

**EXHIBITION ACTIVITIES OF VASYL STEFANYK
NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF UKRAINE IN LVIV:
ACTUAL CONDITION AND PERSPECTIVES**

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This article examines the experience of organizing and conducting exhibition activities at Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv. Particular attention was paid to the digital component as an important form of ensuring access to knowledge in the face of modern challenges, particularly the state of war in Ukraine. The implementation of digital formats for presenting exhibition displays was analyzed, including the creation of virtual exhibitions and the use of online platforms to present unique library collections to a wide range of researchers and the scientific community. It has been established that the library's exhibition activities, including their digital component, are aimed at scientific research, popularization, and the highlighting of unique, valuable, and rare library collections. Furthermore, they serve as an important tool for representation within the scientific community, especially given the limitations on physical events caused by the state of war in Ukraine, thereby ensuring access to information through electronic resources. The relevance of using modern digital technologies and innovations in the process of collection digitization was emphasized, as they contribute to the expansion of the audience and ensure distributed access for working with library collections. The special significance of online resources and interactive elements for fostering scientific research and ensuring continuous access to information is

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underlined, demonstrating the capabilities of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv in the open information space.

Keywords: *exhibition activities, virtual exhibitions, library collections, digital technologies, innovations, electronic resources, Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv, research.*

Problem statement. In the context of the modern realities of the functioning of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv (hereinafter referred to as VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv), the problem of the exhibition activity of Ukrainian libraries is covered widely enough in scientific literature, despite the fact that the number and quality of presented expositions is constantly growing. In view of this, there is a need to conduct a comprehensive study of the exhibition activity of the book collection. Furthermore, it is necessary to develop proposals on how to effectively combine traditional methods of exhibition activity with innovative approaches. This involves actively implementing the digital component in order to meet the needs of the modern reader and promote the popularization of the unique book collections through online resources, thereby expanding the audience.

The purpose of the article is to investigate the features and specifics of exhibition activities at the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv, to analyze traditional and digital forms of its implementation, in particular, the practice for the creating and presenting virtual exhibitions.

Relevance of the research topic. The leading place in the scientific and informational activities of the library is occupied by exhibition work, which currently actively is supplemented by a digital component. It is the holding of various exhibitions, including virtual ones, that contributes to the presentation of the library's unique collections to a wide range of users, regardless of their geographical location, and influences the formation of reader interest. It is also important to note that exhibitions, both traditional and digital, act as a kind of visiting card of the library, since they reflect not only the style of the institution, but also the creative potential of its workmates.

The VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv has considerable experience in holding traditional exhibition events. However, the introduction of the latest information technologies opens up new opportunities for expanding the audience, interactivity and 24/7 availability, associated with the organization and placement of virtual exhibitions on the book collection webportal.

Research methodology. To achieve the set goal, the following general scientific approaches to the disclosure of the topic were used: systemic, structural-functional. The specificity of the subject and object of research led to the use of special research methods: functional, comparative, informational and documentary analysis of the material.

Analysis of recent research and publications. Exhibition activities in Ukraine demonstrate a tendency towards greater popularization, interactivity and accessibility. In the context of book collections, the issues of organizing exhibition work, combining traditional and innovative forms of its implementation were considered by L. Loda and L. Dzendzeliuk [7], as well as O. Postelzhuk [9]. Researchers who pay special attention to the study of the possibilities of virtual reality technologies in libraries are N. Kunanets, H. Lypak, D. Zholna [6], to virtual exhibitions using augmented reality tools as a remote library service – V. Bondarenko, T. Hranchak, A. Hetman [1; 2]. Analysis of obstacles to implementation and their role in the system of scientific communications explored T. Koval and L. Turovska [3], as well as the experience of libraries in creating their own digital collections – O. Kuzmenko and V. Zahumenna [5] and solving issues of preserving digital content – M. Medved [8]. The problems of digital communications of a modern library are highlighted in the works of G. Koloskova and A. Mykhailova [4], and the issues of managing electronic information resources, as well as the electronic environment as a tool for implementing modern science and education requests – in the studies of T. Koval [10], G. Melnyk-Khokha, and V. Mudrokha [11].

Presentation of the main research material. Exhibition activities of libraries are one of the forms of introducing the documentary national heritage into cultural and scientific circulation. This is a kind of art, the result of the scientific and creative work of a librarian and scientist, one of the most widespread forms of scientific and information work. The purpose of the exhibition is to popularize the collections available in the library, highlight current events of the present, and attract readers' interest in literature of various subjects. This is a kind of presentation of information to users about publications, events, and problems by means of a visual demonstration of relevant documents. An important advantage and feature of traditional exhibitions is the direct display of the documents themselves, giving readers the opportunity to examine them.

