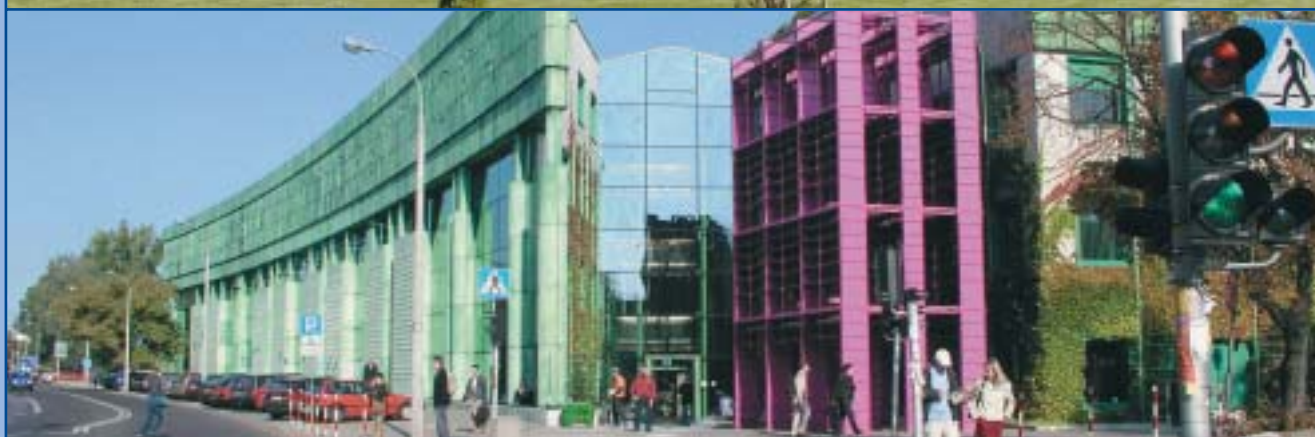


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# POLISH LIBRARIES TODAY

**Vol. 7**



**POLISH RESEARCH LIBRARIES**

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY was founded in 1928, but its tradition goes back to the 18th century Załuski Library, opened to the public in 1747. The National Library is the biggest library in Poland with about 7 million items, and holds priceless monuments of Polish and European literature, as well as unique collections from private and public holdings.



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## From the Editor

In the two previous volumes of *Polish Libraries Today* we highlighted some of the masterpieces of foreign collections preserved in Polish libraries (vol. 6), and the most important 'past and present' issues of the National Library (vol. 5). In this edition we would like to share with our readers the most important facts and opinions about the changing environment of Polish research libraries.

The rich history of collections and libraries within the Polish territory dates back to the early Middle Ages. Beginning from the 11<sup>th</sup> century the first monastery collections were created. In Gniezno, Kraków, Płock, together with the constructions of medieval cathedrals, many religious schools with collections of manuscript codices were established. We are proud that one of the oldest European academic libraries – the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków – has remained open, with without interruption since the early 15<sup>th</sup> century.

A very special place in the history of Polish librarianship is reserved for libraries founded between the fall of Polish state at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and the reestablishment of an independent Poland in 1918. It was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when wonderful collections were funded by private donors. In magnificent premises the most precious Polonica and the unique relics of the European writing were opened to researchers. The most eminent examples are the Ossoliński National Institute Library in Lwów, Raczyński Library in Poznań, Kórnik Library nearby Poznań, Zamoyski and Krasiński Libraries in Warsaw, the Polish Library in Paris or the Library of Polish Museum in Rapperswil, Switzerland.

In this volume historical contexts look to evoke a better understanding of the current problems being face by Polish librarianship. The early 1990s saw Polish libraries in a rather dramatic condition:

with the economic and political crisis of the 1980s having hampering their development to a significant degree. However, over the past 17 years, Polish research and academic libraries, have become modern centers, supporting science, culture and education.

Research libraries are changing their management methods and have learnt how to cooperate effectively when it comes to the resolution of serious issues. It is thanks to research librarians that consortia and teamwork have been introduced in Poland. Joint initiatives include: the national universal union catalog NUKAT, subject headings systems (KABA and JHPBN), the authority file of names, and regional digital libraries, all of which have enjoyed great success. Many consortia have been created both for the implementation of integrated library systems VIRTUA, HORIZON, ALEPH, and for the purchase of database licenses and electronic journals.

Leaving the traditional concept of a library as mainly a central storage room for library materials, Polish librarians have discovered that the library is a complex, interactive research, educational and cultural environment. It is also a social space where people may communicate with one another. This social aspect of the library as a real place that offers patrons user-friendly environment and a variety of traditional and electronic services – in contrast to the virtual space – has played its part in the successful development of research libraries.

In presenting this volume relating to research libraries in Poland, we trust that the various highlighted facts, opinions and comments shall enable our foreign readers to understand better the most significant issues of Polish librarianship.

*Joanna Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska*



# Research Libraries in Poland

Barbara Bieńkowska

## An Outline of the History of Research Libraries in Poland from the Middle Ages to 1945

*Abstract* The author discusses the process of the creation and functioning of research library institutions in Poland throughout the ages. The situation of Polish libraries is reflected in Poland's history. She also mentions the history of libraries such as private, church, school, academic, and special libraries.

What constitutes a *research library* is an issue that generates a great deal of debate, and this is because *research libraries* have different classifications in legal documentation, depending on the purpose, place and time of their formation, as well as the given national tradition. In Poland the term *research library* has become a part of library terminology and is still frequently used both in practice, as well as in legislation. (1)

Despite the umbrella term *research library*, even terminological dictionaries avoid its unequivocal definition and limit themselves to discussing its distinctive features: i.e. scientific features, from among which we can enumerate: the type of library collections, user circles, and the high qualifications of staff members.

The history of Polish libraries dates back to the 10<sup>th</sup> century, and the time of Poland's first ruler Mieszko I (†992), who launched the foundation of state and church organizations by following the Western model. Indeed, it was Mieszko's conversion to Christianity in 966 that created a wide spectrum of opportunities for missionaries, who came mostly from the territories of today's Czech Republic, Germany, Italy and France. Those missionaries brought books with them, supplementing the country's political, administrative, church and school structures. Latin soon became the language of governance, but for Slavs living on Polish territory Latin was quite literally a completely foreign language, and they were unwilling to turn their back on their own rich oral culture and traditions. Consequently, domestic and foreign cultures existed alongside each other, only to merge over time. The Latin alphabet quickly caught on,

with both foreign and Polish (as belonging to the western-European branch of Slavic languages) texts being transcribed in it. Polish social, as well as intellectual, elites brought up in the Latin convention of school, court and Church, were also quick to adopt western-European cultural patterns, although they also remained strongly committed to national traditions and issues. (2)

It was common practice in the Middle Ages for parent monasteries and institutions to provide books to their newly established posts, and consequently, missionaries tasked with converting pagans on the eastern frontiers of Europe were equipped with particular care. By the second half of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, there was a fully developed system of book production and distribution in Western Europe, whereas in well-functioning libraries and scriptoria attention was paid both to book content as well as to form. In the first centuries after the acceptance of Christianity Polish libraries were primarily affiliated to the church institutions, with the largest and the most prestigious libraries being located in the cities – although libraries were also to be found in towns and villages.

Whilst serving the administrative, political and scholarly needs of the fledgling state, for many, books created both intellectual bonds and a sense of belonging to a literary community (*respublica literaria*) – although the aristocracy and the gentry until the 18<sup>th</sup> century favoured rather the ethos of chivalry and were often characterized as preferring the *vita activa* over that of the *vita contemplativa*.

The earliest reliable data relate to monastic libraries. At the beginning of the 11<sup>th</sup> century (in 1002) the missionaries of Saint Romuald of Ravenna came to Poland, followed soon afterwards by the Benedictines, who founded monasteries in Święty Krzyż, Tyniec and in Lubiąż. The Cistercians arrived in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and founded monasteries in Wąchock, Sulejów and Mogiła, whereas the representatives of other monastic orders, such as those of the Black Friars (Dominicans), Canons Regular of the Lateran and Augustinian orders, also established a foothold in Poland. Each of these orders established libraries and scriptoria within the grounds of their monasteries.

Likewise, book collections at the cathedrals and collegiate churches were essential for cultural life during that period of time, where, alongside religious functions, educational activities were also perceived. In the 11<sup>th</sup> century, cathedral schools and Collegiate Churches schools, with accompanying libraries, were already operative in Gniezno, Kraków, Płock and Poznań, whereas the 12<sup>th</sup> century saw the extension of the network of school and collegiate libraries, located not only in big cities but also in medium-sized towns (e.g. in Kielce, Łęczyca or Sandomierz). In the 13<sup>th</sup> century, church authorities began to popularize elementary parish education.

As in western-European libraries, religious works dominated, but there were also legal, medical and historical treatises and textbooks, not to mention the works of classical writers included in school reading lists. Apart from imported books, as early as the beginning of the 10<sup>th</sup> century saw medieval writings being created within the country by foreign writers, followed in the 12-13<sup>th</sup> centuries by writings (literary texts) inscribed by local (native Polish) authors.

Apart from church institutions, Poland's royal court attracted writers active in the fields of politics, diplomacy and administration. Poland's rulers were highly enlightened for their time, understanding the value of books and appreciating the importance of education.

In 1364 king Kazimierz the Great (†1370) founded the Kraków Academy (known today as the Jagiellonian University), the first university in Poland, and the second in Central Europe (the first being Prague University). Together with the university he founded the university library (3), which since its reestablishment in 1400 has been active

without interruption, remaining one of the largest and most important libraries in Poland.

In the Middle Ages individual Kraków university departments had their own separate libraries,



The Jagiellonian University, Collegium Maius, before 1939

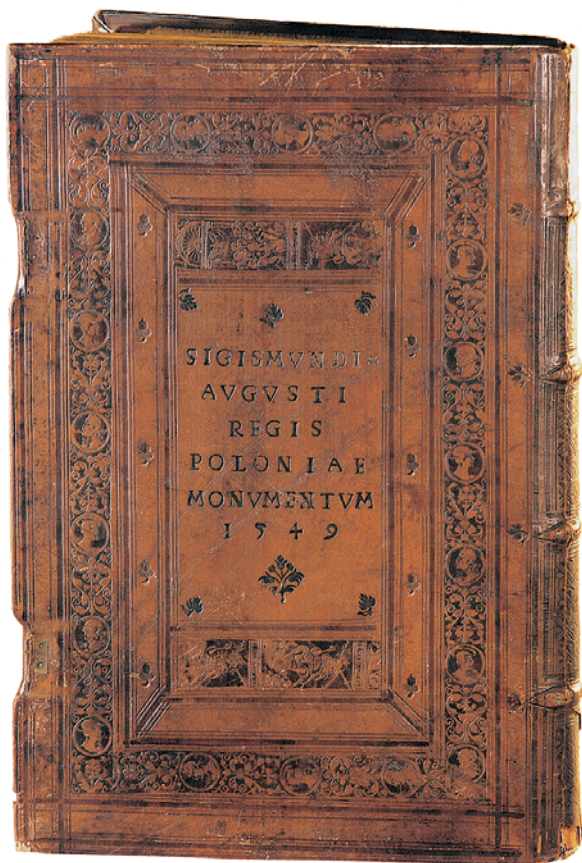
whereas in the 16<sup>th</sup> century two of the biggest libraries were absorbed into the Collegium Maius Library, which became the foundation of the main university library – The Jagiellonian Library. The merger of all the individual libraries took place in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Kraków Jagiellonian University was a home to many eminent lay and church scholars, among them eminent theologians, politicians, lawyers, physicians and astronomers, who achieved fame both in Poland and abroad. In turn, these scholars gathered their own book collections and donated items to the university library, as well as to other libraries.

The late Middle Ages marked a period of great prosperity, with municipal and regional councils, schools and churches all growing in number and strength, and accompanied by the growth of libraries and scriptoria. Calligraphic workshops and those of illuminators functioned in many towns. What is more, the demand for books grew and varied.

The 15-16<sup>th</sup> centuries saw relative political stability, and the favorable economic situation made *Rzeczpospolita Obojga Narodów* [The Republic of Two Nations] (as was the name of the united

Polish-Lithuanian State) a strong and a reasonably wealthy country. Apart from Poles, it was populated by various nations: Lithuanians, Ruthenians, Germans, Jews, and a smaller percentage of people of other nationalities. Catholicism was the prevailing religion, but there were also many members of the Orthodox Church, various factions of Protestantism (Lutherans, Calvinists, Polish Brethren or Arians, Unity of the Brethren or Bohemian Brethren) and followers of Judaism. Religious freedom, greater than in neighboring countries, attracted people from all over Europe and heralded a golden era for Poland in terms of prosperity and cultural development. This was the era of the astronomer Mikołaj Kopernik [Nico-



The Binding from the Library of King Zygmunt August (1520-1572)

laus Copernicus] († 1543); political writers and moral philosophers such as Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski (†1572) and Wawrzyniec Goślicki († 1607); theologians such as Stanisław Hozjusz (†1579); eminent national poets and writers such as Jan Kochanowski (†1584) and Mikołaj Rej (†1569), as well as a great number of other scholars and artists.

Having accomplished their tuition in the country, scholars would usually go abroad to round off their education and their destinations were most often Italy, France, Germany and Switzerland, although sometimes also England and Spain. As a result of this movement of scholars, new ideas, views, interests, social contacts and friendships were brought back to Poland, not to mention books – and of course these books would remain a constant source of knowledge and inspiration, and provide a link with distant intellectual circles.



The front cover exlibris from the book of King Zygmunt August

Humanist literature flooded the country with classics recently published in western Europe. Foreign publications dominated libraries and some of them have been preserved in Poland: such as French legal treatises from the library owned by Wawrzyniec Goślicki, the bishop of Poznań, or publications about Spain from the collection of Piotr Dunin Wolski, the bishop of Płock (†1590). Private libraries responded most readily to current ideas and trends, with the libraries of the aristocracy and nobility hosting collections that ran to thousands of volumes. The intelligentsia, whereas, possessed collections, which amounted to hundreds of carefully selected books. The important thing to remember here is that the development of libraries in Poland occurred on an *ad hoc* basis, and as a result libraries sprung up throughout the country.

The peak of individual bibliophily influenced considerably the status of institutional libraries. Broadminded patrons of the arts often donated their private collections, with school and college libraries being the principle beneficiaries.

The Jagiellonian University Library in Kraków, along with the significant growth of the collections, received a new, impressive premises in 1540. The 16<sup>th</sup> century saw the establishment of new universities, such as the Zamość Academy (1594) and the Vilnius Academy (1579). The latter had originally been a Jesuit junior high school. In 1565



the Jesuits began to establish numerous and very resilient colleges, which would spearhead the provision of secondary level Catholic education in Poland.

Numerous competitive educational institutions were also founded by representatives of other Christian denominations, with junior high schools in the north of Poland (e.g. Toruń, Elbląg and Gdańsk) being considered the best. In 1596, Gdańsk Junior High School Library (founded in 1558) was merged with the well-supplied Gdańsk



The Gdańsk Library in 17<sup>th</sup> century. The interior of its first premises

City Council Library. Volumes belonging to Jan Bernard Bonifacio, the marquis of Oria († 1597) and in every respect an Italian Renaissance man, who after a long exile found refuge in Gdańsk, constituted the core of this library. These volumes were precious from both a scholarly and artistic perspective. Gdańsk Library – nowadays called the Polish Academy of Sciences Library in Gdańsk – has retained its position amongst Poland's top ranked libraries. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century similar libraries were set up in other cities such as Poznań (in 1535) and Toruń. However, municipal libraries did not develop as successfully in Poland as in Western Europe because of the much weaker status of the municipalities and the bourgeoisie.

After the Council of Trent (1545-1563) the Catholic Church assumed an ideological offensive, which favorably influenced the provision of church

libraries. Despite alarming signals, such as local tumults or the closure of the famous junior high school run by the Polish Brethren (Arians) in Raków (1602-1638), Poland was still a relatively tolerant country. Although this tolerance was gradually restricted, Poland experienced a considerably lower level of religious conflict than in other European countries.

The situation began to deteriorate at the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The nobility, who had achieved excessive privileges, radically restricted the rights of the lower classes and the power of the rulers, which led to a growing economic crisis, with ensuing anarchy and political chaos.

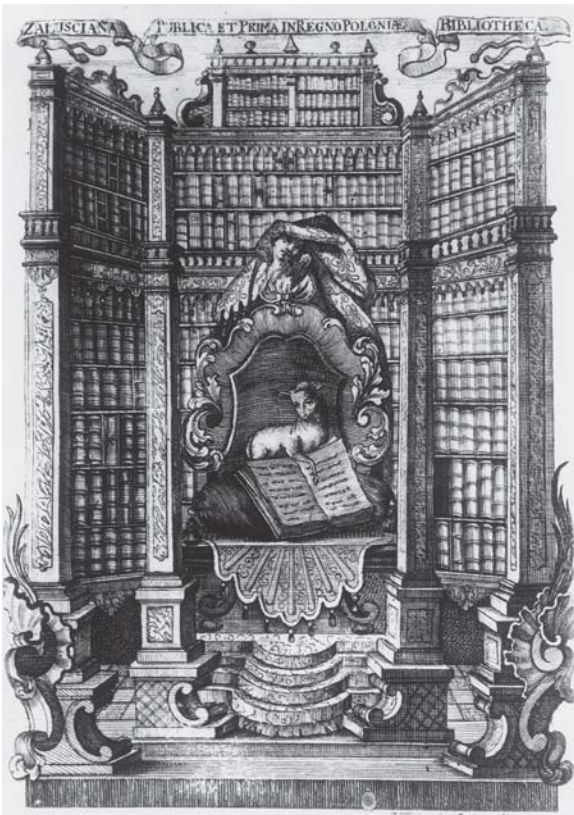
Despite the worsening situation, the first decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century marked a golden period for Polish libraries, which involved not only the higher echelons of society, but also the middle classes (the intelligentsia, landed gentry, and rich bourgeoisie). Universities and high schools looked to maintain the highest of standards, enriching their libraries and providing their students, and most of all, teachers, with a wide range of reading materials. Generous donations allowed school libraries to surpass the requirements of the curricula. These libraries would very often contain substantial research writings on the humanities, but they also catered for subjects that the benefactors were interested in.

The Swedish invasions plagued our country in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The so-called "Swedish Deluge" occurred between 1655-1660, when the Swedes occupied almost the entire country. The invaders plundered everything that was valuable – including book collections – and laid waste to the land. Church libraries were also pillaged, with the Swedish Protestants deliberately looking to destroy the centers of Catholic culture. State, institutional and private libraries did not escape the destruction either. The more valuable objects were exported, whereas other items were sold for a paltry sum. Many were simply destroyed, dispersed or lost in transport. Numerous Swedish libraries, such as the Royal Library in Stockholm, University Library in Uppsala, were beneficiaries of this war booty and still store numerous valuable Polish provenance printings and manuscripts.

Historical and rich libraries, e.g., in Warsaw, Poznań, Kraków, Bydgoszcz, suffered irreparable losses, as too did the holdings of smaller towns famous for their valuable collections: e.g. Frombork

(the library of Nicolaus Copernicus), Pelplin (the old library of the Order of Cistercians), Braniewo (a fine Jesuit library) and others. Equally catastrophic was the devastation wreaked on Poland's centers of learning – schools, offices and private houses.

