15 FAIR duomenų principai

Training and courses

- Online courses on OA intended for librarians and academics.
- Simulation workshops “Open Courses on the Internet for the General Public”.
- Course for doctoral students "Introduction to research data management and FAIR data principles" (0.2 credits; one faculty); "The Introduction to Open Access" (0.5 credits).
- Other courses for doctoral students: RDM, DMP development, FAIR data principles, Data repositories and data logs, Using MIDAS.
- Face-to-face and online training and consultations on scientific communication topics: FAIR, RDM, CC, APC, OA, OS, CS...

OS infrastructure: eLABa



Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library

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- eLABa - national Lithuanian Academic Electronic Library accumulating and providing public access to documents related to science and studies and/or their metadata (bibliographic records). At the same time, it is an institutional repository.
- 2012-2014 - in cooperation with eLABa Consortium (47 members) and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, a project “Creation and Development of eLABa Integral Services” funded by the EU Structural Funds was implemented.

Data discovery service: MIDAS

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- MIDAS, the National Open Access Research Data Archive, the largest and most advanced scientific research data archive allowing to accumulate up to 3 petabytes of data and enabling safe and convenient management and opening of scientific research data.
- The archive was established in the years 2012–2015, while implementing a project “Scientific Data Archive” financed by the EU Structural Funds.
- Since the spring of 2019, owing to the Library efforts, MIDAS has been integrated into the European Open Science Cloud portal and presented in the European Open Science Cloud Marketplace as a full-fledged service provider and official participant.
- MIDAS has been registered in the international registry of research data repositories re3data and in the global directory of Open Access repositories OpenDOAR. Research data published in MIDAS is searchable through the international data search system B2FIND.

Communication, dissemination, consultations and services in scientific communication

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- APC discounts and publishing in open access journals.
- Copyright and Licensing of Research Results.
- Identifying predatory and unethical publishers or journals.
- Managing and sharing research data.
- Creating a data management plan.
- Uploading and publishing data in the MIDAS archive.
- Registration of publications, theses and their abstracts in eLABa.
- Consultations on the topic of citizen science.
- Compilation of lists of individual publications of VU community members indexed in the Web of Science and/or Scopus database.
- Scientometric analyzes of University departments.
- Open Science newsletter “Science Postcard” ...





**Current Situation and Library
Leadership: *Open Science Policy
Guidelines***



The guidelines' preparation objective

- The guidelines were prepared while implementing VU Strategic Plan's for 2021–2025 long-term objective “Growing Influence in the Society and the State” and while striving to reach the long-term objective's indicator “A Significant Growth of Scientific Communication”.
- The aim of the guidelines is to establish the key principles and regulations guiding the implementation of the open science policy at the University.
- The guidelines aim to ensure formation of the Open Science culture, adherence to Open Science principles. They should encourage openness in an academic community and in its activities as well as improve the quality of both research outcomes and educational resources that are based on them and, in addition, to that ensure dissemination of research outcomes to the public.
- The University declares *openness* as the main value.
- The University's Open Science policy is based on the principle that scholarly research, research processes and outcomes have to be “*as open as possible and as closed as necessary*”.
- The University strives that the Open Science principles and methods set forth in the Guidelines would be widely recognised and applied in research activities.

Working Group of the VU Open Science Policy Guidelines development

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- In 2021, following the order issued by Vice-rector and Pro-rector for Research Prof. Edita Sužiedėlienė, a Working Group (WG) was formed to prepare VU Open Science Policy Guidelines.
- WG had 13 members: head of WD – Director General of VUL, 5 representatives of the Library, academics, researchers, representatives of departments responsible for science policy formation, publishing houses, representatives of the Law Department and students.
- February of 2022 – the Guidelines were approved by the decision of Vilnius University's Senate.



Structure of the Guidelines:

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- General provisions;
- University's responsibility;
- Open Access to research (art) works and studies' final papers;
- Open Access to research data;
- Evaluation of research outcome;
- Free and open source software and open standards for research data exchange;
- Open educational resources;
- Public engagement;
- Infrastructure;
- Final provisions.



**Current Situation and Library
Leadership: *Open Science Policy
Guidelines Implementation Plan
2023-2028***

Working Group of the VU Open Science Policy Guidelines Implementation Plan development

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- In May of 2022, by the order issued by the Pro-rector for Research Prof. Edita Sužiedėlienė, a Working Group (WG) to prepare VU Open Science Policy Guidelines' Implementation Plan (slightly updated) was formed. Head of WG – Director General of VUL; representatives of the faculties and administration departments responsible for research, 4 representatives of the Library.
- The points of the Plan are in line with the areas of open science presented in the *Open Science Policy Guidelines*.