The volume of information, the manner and method of presentation, the content and design style of exhibitions depend on the material and technical characteristics of libraries.

The foremost task of the organizers is to maximally convey, express, and reveal the exhibition concept. It is crucial to avoid exhibiting an excessive quantity of documents; specifically, there is no necessity to display in showcases every item available in the holdings related to a particular subject. Information overload diminishes visual impact and can occasionally result in complete lack of perception. The visibility of an item, such as a book, is contingent upon various factors, including viewing angle, the background design of the display, lighting conditions, and others; it may either be “noticed” or entirely overlooked.

The organization of book exhibitions at the VSNNB of Ukraine in Lviv has consistently served as a primary instrument for the popularization of literature. In recent years, this dimension of the Library’s scientific and information activities has assumed considerable importance as part of comprehensive socio-cultural initiatives, including research and practical conferences, thematic and anniversary round tables, methodological and scientific seminars, meetings of the academic council, presentations, and the like.

Traditional Forms of Exhibition Activity: the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv possesses extensive experience in organizing traditional exhibitions and engaging readers, which represent a significant means for popularizing the Library’s document collections and information resources. Prevalent forms of exhibition work involve the organization and presentation of traditional expositions, specifically:

Promotional Exhibition: this type of exhibition typically presents the institution through permanent or temporary displays featuring publications on its founding history, the specific characteristics of its collection development, and its operational areas. The display of unique documents and illustrated materials concerning the stages of the library’s development, feedback from readers and guests, as well as other materials about the library consistently elicits visitor interest. Furthermore, the scientific output of the Library’s staff is showcased by the permanent promotional exhibition titled “Proceedings of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv”.

The exhibited publications cover findings from the research conducted by the Library’s staff in several key areas: the compilation of

a national bibliography of Ukrainian books and the formation of a repertoire of Ukrainian periodicals from the 18th to the 20th centuries; the scientific disclosure of unique manuscript, book, and art collections; scholarly research into issues of book studies (bibliology), library science (librarianship), and bibliography studies; the history of publishing; and the preservation, restoration, and conservation of rare editions.

Contemporary realities, particularly the full-scale war, have necessitated modifications in the exhibition activities of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv. The Library has been compelled to reduce the number of **offsite exhibitions**, yet it persists in actively promoting its collections. In late December 2024, the Library staff presented an exhibition titled “Preserved treasures of Spiritual Leaders” in the Crypt of the Garrison Church of the St. Apostles Peter and Paul in Lviv. This marks the second collaborative exhibition organized by the Library and the church. The first was dedicated to Metropolitan Andrei Sheptytskyi. These projects are based on a collection of foreign-language publications from the Department of European Books of the 19th-20th Centuries of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv, which until 2011 were stored on the premises of the Church (a former library book depository). This time, the exposition, dedicated to the 13th anniversary of the Church’s renewed activity, features 27 books from the private collections of prominent figures of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church (UGCC) who contributed significantly to the development of church, cultural-educational, religious-spiritual, and state-building life in Ukraine in the 19th and the first half of the 20th centuries. This exhibition represents a significant cultural event that showcases the wealth of Ukrainian spiritual heritage and its preservation.

Introductory Exhibition: this type of exhibition, designed to present a distinguished personality (such as a renowned scholar, writer, or artist) to readers, constitutes a traditional form of exhibition activity.

The representative example is the book and document exposition titled “Bibliography as a Mission: Luiza Ilnytska is 85”. Luiza Ilnytska is a prominent figure in Ukraine and internationally, known as a bibliographer and bibliologist. The exhibited materials highlight various aspects of her work as the initiator and leader of significant bibliographic projects, a compiler of bibliographic indexes, author of in-depth studies and articles, engaging investigations, co-author of collective works, editor of bibliological collections, and a reviewer.

Numerous awards and state honors displayed at the exhibition attest to the considerable achievements of the honoree, specifically: the “Order of Merit” 3rd Class (2011), and the Diploma of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (2023); the Mykola and Volodymyra Tsenkiv Award for the manuscript of the work “The Ruska Trinity” (1993); and the honorary distinction of the Ukrainian Library Association (2008).

Presentation Exhibition: this type of exhibition serves to introduce readers new books, unique materials, and rare editions, employing promotional tools for the purpose of disclosing their content.