The political, social and economic crisis reached its zenith in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, with consequences for the cultural life of the nation. It was only in the 1740s that reformatory aspirations were heard. To political activists, no strangers to the ideas of the Enlightenment, it was obvious that the reforms should begin with a gradual change



The Załuski Library exlibris

in the paradigm that was the noble class, and one way of achieving this, it was thought, was to reform schools and supply them with appropriate books, still treated as the most supreme tool for shaping an intellect and character – it may come as no surprise that the most active political activists of those times were also ardent bibliophiles.

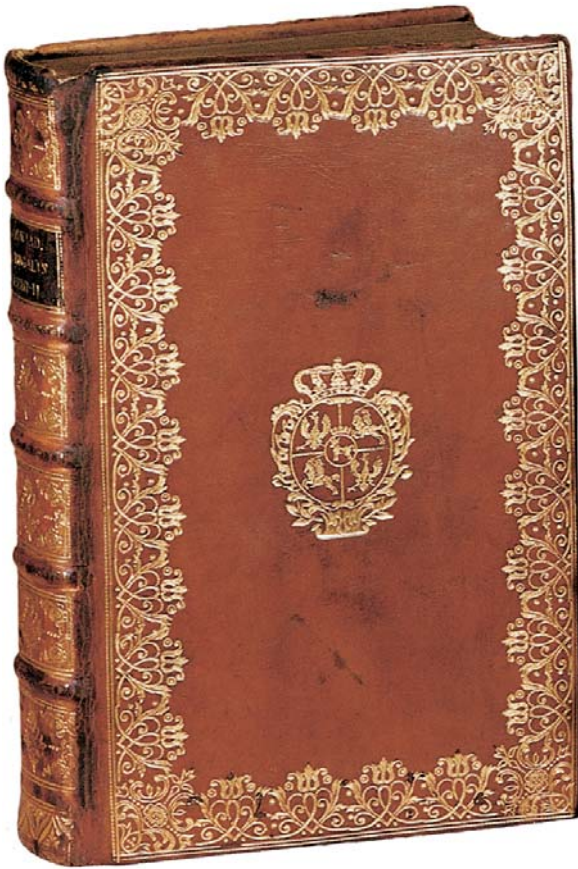
Opened in Warsaw in 1747, the Załuski Library (4) represents the most outstanding achievement of the Polish Enlightenment. It was the first



The Załuski Library in the Daniłowiczowski Palace in Warsaw, 18<sup>th</sup> century

public library in Poland, and was indeed one of the most distinguished public libraries in Europe. Brothers Andrzej Stanisław Załuski († 1758), a chancellor and one of the most broadminded politicians and reformers of his time, and Józef Andrzej Załuski († 1774), a literary enthusiast and expert on books, founded the library by combining their own individual collections. Apart from prints, rare manuscripts, engravings and maps, i. it also housed natural exhibits, an astronomical observatory and a physics study.

The library was both a center for scientific and scholarly research, and a place of literary gatherings. Various competitions, meetings and discussions were held there, and publishing initiatives undertaken. Above all, though, the library served as a study place for researchers in various fields prevailing in humanities. The Załuski library was impressive both with respect to its quality (i.e. many rare and precious volumes), and its size. The initial number of volumes (about 200,000) over the course of half a century almost doubled, and in 1795 it totaled about 400,000 units. They were all located in one separate building. The arrangement and the description of the books left much to be desired. Despite the great efforts by Onufry Kopczyński, a researcher and a librarian who worked in the library from 1783-1794, the collection failed to be fully catalogued. Disaster came at the end



Binding with the coats of arms of King Stanisław August Poniatowski (1732-1798)

of 1794, when the Russian authorities plundered the library and sent its collection to Russia. The collection of the Załuski brothers would enrich various Russian libraries, and above all, the Imperial Public Library in Petersburg. As a result of



The King Stanisław August Poniatowski exlibris

further dramatic losses, only small fragments of the once great library have survived to our times. However, the Załuski brothers left us the concept of a national library.

This idea was also shared by the Polish cultural elite of the Enlightenment, which flourished in

the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and particularly during the reign of Poland's enlightened monarch Stanisław August Poniatowski (1764-1795), a patron of science and the arts, as well as a discerning bibliophile. He gathered a fine library of over 16,000 volumes, highly selective in terms of content and form, with the best editions and refined bindings. Poniatowski also added precious drawings, maps and coins to the collection. Librarians looked after the library, which was located in a representative chamber of the Royal Castle. Not only the king, but also many researchers from his circle made use of the library. However, Stanisław August did not manage to fulfill his plans and make the library available to the general public. Sharing the same fate as the Załuski library, most of the library's collection ended up in the Ukrainian National Library in Kiev.

Poland's magnate family libraries, such as the libraries of the Sapieha family of Kodeń, the Radziwiłł family of Nieśwież, the Czartoryski family of Puławy and Sieniawa, as well as the library of Tadeusz Czacki (†1813), a famous historian and educational public figure, shared the same fate. These are just a few examples of numerous libraries that fell victim to the Russian invader, who systematically pillaged our cultural heritage. Germans and Austrians pursued the same policy, but on a slightly smaller scale.

In the Age of the Enlightenment it was common for the intelligentsia and landed gentry to have their own private reference libraries. Due to the influence of the Załuski brothers, people started paying more attention to Polish writings, regarding their preservation as a patriotic duty. This trend grew stronger in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which essentially saw research libraries' safeguarding of precious and unique relics of Polish literature and scholarship for posterity.

The Age of the Enlightenment also saw radical changes to school and university libraries. As a step on the way to educational reform in the 1740s, the Polish parliament called into existence the Commission of National Education. It was the first secular Commission of its kind in Europe, encompassing under its remit all types of schools, from elementary schools to universities, together with their libraries. From 1775 the Commission also supervised the Załuski Library. The Commission worked out national rules on libraries: the

Załoski library and university libraries became public libraries, whereas secondary school libraries were recommended to make their collections widely accessible. The commission also reorganized and improved the running of those libraries under its remit. What is more, they consolidated the libraries of separate departments of Kraków Academy (the Jagiellonian University) into one university library. They also tried to supply the libraries properly with volumes through the exchange of duplicates. In 1780, they introduced a law, according to which, one copy of all books published in Poland had to be sent to the Załoski Library, with all books published in Lithuania having to be sent to the Vilnius University Library. The Commission ultimately failed to achieve its goals due to a lack of time, experience financial means, not to mention the loss of independence by Poland, although its works contributed to the modernization of Poland's school and university libraries.

Loss of Poland's independence took place in 1795. Since then until World War I (1914-1918) Poland's territories – divided between Russia, Prussia and Austria – were placed under the rule, policy and administration of three different systems. During the so-called "partition" years, the occupying powers attempted to keep the Poles as compliant and backward as possible, with civil

rights, economic, educational and cultural initiatives being drastically restricted. National development was effectively reversed, when elsewhere in Europe great industrial and cultural advancements were taking place. Throughout the entire 19<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Poland was locked in a battle for its own survival and the preservation of its identity. Books would play their part in the nationalist struggle. Although under some restrictions, private and social publishing houses, bookshops and libraries could still function. A great deal of importance was attached to the creation of libraries. But the main problem was not just the lack of state funds, but the fact that the state used all legal, administrative and financial means to work to the libraries' disadvantage. Therefore, the considerable burden of organizing and running libraries rested with society itself, with private and collective patronage also playing an important role. The creators and founders of libraries were often literary connoisseurs, conscious of European intellectual trends, and ideologically motivated. People of various political views and economic backgrounds came together to support fledgling library network.

Let us now enumerate a few representative examples from among the libraries of the Polish magnates. In 1817 Józef M. Ossoliński († 1826) donated his library to the Polish nation. Moved to

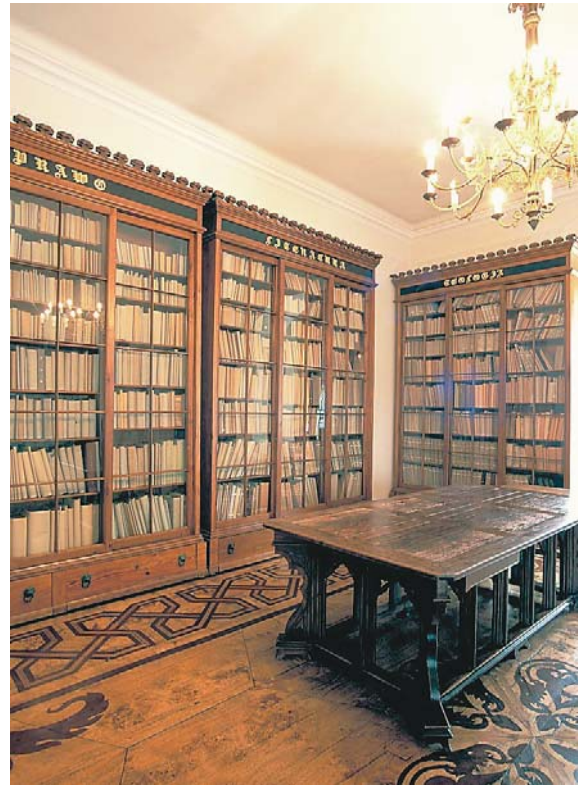


The Ossoliński National Institute Library in Lwów, 19<sup>th</sup> century

Lwów in 1827, aside from 27,000 printings, it contains valuable manuscripts, illustrations, portraits, maps and medals. In 1938 the collection had over half a million units. At the end of World War II Lwów became part of the Ukraine. Within the repatriation agreements, part of the library was moved to Wrocław (over 200,000 units) where it became the Ossoliński National Institute Library.

The Kórnik Library, another important book repository, was founded in 1828 by count Tytus Działyński (†1861) in his castle in Kórnik near Poznań, and gradually augmented by his heirs. Currently the library remains in its original location (run by the Polish Academy of Sciences) and contains over 250,000 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century printings, about 30,000 early printed books, over 15,000 manuscripts, 14,000 illustrations, as well as other exceptional collections and museum exhibits.

The collection of the Czartoryski Library in Kraków was gathered in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries by the members of the prince's family, both in Poland and abroad, and opened in 1874 to the general public in Kraków. At present the library



The Kórnik Library, Manuscript Reading Room



The Kórnik Library in the Gothic revival 19<sup>th</sup> century castle

remains a foundation library and encompasses some 250,000 prints (including over 70,000 early printed books), 13,000 manuscripts and other valuable and numerous special collections.

The Zamoyski Library, created in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, was moved to Warsaw in 1811 and in 1939 it held about 120,000 units, among them special collections of immense value. The Nazis destroyed the library during World War II. The remaining copies were later incorporated into the holdings of the National Library in Warsaw.



The Zamoyski Library exlibris

A similar fate befell the Library of the Krasieński Estate. Count Wincenty Krasieński (†1858) founded this library together with a museum in Warsaw in 1844. In 1930 it was moved to its own building. Before the war it held over 250,000 works, among them unique special collections. The Nazis burned down the library during World War II and the few surviving fragments were incorporated into the holdings of the National Library.

The Library of the Raczyński family was bequeathed by count Edward Raczyński (†1845) to the city of Poznań in 1829. The library, with over 140,000 volumes, was almost entirely destroyed during World War II.

Collections of Polish magnate families went a long way to preserving Poland's national heritage and providing the conditions for its development. Apart from precious valuable writings, those libraries also gathered museum exhibits. What is more, the Ossoliński National Institute and Kórnik libraries documented research and published scientific reviews. Private libraries also enjoyed greater freedom than institutional libraries when it came to acquisitions.

Many scientific associations also founded libraries that were open to the general public. The Poznań Association of the Friends of Sciences,

founded in 1857, constituted the scientific center of a city deprived of a university, but one with rich traditions and cultural vivacity. The library, founded along with the association, in 1939 encompassed about 155,000 volumes, among them many valuable special collections. Despite the losses, which occurred during the Nazi occupation (over 25 per cent of the holdings), the library still ranks highly among Polish research libraries.

The Library of the Kraków Scientific Association (founded in 1856) not only survived but still functions under the name of the Library of the Academy of Arts and Sciences (PAU).

The libraries of associations for specific purposes are also deserving of mention. The importance of such libraries for the growing number of intelligentsia employed in state, municipal, social and private institutions cannot be overstated. These libraries catered for legal, natural science, medical and pharmaceutical associations, not to mention historical and ethnographic associations.

In 1907 Warsaw saw its first public research library opened, funded by the intelligentsia – it is currently celebrating its 100 anniversary. This type



The Krasieński Library. Librarians Helena Drège and Piotr Dembowski, before 1913



The Public Library of Warsaw exlibris

of library served as a model for other similarly funded libraries throughout Poland.

While emphasizing the importance of social initiative, we cannot disregard the value of libraries associated with public institutions. University libraries clearly come to the fore in this regard, whose situation was linked directly to the circumstances within the country. They were subject to constant inspections and regulatory restrictions by the occupying powers. They were closed down at certain times, and their book collections confiscated. Nevertheless, in times of relative tolerance, university libraries made great efforts to increase their holdings.

The history of the Warsaw University Library was exceptionally turbulent, even by Polish standards. Founded in 1816 along with the university, the library quickly obtained the status of a public library, with the right to a legal deposit copy of every published book. The collection grew fast thanks to the efforts of its director Samuel B. Linde (†1847), a distinguished lexicographer. In 1832 the library held over 130,000 prints, 100,000 illustrations, and about 3,000 other special collections – most of them were taken to Russia that same year. The library enjoyed a brief revival in the years 1862-1869. Then, until 1915 it served as a part of the newly Tsar's Warsaw University – a famous collection of writings about Russia dates back to those times. In the interwar period (1918-1939) the library quickly augmented its holdings. In 1939 it owned about 820,000 prints, over 100,000 illustrations and other special collections. It suffered severe losses under Nazi occupation, especially

in respect of its special collections. However, it still possesses its significant book collection.

Founded in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, the Jagiellonian Library enjoyed its heyday under its director Karol Estreicher (1868-1905), who was also the compiler of a monumental Polish national bibliography. (5) At present the library is still being augmented and modernized. It contains the most complete collection of pre-1801 prints.

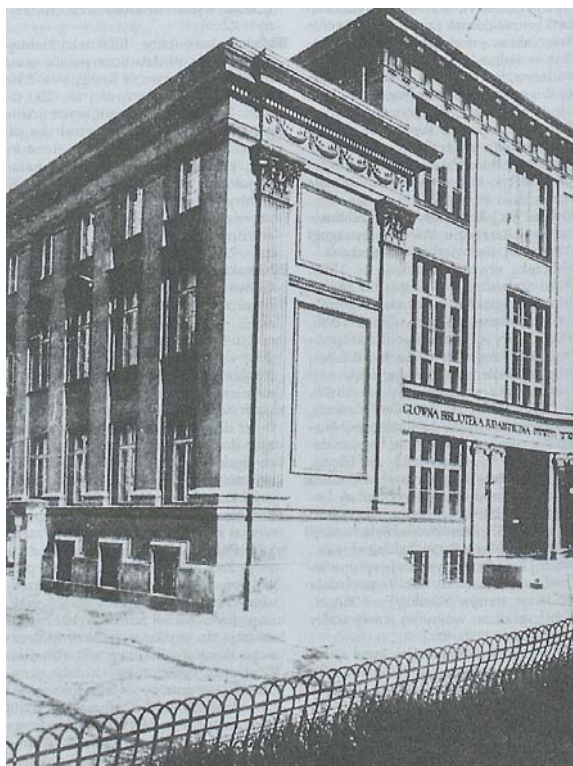
The libraries of Vilnius University and Lwów University (founded in 1785) shared the fate of Polish libraries. In 1832 Vilnius University Library had its holdings plundered and taken away to Russia. Following this, a library was set up in its place, tasked with the promotion of Russian language and culture. Lwów University Library prospered in the 1870s, with a holding of about 120,000 volumes. In 1905 it was housed in a new building.

Similarly to other European countries, although maybe on a smaller scale, university libraries for specific purposes were founded, e.g. the Lwów University of Technology Library (founded in 1877), the Warsaw University of Technology Library (founded in 1915), the Academy of Fine Arts Library in Kraków (1903), the Warsaw



The Warsaw University of Technology. The entrance to the Library seen from the Main Hall (Aula)

School of Economics Library (1915), the Institute of Agronomy Library in Marymont near Warsaw (1816), and the Institute of Technology, Agriculture and Forestry Library in Puławy (1862). Just like the library collections of scientific associations, these libraries compensated for the lack of professional literature in our country.



The Main Judaic Library in the Great Synagogue in Warsaw, before 1939

No enumeration of research libraries can afford to omit church and monastery collections, most of which belonged to the Roman Catholic Church, although during the partition the number of libraries subordinate to the Catholic Church was greatly reduced (the dissolution of monasteries largely contributed to this: in the Austrian territory between 1783 and 1809, in the Russian territory in 1819, and in the Prussian territory in 1840). In spite of repressions and sporadic confiscations, the remaining monasteries managed to keep many extremely precious and unique writings – not only of religious character – within their walls. Furthermore, many libraries belonging to other denominations, such as the Evangelical Church, the Orthodox Church, and Judaism, catered for their administrative centers and education systems.

Libraries founded abroad by Polish émigrés in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries constituted an important component of the cross-section of Polish research libraries. The first wave of political emigrants settled in Western Europe following the failure of the November Uprising (1832), and the second wave following the defeat of the January Uprising (1864). These libraries, such as the Polish Library in Paris (founded in 1838) and the Rapperswil Library (the National Museum in Rapperswil Library in Switzerland, founded in 1870), aimed at the protection of Polish heritage. These library collections would be brought back to an independent Poland, having achieved this goal.

The situation of libraries during the absence of a independent Polish state made the acquisition of books a priority, which also necessitated their cataloging and bibliographic description. What is more, historical manuscripts required historical, philological and bibliographic research, not to mention editorial work. Highly qualified researchers were often employed in libraries to oversee this work. In turn they elaborated monographic studies and source document publications. The importance of bibliographic registers served to establish the extent of library holdings in Poland and also to document the state of science and culture. All types of bibliographies were published: current and retrospective, general and for specific purposes. Here one must mention the multi-volume and monumental *Bibliografia Polska* [Polish bibliography] by Karol Estreicher, which registered Polish publications and publications relating to Poland (Polonica) from the 15<sup>th</sup> century to present times. Another eminent publication was Joachim Lelewel's *Bibliograficznych ksiąg dwoje* [Two Bibliographic Books] (in two volumes, Vilnius 1823-26). Lelewel was a distinguished historian and bibliophile, and in this work he looked at the problems of research bibliography. Lelewel also penned *Dzieje Bibliotek* [The History of Libraries] (Warsaw 1828), which treated the issue of libraries on a large scale. Thanks to writers such as Lelewel, we have an accurate account of librarianship in Poland in the nineteenth century, which would otherwise have been lost to posterity.

Following World War I Poland regained its independence and Polish libraries had to meet the fledgling state's political, administrative and



educational needs. New libraries were established and old libraries modernized. It was necessary to make up for losses resulting from over a century's bondage. Holdings had to be replenished with Polish materials, rebuilt and augmented, whereas rules for collections, processing and library regulations had to be unified on a national basis. The ownership of libraries proved also to be a complex matter, with some libraries remaining in the hands of private individuals, organizations or associations. Libraries that fell under the state's jurisdiction were administered by the Department of Libraries in the Ministry of Denominations and Public Enlightenment.

