The library was founded by Tadeusz Stanisław Wróblewski (1858–1925), a 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. The most valuable part of his library consisted of historical documents of Vilnius and of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.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 on Lithuanian published before 1918 (if published abroad, before 1945), valuable Lithuania-related publications in foreign languages published from 1800 to 1944, nineteenth-twentieth century Lithuanian and Lithuanian-studies-related periodical literature (before 1945), rare periodical literature unrelated to Lithuanian studies (before, 1800), Lithuanian émigré periodicals, art books, engravings, postcards, photographs, small documents, and cartographic publications. Since the collections of 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 Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, established late in 2018, brings together the country’s promising young scientists, who have achieved exceptional research results and actively promote scientific work and innovation, for activities conforming to the mission of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. To qualify for membership in the Young Academy, the young researchers should have obtained their doctorate no more than ten years and not be older than 40 years of age before the day designated for the election. Ten new members will be elected each year and the Young Academy of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences will be fully formed within four years. The members will keep changing as their number is limited to 40 and the duration of one term in the Young Academy is four years.

The Young Academy stimulates young scientists’ creative, scientific, and expert work and puts forward opinions on the issues of the research policy of Lithuania. It provides assistance in seeking an academic career and communicating with the young academies of other countries, in raising the prestige of science and enhancing the availability of science-based knowledge in society, as well as in analysing the development of science in an academic environment and in activating academic mentoring.
The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is an institution that brings together the most prominent Lithuanian scientists and foreign researchers whose work connects them to Lithuania. Its structure and activities are based on the key standards of European academies.

Guided by a Western European tradition, professors of Vilnius University drafted a programme for the establishment of Vilnius Academy of Sciences late in the eighteenth century, but its implementation was prevented by the collapse of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth as a state at the end of the same century. The vision of an academy of sciences was also nurtured 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 expanding its scientific potential. This was a time of rapid advances in mathematics and natural sciences.

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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 co-operation agreements with eleven municipalities. In order to realise its expert potential, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences has concluded agreements with ministries, eleven state research institutes, the Lithuanian Olympic Academy, the INFOBALT association, the Lithuanian Laser Association, and various business organisations.

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences is an independent expert and advisor on research and higher education, culture, social development, economy, environment protection, health care, technologies, and other areas for the Seimas and the Government with its subordinate institutions. On behalf of the Government, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences organises the work of the Commission for Lithuanian Science Prizes.

The Lithuanian Academy of Sciences publishes science periodicals, popular science books, and coordinates such science popularisation events as the national science festival 'Spaceship Earth'.

Every year, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences awards ten prizes to young scientists and doctoral students and fifteen prizes to the students in higher education engaged in research. It has established fifteen scholarships for young scientists. With the aim to evaluate the achievements of scientific research conducted in various fields in Lithuania and to stimulate scientists’ creative activity, the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences periodically announces competitions for prizes named after outstanding Lithuanian scientists and scholars.

The Academy represents Lithuania at international organisations uniting academies of sciences and other research institutions: the European Federation of Academies of Sciences and Humanities, the International Council for Science, the European Academies Science Advisory Council, the Inter Academy Partnership, and others. At present, research collaboration agreements have been signed with 27 foreign national academies of sciences and foundations.

Members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences, or academicians, are full members, members emeriti, and foreign members. Each academican is at the same time a member of one of the five scientific divisions of the Academy: Humanities and Social Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry, Biology, Medical, and Geosciences, Agriculture and Forestry, or Technical Sciences.

According to the Statute, the Academy may have 120 full members who are elected by way of an open competition. The most authoritative representatives of science and the arts are elected as full members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. At the age of 75, they become members emeriti. Outstanding foreign scientists, whose research activities are connected with Lithuania, are nominated and elected as foreign members of the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences. The number of members emeriti and foreign members is not limited.

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 representing Lithuania in the international arena.