The library was founded by Tadeusz Stanisław Wróblewski (1858–1925), a well-known lawyer, cultural activist, and bibliophile from Vilnius. In 1912, his personal library amounted to around 65,000 books, 1000 maps, and about 5000 manuscripts and autographs. Its most valuable part consisted of historical documents of Vilnius and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

Currently, the repositories of the Department of Rare Publications of the Wróblewski Library of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences store over 450,000 publications: 63 incunabula, over 600 post-incunabula, about 160,000 newspapers and journals, and a unique collection of cuneiform tablets. This department acquires, catalogues, and keeps all books published before 1800, bibliographic and printing rarities, books in Lithuanian published before 1918 (before 1945, if published abroad), valuable Lithuania-related publications in foreign languages published from 1800 to 1944; nineteenth-twentieth century Lithuanian and Lithuanian-studies-related periodical literature (before 1810), rare periodical literature unrelated to Lithuanian studies (before 1810), Lithuanian émigré periodicals, art books, engravings, postcards, photographs, small documents, and cartographic publications. Since the collections of the written heritage were shaped by historical circumstances, the library is one of the main institutions of research into the documentary heritage of the history of science and culture.
The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is an institution that brings together the most prominent Lithuanian scientists. Its research work connects them to Lithuania. Its structure and activities are based on the key standards of European science.

Guided by a Western European tradition, professors of Vilnius University drafted a programme for the establishment of Vilnius Academy of Sciences in the eighteenth century, but its implementation was prevented by the collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth at the end of the eighteenth century. The vision of an academy of sciences was also pursued by outstanding Lithuanian intellectuals who founded the Lithuanian Scientific Society in 1907. The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was established on 16 January 1941 and initially it was dominated by the humanities. After the Second World War, the Academy opened a number of research institutes and expanded its scientific potential. This was a time of rapid advances in physics, mathematics, and the natural sciences.

When the Law of the Republic of Lithuania on Research and Higher Education was adopted in 1991, the Academy was reorganised into an academy of personalities.

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HISTORY

Together with its members and partners, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences promotes critical thinking, scholarship, the open public and a scientific approach to the processes in the country and in society. An important function of the Academy is to ensure the progress of its members. The Academy forms and implements a policy of science promotion and dissemination, publication of state-funded research periodicals, and coordination projects and activities in these fields.

The ever-renewing Academy and the community of the academicians are fully capable of undertaking initiatives and projects, stimulating increasingly advanced scientific research that would enhance the country’s prosperity, contribute to scientific, economic, social, and cultural progress, and represent Lithuania in the international arena.

ACTIVITIES

With the aim of spreading information about the achievements of Lithuanian scientists and strategic objectives in different regions of the country, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has signed cooperation agreements with eleven municipalities. In order to realise its expertise potential, it has concluded agreements with ministries, nine state research institutes, the Lithuanian Olympic Academy, the INFOSALUT association, the Lithuanian Laser Association, and various business organisations.

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is an independent expert and advisory body for the State, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and its subordinate institutions on research and higher education, culture, social development, economy, environmental protection, health and safety, and other issues. It also supports research in various fields in Lithuania and to stimulate scientists’ creative activity, the Academy periodically announces competitions for mini-grants named after outstanding Lithuanian scientists and scholars.

The Academy represents Lithuania at international organisations involved in granting academies of sciences and other research institutions: the European Research and Innovation Council (ERIC), the International Council for Science (ICSU), the European Science Advisory Council (ESAC), the InterAcademy Partnership (IAP), and others. At present, research collaboration agreements have been signed with 28 foreign national academies of sciences and foundations.

MISSION

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences prepares and publishes monographs, periodical scientific books, and research periodicals, reports on the Academy’s activities, conference proceedings, the informative publication ‘LA’ (Lithuanian Academy of Sciences), and other works. The journals publish original research by Lithuanian and foreign scientists in the fields of biology, ecology, chemistry, physics, energy, philosophy, sociology, medicine, Lithuanian studies, history, art history, agricultural sciences, etc., in printed and electronic forms. The books in the series ‘Science for All’ reveal, in an attractive and comprehensive way, the links between the different fields of science and explore the trends in modern science and technology.

All books and scientific articles published by the Academy are peer-reviewed. Publishing work is organized in accordance with the ethical norms established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Law on Copyright and Related Rights, and other legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania.

ACADEMICS

Members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, or academicians, are full members, members emeriti, and foreign members. Each academian is elected by way of an open competition. The most authoritative representatives of science and the arts are elected as full members. At the beginning of its existence, the number of the members of the Young Academy has been fifteen, but over time it has increased to more than ten and is not older than 40 years. In four years of its existence, the number of the members of the Young Academy has grown to fifty. The Young Academy mobilises young people for activities consistent with the mission of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, helps them to pursue scientific careers, and to communicate with young scientists in other countries. It raises the prestige of science and the accessibility of science-based knowledge in society and activates mentoring work of the academicians.

The Young Academy members are promising young scientists with outstanding scientific achievements, who have obtained their PhD more than ten years ago and are not older than 40 years. In four years of its existence, the number of the members of the Young Academy has grown to fifty. The first Young Academy Bureau was elected in 2010. It consists of five members, each representing a separate field of science. At the end of their four-year term, the previous members will become the alumni of the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences and will be replaced by their younger colleagues.

PUBLISHING

The Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences was established in late 2010. This subdivision of the Academy represents the interests of young Lithuanian scientists, promotes their careers, scientific, and expert activities, and provides opinions on the issues of Lithuanian research policy. The Young Academy mobilises young people for activities consistent with the mission of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, helps them to pursue scientific careers, and to communicate with young scientists in other countries. It raises the prestige of science and the accessibility of science-based knowledge in society and activates mentoring work of the academicians.

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HISTORICAL EVOLUTION OF THE ACADEMY

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Academics include representatives of the Academy of Sciences, the Lithuanian Reform Movement, on the occasion of the founding of the Sąjūdis Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, which was unveiled on 3 June 2003 in the central part of Vilnius. Lithuanian scientists and strategic objectives in different regions of the country, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has signed cooperation agreements with eleven municipalities. In order to realise its expertise potential, it has concluded agreements with ministries, nine state research institutes, the Lithuanian Olympic Academy, the INFOSALUT association, the Lithuanian Laser Association, and various business organisations.

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