The short interwar period (1918-1939) saw the dynamic development of research libraries, with university libraries and special libraries augmenting their holdings. The number of academic libraries increased from ten to thirty-two. There appeared many important libraries of state offices, institutions and agencies, to name only a few examples: the Central Statistical Office Library in

Warsaw (1918), the Sejm Library (the library of the Polish Parliament) (1919) and Central Military Library (founded in 1919, it still has a vast network of well organized specialist and educational military libraries), and the Silesian Parliament Library in Katowice (The Silesian Library), founded in 1924.

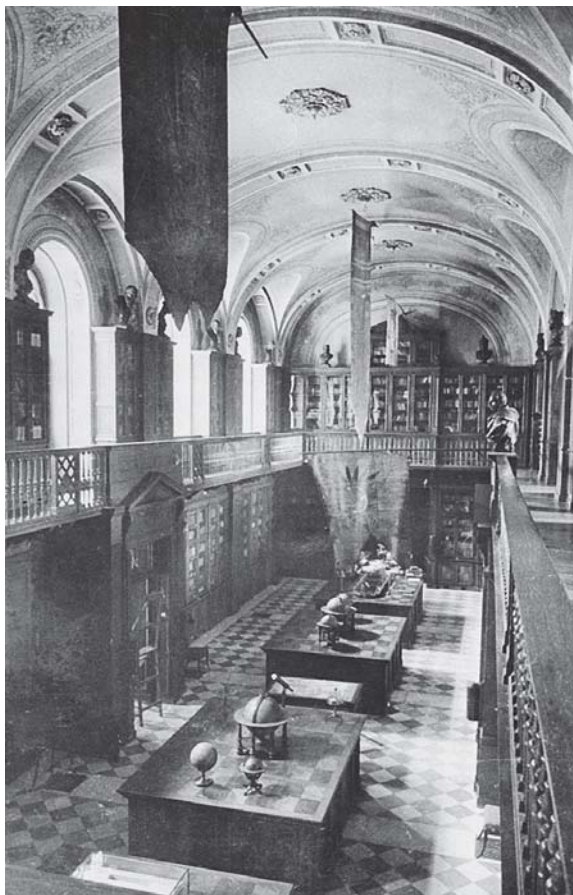
Foundation libraries (Ossoliński National Institute Library, the Kórnik Library) and private libraries – to some broader or narrower extent open to the public – the Czartoryski Library in Kraków, the Krasieński Library and the Zamoyski Library in Warsaw, once liberated from foreign restrictions developed in a positive way.

Research association libraries retained their importance, numbering 300 in total (general, special and regional).

In 1928 the total sum of research libraries in Poland was estimated at over 450, preserving approximately 8 million volumes.

A major achievement of those times was the establishment of the National Library in Warsaw in 1928. Despite the lack of its own premises, its holdings grew quickly due to donations from various institutions and private individuals. The library also took charge of valuable repatriated Polish book collections (e.g. the Rapperswil Library) and library collections claimed from the USSR (e.g. a part of the holdings of former Załuski Library). In 1939 the cumulative holdings exceeded 700,000 items. Although the outbreak of World War II hindered the task to process all new additions to collections, there were several achievements to be mentioned. A modern library organizational structure was worked out and new skilled personnel trained. The current Polish national bibliography – *Urzędowy Wykaz Druków* [the Official Register of Publications], was published and the National Library introduced both the union catalog of foreign writings in the possession of Polish libraries and the union catalog of incunabula. The National Library also prepared records of its own holdings (i.e. early printed books and manuscripts). Sadly the outbreak of World War II brought this dynamic period of activity to an end.

Librarians – both theoreticians and practitioners – carried out such valuable work throughout Poland, from amongst whom some of the most distinguished names were Aleksander Birkenmajer (†1967), Adam Łysakowski (†1952), Józef Grycz (†1954) and Jan Muszkowski (†1954). These men would go on to establish the foundation of Polish



The Zamoyski Library, Main Library Hall. The Błękitny (Blue) Palace in Warsaw, before 1939

librarianship in post-war Poland. Other names of the interwar years that merit mention are: Kazimierz Piekarski (†1944), an expert on old books; Stefan Demby (†1939), the director of the National Library, and Helena Radlińska (†1954), the founder of the Free Polish University in Warsaw, the first university to provide librarianship studies (1925-1939).

*Przegląd Biblioteczny* [The Library Survey], a journal concerned with librarianship, had its first issue in 1927. In 1934 an instruction manual for the alphabetic cataloging of monographs was published, followed in 1935 by a manual for the cataloging of manuscripts.

In September 1939 the Nazi army occupied the north, northeastern and central parts of Poland, with the Russian army occupying the eastern territories. The condition of libraries differed from district to district, but the balance of losses was disastrous. (6) In an attempt to annihilate Polish culture, libraries were plundered and very often razed to the ground, with their holdings sent to German and Russian libraries. One can calculate that the losses amounted to 70-75 per cent of

Poland's library holdings, entailing the destruction of over 90 per cent of school and public libraries, about 70 per cent of professional and private libraries, and about 45-50 per cent of research libraries, which contained the most valuable items. One must also consider the loss of catalogue, bibliographic and information records.

Warsaw libraries world fare the worst. Following the defeat of the 1944 Warsaw Uprising, and in contravention of concluded treaties, the prevailing part of valuable collections from institutional and private libraries was burnt by the Nazis, including some 300,000 special collections originating from various Warsaw libraries and housed in the Krasieński Library building. These losses are irremediable. To give a more balanced picture, one should add the complete institutional chaos, demolition of premises and holdings, the relocation and devastation of holdings, the destruction of card indexes and catalogues (used for reference, bibliographic or study purposes).

Between 1939 and 1945 ordinary library work came to a standstill. Cooperation and subscriptions were interrupted, as was acquisition,



The Krasieński Estate Library in Warsaw (Okólnik Street), before 1930

which was either halted or restricted and determined by the Nazi authorities. Polish readers were deprived of access to books. The majority of professional librarians were scattered. Many of them were subjected to repression. Many were killed.

Despite such tragic circumstances, some part of Poland's national heritage was rescued, thanks in no small part to the efforts of the Polish nation, especially librarians, who performed heroic deeds

to snatch books from the jaws of destruction. They hid the most valuable items and documentation, they copied catalogues in secret, and made books available, albeit to a select readership. They prepared plans, and when the war ended they began rebuilding and reorganizing their posts.

Year 1945 marks the beginning of a new era in the history of Poland and in the history of the development of research libraries as well.

### Notes

(1) See Mężyński, Andrzej, *Biblioteki naukowe w Polsce w poszukiwaniu tożsamości* [Research Libraries in Poland. In search of identity]. *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Library Survey] 2005, No 3 p. 277-296.

(2) For a broader context of libraries in Poland see Bieńkowska, Barbara, Chamerska, Halina, *Books in Poland. Past and Present*. Ed. and translated by Zalewski W., Payne E.R., Wiesbaden 1990; Pirożyński, Jan, *Geleitwort* In: *Handbuch deutscher historischer Buchbestände in Europa*. Vol. 6, *Polen. Bulgarien* Ed. By Zacharska M., Hildesheim, New York 1998-2001, p. 21-46.

(3) In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the Kraków Academy Library or the Kraków University Library changed its name to the Jagiellonian Library. The name comes from the surname of the Jagiellonian dynasty, which reigned in Poland in the years 1386-1572,

and who rendered great service both to the university and to the library.

(4) See Tchórzewska-Kabata, Halina, *Corona urbis and orbis. Wystawa w 250 rocznicę otwarcia Biblioteki Załuskich* [The Załuski Library. Corona urbis et orbis – an exhibition to celebrate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Załuski Library in Warsaw], Warsaw 1998.

(5) See Estreicher, Karol, *Bibliografia polska. Vol.1* [Polish Bibliography], Kraków 1870.

(6) More on the situation of libraries during the invasion see Bieńkowska Barbara, *Report on the Losses of Polish Libraries in the Second World War, Polish Libraries Today* 1995 vol. 3 p. 25-32; Mężyński, Andrzej, Łaskarzewska, Hanna, *Biblioteki naukowe w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939-1945. Wybór dokumentów źródłowych*. [Research Libraries in the General Government in the years 1939-1945. Selected source documents], Warszawa 2003.

# Research Libraries in Poland

*Henryk Hollender*

## Polish Research Libraries in their Contemporary Context

*Abstract* The author carries out a detailed, step-by-step analysis of the situation of Polish research libraries, looking at various aspects of their work: dealing with social perceptions, financing, automation, infrastructure and administrative issues. These are presented in a historical perspective, highlighting regional diversity.

### Introduction

Most commonly research libraries are perceived within the library community with mixed feelings, sometimes verging on disbelief, which the poor communication between them and other libraries, and the scarceness of joint activities, do little to dispel. As a result, non-research libraries tend to fall behind with regard to making use of the practical experience of research libraries, and shy away from using what research libraries commonly use, namely their more complicated types of organisational tools and search instruments. Finally, for the visitors, mostly students, research libraries acquire a specific emotional tone. As institutions they often serve as focal points, spatially and administratively integrating decentralised academic campuses. Their capacity to acquire printed matter, though, is hardly unlimited as any student knows given that the tradition of purchasing potential text books in a dozen or more copies has long been abandoned.

When comparing libraries in Poland, the highest appreciation is generally given to research libraries for their status and professional merits. Some representatives of local government libraries, strongly convinced of the impoverished state of their own institutions, consider research librarians to be awash funds.

Not unlike their counterparts in other countries, Polish academics adopt personalized and often informal methods of acquiring information. Given their habits, the role of large university libraries in their lives is often eclipsed by the specialized libraries of research institutes, academic

societies or university departments, which provide more help with person-to-person relations. The place of research libraries in Polish culture and everyday life still needs to be examined by researchers and commentators. However, the perception of research libraries has been very strongly tinged by the ethos of the intelligentsia, and this too can be seen at first glance. It's not a coincidence that one of the protagonists of a popular Polish series of teen novels by Małgorzata Musierowicz, a father figure, staunch and upright, hard-working but rather impecunious, works at a manuscripts department of a renowned municipal public library with a long history and research status. This is not a new insight, of course, but rather a tribute to tradition, and one that is not polymorphous either. The impact of Polish libraries on the popular imagination, however organisationally diverse they might be, has been marginal.

### Conditions and traditions

Polish research librarians are generally not known to foreigners, living their own, secluded but quite vivid life in a country of almost 40 million inhabitants. (1) Compared to academic libraries in the European Union (with an average annual spending of up to 197,000 Euro per 1,000 individuals served), the newly admitted EU member states (up to 52,000 Euro), and the countries of Eastern Europe (41,000 Euro), Poland is likely to fit closely in the middle group. Selected data from individual libraries support this view. (2)

There are approximately 10,000 libraries in Poland; out of these 1,200 are research libraries.

The size of their collections is about 137 million units; for research libraries the figure lies at 70.6 million. (3) The Polish language has been a language of academic publications for more than 200 years. And yet, Poland as a country and Poles as individuals do not take part in international projects and institutions quite as often as it would seem based on demography.

Poland's historical tradition favours libraries. Its rich written tradition is quantitatively less impressive than that of France or Germany, which is actually one of the reasons why it could have been covered by a single, cohesive national bibliography. This work, known as the 'Estreicher', after the name of its original author, or under its proper title as *Bibliografia polska* (4), though not yet digitized and completed, is an excellent starting point for Polish studies. Discussions on good and bad sides of 'Estreicher' provided solid methodological training for generations of Polish bibliographers. *Bibliografia polska*, published in many volumes since 1870, most recently by the Jagiellonian University, still has not reached the last letter of the alphabet, falling well short of the author's aim, which was to cover the entire Polish publishing output up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most important part of the work is Part III (vols. 12-34), covering the period from 15<sup>th</sup> through 18<sup>th</sup> century, i.e., by the author's estimate, 140,000 printed items. The Polish Bibliography triggered the development of current and retrospective subject bibliographies – primarily historical, literary and medical plus three more available on-line only: Polish Scientific Journal Contents (5) (prevalingly biological and agricultural magazines), BAZTECH (6) (the contents of technical journals), and ARTON – Polish Arts and Humanities Literature. (7)

History hangs like a shadow over Polish libraries, and at the same time inspires them. Although it was a monarchy, old Poland was unique as a country, in which the successor to the throne was chosen each time there was a vacancy by an electorate consisting of the gentry, or the knights of the realm. As a result, there was no dynastic continuity – nor was there a royal library that could be built up over the ages and presented to the nation at the right moment. Each of the subsequent royal collections was either divided up among the next of kin, or sold after the owner died. Another factor is that many of the book collections of landowning aristocratic families are now

in the libraries of the Ukraine or Russia, or have ceased to exist, having been pillaged or burned down by the Nazis or other occupiers. Many outstanding collections did make it, though, and were reopened to the public. Since the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, private individuals and organisations – enlightened aristocrats, cultural and educational societies (most notably in the 19<sup>th</sup> century), and finally (after 1918) the state – tried to create sizeable library collections in order to record the nation's past and supply the sources for academic research. Before the National Library was founded (in 1928), this had been the role of the Jagiellonian Library in Kraków, and of the Library of the Ossoliński National Institute, established in Lvov in 1817 and partially moved to Wrocław after the Second World War (*Biblioteka Zakładu Narodowego im. Ossolińskich*). The library of the Raczyński family (Biblioteka Raczyńskich, founded in Poznań, 1829), the Krasieński Estate Library (Biblioteka Ordynacji Krasieńskich, Warsaw, 1844), and the Public Library of the City of Warsaw (1907) had a similar function (8). On a side note, one can also mention the role and status of municipal libraries, whose collections are of great importance for scientific research. These libraries, now funded by local government at the highest regional level (voivodship), have a long history as important regional centers of learning. This is especially true of libraries in Katowice, Toruń, Bydgoszcz, Lublin, Łódź and Szczecin. Some of them, the libraries of the city of Warsaw, the Voivodship Public Library in Białystok (Książnica Podlaska – Library of Podlasie) and Książnica Pomorska in Szczecin (Pomeranian Library), are entitled to receive a legal deposit copy of all books printed in Poland. (9)

Another library with a degree of national ambition has been the Warsaw University Library (1817): a remarkable conglomerate of aristocratic collections, early printed books from the Catholic convents dismantled under the rule of the Russian tsar, international scientific publications, and finally the *Rossica* collection – source documents for Russian studies – which Polish specialists call "the largest of its kind outside of Russia" (10). Church and convent libraries are now members of the academic community, and take part in the exchange of information. They have seemingly inexhaustible special collections, which they wish to preserve and provide access to. FIDES,

the Federation of Church Libraries, is actively involved in this endeavor and promotes library automation. Its members include 230 Catholic institutions, from small school libraries to large ones such as university theological faculty libraries. (11) FIDES maintains its own union catalogue on MAK software, which covers the collections of 12 institutions – universities, seminary schools and convents (12).

## The research library – the concept

While Poland's "research libraries" may be a distinctive group, they are not easy to define. The Polish word *nauka*, as in *biblioteki naukowe* (research libraries) is closer to German *Wissenschaft* than English *science*, and it also signifies learning. In the popular mind, research libraries are commonly understood as holdings of "serious" literature, i.e., scientific publications (and not, for example, belles-lettres). The words "research", "learning" and "science" still retain some of their old prestige, as might be expected of a nation whose core, in default of a broad middle class, consisted of an "intelligentsia". Its members wanted to take in their own hands the responsibility for the future of their country, and they typically shared a belief in the power of science.

Legislation, however, shows a different picture. The Library Act of 1997 and other documents define research libraries as institutions specialized in conducting research. This indeed is part of the job description of some library employees, "certified librarians" with a special library diploma and librarians applying for this title by passing an exam in front of a special examination board of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The requisites for taking the exam include a university degree, professional experience, academic publications, and proficiency in foreign languages; the diploma is a *sine qua non* for applicants for the post of director at a state university library. The type of publication, however, is not specifically defined. Usually it is enough for the candidate to have published in specialized periodicals; the methodology does not have to be 'scientific' i.e. the results do not necessarily have to be based on empirical research. Poland no longer has libraries with strictly research posts, except for the National Library. In previous years several libraries (e.g. academic libraries of Warsaw and Poznań) did have departments whose only task was

to carry out just that, but they were disbanded for economic reasons and everyone was left with the impression that they were ineffective either because their workflow was too small, or because, for other reasons, their performance left much to be desired (13).

Even a casual glance proves that many librarians look towards carrying out research as a way of counterbalancing their daily job routines and raising its prestige. The nature of most of the research, now and in the past, was of a bibliographic or editorial character. Complex user-oriented research is seldom carried out. (14) The same holds true of in-depth historical inquiry combined with source criticism and a structured narrative (15) – which is one of the reasons why library advisory bodies of all kinds regularly voice concerns about the passing away of generations of scholars with the proper instruments and skills for academic work. Some of the larger libraries still publish bulletins and series of "works". Noted bulletins include that of the Jagiellonian Library, appearing twice a year and first published in 1957. Another bulletin, *Prace Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Poznaniu* [Achievements of the University Library in Poznań], consists of more than 40 volumes of bibliographic and historical materials, and sources for library studies. (16) Research librarians publish their works also in yearbooks such as *Roczniki Biblioteczne* [Library Workbooks] (Wrocław 1957-, University of Wrocław) and *Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej* [The National Library Yearbook] (Warsaw 1965-, National Library).

While a typical research library is a university/academic library, the institutions that fall into this category are highly diverse. Universities can be both large and small, with collections ranging from less than 300,000 units to almost 3 million. The libraries of newly established private colleges, not entitled to be called universities, are miniscule in comparison, and in some cases exist only on paper, which puts their parent institutions in breach of existing rules. The most successful new colleges have adopted a different strategy, building their libraries from scratch. The Higher School for the Humanities in Pułtusk has unveiled a new, separate building to house its library. Even though the collection is a small one (100,000 units), and it does not have an online catalogue on the Internet, providing the students with access to digital

sources in the reading rooms is clearly one of the priorities.

The status of “research library” is also assigned to libraries with a focus on selected sectors of the economy, such as the Main Library of Transportation or the Central Library of Statistics of the Central Bureau of Statistics. In the UK or the US they would be probably called *special libraries*. The path to becoming a “research library” is open also for other libraries: the eligible candidates are public libraries with historical collections, which they have to be in the process of researching and documenting, e.g. in the form of regional or special bibliographies. Libraries of this type can be assigned the status of a “research library” on the basis of the Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of March 19, 1998. The National Library has compiled a register of research libraries recognized this way, containing just 30 institutions, which applied to be registered and obtained positive verification from the National Library Council (Krajowa Rada Biblioteczna). The bare fact of being on the list doesn’t mean much except that the libraries can apply for financing from the Committee for Scientific Research (academic libraries or the branches of the Polish Academy of Sciences are entitled to aid anyway, under a different set of rules). Most libraries derive funding from local governments. They are a few special libraries, some museum, pedagogical, and research society libraries, as well as other types of libraries.

