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NATIONAL LIBRARY OF LATVIA

National Library of Latvia (NLL)

Status report

IASA Nordic branch, May 26-27, 2015

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Audiovisual collection at the NLL

- First sound recordings acquired in 1961, established as a department in 1975
- Legal Deposit of Latvia's AV publications (since 2006)
- Materials pertaining to Latvia or Latvians published elsewhere, including diaspora
- Collection for lifelong education, research, leisure
- Currently around 73'000 items - sound recordings (LPs, CD, audiocassettes, shellacs, other), video recordings (VHS, DVD, Blu-ray), multimedia materials, language and other subjects teaching kits with AV component, born digital sound recordings

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Times of change

- 2008 – construction begins for the new building of NLL
- August 2014 – the “Castle of Light” is opened
- Library collections started the move to the new building at the beginning of 2014, AV collection – in July
- Not everything was in place for the opening
- Some initial problems with AV storage, and reading room (placement of free access shelves, equipment in cabins, IT, etc.)

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Before...

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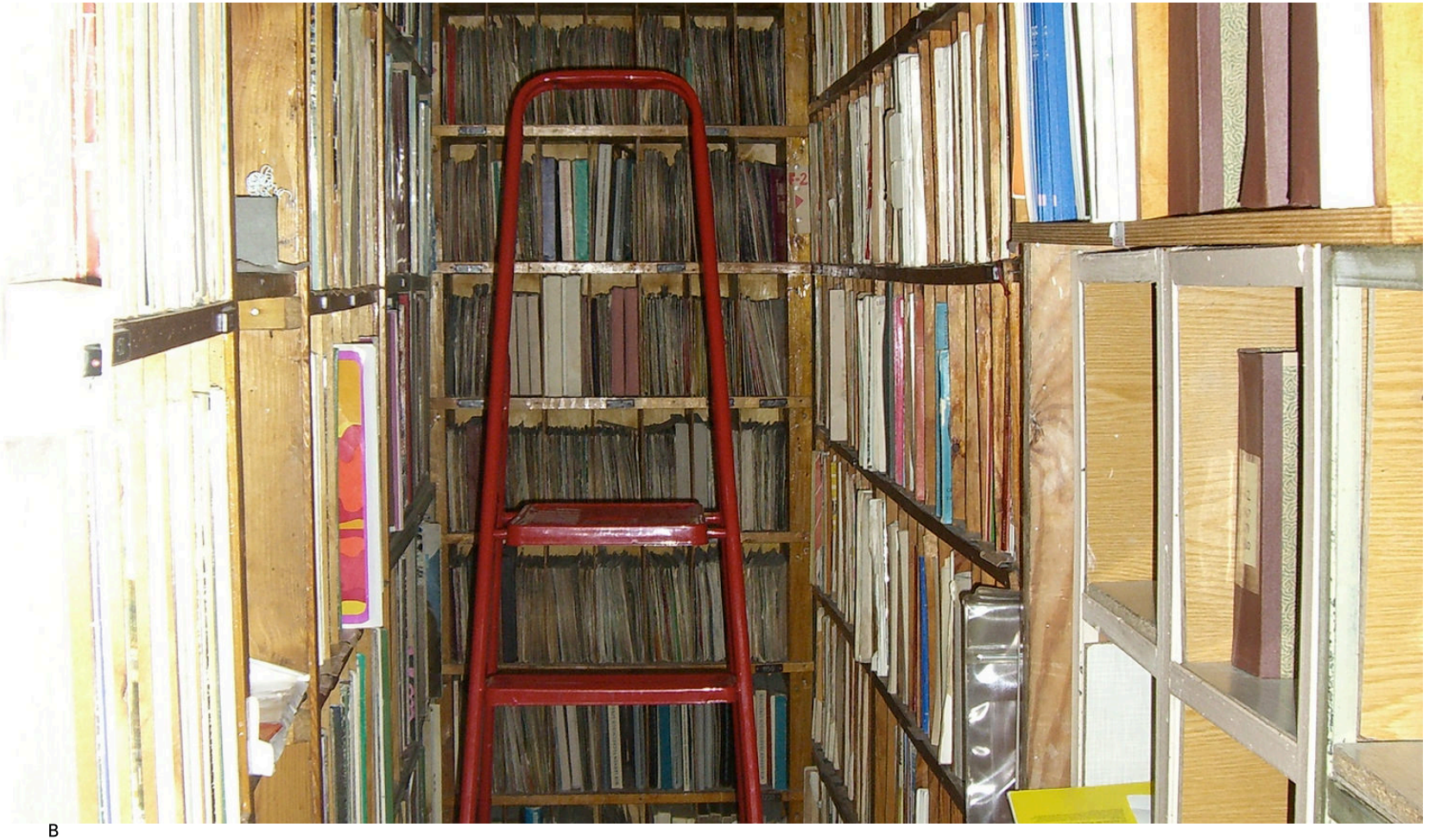
Before…