Specifically, this may involve the presentation of the project “Returning Cultural Heritage to Ukraine”, within the framework of which facsimile reproductions have been made of ten manuscripts from the 11th–14th centuries significant for Ukrainian history and culture. Since 2009, the “Horobets” publishing house has been implementing an important project which is unparalleled in Ukraine. Its aim is to locate, research, and create facsimile copies of ancient Ukrainian manuscripts that are held in foreign institutions, with the participation of leading Ukrainian and international experts. Its objective is to make these invaluable historical documents accessible to researchers and a wide audience interested in Ukrainian history, culture, and language.

The VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv received facsimile copies of unique manuscripts as a gift, published within the framework of the project “Returning Cultural Heritage to Ukraine”: “The Lutsk Gospel, 14th century” (2011), “The Lutsk Psalter, 1384” (2013), “The Chelm, 13th century” [Kholm Gospel] (2015), “Lavryshiv Gospel of the 14th century” (2018), “The Vienna Octoechos of the 13th century” (2018), “The Reims Gospel” (2019), “Gertrude’s Prayer Book (Egbert Psalter) of the 10th–11th Centuries” [Gertrude Psalter] (2021), “Prayerbook of Great Prince Volodymyr’s (Teodorovych’s Liturgicon) of the 14th Century” [Prince Volodymyr’s Psalter] (2021), “The Apostolus Christinopolitanus, 12th century” (2023), and “The Galician-Volhynian Gospel of the 12th century” (2023), which have become a highlight of the library’s collections.

The VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv frequently organizes **exposition exhibitions** featuring diverse works of art, including paintings, reproductions, and graphic art.

The exhibition “56 Bookplates by Yakiv Hnizdovskyi” (from the collection of Roman Ferentsevyeh) was met with considerable enthusiasm

by library readers; these bookplates were transferred to the Library for storage in December 2019 through the endeavors of Roman Ferentsevych. Currently, it constitutes the largest collection of the artist's bookplates, illustrating the basis of his creative pursuits, his unique approach to the imagery and composition of his works, and the evolution of his creative development within the genre from 1942 to 1985. The exhibits demonstrate Yakiv Hnizdovskyi's profound knowledge of the specifics of bookplate design. He acquired his initial knowledge in Lviv as a member of the youth wing of the Association of Independent Ukrainian Artists (ANUM), which facilitated the publication of the collection "Exlibris" (Lviv, 1932) – the first comprehensive study of this genre on Ukrainian lands. Subsequently, the artist refined his skills as an active member of American and British societies of bookplate enthusiasts.

The exhibition "Ukrainian Portrait Engraving of the 17th–18th centuries" elicited significant interest among library readers; it was dedicated to the memory of Stepan Kostiuk (20.11.1927 – 10.12.2015), a long-time head of the Department of Art of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv, a historian, art historian, bibliographer and full member of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. The exposition featured a series of portrait works by Western European and Ukrainian masters of the 17th–18th centuries, executed in the metal engraving technique.

Exposition exhibitions also include the exhibition "ΧειροΣοφία of Ukrainian Embroidery", dedicated to World Embroidery Day, which featured Ukrainian embroidery and beadwork from library, museum, and private collections.

Participants in the exhibition included: The Research Institute for Art Library Resources of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv, the Museum of Ethnography and Crafts in Lviv of the Ethnology Institute National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ivan Trush Lviv State College of Decorative and Applied Arts, Lviv folk artists Khrystyna Tymchuk and Marta Kulynych-Novytska, and beadwork artist Deoniziia Kachmar.

The presentation of the restored epic painting "Battle of Kruty" (1936) by Oleksandr Klymko garnered significant public attention in Lviv; since 2019, this painting has adorned the reading room named after Tetiana and Omelian Antonovych.

The Library's unique manuscript and rare collections are showcased at exposition exhibitions by staff of the Library's specialized departments:

the Rare Book Department and the Manuscript Department. Considering the value of the items displayed, their exhibition takes place in specialized display cases. Displaying such documents necessitates adherence to specific conditions regarding temperature-humidity and lighting control. It should be emphasized that exhibitions not only reveal the library's unique collections, but also help users find documents they might not even have suspected existed.

Innovative Approaches in Exhibition Activity: the implementation of new information technologies provides new opportunities for the exhibition activities of libraries. The VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv actively employs contemporary technologies to create virtual exhibitions, enabling a substantial broadening of the audience and making the library's unique collections accessible to users worldwide.