## Research libraries beyond academia

Special libraries with the status of research library include nine “central” institutions. The name is a remnant of an old concept of a national information network. This plan, abandoned in the midst of the economic crisis in the nineteen-eighties, called for the founding of “central” libraries by the category of preserved scientific literature. It did not exclude university libraries though, and so Warsaw University Library was to become the central library for social sciences and while the Central Library of the Warsaw Technical University, the main library for technical learning. Some central libraries, however, had already existed as libraries beyond the academia, e.g. the Stanisław Konopka Main Medical Library (established in 1945), which has local branches, but is by no

means the central node in the network of medical libraries. One cannot, in fact, speak of a formal network here, and although the libraries of medical academies/universities cooperate actively with one another, none of them, not even the Main Medical Library, acts as the coordinator. The Main Medical Library is best known for publishing the Polish Medical Bibliography (current), with CD/DVD and on-line versions covering 1979-2007, available for a free. (17) Another non-academic central research library is the Central Agricultural Library (est. 1955), which has field branches but no formal links to higher agricultural education. Then, there is the Central Military Library (est. 1919), which publishes the current Polish military bibliography, *Polska bibliografia wojskowa* (available on-line). (18) The collections of the Central Military Library have a general character akin to libraries in the humanities. Finally, another important research library is the Sejm Library (Biblioteka Sejmowa). Serving Polish parliament, it preserves a diverse collection of legal and political texts. It is an institution, which unlike other research libraries is not obliged to admit the general public, greatly limiting its significance and prestige.

Some central libraries are a part of the network of libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk, PAN). The Academy itself is a crossover between a corporation of scholars and a system of research institutes. Its 40-plus libraries aid research in the arts and humanities, natural sciences and in sciences. Three of them (in Kraków, Gdańsk and Kórnik) were set up based on sizable historical collections. An interesting feature which distinguishes these types of libraries from one another are the nuances in terms of size, academic accomplishments, and the degree of their willingness to cooperate with other libraries. In Warsaw, Academy libraries came together to form a consortium to stimulate their IT development. Similar consortia were organized in Poznań and Gdańsk and they have reached out beyond the Academy’s institutions to a group of select academic libraries. On the whole, going beyond one’s own ministerial enclave is not really something one sees very often in Poland.

Typically, an Academy library provides service to a small group of highly-productive scholars. Take for example the Library of the Nencki Institute of Experimental Biology in Warsaw, whose employees have achievements on an international level.

In a library of this kind access to information is typically provided through a set of meticulously selected printed magazines (the Library of the Nencki Institute preserves 240 titles), supplemented by a computer database for *Current Contents*. Some libraries offer more, like the Central Library for Geography and Environmental Protection, or the Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences' Mathematical Institute – the Central Mathematical Library, which provides on-line access at a charge to current mathematical magazines published by the Institute. The two are the strongest links in the chain of Warsaw's consortium of PAN libraries. Other libraries have hit on hard times, and some, like the Library of the Polish Academy of Science in Warsaw, nominally the central library of the Academy itself and specialized in literature about science, now face dismantling.

One successful library, according to Polish librarians, is Książnica Cieszyńska in the town of Cieszyn. The library only recently grew out of the local municipal library and is still funded by the local council. Cieszyn, a town of 40,000 people on the border with the Czech Republic, is home to many valuable collections, all of which reflect the rich culture of that multiethnic area and its religious diversity. The library obtained a new building from town authorities, and although its real needs are still far from satisfied, it has shown much energy, and has presented its fine collections in a way that appealed to state and private sponsors, e.g. the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation. Its latest initiative is the Cieszyn Virtual Library (19), which grants free access to full texts of a score of interesting printed works from the Cieszyn area, as well as to old catalogues and other search tools. All this is part of an increasingly popular trend among Polish libraries, though old collections are digitalized considerably more often than didactic materials.

## Academic libraries

According to the EBIB list (cf. footnote (6)), Poland has 16 universities and just as many main libraries belonging to them. Apart from this, libraries of the following tertiary schools are called academic:

- technical higher schools (normally called polytechnics) – 21
- agricultural higher schools – 7
- schools of economics – 5

- medical academies – 11 (20)
- physical training academies – 6
- academies of the fine arts (music, plastic arts, theatre, etc.) – 13.

One could add to this higher state-owned vocational schools (first degree curriculum, i.e. non-academic according to Polish standards), and many private colleges/academies (cf. above). Large academic institutions actually have networks of libraries, which retain a varying degree of autonomy in relation to the central library. The constituency of such networks generally shows little functional integration; sometimes these libraries even use different library software (or do not have any computers at all). Often called 'faculty', some of these libraries nevertheless grow to vast proportions, and acquire a correspondingly high status, as in the case of the Library of the Faculty of Philosophy and Sociology of Warsaw University, operated jointly by the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Polish Philosophical Society, co-financed by these two institutions, and known for having a good supply of new publications.

According to data from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the libraries of higher academic institutions have 75% of all the collections of research libraries (and 84% of special collections); they serve 80% of all visitors of research libraries (the most active group, by the way, responsible for 85% of all interlibrary loans) (21). Responsible for this activity are mostly students. The student population in Poland is just under 1,800,000, of which approximately 1 million are females. This signifies an enormous increase since the start of the democratic transformation: in 1989/1990 the number of students was barely 380,000, 200,000 of whom were females. (22) In addition to this, academic libraries have to cope with secondary school senior pupils, and other members of the general public (on the basis of existing regulations, they can apply to use library resources on site, but cannot borrow books or remotely use licensed on-line resources).

The libraries of institutions of higher education do not serve research staff as often as they might, since these generally prefer unofficial information channels. Although large university libraries cater to professorial readers, and are quite proud of the fact, Polish academics tend to choose smaller places with less strict rules, and where a librarian is always there to help them. (23)



Academic libraries are called research libraries, and constitute a group with the most inventive thinking of Polish librarianship as regards better scientific information, but in fact they are first of all service institutions that work for students and are financed from the budget for didactic activities. Increasingly, they are trying to generate their own income by seeking out sponsors, leasing space, and selling the services they don't have to provide free of charge. Subsidies for scientific research are used to purchase international magazines and databases. A common enough feature is that the funds are not directly allocated to libraries, but have to pass through university departments first, at which stage a complex procedure has to be started to re-divide the cash, if any of it is to be used to expand library collections and information resources.

Librarians at state-owned academic libraries retain strong feelings of professional independence or even superiority in relation to their colleagues at municipal or regional level libraries or the still struggling libraries of private colleges. These libraries resemble their counterparts in the U.S. or Western Europe as regards work organization or the range of services, and long opening hours, six and sometimes seven days a week, though not during the night. Well provided with computer equipment and automated (though the on-line catalogue generally covers a part of the collections), academic libraries offer a well-chosen selection of electronic publications. Some have started digitalizing their holdings. As a rule, computer services of an academic library cover the entire university. In many cases, books can be ordered over the internet; authorized users can also browse through full-text databases. Academic libraries lease space to foreign or international (European) centers for cultural exchange. They have reading rooms, and units specialized in gathering scientific information, providing users with access to reference publications, and answering user queries. Dating from the 1950s, reference units are made up of well-organized and well-equipped, and with experienced employees. If they have a fault, it is a tendency to provide information only on the premises of the unit, which is aggravated by the concentration of computer workplaces around the card catalogue, and in the reference hall. This means users cannot operate simultaneously with printed and online sources, which is how one could put

into practice the well-known and widely discussed concept of the hybrid library. Only a few libraries train database users to enable them to carry out effective searches without the help of a librarian. By contrast, all university libraries are obliged to give all new students introductory library instruction.

## Library buildings

Many university libraries now have either new buildings or new wings built on to existing ones. Warsaw University Library moved to an entirely new location in 1999 (designed by Marek Budzyński and Zbigniew Badowski), the Jagiellonian Library opened a new wing in 2001 (designed by Romuald Loegler), and this is where most of the tasks directly related to user service are now performed. Recently, the Main Library of the Kielce University of Technology also received a new building; the Jerzy Giedroyc University Library in Białystok, the University Library in Wrocław, the Library of the University of Gdańsk, and an extension of the University Library in Łódź. In a few of these libraries, the new designs gave an opportunity to allow free access to a part of the collections, like in the much enlarged Main Library of the Warsaw University of Technology.

Warsaw can now boast a number of brand new libraries: the Library of the Warsaw Agricultural University has moved to a newly constructed building, and the National Library new building, nicely fitting into the scenery of a park. By far the most interesting building, though, is that of Warsaw University Library. (24) It provides free access to up to 1 million books; wherein books are shelved by the Library of Congress Classification Scheme (LCCS). Each book falls into one of eight broad categories of a visual information system designed to aid users in their searches (solutions based on the Library of Congress system will also be adopted in Wrocław and Łódź). The industrial-style building of the Warsaw University Library, which for many users resembles the Centre Pompidou in Paris, gained acclaim for its rooftop terrace gardens, and its computer facilities distributed throughout the entire building.

The new building of the Jagiellonian Library has an entrance hall with computers for those who have not yet walked into the library, a conference hall and handsome exhibition area. The building, though, does not reflect one essential trend in

modern library design: apart from a large reference library collection in the general reading room, the users are deprived of free access to the books.

## Computers and catalogues

Polish research libraries commonly provide internet web sites with an online access to their catalogues, databases and computerized loans. Electronic documents and special collections, though, are only now starting to be catalogued. Already one library has placed part of its catalogue of early printed books in the RLIN database in cooperation with the Consortium of European Research Libraries. (25) For libraries in Poland, like anywhere else, computerization was a challenge, a move forward, and a chance to create a more effective search and information apparatus. To a lesser degree, unlike in the US, computerization was seen as a way of more economically and effectively documenting and providing access to collections. In 1993, a nationwide uniform bibliographic format (US MARC) was adopted and put into practice. At the same time, the necessary adjustments were made to the ISBD cataloguing rules that had been used since 1985. This enabled data in different catalogues to be presented in a similar way. Information could be exchanged between libraries. Finally, the catalogues could be merged. This concept was taken up by academic libraries, which in 1992 installed VTLS (Virginia Tech Library Systems) software purchased with a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. Libraries could now see each other's catalogue database and take over bibliographic records. This helped put an end to the duplication of efforts, which happened when cataloguing the same items for several times by all libraries cataloguing the very same item. When their electronic catalogues were made available, the user of the VTLS system – not on the Internet but rather within a system-based catalogue search interface – could select on the menu the catalogue of any given Polish library using the VTLS system only. Polish VTLS libraries cooperated in other ways too – by centrally creating heading entries (searchable descriptive elements). Known as authority control, this method guarantees the cohesion of catalogue databases and permits rich referencing and tracing. At Warsaw University Library it was introduced by Anna Paluszkiwicz (1941-2004), a computer scientist and librarian

with extraordinary insight and intellectual discipline, and educator of several hundred cataloguing staff all over Poland. In June 2004, the Union Authority File, maintained at Warsaw University Library since 1994, passed one million records, including the KABA subject headings with almost 90,000 entries, which were constructed on the basis of RAMEAU (Répertoire d'autorité-matière encyclopédique et alphabétique unifié).

KABA is now becoming increasingly independent of RAMEAU, which initially had been the main source of grammar and lexical material. However, knowing RAMEAU is still a basic skill of the cataloguing staff of academic libraries. This model was adopted in 1992 since it complemented the concept of a subject index controlled by a central authority file. Additionally, the mediation of subject headings of Laval University (Québec, Canada) ensured its compatibility with Library of Congress Subject Headings. Warsaw University Library was actually one of the few academic libraries in Poland with a subject catalogue – the Warsaw one was launched by the eminent library scientist Adam Łysakowski (1895-1952) in the 1930s. Łysakowski's work, theoretical and practical, was also used to create the National Library list of subject headings. Older subject catalogues in research libraries tended to be rather 'systematic catalogues', especially in areas strongly influenced by German library science. KABA thus became the first ever subject headings-based arrangement for a number of Polish academic libraries.

*Centralna Kartoteka Hasel Wzorcowych* [CKHW – the Central/Union Authority File] has currently been constructed by 40 of the nation's largest libraries implementing NUKAT, the national universal union catalogue located in Warsaw University Library (CKHW has become part of it). (26) Ever since the catalogue got off the ground in July 2002, the cooperating libraries managed to co-catalogue 859,425 bibliographic descriptions (of monographs – 818,001, and of serials – 41,424), and include them in the union database. Since then records can be copied to libraries that acquire the given publication, more than twice on average (27).

The union NUKAT catalogue runs on VTLS's VIRTUA software. Other NUKAT participants employ software by Horizon (Dynix) Aleph (Ex Libris), Prolib (Max Electronic, Zielona Góra) and Q-Series (EOS International). The National Library has launched the cooperation in 2005, and

is already contributing its vast expertise in the field of cataloguing rules. It is the only library in Poland using Innovative Interfaces INNOPAC software. The largest 'record donors' for NUKAT were: the Jagiellonian Library, Warsaw University Library, and Toruń University Library of Nicolaus Copernicus University. The most copies were made by libraries from Warsaw and Toruń, by Marie Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and the Public Library of the City of Warsaw. For other libraries, this was an example of how one can create a catalogue efficiently and economically. The National Library participation in the program means for other libraries that they will put an end to the task of cataloguing the current Polish publishing output. This is eagerly awaited, as this will give them a better opportunity to focus on re-cataloguing older materials for an on-line usage. In a sense, looking at the process of automation, this will be the end of the pioneering stage. Perhaps it lasted longer than it should have, but it gave us valuable experience, and when looking back, it is not without nostalgia. (28)

Compared to NUKAT, the KaRo catalogue (working on protocol Z39.50 (29)) allows the user search simultaneously more than 60 library catalogues, which work with Horizon, Aleph, and INNOPAC (plus the whole NUKAT contents). KaRo is the brainchild of Tomasz Wolniewicz, a researcher from Nicolaus Copernicus University. Both systems, KaRo and NUKAT, are being modified to serve as a support for interlibrary loans, where still much has to be done. Most orders are still placed traditionally (an order sent via regular mail). A German-made system, SUBITO, or other commercial ones are used to deliver documents electronically (EDS). Only medical libraries have their own Doc@med system, administered by the Medical Academy in Poznań (the work of Piotr Krzyżaniak and his team). The system's strong point lies less in its software than in the accompanying bibliographic database, which allows the user to select specific articles. (30)

Regardless of their ministerial allegiance, research libraries provide access to numerous bibliographic, abstract and full-text databases, e.g. EBSCO, ABI/INFORM, Global or the Economist Intelligence Unit. A number of important databases are available thanks to a national license, and managed by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling, Warsaw

University. Leaving aside factual databases like Beilstein and Gmelin, which libraries do not often provide access to, full-text magazines by Elsevier (ScienceDirect), Kluwer and Springer (Springer-Link), Ovid Biomedical Collection (with Medline) and INSPEC (31) can be mentioned. An original feature of this arrangement is that the materials are archived on servers of their users with online access to these databases even after the contract expires.

The Virtual Library of Science is a project, which is currently being carried out by the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling from independent financing granted by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. At this stage the Virtual Library of Science contains digitalized materials, most of which comprise the contents of older foreign language mathematical periodicals published in Poland, as well as current mathematical and biological periodicals. Plans for the next stages include adding periodicals from the arts, humanities and social sciences, and digitalized historical materials. Other libraries, also non-research libraries, engage in this kind of activity, e.g. by publishing CDs with materials which are not subject to copyright restrictions: books of heraldry (armorials), encyclopedic editions, old local newspapers, etc.

While stressing the fact that Polish libraries effectively have carried out a nationwide process of cataloguing their collections, this makes it all the more worrying that – obviously contradicting their capabilities and range of activities – not one of them is a member of OCLC/Pica or a recipient of First-Search online package. So far only NUKAT uploads bibliographic descriptions of Polish publications to PICA/OCLC, beginning from 2006 based on a special arrangement between both partners.

## Collections and cooperation

Purchases, the legal deposit copies that some university and regional libraries receive, gifts and still generous exchange programs are how research libraries acquire their collections. The problem, though, has not received much theoretical consideration. Research libraries do not operate on a strict budget, in which specific amounts of money would be assigned per annum to various categories by subject or profile. There are no American-style syllabi, which would specifically describe

the formal and objective types of materials gathered by a given library. Despite this, libraries augment their collections backed by some kind of planning, and do much of their work with double items, much desired by smaller or newer libraries. In some of the largest libraries we now see positions for librarians specialized in specific fields, but no research has been conducted so far that would enable us to say how exactly their presence affects the purchase of books. And many researchers with long experience in the community say it is a small library that tends to make the better choice in selecting new books.

Research libraries cooperate informally on a regional level to prevent double subscriptions to printed periodicals. When they purchase foreign books and periodicals, their choice is often based on information from union catalogues of the National Library (32). The impact of union catalogues – NUKAT and KaRo – has not been examined yet. Generally, when purchasing digital materials, the rules of the consortium apply: libraries which are interested in a given product form a group, and the group then purchases the product for the agreed price. The side which grants the license usually assigns limits to the size of the subscription in terms of printed matter which is to remain in the country. If the full text database is made available through a supercomputer center on an e-only basis, the project is eligible for 50% additional financing from the government. Such is the modus operandi of the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling in purchasing and providing access to its databases. The largest, ScienceDirect (Elsevier), which covers over 1900 titles, is used by 60 institutions, mostly university libraries, and by the Polish Academy of Sciences (33) – a single user, regardless of the number of libraries that ultimately become users. The members of the consortium have the right to purchase printed equivalents at a deep discount price. Polish libraries have either already purchased or are planning to purchase some 60 database products via ten or more consortia, with coordinators in various academic and supercomputer centers in the country.

There are many library organizations, whose tasks entail coordinating various activities, though the name ‘consortium’ is not used. In a sense, the Conference of the Directors of Higher Schools’ Libraries is one such body, modelled on the British

Standing Conference of National and University Libraries. The Executive Council talks to representatives of central government and academic circles and addresses the most important issues in areas such as library policy, legal regulations, financing, etc. (34) There are also several groups of libraries working in a given field. The most important one is the Consortium of Libraries of Economic Studies (35). Another criterion for selecting partners is the software – the oldest such group is the Polish VTLS Consortium (36), the Coalition “The Library with Horizon” (37) and PoALEPH – the Polish group of ALEPH users (38). Although these consortia jointly negotiated the purchase of new versions of software, they do not have legal status. Libraries made purchases individually and signed contracts with the supplier independently of each other.

Perhaps the most flexible of all are the regional library organizations. In the south the Kraków Library Group was established in 1994 after an agreement signed by the rectors of the region’s universities, foremost among which were the Academy of Mining and Metallurgy (now AGH University of Science and Technology) in Kraków and the Jagiellonian University. The group was established to manage the Project of the Automation of Kraków Research Libraries. It gathered 14 libraries. Initially, its activity was connected with the implementation of the integrated library system VTLS. After a few years the library directors of the KLG decided to broaden the cooperation to include in its activity also the tasks and projects going beyond the issues connected with VTLS, and libraries using other systems. At present, the main aim of KLG is the coordination of a wide range of library activities, including the acquisitions (particularly of scientific journals), the computerization of library processes, and improving the professional skills of librarians. In 2006 Kraków libraries launched the cooperation within the framework of a virtual library project. The agreement defines the rules of participation in the Group, its organizational structure, duties and competences of particular bodies, and also the sources to finance its activity (39).