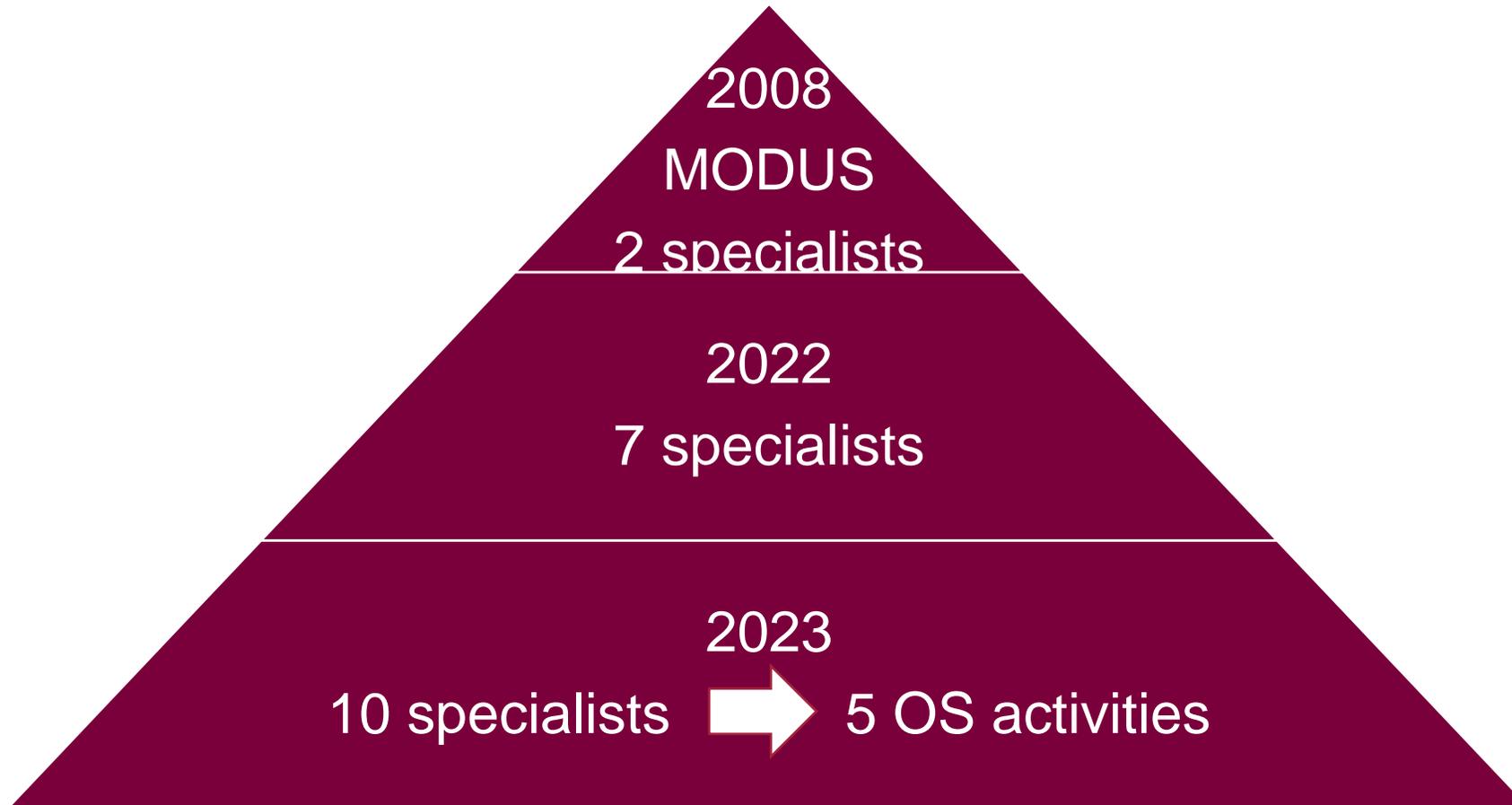
The Plan is approved!

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- In June of 2023, the Plan was approved by the order of the VU Rector.
- The Library coordinates the implementation of the Plan.
- The Pro-Rector for Research supervised the preparation of the Open Science Policy Guidelines and their Implementation Plan.

Personnel development



Open Science activity plan for 2024

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- An institutional model is being developed for financing the publication of articles and books through OA.
- The relevant VU's legal documents are being reviewed and adjusted while taking into account the University's Open Science Policy Guidelines and EC requirements.
- A working group has been created, which will prepare guidelines for the distribution of software developed at the University.
- The launch of a platform for sharing experiences related to the use of open educational resources in the study processes is being prepared.
- An Open Science competition initiated. The rules of the competition have been prepared, and the prize established.
- Allocation of resources necessary for the maintenance of the publications and research data management's infrastructure.
- Trainings, communication and information dissemination activities (in accordance with a separate plan) are being carried out.

Conclusions and suggestions from our experience



Be patient and keep moving forward, no matter how small the steps.

Get support from the University authorities.



Form a reliable team of professionals and supporters:
if you want to go fast, go alone; if you want to go far, go together.





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Thank you!

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