Nowadays, **virtual exhibitions**, in which digital technologies are utilized and innovative methods of presentation are involved, constitute an indispensable component of library exhibition activities. This novel mode of exhibiting documents is being implemented in libraries through the application of modern information technologies. The event is realized through online electronic resources, through which the Institution has the opportunity to present textual and graphic information, as well as audio-visual representations of the exhibits, thus disclosing and augmenting the exhibition's content.

Virtual exhibitions constitute a notably innovative phenomenon. A clear advantage of virtual exhibitions lies in the fact that they constitute an event unlimited in time and space, whose implementation is feasible due to the application of cutting-edge information technologies and the availability of the Internet. The digital form of presenting virtual exhibition objects within the electronic environment significantly expands the audience and provides opportunities for using digitized materials in digital collections and academic research. Virtual exhibitions are presented and integrated within the Library's electronic environment in the "Book Exhibitions" websection [Accessed at: <https://www.lsl.lviv.ua/index.php/uk/pro-biblioteku/knyzhkovi-vystavky/>]. It is worth highlighting that virtual exhibitions are progressively enhanced with video content, which contributes to better audience engagement and a deeper understanding of the context of the presented materials.



Screenshot of the virtual exhibition “The Florian Ungler’s printing house editions in the collections of the Rare Books Department of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv (online book exhibition)”

A virtual exhibition enables users to explore the documents presented in the exhibitions at a time convenient for them and examine them more closely. Users accessing virtual exhibitions remotely benefit from the advantage and possibility to access information on the exhibition topic free from time or geographical limitations, receiving visual and textual support. Librarians guide users to additional information sources and propose the use of other library services.

The development of a virtual exhibition necessitates a high degree of professional expertise among librarians, the involvement of staff from related departments such as the Information and Computer Support Department, substantial material and technical resources, and an appropriate level of information literacy among staff.

Currently, there are recommendations concerning the placement of textual information on the screen. These recommendations include the

positioning of tooltips and help messages, as well as employing diverse effects for highlighting elements or fragments of text. In the case of traditional (static) images and photographs, it is crucial to appropriately utilize the presentation scale. Of significant importance when developing a virtual exhibition is the inclusion of a link to the full-text versions of the publication.

The “Book Exhibitions” webpage of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv features a range of virtual exhibitions. These include an online exhibition showcasing richly illustrated rare editions, titled “The Florian Ungler’s printing house editions”, which are from the printing house of Florian Ungler, part of the historical and cultural fund of book monuments of national and world importance, and are also a highlight of the paleotype collection of the Rare Book Department of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv. Another is the exhibition “Yaroslav Dashkevych in Light of Documentary Materials and the Collection of Book Editions by the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv”, which was prepared to mark the scholar’s 95th anniversary and is distinguished by the richness of its content featuring diverse materials (bibliographic, analytical, illustrative, etc.).

Also featured for readers is the virtual exhibition “Book Heritage of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (1874-1913) : digital collection”. The collection of Shevchenko Scientific Society (NTSh) publications held at the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv is one of the largest and most comprehensively represented, considering that most of the books included in it were banned by tsarist censorship. Within the framework of the project “Book Heritage of the Shevchenko Scientific Society (1874–1913): digital collection”, full-text digitization of 500 publications was carried out, which reflect the first (1874–1891) and second (1892–1913) periods of the society’s activities. Primarily, these are the works of leading scholars and public figures, a portion of whom were repressed by the Soviet authorities, namely: Mykhailo Vozniak, Ivan Verkhtskyi, Volodymyr Hnatiuk, Mykhailo Hrushevskyi, Mykola Zalizniak, Oleksandr Kolessa, Oleksandr Konyskyi, Ivan Kreveckyi, Volodymyr Leontovych, Ivan Nechui-Levytskyi, Stepan Rudanskyi, Kyrylo Studynskyi, Yurii Fedkovych, Ivan Franko, Taras Shevchenko, Vasyl Shchurat, and other authors (118 individuals in total).

The “Digital Collections” section on the Library’s website contains descriptions of collections and digital versions of many rare and valuable

publications, which can also be integrated into virtual exhibitions, thereby expanding access to the library's unique collections for researchers worldwide. This method is used, for example, to present materials from the “Stefanykiana: digital collection”, which is a collection of lifetime and rare editions of Vasyl Stefanyk prepared to mark the 150th anniversary of Vasyl Stefanyk's birth – an outstanding writer, public figure, and the Patron of the Library, the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv.