In the western region, Wielkopolska, an active group is the Poznań Foundation of Scientific Libraries. It was established in 1996, and initially focused on promoting library automation (its member libraries were all Horizon users), but later on

increased the range of its activities. The Foundation acts on a basis which allows for more flexible management of financial resources and which gives the public more control over libraries. The Foundation's most recent creation is Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (the Digital Library of Wielkopolska), having for its aim the production of full-text publications containing the oldest Polish written artefacts. It also intends to organize exhibitions in order to display the unique items that can be found in the region's libraries. The Digital Library of Wielkopolska has currently just over 35,000 titles (as of May 2007) (40).

The concept of the library collection will be probably transformed in the coming decennia by advances in digitalization – a process which will enable much easier access to special collections. For the time being, most special items are stored in libraries in their original form (though microfilms, and more recently, digital reproductions can be requested). Such collections were traditionally the pride of each library, in spite of complaints that the term 'special collection' was too vaguely defined. Used for purely statistical purposes, the 'special collections' can cover collections on non-traditional media, i.e. microforms, digital materials, multimedia, as well as standards and patents in technical libraries, which obscures the picture. The concept of a 'historical' collection needs to be redefined too; suffice to say, Poland does not have a program for protecting 19<sup>th</sup> century books, and the date for early printed books, set by Karol Estreicher in his bibliography (1800), needs to be moved forward to 1850, i.e., to the date adopted for this purpose by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL).

The largest collections of early printed books may be found at the Jagiellonian Library, the National Library, the Library of Ossoliński National Institute, the Library in Kórnik, and the university libraries of Warsaw, Wrocław and Toruń. The Union Catalogue of Early Printed Books, maintained by the Department of Special Collections of the National Library, covers ca. 1 million editions from approx. 130 institutions covering the years 1474-1800. Despite wartime destruction, the size of the holdings shows just how many books the libraries must have acquired throughout the centuries. Among them were libraries belonging to cloisters and churches, the burghers and the nobility, schools and universities. Books were

imported from the largest publishing centers in Europe, and were usually in Latin, French, German and Italian. Larger collections of early printed books, incunables in particular, are recorded in detailed printed catalogues. Although descriptions of early printed books show up from time to time in computer catalogues, the largest databases offered by the National Library are still work in progress. Most of them are only available to internal users, who are free to browse through catalogues of early printed works, manuscripts, music collections, and prints. The internet databases comprise microfilms, and these can be used to find the originals. However, they were created as part of Polish-German projects, which means that much effort was put into cataloguing materials from Silesia, Pomerania and Wielkopolska (or just Germany), while other regions/ethnicities tend to be somewhat underrepresented. (41)

Although the National Library is the only library whose special collection is growing, since it has the right of first bid at auctions, and has a bigger budget than university libraries, other collections also are an inexhaustible mine of source information for scholars. One can mention the Print Room of Warsaw University Library (with drawings by the European masters among its treasures), the Jagiellonian Library's collection of medieval manuscripts or the collection of Masonic texts at the University Library in Poznań. Manuscripts are described, quite independently of the printed catalogues and digitalization projects of individual institutions, in one guidebook describing the resources of 359 libraries. (42)

A related category to special collections are the 'documents of social life' that many libraries collect. These are printed or otherwise reproduced items, other than books and magazines, which give an image of society, its culture, economy, customs and subcultures. The English near-equivalent, *ephemera*, or American *grey* literature, is in effect too narrow, as each of those categories has a very broadly defined scope of what can and what cannot be collected. Thus, as 'documents of social life' we have stocks and banknotes, theater posters and bills, political leaflets, commercial and advertising materials, all of them useful study materials for political scientists and historians.

Research libraries, and their employees, have grown used to the fact that serving a tradition is in nowise more important than serving readers or

constantly updating the range of services. They don't shy from cooperation and (critical) assessment. They are free of political pressure, proud of their collections and appreciated by students.

### Notes

(1) The best source for a comparative analysis of Central and Eastern European libraries is *Libraries in Europe's post communist countries: their international context: Proceedings of fourth international conference of Slavic librarians and information specialists: Kraków – Przegorzały, Poland, August 3-5, 1995*, ed. Maria Kocójowa, Wojciech Zalewski, Polskie Towarzystwo Bibliologiczne, Kraków, 1996.

(2) The spending of Warsaw University Library in 2003 per 1000 members of the academic community (65,754 persons) totaled just 53,000 Euro; one could give a number twice as large, though, adding the expenditure of faculty libraries that form the University's library and information system. That amount is not listed in the annual report of the University Library. It seems likely that most academic libraries in Poland spend less; some, however, could have spent more as a result of investments with state, local government or private funding. Data published with the approval of the Director of the Warsaw University Library.

(3) Most statistical data according to: *Poland and the global information society: logging on*, United Nations Development Programme, Warsaw, 2002.

(4) Estreicher, Karol, *Bibliografia polska*, t. 1-34, Kraków: Towarzystwo Naukowe Krakowskie 1870-2000 (33 vols. published before 1939). Available in several editions, e.g. New York; London: Johnson Reprint Corporation; Warsaw: Państwowe Wydawnictwo Naukowe, 1964. Karol Estreicher (1827-1908), was the director of the Jagiellonian Library in the period 1868-1905. His family's ethnic roots lay in Austria. The work was continued by his son Stanisław (1869-1939) and grandson Karol (1906-1984).

(5) <http://psjc.icm.edu.pl>

(6) <http://baztech.cim.edu.pl>

(7) [http://www.bg.us.edu.pl/arton\\_inf/arton.htm](http://www.bg.us.edu.pl/arton_inf/arton.htm)

(8) Instead of giving the URL for the libraries mentioned, we recommend that you access the EBIB library portal, which offers e.g., a list of library internet sites by place and type of library: <http://ebib.oss.wroc.pl/serwis.php>

(9) Cf. Act of November 7, 1996 concerning legal deposit library copies. On the basis of it, on March 6, 1997 the Minister of Culture issued a regulation determining among other things the 14 libraries, mostly academic libraries, entitled to receive the legal deposit copy. This is commonly thought to be a burden on publishers, some try to avoid complying anyway.

(10) The collection and its history are quite similar to those of the holdings accumulated in Lbo, now Turku, in Finland, now preserved in the national and university library in Helsinki, i.e., The National Library of Finland.

(11) <http://www.fides.org.pl>

(12) <http://www.fides.org.pl/bazinfo/fidkat.htm>

They still can surprise librarians from countries with a higher GDP, and they are one of the most important factors stimulating the growth of the Polish information society in a digital age.

(13) Cf. Chachlikowska, Aldona, 'Praca naukowa i dydaktyczna w bibliotekach uczelnianych i możliwości jej efektywnego realizowania', [Research and Didactic Work at Academic Libraries, and Abilities for Its Effective Accomplishment] in *Stan i potrzeby polskich bibliotek uczelnianych. Materiały z ogólnopolskiej konferencji naukowej: Poznań, 13-15.11.2002* [The Status and Needs of Polish Academic Libraries] Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza, Poznań, 2002, p. 171-185.

(14) Cf. e.g. Downar-Zapolska, Aldona, Jazdon, Artur, 'Badanie potrzeb informacyjnych pracowników naukowych Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu', [Measurements of Reference Needs of Research Staff of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań], *Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* 2 (1983) p. 25-52.

(15) For a favorably received analysis of the history of a large library cf. e.g. *Biblioteka Uniwersytecka w Warszawie w latach 1945-1980* [University Library of Warsaw in the Years 1945-1980] ed. Andrzej Mężyński, Anna, Bednarz, Wydawnictwa Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, 1998.

(16) E.g. recently published: K. Jazdon, *Oświata: pismo sześciotygodniowe poświęcone domowemu i szkolnemu wychowaniu 1865-1867* [Education: Six-week Journal Devoted to Home and School Education 1865-1867] 2001; H. Wieland: *Warta: tygodnik poświęcony nauce, rozrywce i wychowaniu 1874-1890*. [Warta: Weekly devoted to science, leisure and education 1874-1890] Vol. 1, 2001; W. Wydra: *Katalog inkunabułów Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Poznaniu* [University Library in Poznań Catalog of Incunables] 2002; K. Jazdon: *Orędownik Naukowy: pismo czasowe poświęcone literaturze, historii, krytyce i nowinom literackim 1840-1846* [Scientific Patron: occasional papers devoted to literature, history, criticism and literary news 1840-1846] 2002; J. Osieglowski: *Ochrona książki bibliotecznej* [Library Book Protection] 2003; K. Jazdon, „Przyjaciel Ludu” czyli *tygodnik potrzebnych i pożytecznych wiadomości 1834-1849* [People Companion, i.e., weekly with a handful of useful information] 2003.

(17) <http://www.gbl.waw.pl/gbl/bazy.html#pbl>

(18) <http://www.cbw.pl/cgi-bin/makwww.exe?BM=05>

(19) <http://ata.com.pl/kcc/biblioteka>

(20) One of them, in Kraków, is now part of the Jagiellonian University and one can expect that as they are being reintegrated medical libraries will gradually return to the universities from which they were separated under communist rule.

(21) Data gathered by Jerzy Gąsiorowski for the Polish Parliament, used with his kind permission.

(22) *Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland 2002*, Central Statistical Office, Warsaw, tab. 24 (245) p. 250. Cf. *Rocznik Statystyczny 1990* [Statistical Yearbook], Główny Urząd Statystyczny, Warszawa, 1990, tab. 21 (716), p. 476.

(23) The best reading on the contemporary problems of Polish academic libraries is cited in ft. (13). Also cf. *Udział bibliotek akademickich w kształtowaniu społeczeństwa informacyjnego*

w Polsce: potencjał, możliwości, potrzeby. *Materiały z konferencji naukowej z okazji 50-lecia Akademii Techniczno-Rolniczej im. Jana i Jędrzeja Śniadeckich* [Share of academic libraries in the creation of information society in Poland: potentials, possibilities, needs], Akademia Techniczno-Rolnicza, Bydgoszcz, 2002.

(24) Cf. imagegallery, English version [http://buwcd.buw.uw.edu.pl/english/obuw\\_eng/galeria\\_eng.htm](http://buwcd.buw.uw.edu.pl/english/obuw_eng/galeria_eng.htm) and Polish <http://www.buw.uw.edu.pl/obuw/galeria/galeria.htm>

(25) <http://www.cerl.org/HPB/hpb.htm>. Cf. Maria Czapnik, *Konsorcjum Europejskich Bibliotek Naukowych i udział w nim Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Warszawie* [CERL and the Participation of the University Library of Warsaw] *Przegląd Biblioteczny* 2002 No 4, p. 295-304.

(26) <http://www.nukat.edu.pl>

(27) Cf. Burchard, Maria, *National Union Catalog NUKAT – a New Stage of Automation of Library Catalogs in Poland*, in: *Libraries and Associations in the Transient World: New Technologies and New Forms of Cooperation: Ninth International Conference „Crimea 2002”*. Moscow 2002, pp. 560-563.

(28) A fair insight into the process of library automation in Poland can be gained from two books by Richard E. Quandt, now a retired professor of economy at Princeton University, and formerly, since 1990, a senior advisor of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, which gave significant support to Polish and other Central and Eastern European libraries. For his work Quandt received the highest distinction from Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. He is also very well known in the academic library community in Poland, with which he still is very much in touch in spite of the gradual downsizing of the Foundation's aid programs. Cf. *Library Automation in Transitional Societies, Lessons from Eastern Europe*, ed. by A. Lass, R.E. Quandt, Oxford University Press, New York, 2000; Richard E. Quandt, *The Changing Landscape in Eastern Europe. A Personal Perspective on Philanthropy and Technology Transfer*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2002.

(29) <http://karo.umk.pl>

(30) <http://www.docmed.pl>

(31) <http://vls.icm.edu.pl>

(32) <http://mak.bn.org.pl/w3.htm>

(33) Non-academic members of the consortium (apart from units of the Polish Academy of Sciences) include: The Child Health Care Centre Monument – Institute, Warsaw (Instytut

Pomnik – Centrum Zdrowia Dziecka), the Institute for Chemical Coal Processing, Zabrze (Instytut Chemicznej Przeróbki Węgla w Zabrzu), The I. Mościcki Industrial Chemistry Institute (Instytut Chemii Przemysłowej I. Mościckiego), the Institute of Ecology for Industrial Areas (Instytut Ekologii Terenów Uprzemysłowionych), the Institute of Cardiology, Warsaw (Instytut Kardiologii), the Environmental Protection Institute (Instytut Ochrony Środowiska), the Institute of Psychiatry and Neurology, Warsaw (Instytut Psychiatrii i Neurologii), The Institute of Electron Technology (Instytut Technologii Elektronowej), the Institute for Electronic Materials Technology (Instytut Technologii Materiałów Elektronicznych), the Chemical Fibre Institute (Instytut Włókien Chemicznych), The State Veterinary Institute, Puławy (Państwowy Instytut Weterynaryjny), the Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometrics (Wojskowy Instytut Chemii i Radiometrii).

(34) <http://kangur.ae.krakow.pl/Biblioteka/Konferencja/index.html>

(35) <http://kangur.ae.krakow.pl/Biblioteka/Konsorcjum/index.php>

(36) <http://konsorcjum.bg.univ.gda.pl/>

(37) <http://www.pfsl.poznan.pl/pzh/>

(38) <http://www.bg.pw.edu.pl/polaleph/>

(39) Information based on a report on the Kraków Library Group given by Ewa Dobrzyńska-Lankosz at the 25<sup>th</sup> IATUL conference in Kraków (May 30 – June 3, 2004).

(40) <http://www.pfsl.poznan.pl/english/>. WBC was also presented at the IATUL conference (see above footnote), cf. H. Ganińska et. al.: *Wielkopolska Digital Library-Project: Cooperation of Region Libraries in the Field of Creation and Management of Digital Resources*, <http://www.biblos.pk.edu.pl/IATUL/abstract.php3?ID=42>.

(41) *Catalog of Microfilms of Early Printed Books Published Mainly within the Territory of Silesia. Eastern Prussia and Pomerania*, <http://mak.bn.org.pl/info/info18a.htm>; *16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Century Prints: Catalog of Microfilms*, <http://mak.bn.org.pl/cgi-bin/makwww.exe?BM=21>. All together, the databases encompass 47.000 units.

(42) Kamolowa, Danuta, Sieniacka, Teresa: *Zbiory Rękopisów w Bibliotekach i Muzeach w Polsce* [Manuscript Collections in Poland's Libraries and Museums], 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., vol. 1, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warszawa, 2003.

*Translated by Marcin Polkowski*

# Research Libraries in Poland

## *Ewa Dobrzyńska-Lankosz* Cooperation Amongst Polish Research Libraries

*Abstract* Here the author provides a review of the cooperation of Polish research libraries in recent years on a local and national level.

Polish research libraries have a long tradition of cooperating with each other, particularly when certain solutions require a collective effort. Cooperation can take place at either a local or national level, which can indeed often extend beyond Poland's borders. Research libraries are also members of various groups, associations, national and international federations.

### Cooperation at a National Level

In post-war Poland the explicit division of libraries according to subject matter led to the formation of clusters of medical, technical or economics libraries. These specialist libraries would exchange information and experience, and would also have a shared policy for the procurement of collections. Such library groups continue to function today. What is more, in recent years we have seen the emergence of new library groups. In 2001, on the initiative of both state and private libraries, a Consortium of Libraries of Economic Studies (1) was called into existence, its main goal being to obtain and introduce electronic data systems. The consortium is now working towards:

- the development of research centers in Poland;
- enabling academia (especially economics universities and departments) to access information resources in research centers;
- the modernization and improvement of library procedures.

In the early stages of computerization, libraries were set up around integrated library systems, hence central considerations were given to the type of system being bought, as opposed to the type of

library, or indeed the library's subject matter. As a result, newly established consortia took actions to implement library systems, such as VTLS, Horizon, Aleph, drawing together both, general, but also specialist libraries (e.g. medical, technical, economic, artistic) and public libraries. Their exceptionally intensive efforts could be observed during the preliminary implementation of library systems at the beginning of the 1990s. These consortia have been active since then and have shared their expertise, relating chiefly to the introduction, promotion and implementation of new versions, and the upgrades of these systems.

A few short years ago, two consortia: the *Coalition of Libraries with Horizon* and the *Coalition of Libraries Implementing and Using VTLS*, together with the National Library, set up a Coordination Team whose task it was to create a national general union catalogue. For several years this team has worked together to set forth guidelines for a shared cataloging system, it has detailed how to achieve this goal, and has that selected the computer system best serves the union catalog. Its work has led to the creation of NUKAT (2), the National Universal Union Catalogue, incorporating 60 Polish research libraries (3). The Coordination Team is continuing to supervise this enterprise.

In 2004 Polish research libraries came together to set up the Standardization Group for Polish Research Libraries (4), whose task it was to establish evaluation methods, indicators and standards for research libraries in Poland, as well as comparative research on indicators and standards in research libraries abroad. It is an authorial team,



comprising representatives of academic, public and professional libraries, which functions by virtue of a collegium of rectors (or directors, in the case of colleges without university status).

In 2006, thanks to the initiative of the centers in Poznań, Toruń and Kraków, the consortium of Polish Digital Libraries was established, whose purpose was to ensure access to digital collections from the fields of science, education and culture via the development of a network of digital libraries. The team is also responsible for the following nation-wide tasks:

- creating, gathering, cataloging, making available and archiving of digital collections
- recommending the implementation of international standardization
- developing solutions aimed at the protection of digital collections against the loss of data.

Moreover, Polish libraries are also coming together to create professional databases, such as the SYMPO.net (5) database, co-created by 16 – mostly academic – institutions. (6) This database contains information about pre-conference, conference and post-conference materials to be found in Polish libraries.

In 1997, 20 libraries (currently 21) launched the creation of a database of Polish technical journals, the so-called BazTech. (7) It is a bibliographic and abstract database registering articles from Polish technical journals and also from selected journals in the field of science and environmental protection. This project looks to describe and enter data into the database, whilst continuing to update the database and oversee its software development.

One should also mention the initiative of medical libraries that have launched the doc@med project. Doc@med is an electronic delivery system which delivers copies of articles whose original printed versions are located in Polish medical libraries.

The Conference of the Directors of Higher School Libraries (8) is an association of a completely different nature, and was established in March 1997 as a response to the lack of a clear state policy on the running and financing of libraries, among them research libraries, in order to solve the emerging problems and to determine policy direction. Another important factor, which contributed to the creation of the Conference, was the awareness amongst librarians of the role that

libraries would play in the coming years. Under the auspices of the Conference, a task force was given the charge of:

- influencing the decisions of state and administration legislation relating to higher education schools
- presenting their own opinions on issues relating libraries to political and administrative institutions, as well as to university authorities
- integrating higher education libraries
- introducing and protecting the rights of library employees
- supporting all actions aimed at improving the functioning of libraries and raising the staff's professional qualifications
- strengthening the social authority of the library and information science profession.

### Cooperation at a Local Level

One can provide many examples of the cooperation at a city or regional level, such as the fully automated KRAKUS regional integrated system, developed in 1974. However, only one of its components has been implemented so far: namely, the union catalogue of journals from research libraries in Kraków and the Main Library of Świętokrzyski University of Technology (in Kielce). This catalogue had been created over many years and it was only the prospect of Kraków's research libraries implementing a professional computer system, which had proved its value in western-European libraries, that caused all work on the catalogue to be completed.