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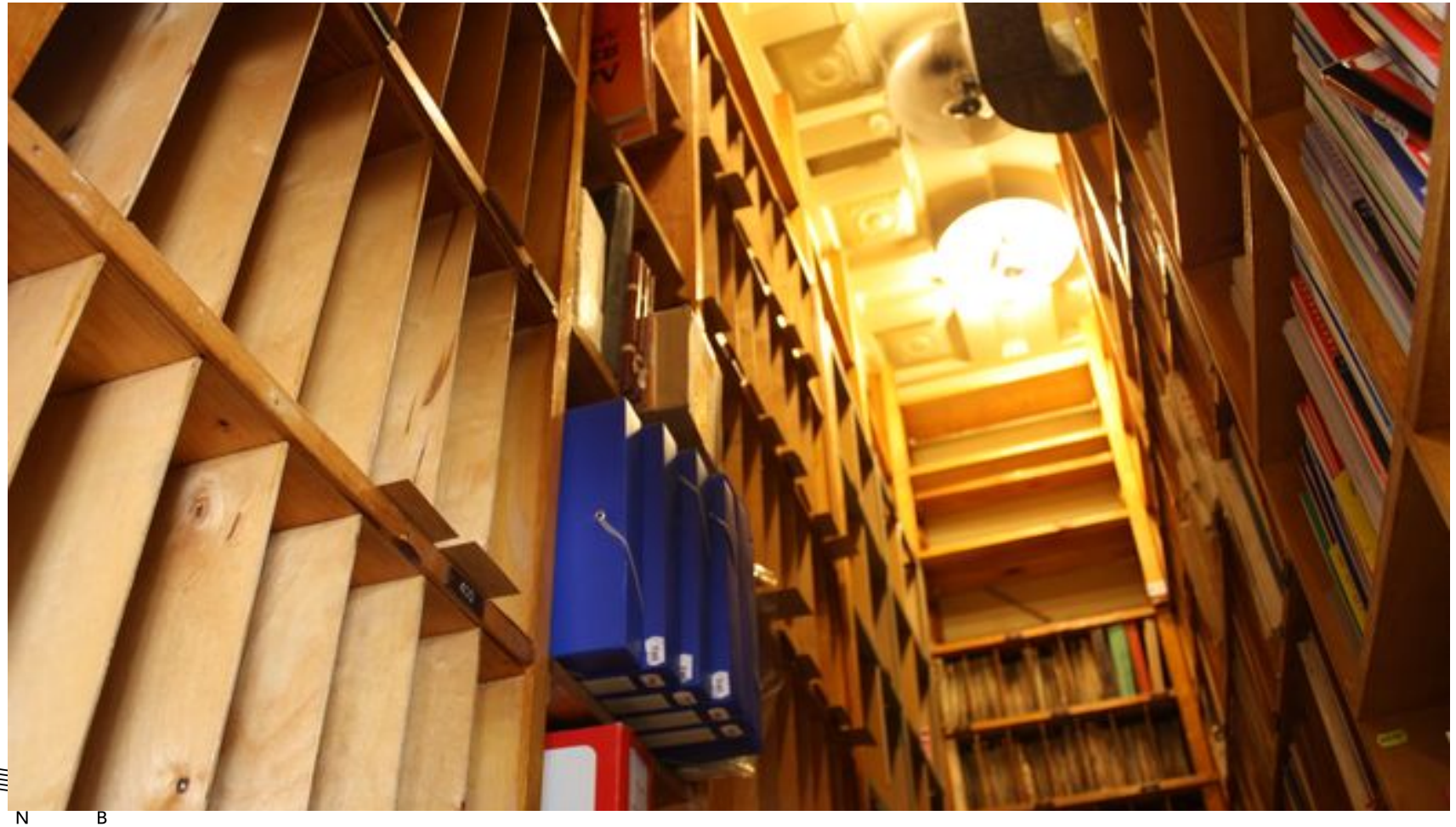
Before…