Screenshot of the “Resources and Collections” – “Digital Collections” webpage, featuring the virtual exhibition project and digital collection “Stefanykiana”

Virtual access to digital collections is available and integrated within the Library's electronic environment in the “Resources and Collections” section [Accessed at: <https://www.lsl.lviv.ua/index.php/uk/resursi-i-fondi/tsyfrovi-kolektsiyi/>].

Plein-air exhibitions are an innovative form of library exhibition activity that contributes to expanding the target audience for the institution's cultural, educational, and informational events. Notable among recent plein-air exhibitions is "The Library of the Shevchenko Scientific Society – the first National Scientific Library of Ukraine: an interrupted history". This plein-air exhibition was held as part of the commemorative events for the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Shevchenko Scientific Society and the 130th anniversary of the Society's Library.

The exhibition activity of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv is an important component of its scientific and information work. The Library has significant experience in organizing traditional exhibitions, while actively implementing innovative approaches and methods, including the creation of virtual exhibitions. This allows not only for the popularization of the library's unique collections but also for attracting the attention of a wide audience, contributing to the development of science and culture. The electronic environment of Vasyl Stefanyk National Scientific Library of Ukraine in Lviv provides information about the Library's electronic resources and services. Among these, the Library offers access to various electronic resources and library services, including digital collections and problem-oriented databases.

Conclusions. The VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv has extensive experience in exhibition activity. The most common exhibitions in the library are traditional thematic exhibitions, which reveal a certain part of the library's information resources and are dedicated to various current contemporary scientific issues. The institution's electronic environment includes a webpage "Book Exhibitions", which contains an archive of the library's exhibitions that have been displayed at different times. The most visited and popular traditional exhibitions, open events, offsite exhibitions and presentations at the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv include: a promotional exhibition, an introductory exhibition (personal exhibition or portrait exhibition), a presentation exhibition, an exposition exhibition, an exhibition of new acquisitions, and an one-book exhibition. The active implementation of digitalization and digital technologies obliges the library to rethink and practically utilize innovative presentation methods, including multimedia, in its exhibition activities. The digital component of the exhibition activity of the VSNSL of Ukraine in Lviv

is an important direction of development that allows for expanding the audience, ensuring the accessibility of unique collections regardless of users' geographical location, and supplementing traditional forms of information presentation with interactive elements.

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Виставкова діяльність Львівської національної наукової бібліотеки України імені В. Стефаника: сучасний стан та перспективи

Висвітлено особливості та специфіку виставкової діяльності у ЛННБ України ім. В. Стефаника, проаналізовано традиційні та цифрові форми її проведення, зокрема практику створення та представлення віртуальних виставок. У статті розглянутий досвід організації та проведення виставкової діяльності у Львівській національній науковій бібліотеці України імені В. Стефаника. Особливу увагу приділено цифровій компоненті як важливій формі представлення та забезпечення доступу до знань в умовах сучасних викликів, зокрема воєнного стану в Україні. Методологічні дослідження та загальнонаукові підходи, як от системний,

структурно-функціональний використані для досягнення поставленої мети та розкриття теми. Специфіка предмета й об'єкта дослідження зумовила застосування спеціальних методів дослідження: функціонального, порівняльного, інформаційного та документознавчого, а також хронологічного методу аналізу зібраного матеріалу. Проаналізовано імплементацію цифрових форматів і методів представлення виставкових експозицій, включаючи створення віртуальних виставок та використання онлайн-платформ для презентації унікальних бібліотечних колекцій широкому колу дослідників та наукової спільноти.

Встановлено, що виставкова діяльність Бібліотеки, включаючи її цифрову компоненту, спрямована на дослідження, популяризацію та розкриття унікальних, цінних і рідкісних бібліотечних колекцій. Доведено, що така практика є важливим інструментом презентації у науковому середовищі, особливо в умовах обмежень фізичних заходів, спричинених COVID-19 та воєнним станом в Україні, забезпечуючи доступ до інформації засобами онлайн-електронних ресурсів.

Наголошено на актуальності використання сучасних цифрових технологій та інновацій у процесі диджиталізації колекцій, що сприяє розширенню аудиторії та забезпеченню розподіленого доступу до роботи з бібліотечними колекціями. Підкреслено особливе значення онлайн-ресурсів та інтерактивних елементів для активізації досліджень і забезпечення безперервного доступу до інформації, демонструючи можливість ЛННБ України ім. В. Стефаника у відкритому інформаційному просторі.

Ключові слова: виставкова діяльність, віртуальні виставки, бібліотечні колекції, цифрові технології, інновації, електронні ресурси, Львівська національна наукова бібліотека України імені В. Стефаника, дослідження.