The appearance on the Polish market of integrated library systems encouraged libraries to begin pooling their resources in order to oversee problems encountered with the implementation of computer systems. Such problems were often beyond the capabilities of an individual library, and so, local consortia focused on the implementation of particular library systems have been created, i.e. the Kraków Library Group (KZB) (1994) (9), the Poznań Foundation of Scientific Libraries (PFBN) (1996) (10), and the Consortium of Scientific Libraries of Kujawsko-Pomorski Region (2003). Nowadays, local consortia group general, technical, medical, artistic and agricultural libraries, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and those public libraries with the status of research libraries. Once the systems were up and

running, the consortia broadened their activity with other tasks. Recently, the aims of the Kraków Library Group have been: cooperation in library activity, in acquiring collections (scientific journals in particular); in the automation of library procedures (mostly coordinating the cooperation of its own libraries with the National Universal Union Catalog NUKAT); and to raise staff qualifications. The Poznań Foundation of Scientific Libraries was set up by the city's scientific institutions in order to coordinate computerization and to support library activities in the area of scientific information, which entailed the provision of access to bibliographic, factual, and full text databases, and the creation and in the electronic libraries.

## Forms of Cooperation and Organizational Structure

Libraries can cooperate in either a more or less formal way, the most common being some sort of a coalition in which they determine project management, tasks, team, organization, and financing.

To give just one example, the Kraków Library Group was set up by the Collegium of Rectors of Kraków Schools of Higher Education. The Steering Committee, appointed by the Collegium of Rectors, is the group's highest authority. In turn, the Board of the Kraków Library Group, together with its director, is its highest executive body. Its highest consultative body is The Board of Directors of all the members of the Kraków Library Group. According to current demands, the Steering Committee or the director of the Kraków Library Group can appoint teams or experts to perform certain tasks, conduct certain analyses, or find solutions to certain problems.

Sometimes, one library is tasked with completing a specific project, whilst team members from the collective body of libraries determine general goals (as in the BazTech project, a database of Polish Technical Journals Contents, or in the compilation and updating of the SYMPO.net database).

In the case of The Standardization Group for Polish Research Libraries, it has chosen from among its own members a project coordinator, an analytical group, a database administrator, and an executive team, tasked with carrying out the project entitled the *Analysis of the Functioning of Polish Research Libraries*.

The cooperation of research libraries in Poznań has been organized on a completely different basis. The rectors of Poznań schools of higher education decided to establish a foundation called the Poznań Foundation of Scientific Libraries, which is run directly by the Foundation Board, and supervised by both the Foundation Council and the Collegium of Rectors of the City of Poznań. (10)

The Conference of the Directors of Higher School Libraries functions in a less formal character on the basis of a regulation, according to which, an Executive Council, consisting of eight members, is called into being every three years. Its tasks are as follows: running the Conference; fulfilling its resolutions; establishing executive teams in order to elaborate problematic issues; representing the Conference, and calling regular and extra-ordinary meetings.

## Financing

When we talk of the cooperation, we also have to mention costs and the acquisition of funds. As mentioned above library cooperation means working together to perform one or several tasks. Any action results in costs. And where can one find financial means to cover them? I believe we can talk of three fund raising approaches.

1. Fitting all tasks resulting from the cooperative projects into people's job description. At times these tasks demand more time, hence people have to sacrifice their private time in order to complete them. However, it is possible to carry out these tasks within daily routines when the purchasing of specific goods, and equipment, or when outsourcing services are not required.

2. Covering costs of individual consortium members in the form of a fee. In this case it is possible to pay for extra work exceeding full time job everyday routines, to purchase devices and/or services, etc.

3. Acquiring grants from other institutions (the ministries, foundations, EU) for the completion of given projects in full, or in only some of its stages. However, if a given project is of an ongoing nature, one must consider that at some point the grant may be withdrawn, which may jeopardize the future of the project.

Some ongoing projects should be able to guarantee a permanent and reliable source of

financing, e.g. projects involving the creation of nation-wide databases such as NUKAT, SYMPO.net or BazTech.

## Summary

Polish libraries have benefited immeasurably from cooperation, and have achieved much that would be traditionally perceived to be beyond the scope of an individual library. They have successfully worked together to bring the library network into the computer age, and it has been Polish librarians from research and academic libraries who have collectively prepared the foundations for computer cataloging and launched the National Universal Union Catalog. They also began work aimed at collectively creating and making collections

available in electronic format in computer networks. Polish librarians also undertook the task of analyzing libraries in order to work out patterns for standardization. Most of these enterprises have involved the development of theoretical approaches, with the latest technologies being used for their implementation, among them data input formats, retrieval and search languages, and rules for collection processing.

The speed of information exchange is an important factor when it comes to efficient cooperation. That is why many branch discussion groups have been launched, as well as websites that publish information about current projects, such as the Internet bulletin of the Polish Librarian Association ([www.ebib.info](http://www.ebib.info)) created for and by Polish librarians.

## Notes

- (1) <http://kangur.ae.krakow.pl/Biblioteka/Konsorcjum/index.php>
- (2) <http://nukat.edu.pl/katalog>
- (3) Full name – NUKAT Coordination Team
- (4) <http://ssk2.bu.amu.edu.pl/standaryzacja>

- (5) <http://gate.bg.pw.edu.pl/ALEPH/-/start/sym01>
- (6) More than 16 institutions have declared a willingness to cooperate, but not all of them are currently entering data.
- (7) <http://baztech.icm.edu.pl>
- (8) <http://kangur.ae.krakow.pl/Biblioteka/Konferencja/>
- (9) <http://www.kzb.krakow.pl/>
- (10) <http://galileo.pfsl.poznan.pl/home.html>

# Research Libraries in Poland

*Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko*

## New Research Library Buildings in Poland

*Abstract* Here the author gives an overview of research library buildings in terms of their architecture, allocations and internal organization. She emphasizes the functionality, and the efforts of administration to enhance the current storage and open space.

### The Legacy of the People's Republic of Poland

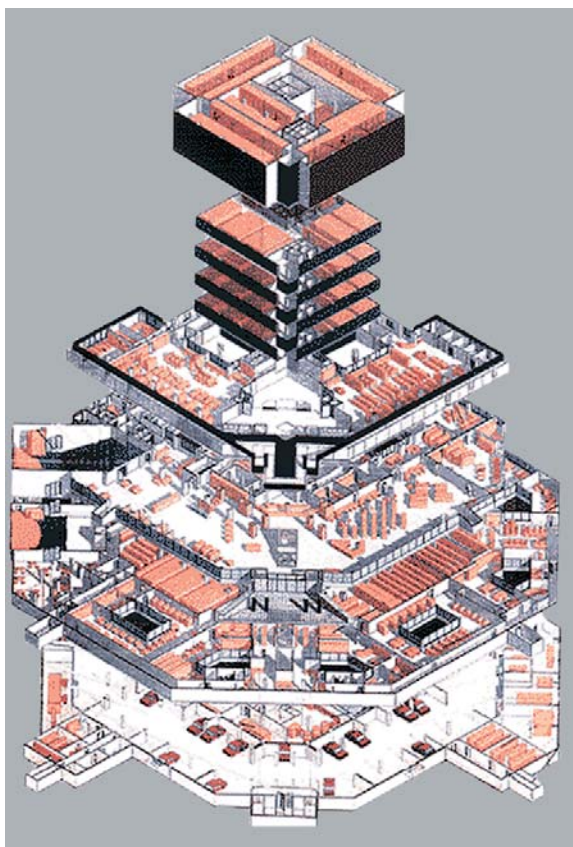
One would find it difficult to call forty-four years of communist Poland (1945-1989) a period of large library investments – in most cases they were of an industrial nature, with Poland's development dependant on mines, steelworks and shipyards. Libraries whereas were perceived as institutions surviving on tradition and goodwill without the necessity for budgets and investments. To be fair, however, it is necessary to point to the fact that the first postwar decade witnessed two important processes. One was the reconstruction of a public library network resulting from the educational boom supported with propagandist slogans for the eradication of illiteracy and the campaign to make education available to everyone. Another was the reorganization of research libraries within the both new political circumstances and the new state boundaries – Poland had lost direct access to the library holdings of Vilnius and Lvov and had to face the difficult process of incorporating the German libraries of Pomerania and Silesia into the Polish library and research workflow.

Library facilities were built neither speedily nor in a modern manner, such as the Library of Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, built to celebrate the five hundredth anniversary of the birth of the famous astronomer (1973), and built almost exclusively as a community service project. And then there was the case of the National Library of Poland in Warsaw, where construction

work began in the late 1960s and was completed in the 1990s, when it was already been in the need of an extension.

There were 1,209 research libraries (including 981 university libraries) in Poland in the beginning of the 1990s. Within a decade, the number of seats in the reading rooms of research libraries increased by 1,200. It is an important fact if one takes into consideration that onsite use in those libraries is twice as popular as regular checkouts. In 1999, six hundred research libraries circulated collections totaling over 10,000 items each, whereas 217 of those libraries owned collections exceeding 50,000 volumes (1). The predominance of academic libraries is neither a coincidence nor a matter of quantity only; in the 1990s university libraries become a vanguard of Polish librarianship. It was large libraries of renowned universities and technical universities that developed and implemented ideas of cooperative selection and the use of integrated library systems, together with the construction of union catalogs and digital libraries. Although their example was gradually followed by more and more public and special purpose libraries, academic librarianship in Poland has continued to set technological and organizational standards in the field. One should not be surprised therefore that in the 1990s investment in library facilities involved the construction of new buildings or the enlargement and refurbishment of old university libraries. One of few exceptions was the construction of the Silesian Library in Katowice, which commenced in the 1980s. This was historically the first library

of the Silesian Parliament, which aspired to the title of regional “national library”. Its designers followed the solutions employed in French and British libraries of the 1980s and used the experience of various business branches in the field of automatic stacking technologies. The most characteristic part of the Library building is a central unit of automated stacks situated on the highest floors where both the order of transport baskets and books placed inside is the random, computer-recorded result of current circulation transactions. Traditional closed stacks occupy lower floors while floors 0 and –1 hold reading



Silesian Library in Katowice, plan of the building with the projection of the interior

rooms and staff rooms. This distinct hierarchy (automated closed stacks and traditional closed stacks unavailable to patrons, considered a treasury and elevated to the topmost parts of the facility, with reading rooms situated in the lower levels near the entrance, away from daylight and provided with very basic reference shelves), caused the building to be perceived as ideologically monumental, technologically deserving of admiration, yet unyielding as regards its usability. These

architectural concepts would not be repeated when it came to the construction of library buildings in the 1990s.

### New investments after the political transformation (1989-2006)

In the early 1990s, the 19<sup>th</sup> century library model was still dominant: a three-part library building consisting of storage stacks, reading rooms and a staff area. Stacks unavailable to the patrons occupied from two-thirds to three-quarters of total free space inside the library premises, staff rooms required spatial expansion due to both the addition of computer workstations and the increasing volume of cataloged objects, while the space available to patrons was gradually shrunk to the form of tiny reading rooms with limited reference collections. OPAC workstations were pushed somewhere to the corner of the corridor. This picture still haunts some Polish libraries today.

However, from 1989 onwards Poland began to witness the construction of several new research library facilities as well as a number of ambitious refurbishment design projects.

The key investment that set standards for the planning and designing of modern library facilities in this part of Europe has been Warsaw University Library (WUL). The history of this project precisely depicts the nature of political, economic and library transformations in Poland over the past seventeen years. Only in 1990 did the first Solidarity government with Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki decide to allocate funds for the design and construction of a new Library facility. At that moment, the new state was striving to overcome the economic depression of the final years of the communist system and to shift towards the economic reform proposed by Leszek Balcerowicz. The design and construction of a new Library facility was to be financed with revenues from the rental of office space in the former seat of the Central Committee of the dissolved communist party (2) (a part of the building was rented by the fledgling Warsaw Stock Exchange). Thus, the concept of a new Library building referred to the former times on two levels: symbolically (the seat of the Central Committee was financed with donation certificates bought by the citizens) and financially (one of most known symbols of communist Poland was transformed into an efficient investment system).

The system in question secured the liquidity of a four-year-long (1995-1999) implementation process, together with the commissioning of the project to the total value of 80 million USD.

A number of factors have contributed to the success of WUL facility. The political and economic situation at the second half of the nineties



Warsaw University Library – the “multi-cultural” front elevation. Copper engravings are quoted texts relating to literature, books and knowledge, written in a variety of languages and scripts

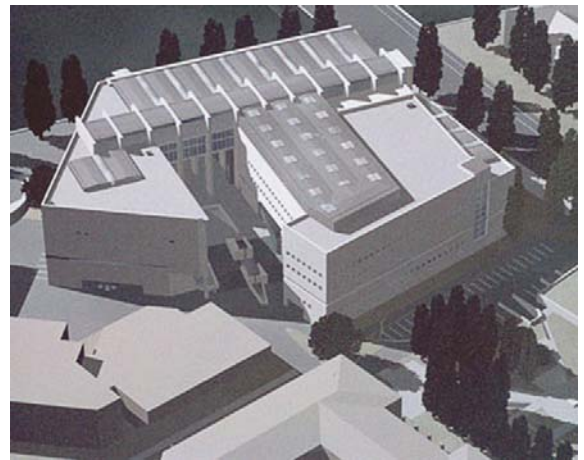
allowed the project to follow the ambitions and visions of its designers (3); its postmodernist architecture and, last but not least, the principles of usability, providing patrons with access to open stacks holding the most recent publications most often used in the current curriculum. In East European librarianship WUL facility has become first embodiment of Sir Harry Faulkner-Brown's



Warsaw University Library – the area of stacks with an open access to the collections

(4) dictates for a good library building: the modularity and flexibility of the construction, an open plan of the interior adjustable to any arrangements, free access to open stacks with collections arranged systematically, i.e. suggesting patrons the path from the generalities to the details without any limits to their individual choices. All those features, along with the quality of the library holdings, have enabled WUL staff to promote the Library's educational, scholarly and social values over the information deluge provided on the Internet.

The WUL building has influenced the designs of the Wrocław and Gdańsk university libraries. Indeed, professionals who worked on the design and implementation of the WUL facility have also designed the building of Wrocław University Library (5). Comparable in its capacity to that of Warsaw University Library (6) and located on the banks of the Odra River, the building is designed to consist of two compact structures: the main part of the library with space allocated for circulation and reference divisions, open storage stacks for collections of a general character, and divisions for the cataloging of current acquisitions. While the other structure is to comprise reading rooms, storage stacks and divisions for special



Wrocław University Library – a model of the Library building

collections. Both structures are separated with a walkway leading to the main entrance to the Library. One of the assumptions included in the highly functional design is the future flexible transformation of the inner structure of the facility, for instance changing closed stacks into workspace for patrons. Unfortunately, construction work,

started in 2003, is far from completion, with management and financial problems setting the project back by two years.

Gdańsk University Library (GUL) (7) obviously has had more luck. Its architectural design boasts well-balanced marine motifs whereas its function is limited to the circulation of current educational and scientific publications on open access stacks (there are no closed stacks areas in the GUL building). (8) The building offers



The Central Library of the University of Gdańsk – in open chambers on the main building's block, called "bull's eye", there are cabins for individual research of patrons

astounding functional and aesthetic results, particularly when one takes into consideration the medium size of Gdańsk University. The facility of 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> of usable space, located in the central part of the campus has enjoyed great success since its inauguration in the fall of 2006.

All three projects described above involved spatial and organizational solutions commonly used in West European and American librarianship. Indeed, by East European standards these designs were far ahead of their time. On one hand, they took into account the development of new, mostly digital technologies, for collecting, processing and circulating information, and, on the other hand, they called for the end of numbered seats in reading rooms in order to make research more independent. Self-service would also provide patrons with immediate access to gradually expanding an open access to collections' printed publications, as well as online access to electronic resources and a variety of other services.

Library buildings for smaller universities have been designed in a similar manner: Białystok



Białystok University Library

University Library in commission since 2004, the Library of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn (to open in the fall of 2007) and Silesia University Library in Katowice (not to be confused with the Silesian Library discussed above) is on the verge of implementation.

The Jagiellonian Library followed a different path. Its original prewar design by Waclaw Krzyżanowski anticipated the need for an extension to the library building. It was enlarged in the



The Jagiellonian Library after the extension of the Library building, the view of the enhanced structure

1960s for the first time and the modern project by Romuald Loegler successfully recalled both earlier construction stages (9). The Jagiellonian Library managed to avoid the basic investment problem of large libraries historically located within ancient academic centers usually situated in cramped town centers, entailing a lack of space for spatial development and enlargement. The original urban design of the facility (10) fortunately anticipated such a situation allowing for the extension of 15,000 m<sup>2</sup> of usable space holding up to 1.5 million library items. The total usable and storage space of the Library have increased twice, which is to ensure room for new acquisitions over the next 20 years. (11) The public part of the facility was enlarged with a set of new reading rooms of a research, philological and multimedia profile. Waiting time for the delivery of items from closed stacks was reduced with the introduction of the «telelift» transport system. In so doing, the Library retained a traditional arrangement of closed stacks (unavailable to patrons) and circulation area (subject and special reading rooms), whilst ignoring, in the opinion of this author, the expertise of modern academic libraries in arranging the library space.

### The redevelopment and revitalization of old library buildings

Even the most cautious estimates show that about 70% of all library buildings in Poland are in need of modernization and enlargement. What follows however, are three library projects at various stages of completion:

1. The relatively small Library of Łódź University of Technology moved to a refurbished factory loft, and gained a modern and functional postindustrial interior and architectonic design perfectly blending in with the city landscape.

2. Łódź University Library, which is one of the largest academic libraries in Poland, is located in a building erected in the early 1960s. At the beginning of the academic year 2006/2007, an extension of the facility was commissioned, with its design and aesthetic value disputable to many. Nevertheless, this extension dramatically improved the situation of overflowing storage rooms with usable space having been doubled. An equally important aspect of the investment concerned the rearrangement of the collections and services in the designed extension. The multifloor facility,



The Central Library of Łódź University of Technology

with open access stacks arranged according to the Library of Congress Classification system, is connected with an old storage area by the telelift transport device. Telelift target stations are located next to the workstations of librarians on duty on each floor, allowing patrons to obtain both current and older publications. The ground floor also holds self-service automated check-out/check-in stations.

3. The Public Library of Warsaw and Mazowsze Region faces the most difficult situation of all the three libraries in question. The Library facility, funded by Warsaw-based Kierbedź family in 1905 and commissioned for the public use, was located in the built up area of Warsaw downtown from the very beginning. The Library's core holdings were decimated by fire in the winter of 1944/45 after the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 and just before the Nazis withdrew their troops from Warsaw. The facility itself was partly torched and completely vandalized. The 1950s and 1960s witnessed the reconstruction of both the facility and library's collections, together with the reading boom. In turn, all library services and functions were expanded. The Kierbedź facility was not rebuilt but rather enlarged with new extensions, backyard extensions and separate buildings in the immediate vicinity of the Library, solutions not always pleasant to the eye and functional but





The model of the Public Library of Warsaw extension ensuring the necessary space. Now the Library is looking to refurbish and modernize all facilities located on several adjacent building lots. The project, approved in 2006, assumes far-reaching changes to the current spatial arrangement of the Library interior. The existing main building and reading rooms will become staff rooms and storage area, whilst the inner yards (at present only passageways between Library divisions) are to be transformed into glass-roofed public access places: reading rooms, helpdesks, multimedia space and rooms for cultural and social activities.