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Before…

The move

The move

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The move

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...after

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AUDIOVIZUĀLĀ STUDIJA

Latvian Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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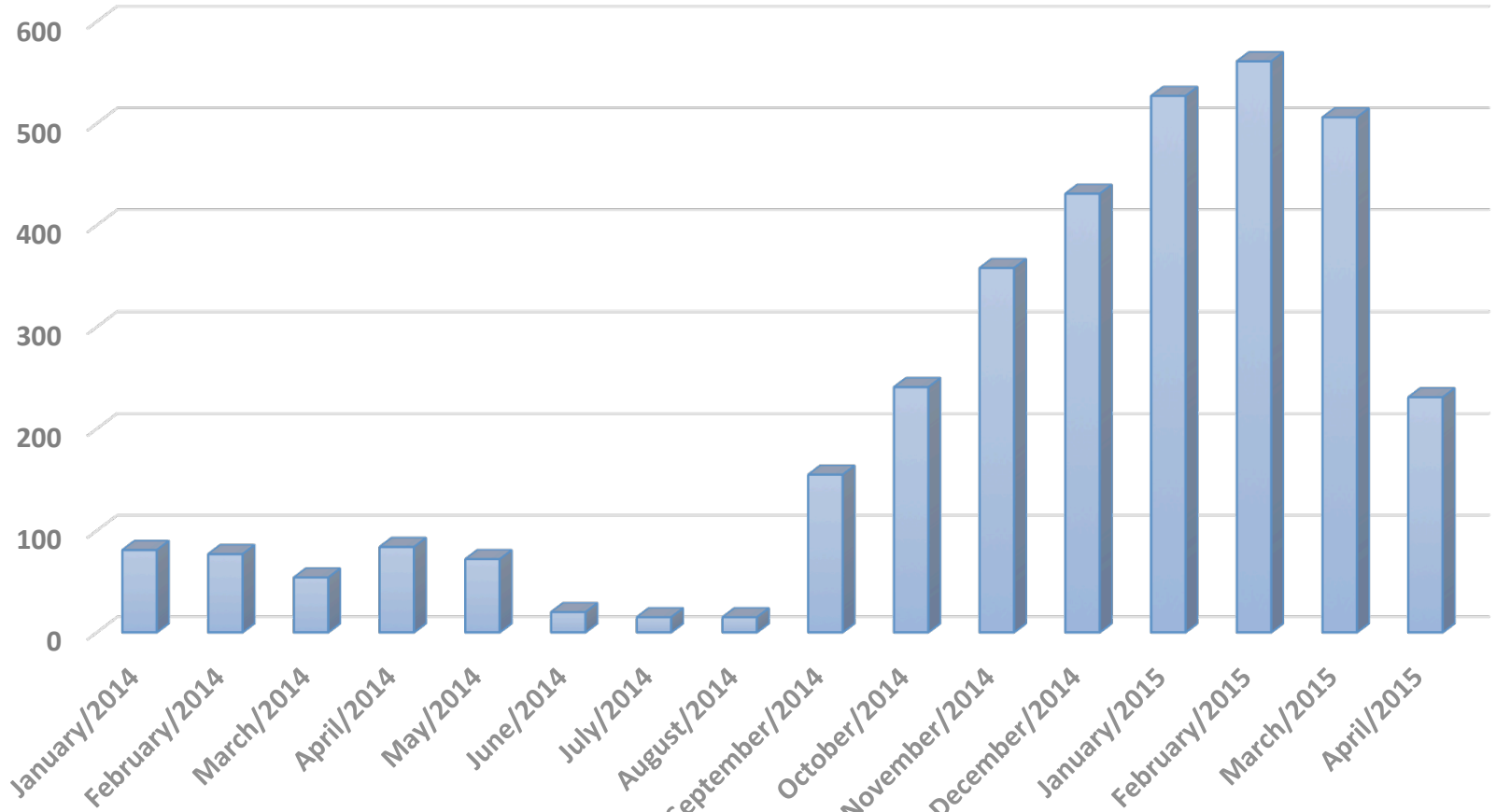
Number of visitors



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Conclusions

+ beautiful new building, appropriate storage facilities, modern equipment for serving customers, much improved work conditions

- new building further from the city centre as old buildings, perceived as difficult to reach by some; new ventilation and other systems very complicated, takes time to work properly, sometimes temperature and quality of the air not optimal; new AV equipment not working properly, problems with IT

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Conclusions

+ more and more visitors for the Audiovisual Reading room

- many only come to use the Internet

+ increased public interest in video/movie collection (more popular appeal)

- less specialist interest in sound recordings (new building «too far» for the staff and students of the Music Academy)

+ great new spaces to organise events

+/- new skills required from staff

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Conclusions

- Internet “reading room” planned after the end of presidency
- have to work on attracting the “target audience”

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Photo credits:

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