### Notes

(1) Data originating from: Dziubińska-Michalewicz, Małgorzata, Kojder, Andrzej *Sieć bibliotek w Polsce, zbiory biblioteczne oraz czytelnictwo w latach dziewięćdziesiątych* [Library network in Poland, library collections and readership in the 1990s] *Informacje Biura Ekspertyz Sejmu*; Nr 797, Lipiec 2001; Document available at URL: [http://biurosejm.gov.pl/teksty\\_pdf\\_01/i-797.pdf](http://biurosejm.gov.pl/teksty_pdf_01/i-797.pdf).

(2) PZPR (The Polish United Workers' Party).

(3) The authors of the design were Warsaw architects Marek Budzyński and Zbyszek Badowski. For other names of the project team members see *Magazyn Budowlany* 1999 No 7.

(4) Sir Harry Faulkner-Brown – a British architect and designer of numerous library buildings, as well as the author of the “Ten Commandments for Good Library Building” (“The Library building has to be flexible, compact, accessible, extendible, varied, organized, comfortable, constant, secure and economic”).

(5) The chief designer was Jacek Rzycki (Marek Budzyński's student), whereas Henryk Hollender, the then director

### What next?

Investments implemented over the last fifteen years have resulted in both the increase of usable library space in Poland by 150,000 m<sup>2</sup> and the expansion of working spaces for patrons by approximately 10,000 seats. These new library investments are beginning to make up for the backwardness of communist Poland. However, at this moment in time we are facing new dilemmas, particularly with regard to effective storage. How much will the digitization of information alter the role and operation of research libraries? What about its spatial arrangement? Will any physical space be necessary at all? On the other hand, each of the libraries described above, when moved to their new premises, observed a jump in the number of users, circulated items, library homepage downloads, full text downloads, etc. Therefore, it seems that the quality of the library physical space influences the frequency of the use of information resources and services offered by the library, irrespectively of whether printed or digital materials are involved. Thus having already become a virtual place, the Library remains a physical site and space for intellectual and social interactions. Long may such access to various information resources be kept within new library facilities, for the common good of the current and future generations?

of Warsaw University Library, designed library technology system.

(6) Usable space (without commercial space): Wrocław University Library – 37,000 m<sup>2</sup>, Warsaw University Library – 36,000 m<sup>2</sup>. capacity of both facilities: approx. 4,000,000 items.

(7) 2001 design. Head designer was Konrad Tanasiewicz, whereas Ewa Kobierska-Maciuszko, the then deputy director of Warsaw University Library, designed the library technology system.

(8) The construction of a separate building to hold closed stacks on the adjacent building lot is planned as a next stage of the investment.

(9) 1931-1939 – the construction of the new Jagiellonian Library facility designed by Waław Krzyżanowski; 1961-1963 – first extension designed by Jerzy Wierzbicki; 1996-2001 – second extension designed by Romuald Loegler.

(10) The original design was for a T-shaped building, but an empty adjacent building lot allowed for the extension of the facility into an H-shaped one.

(11) The average increase in library holdings for large university libraries in Poland totals 30,000-40,000 items per year.

# Research Libraries in Poland

*Maja Wojciechowska*

## Applying Management Techniques in Polish Libraries

*Abstract* This article describes the impact that management methods have on the work effectiveness of libraries in Poland. A group of methods that can be deployed in libraries is presented along with the criteria that management staff should use during the selection phase, and the differences between the various methods and techniques of management and organization. The article also contains a summary of poll-based research on the use of management methods in Polish libraries.

Cultural, technological and organizational changes have affected libraries worldwide, transforming not only their character but also their agenda, goals and functions. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> and at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, libraries are being increasingly seen as non-profit, service-providing institutions whose main aim is to supply their patrons with high-quality services. Yet in this capacity libraries depend largely on the function assigned to them within their environment and on their ability to communicate the positive results of their activities to the outside world. It has been proven time and again that the level of education within a given society plays a decisive role in determining a country's economic development. Libraries are an inherent part of the educational system, and the knowledge that they transmit is greatly in demand as "raw material" for all categories of learners. It is for this reason that improving the effectiveness and efficiency of libraries is as critically important as a step towards shaping the environment in which they operate. By enhancing their performance, effectiveness and efficiency, libraries can become better at achieving their goals, carrying out their tasks and fulfilling their social functions.

Among the chief factors that determine the effectiveness of a library are: the quality of management and the methods, techniques and tools of management selected by its directors and managerial staff. By applying all of these correctly, a library can achieve its strategic goals more efficiently, and perform better in each of the four main areas of management, i.e.:

1) Planning – assigning tasks and instruments for carrying them out; based on an analysis of the

internal and external environment conditions of library operations in order to achieve its goals

2) Organizing – preparing a library to carry out the plans that have been drawn up, creating an organizational structure which allows the library to carry out its objectives, as well as equipping it with the means and conditions required for its proper functioning

3) Motivating – providing leadership and stimulating librarians to carry out activities aimed at fulfilling the library's objectives

4) Controlling – comparing the results achieved by a library with the initially defined objectives.

Depending on the methods of management that a library decides to implement, these functions can be realized in different ways, and they can also lead to widely diverging results. If applied correctly, a library's effectiveness and efficiency can be vastly improved. In Poland, the need for libraries to become aware of and to employ a wide range of management methods is being increasingly recognized and debated. (See Bibliography, No 1-6, 8-9, 11-20 and other.)

Making the right decisions is a precondition for effectively using the methods and instruments of management in a library setting. Before applying any method, a detailed assessment has to be carried out as to its aims and scope. Next, one must identify the criteria that a library has to fulfill prior to implementation, not to mention possible obstacles and practical benefits. Management methods should not be seen as a trend that has to be followed, nor should applying them ever become an aim in itself. Like any other tool,

management methods serve a purpose, i.e. enabling a library to function more efficiently. For this reason, the objectives that are to be realized using these methods have to be well defined prior to embarking on the implementation phase. In a library, well-considered strategic decisions can be made only after reviewing all the options presented by various methods, techniques and management tools on offer. Methods such as TQM, Library Benchmarking or Just in Time are useful instruments by means of which a library may enhance its work effectiveness, but they will never replace wise and thoughtful management.

Methods of management can be subdivided into two categories. “Soft methods”, i.e. TQM and Library Benchmarking, call for gradual evolutionary changes that are to be carried out by consistently raising the quality of service. “Hard methods” like “Reengineering”, by contrast, bring about revolutionary changes. Not every method may be used in all fields of library activity. Most methods, however, are complementary to each other and can be used simultaneously.

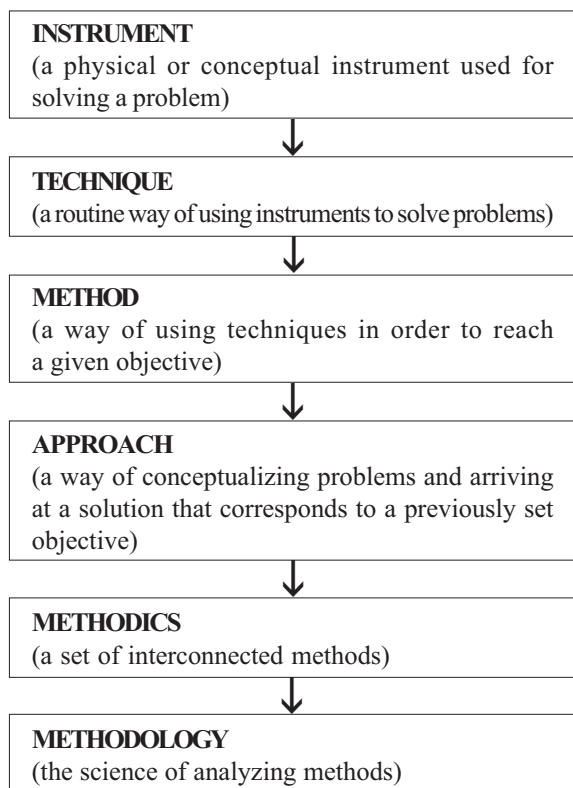


Fig. 1. Hierarchy of terminology relating to management methods from the general to the specific, as listed by J. Antoszkiewicz

Among some of the most commonly used terms from the field of organization and management there are management instruments, management methods, management techniques, approaches, methodics, methodologies, and the methods and techniques of organization. Many of these terms overlap; they are sometimes used indiscriminately or interchangeably, resulting in unnecessary confusion. For this reason, in the remaining sections of this article, we will use terms found in source literature from the area of management and organization, as listed by J. Antoszkiewicz (from the general to the specific) (cf. fig. 1):

By management methods we understand “a combination of means and activities recommended by science and applied by managers with the aim of enhancing the effectiveness of management, while taking into account its goals and functions. Management methods are created by selecting the proper methods for planning, organizing, motivating and exercising control in such a way as to ensure that they constitute a complementary whole” (see 10, p. 254). Management techniques are “the procedures and instruments used to solve specific problems in the area of management” (see 10, p. 449). Organizational methods are “purpose-built sets of recommendations relating to the mode of conduct in solving organizational problems; they are based on research and adapted to multiple use” (see 10, p. 252). Organizational techniques comprise “the entirety of systematic modes of conduct based on methods of scientific research, applied in order to solve organizational problems. These techniques are essential components of all methods and techniques of management” (see 10, p. 448).

Many organizational and managerial methods and techniques, which until now have been used primarily in the corporate world, can also be used in libraries in order to raise effectiveness and affect the process of change. These methods include: Strategic Management, Quality Management, Resource Management, Lean Management, Library Benchmarking, Reengineering, Just in Time, Heuristic methods of problem-solving and teamwork, the Delphi Method, Staff Self-Assessment, and the Card Technique.

Strategic Management can be defined as a method of guiding the long-term development of a library by means of a decision-making process, planning, task realization and control. It means that

a library co-participates in shaping its own future, as opposed to passively submitting to change. Strategic Management is related to the need to monitor the library's environment, the risks and opportunities that these surroundings generate, the trends and changes occurring in them, and finally the library itself – its resources, capabilities, etc. Strategic Management is concomitant to formulating the mission and vision of the library, its strategic goals, a strategic plan, and analyzing the internal and external environment.

The aim of Quality Management is to create in the library a quality-oriented work culture. This entails openness in relation to the demands of its users, a friendly and competent service, and ensuring that its book collections are comprehensive and in line with the interests and needs of its patrons. The criteria of Quality Management can be implemented using any of the following selected qualitative approaches: Total Quality Management, Quality Assurance, Servqual, Quality Function Deployment, Strategic Quality Management and ISO standards.

Knowledge Management is a systematic, coordinated process of gathering, verifying, processing, storing and providing access to knowledge, which – in conjunction with other knowledge-related processes – can increase a library's effectiveness. Knowledge Management entails organizing a library in such a way as to bring together all available knowledge resources in a single shared fund of knowledge. These resources comprise both the expertise of individual librarians and the knowledge of the institution as a whole, understood as skills, experience, instruments and procedures, methodologies, relations with the environment and interpersonal relations between library staff.

Lean Management is a management method in which, by optimizing, rationalizing and increasing the quality and effectiveness of work, a library can limit the use of resources that it requires to function effectively and realize its statutory goals. In the more specific definition proposed by Jan Sójka, "lean management means that a library comes up with an array of products which correspond to the demands of its users, and that it offers a particular service only when the need occurs" (see 12, p. 554). Lean management is based on a sense of economy and on a rational use of library resources, i.e. library staff (basic-level employees

as well as office-administration, maintenance and support personnel), materials, buildings and office space, equipment, time and funding.

Benchmarking can be defined as a method of promoting a library's development and increasing its effectiveness by comparing it to the best libraries or to other institutions that can serve as standards of excellence within the relevant group, and transferring their most effective solutions to one's own organization.

Reengineering is a method of rapidly and radically redesigning both strategic processes (with added value for users) and the organizational structure and procedures – with the aim of raising the library's efficiency and effectiveness.

Just in Time – also known by its other name of "just in time management" – is a method that enables a library to operate more flexibly by eliminating bottlenecks that might occur when information is delivered to clients. By preventing bottlenecks from forming during gathering and distribution, information reaches the client without losing its relevance. This method enforces a focus on the recipients of information, as all the library's operations are tailored to their needs. Users determine the profile of services and collections offered by the library, helping to eliminate wastefulness. Just in Time means that instead of building extensive collections, a library focuses on acquiring only the information that is sought after by its patrons, e.g. by increasing the share allotted in its collections to digital information carriers, using databanks, databases and digital information networks, etc. The Just in Time method is a rational choice whenever an organization faces the risk that the information that it provides may quickly become outdated, as in the case of institutions serving legal or corporate clients.

Teamwork entails cooperation between library staff from different departments, who work together on specific tasks. Teamwork is most effective when responding to inadequacies in a library's organizational structure and division of responsibilities. It is a method that enables team members to focus on carrying out a single task or project assigned to them. By concentrating in one place the skills and knowledge of staff during group problem-solving sessions, it allows the library to make better use of their potential.

The Delphi Method is an expert method that can be used to create long-term forecasts related

to a chosen problem or issue that might potentially impact on the functioning of the library in the future. The Delphi Method is one of a group of methods used for opinion polls. A questionnaire is sent to a group of experts, who are asked to give their opinion on what they expect to be the course of events. The identity of other participants is withheld from each of the experts, and as the participants of the survey cannot communicate with each other, partiality or susceptibility to outside influence can be largely ruled out. Extreme views are filtered out to ensure greater objectivity. Instead of random selection, experts are chosen in terms of their experience and expertise in a given field. The final result is a scenario of future events created on the basis of their opinions.

The aim of Staff Self-Assessment is to help employees become more aware of their skills, competence and performance, and of their role within the organization. Staff Self-Assessment has a positive impact on many librarians by stimulating self-analysis, self-development and self-achievement. It gives employees a better picture of the aim of their work, and helps them to structure their tasks. It helps library managers to make the most of the available human resources by better mining the potential of staff and cooperating with them in planning careers, professional development and training. Staff Self-Assessment is a powerful instrument for improving quality.

The Card Technique, also known as organizational stenography, is a method in which predetermined signs (graphic symbols) replace lengthy and complex verbal descriptions as a means of keeping a record of activities. A graphic symbol is assigned to each activity or event, and the time needed to perform each activity is recorded alongside it. The order in which the symbols are written down corresponds to the chronology of events. Additional information includes the name of the event, the distance of dislocation, and (optionally) a concise explanatory description. The Card Technique can be used for registering the actual state and finding new ways of streamlining the work cycle. It works well as part of the work method measurement cycle. This cycle, as described by Z. Martyniak (see 7, p. 191), consists of the following phases: (1) selecting the goal and item to be analyzed, (2) recording the actual situation, (3) carrying out a critical assessment and analysis of the actual situation, (4) designing improvements

(5) implementing the designed improvements. The Card Technique proves its usefulness most of all in recording the actual situation (2) and designing improvement solutions (4). The Card Technique can be used to create Document Circulation Cards, Process Cards, Activity Cards (also called Team Activity Cards) and Library Material Circulation Cards, otherwise known as Book Circulation Cards – an equivalent of the Material Circulation Card used in industry.

The methods and techniques of management presented here differ in object, range, complexity and character. They harness the results of various disciplines (psychology, sociology, praxeology, ergonomics, system theory, mathematics, organization and management science, etc.). They can be grouped together in clusters of: heuristic methods based on inventiveness and processes of discovery; rationalized methods, operating with control and verification procedures; and classical (empirical) solutions backed up by experience. They can be used to reach a variety of objectives, e.g. optimizing decision-making, enhancing the quality of service, improving interpersonal relations, achieving a more efficient use of resources, strengthening the library's cooperation with its environment, or raising the effectiveness and efficiency of the institution as a whole. All of these methods, however, have one overarching goal, and that is to supply libraries with the conceptual instruments that can help them to better organize work processes by improving the use of human, material, informational and financial resources at their disposal. In addition to this, management methods can provide an answer to such questions as:

- How can a library achieve greater efficiency in managing its human resources?
- How can it organize work more effectively?
- How to minimize the labor-intensity of selected tasks?
- How to minimize the use of materials?
- How to make sure that equipment is used to greater capacity?
- How to choose a management style?
- How to motivate library staff?
- How to improve their working conditions?
- How to control the realization of tasks?
- What criteria should be chosen to evaluate the work that is carried out?
- How to achieve better cooperation with the external environment?

- How to improve the quality of services?
- How to make the work of the library more efficient and how to raise its effectiveness?

Libraries that wish to improve their effectiveness can apply a range of other methods and techniques of management. They include Crisis Management, Marketing Management, Project Management, Management by Objective, Management by Decentralization, Management by Innovation, Management by Motivation, Management by Values, and others. The choice depends on many individual factors, such as the available expertise related to applying management methods, an understanding of the library's environment, awareness of its organizational potential and the ability of library staff to effectively engage in the cooperation.

The methods of library management evolve constantly in response to the demands of a changing environment while new solutions replace outdated ones. It is essential, therefore, that managerial staff and library directors track these changes and adapt the rules of management to the demands of the situation. By doing so, they will improve the library's relationship with its environment and raise the patrons' level of satisfaction with regard to the services on offer. This, in turn, will create a positive image of the library as a modern service-providing institution.

Most of the methods and management tools reviewed here were first developed in the business world by global production companies such as Toyota, IBM or Xerox. It was only later that they reached commercial and, as time went by, non-profit service-providing institutions. Libraries – belonging to the latter group – have used scientific methods of management rather infrequently and inconsistently. Where these methods have been implemented, it has mostly been at the instigation of library Chief Executive Officers. Consequently, wide-scale research describing the process of implementation and evaluating the results is virtually non-existent, and literature on the subject is limited to a handful of articles.

Even though the methods surveyed here – both those adapted to a commercial and a non-commercial (library) setting – were developed over a period of time, the ones that were created later have not supplanted the older ones but – instead – act as a complement to them. Apart from a common goal – effectively managing the process of introducing changes and raising the work-quality

and efficiency of the library – each of the methods presented here reflects the typical trends of the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. These tendencies include: a flattening of the organizational structure, limiting the role of intermediate-level management, training and educating personnel, raising their level of involvement, teamwork and delegating competence and responsibilities.

Despite the dearth of research on this topic, in the years 2003-2004 a research initiative was carried out aimed at examining the level of interest among Polish libraries in implementing management methods. Over 1,000 libraries nationwide were asked to complete a brief survey on the use of such methods and on the plans for implementing them. The questionnaire was addressed to a wide variety of institutions, ranging from the smallest ones (staffed by one employee) to the country's largest research libraries. The poll was carried out on a sample of libraries from each voivodship in Poland, and from each category recorded in *Informator o bibliotekach i ośrodkach informacji w Polsce 1999* [Guide to Libraries and Information Centers in Poland 1999], i.e., public libraries, libraries of institutions of higher education, pedagogical libraries, technical libraries, professional libraries, medical libraries, museum libraries, church libraries, scientific institutes' libraries, agricultural libraries, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN), libraries run by associations, archives, economic libraries and military libraries. Its size and diversity allowed the researchers to come up with a general hypothesis as to the growth tendencies related to the use of management methods in libraries nationwide.

Nearly 300 libraries responded to the poll. The size of this sample, while constituting approximately 30% of the overall target group, is still large enough for statistical purposes, and gives a clear indication of the use of management methods by libraries in Poland. Most of the responding libraries do not use methods of management, nor are they planning to introduce methods of this type in the near future. Many of them do not have even the most basic knowledge in this respect. Other libraries are planning to introduce a chosen range of methods, or are studying them with a view to implementing them at a later date.

Out of the libraries examined, 45 institutions, i.e. 15.9% of the sample, are using one or more

methods. The remaining 84.1% of libraries do not use any method, although some of them have been making plans to start the implementation process. Libraries typically employ one or two methods linked together, with a small percentage of libraries using up to four methods. The biggest users of these methods are academic libraries, pedagogical libraries and public libraries located in large cities. Incidental users include school libraries, technical libraries, medical libraries, economical libraries and military libraries. Most of the libraries that do not use such methods include museum libraries, church libraries and scientific institute libraries, libraries run by associations, archives, and the libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAN). This might be linked to the character of these libraries (except for the larger PAN libraries), as most of them are staffed by a small number of employees, local in nature, and vested in history and tradition. Table 1 shows the use of management methods according to the type of library. Several libraries were assigned to two groups (types), e.g. an academic library with an economic profile or an academic library belonging to a military institution of higher education.

Type of library	Number of library using management methods
Academic libraries	21
Pedagogical libraries	12
Public libraries	8
Economical libraries	4
Technical libraries	2
School libraries	1
Agricultural libraries	1
Medical libraries	1
Military libraries	1
The National Library	1

Tab. 1. The use of management methods according to the type of library

The methods most frequently used by Polish libraries include Strategic Management (implemented by 31% of the libraries declaring the use of any method of management), a range of qualitative approaches (24%), and Staff Self-Assessment (20.3%). Among the methods used less often are Task-Oriented Teamwork (11.1%), the Card Technique (9.2%), Benchmarking (9.2%), Reengineering (5.5%), Knowledge Management

(3.7%) and Just in Time (3.7%). None of the libraries participating in the poll declared the use of Lean Management or the Delphi Method.

Methods	Number of libraries using these methods
Strategic Management	17
Quality Management	
Including:	13
TQM	7
ISO Standards	5
Servqual	1
Staff Self-Assessment	11
Task Groups	6
Card Technique	5
Benchmarking	5
Reengineering	3
Just in Time	2
Knowledge Management	2

Tab. 2. Information on the types of methods used by Polish libraries can be found in

Even though several dozen libraries admitted to using selected methods of management, many institutions made the point that these techniques were being implemented as part of a pilot-project, and that this was not being carried out to strict professional standards. The managers of these libraries emphasized a lack of skills needed to use these methods and referred to restricted options with respect to training, courses, seminars and professional literature (primarily textbooks and applications). In spite of this, many librarians are working to extend their knowledge and experience in the field of modern forms of managing non-profit institutions. Many see this as a chance to further their own development. On the other hand, many library employees oppose the introduction of management methods, believing that they would form a threat to the character of their libraries, their work culture and traditions. These employees see management methods as an artificial and unnatural attempt at placing libraries on the same level as commercial institutions.

In the context of this debate and the research results quoted above, the following questions appear to be relevant:

1. To what degree does the use of management methods in libraries reflect the current needs of these institutions based on rational considerations?

2. How high is the risk that using management methods in libraries might result in depriving them of their character as non-profit institutions?

3. Should the use of management methods remain limited to large library institutions or research libraries staffed by employees with well prepared academic background?

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# Cataloging: Cooperation and New Technologies

*Maria Burchard*

## NUKAT – the Union Catalog of Polish Research Libraries

*Abstract* The author in her article gives an introduction to a very interesting initiative of research libraries called NUKAT, meaning the National Universal Union Catalog. One can find here a draft history and information on its participants and results of shared cataloging of research libraries in the field of authority and bibliographic control.

### Introduction

NUKAT (the National Universal Union Catalog) was launched on July 5, 2002 as a joint effort on the part of 23 university and research libraries. It was built on the principle of shared cataloging in a union database, and it has made bibliographic and authority records freely available for downloading to local catalogs. NUKAT became the crowning achievement of Poland's university libraries, whose main aim in the 1990s was to implement such forms of inter-library cooperation that would allow them to rationalize the process of cataloging library collections. The NUKAT project – the economical and timely processing of the collections to prevent the duplication of catalogers' efforts while compiling ready-to-copy bibliographic records – was implemented quite late (10 years after the first Polish libraries had begun to automate their catalogs), and it was preceded by the development of two other union databases: the Union Authority File (UAF) under construction since 1993 and the Union Catalog of Serials (UCS) under construction since 1995. Both databases, the UAF containing over 720,000 authority records, and the UCS containing over 23,000 bibliographic records, were ready for the incorporation into the NUKAT database in 2002, without the need for major changes to either form or content. The roughly six hundred catalogers of major Polish research and university libraries – who had been active in shared cataloging in the UCS database and who had collectively built the UAF – were already well trained to approach shared cataloging in the newly launched NUKAT union

database. The UAF and UCS were the only databases uploaded into NUKAT – bibliographic records from local catalogs built prior to NUKAT were not loaded into the union database for fear of irrelevant information and a loss of data consistency. (1)

### The structure and workflow of shared cataloging

NUKAT is a union catalog of Polish research and university libraries. Its main goals are:

- to provide library users with on time and detailed information on documents collected by Polish research libraries and their location, with the additional aim of improving the quality of inter-library loans;
- to accelerate and rationalize the process of cataloging of library collections on a national level by creating, by means of shared cataloging, a source of ready-made (i.e., ready to copy) records;
- to gradually invite all Polish research libraries to join shared cataloging in the NUKAT database, irrespectively of the library software being used by those libraries;
- to offer ready-made authority and bibliographic records for downloading to all interested libraries, including those that do not participate in shared cataloging.

The NUKAT database is situated on a server in Warsaw University Library and supervised by the NUKAT Center – one of the divisions of the Library. NUKAT operates using the Virtua integrated library system produced by VTLS Inc. of

Blacksburg, Va. (USA). Virtua is equipped with a buffer – i.e., the working space into which data is entered and where it is checked before it is loaded into the database: this feature protects the NUKAT database against any uncontrolled modification of its content.

Bibliographic and authority records are entered in the buffer of the union catalog database, by means of the Virtua client software, by the catalogers of libraries participating in shared cataloging in NUKAT. When all records have been checked and validated by NUKAT Center administrators, they are transferred into the union database, where they await downloading to local catalogs according to current cataloging needs. Each time a bibliographic record is downloaded, it receives the symbol of the library that downloads the record. In this way NUKAT has grown into a central information resource on the location of documents in Polish research libraries. Library symbols from 9XX fields of MARC21 in bibliographic records are displayed as full names of respective libraries. Serving as hyperlinks to local copies of NUKAT records, these symbols enable users to check, with a single click, the availability of a given item in selected libraries. Library symbols in NUKAT records may serve as unambiguous hyperlinks to local copies of NUKAT records because records are unambiguously identified with unique control numbers assigned to NUKAT records and included in their local copies. By comparing NUKAT control numbers in NUKAT records with their local copies, files with modified records can be automatically distributed to appropriate local catalogs. Modifications to both types of records (bibliographic and authority) are only carried out in the union database. Once they have been validated and loaded into the union database, modified records are extracted to files, which may then be downloaded to local catalogs by all libraries interested in updating the contents of their local catalog. Identical control numbers ensure that the modified versions automatically overwrite appropriate local records. The same path is used for adding subject description (subject headings) to local records, as new bibliographic records may be entered into the union database without any need for subject description. Adding appropriate subject headings to NUKAT bibliographic records means that subject headings are added to copies of NUKAT records stored in the relevant local library catalogs.

All procedures concerning the input of data into NUKAT database and downloading of data to local databases have been introduced to ensure that local data fully correspond to those stored in the NUKAT database. Deviations from the workflow procedures, reflected in the records, are sifted out by the union database software, which automatically controls the data entered into the buffer, and by NUKAT Center administrators. Unacceptable records are held in the buffer with the relevant states assigned to them until they are corrected by their authors or by the administrators, depending on the reason. The correspondence between NUKAT content and the content of local catalogs is controlled repeatedly, resulting in an even greater ability to identify and correct various mistakes and errors (e.g. library symbols missing from or incorrectly added to NUKAT records).

## NUKAT content and data access

NUKAT is the first and – for the time being – the only source of ready-made records created in the union database by means of shared cataloging and made available online for downloading to local catalogs. It contains bibliographic records for various types of documents: monographs, serials, printed music, sound recordings, and electronic documents, while cataloging instructions are currently being prepared for cartographic documents, ephemera, early printed books and movies. NUKAT records are the product of the cataloging of universal collections, such as those of university libraries, as well as the collections of libraries specialized in agriculture, economics, arts, technology, and medical universities and institutions. In 2005 NUKAT welcomed on board the most impatiently awaited contributor to the shared cataloging – the National Library of Poland, whose accession is expected to improve the quality and completeness of NUKAT data on past and current Polish publications.

The diversity of libraries contributing to NUKAT is accompanied by technical and content-related problems. The spontaneous and uncoordinated automation of Polish libraries in the 1990s resulted in the implementation of a large number of foreign (Aleph, Horizon, Innopac, Q-Series, Virtua) and Polish (Prolib, Sowa, MAK, Mol, etc.) library systems. Many of the local catalogs being built at the time were developed

without authority control, even though authority records have been available from the Union Authority File since 1993. Library systems developed in Poland did not support such basic library standards as USMARC format (currently MARC 21), the ISO 2709 exchange format, the Z39.50 protocol, or the ISO 8859-2 (and, currently, the Unicode – UTF-8) character sets. Libraries that had chosen software incompatible with these standards put themselves in a difficult situation, since shared cataloging in the union database cannot be smoothly aligned with every existing library system. At present shared cataloging in NUKAT is operated by 60 libraries using such library systems as Aleph, Horizon, Innopac, Q-Series, Virtua and Prolib. The shared cataloging and downloading of data is available to all research libraries. The ones using library software other than Virtua (the system used for NUKAT database) receive a set of Virtua client software licenses, which they can use to enter data into NUKAT and download it to their local catalogs. Importing data downloaded from NUKAT using a Virtua client to the local database is the responsibility of a given library. Depending on the standards employed in a given local catalog, it may be a simple task or a complicated one: the more the deviations from the standards, the more complicated the procedure.

NUKAT is the initiative of academic and research libraries, and as such it does not provide information on the holdings of public and school libraries. Those libraries may obtain intermediate access to NUKAT data through their subordinate regional libraries, if the latter have the status of research libraries and participate in shared cataloging in NUKAT. Authority data created in the NUKAT authority file is also available from 4 mirror copies of this file operated with Horizon, Prolib, Aleph and MAK systems (2). The mirror copies are supported by leading users of the respective systems, who undertake to keep them up-to-date and to provide all libraries using the same software with free authority records. NUKAT bibliographic records may also be downloaded by libraries that do not contribute to shared cataloging but have access to Z39.50 protocol software via tools developed by their software providers (as is the case with several Polish library systems). The NUKAT Center (the supervising body for NUKAT) is also working on the development of other tools and pathways for

improving and expanding access to NUKAT data by Polish libraries without impairing access to information by NUKAT catalogers and outside users searching for documents. This is an enormous group of clients interested in copy cataloging, especially since the National Library joined the initiative.

## Indexing and retrieval languages in NUKAT

The diversity of NUKAT contributors has led to the approval of three subject heading systems for use in the union catalog. In the 1990s university libraries started building the KABA Subject Headings system as a derivative of the vocabulary and syntax of LCSH (Library of Congress Subject Headings) and its French counterpart RAMEAU. The National Library, public libraries and some university libraries employ JHP BN (National Library of Poland Subject Headings). Medical libraries describe their specialized literature using the Polish version of MeSH (Medical Subject Headings). The need to support multilingual subject indexing was one of most important features conditioning the selection of a library system for NUKAT.

The KABA Subject Headings system was the first and remains the most popular indexing language of the NUKAT database. Its vocabulary and extended subject headings form a subgroup of authority records in the NUKAT Union Authority File (UAF). Catalogers can use ready-made headings from the file or, if required, add the relevant records to the file and use their headings in the appropriate bibliographic records. The KABA Subject Headings system developed by the university and research libraries contributing to NUKAT database is supervised by the KABA Subject Authority File Division of the NUKAT Center. The Division is also responsible for validating the KABA extended subject headings stored in the union database and available in NUKAT for multiple uses in subject indexing.

The Subject Headings system of the National Library of Poland (JHP BN) was applied to subject indexing in NUKAT at the same time as the National Library began participating in the shared cataloging project. The JHP BN vocabulary and extended subject headings were uploaded into NUKAT database and added to the NUKAT

authority file. This part of the file is currently being controlled, supervised and developed by the staff of the National Library of Poland.

The application of the MeSH language to NUKAT bibliographic records, depending on the involvement and preparedness of medical libraries, was accomplished in the last quarter of 2005. MeSH records are supported in NUKAT on a slightly different basis than the records of KABA Subject Headings and the National Library of Poland Subject Headings. The authority file of the Polish version of MeSH is maintained and developed by Poznań Medical University Library. The records required for a subject description of a given document in NUKAT are sent on demand, as requested by authorized catalogers, to the NUKAT database. The appropriate subject headings are then used in NUKAT bibliographic records. The responsibility for both the content and updates of Polish MeSH database and for updating MeSH records within NUKAT rests with Poznań Medical University Library. All libraries interested in subject cataloging with MeSH language have had an opportunity to test the workflow procedures applicable to cataloging with MeSH in NUKAT and updating selected MeSH records. The institution responsible for implementing MeSH records in the NUKAT database is the Medical Library of Collegium Medicum of Jagiellonian University Medical College.

NUKAT software precludes the mixing of KABA, JHP BN and MeSH records – the system accepts identical terms belonging to various languages, as opposed to identical terms within one language, which are interpreted as errors. NUKAT users may select one subject-indexing system to search the database or use all three at the same time. As multiple subject-indexing systems are allowed in the union database, each NUKAT bibliographic record may be assigned subject headings from three distinctive subject-heading languages.

## NUKAT and its contributors

The concept of a union catalog as a source of ready-made reusable records created through shared cataloging has been the focus of heated public debate in Poland and it has gained both proponents and opponents. Libraries have been interested in downloading ready-made records to

their local catalogs, but at the same time they are afraid of losing their autonomy as regards cataloging procedures and methods. This anxiety is completely justified if one bears in mind that shared cataloging in the union database is much more than just an efficient and economical way of downloading ready-made records. Shared cataloging in NUKAT also means active and rational participation with regard to the collective construction of information. It requires contributing libraries to apply strict and unified work procedures, to admit records and subject description built by other catalogers into their own databases, to reject individual solutions and habits, and to adjust the local cataloging workflow to a new situation.

The analysis of statistics concerning the content and usage of the NUKAT database proves the effectiveness of shared cataloging, despite the reluctance of Poland's libraries to participate in the project, and the reoccurring violation of NUKAT procedures. The number of contributors has increased to 60 (from 27 in 2002 when NUKAT was launched). By the end of 2005 the total number of authority records entered into NUKAT database increased from 723,000 in 2002 to 1,724,422 (3) (since 2005 it has included JHP BN and MeSH records). The total number of bibliographic records and the number of bibliographic records downloaded from NUKAT to local catalogs reached, respectively, 585,498 and 1,379,354. On average, 58% of local catalog content consists of downloaded records built by other catalogers and 42% – of records built by the catalogers of a given library. However, the reality is far more complicated than one might assume just by looking at statistical data. The libraries contributing to the NUKAT database do not take part in the project to an equal degree. In 2005 the total contribution of eleven libraries amounted to 321 bibliographic records in comparison to 196,984 (the overall 2005 input), although one fact may partly explain this situation – eight of those libraries were taking the first steps in shared cataloging in NUKAT at the time. On the other hand, 106,979 bibliographic records (over half of total input of bibliographic records to the NUKAT database in 2005) were created by the five largest university libraries: Warsaw University Library (37,214 records), Jagiellonian Library and The Medical Library of Jagiellonian University (23,923 records), Toruń University Library (18,058 records), Gdańsk

University Library (17,674 records) and Wrocław University Library (10,110 records), with good results for the quality and integrity of union data. The aforementioned libraries employ large and well-trained teams of catalogers, as reflected in the quality of records contributed to the NUKAT database.

The accession, in 2005, of the National Library of Poland to the group of NUKAT contributors, may further accelerate the growth of bibliographic records in the NUKAT database, particularly as regards Polish publications. The bilateral agreement signed by the National Library of Poland and NUKAT Center of Warsaw University Library states that all bibliographic records for Polish publications built or modified by the National Library cannot be modified again without its explicit approval.

In December 2005 the NUKAT Center and OCLC PICA signed a bilateral agreement on uploading NUKAT bibliographic records of Polish publications to the WorldCat database.

After NUKAT had been launched in 2002 local catalogs of NUKAT contributors stored both records downloaded from NUKAT, next to records created locally before 2002. The project of the union database involved the integration of locally developed bibliographic records and their upload to NUKAT. NUKAT Center, however, decided to abandon this stage, as the risk of the loss of data integrity would have been too high if the upload had been run automatically. On the other hand, the cost of the whole operation would have increased tremendously, if, to ensure the integrity of NUKAT database and the quality of information, the upload had been carried out manually. The current procedures involve permanently comparing the content of local computer and card catalogs with the content of NUKAT database and systematically replacing “old” records with records downloaded from NUKAT. This simple and low-cost method of “passive” retro-conversion brings numerous benefits to libraries, allowing them to unify and expand their local catalogs, and, at the same time, to enhance the reference function of the union database, as the libraries doing retro-conversion simply add their symbols to downloaded NUKAT records. The NUKAT Center is working to obtain funds to assist the controlled upload of bibliographic records from the catalogs of university libraries with universal or domain-specific

collections. This would considerably enhance the value of the NUKAT database as a source of ready-made records and further limit the duplication of cataloging work – at present the NUKAT input still involves bibliographic records created once before in local catalogs (prior to 2002).

Warsaw University Library, the Center for Formats and Authority Files (4) and the NUKAT Center have taken the lead in showing the advantages of modern cataloging techniques by organizing workshops, training courses and the publication of methodological materials (5), ever since library automation was started in Poland in the 1990s. In 2005 NUKAT Center signed a bilateral agreement with the National Library stating that the aforementioned tasks will be divided between NUKAT Center and the Bibliographic Institute of the National Library. The first results of the cooperation between those two bodies have already emerged in the shape of modified cataloging rules developed on the basis of modified international rules, procedures developed by university libraries, the analysis of recurrent errors in the cataloging process, and proposals submitted by the National Library. The modified version of the MARC 21 bibliographic format for the cataloging of monographs and updated rules for the construction of authority records were introduced and implemented in all libraries contributing to NUKAT even before the National Library had begun participating in shared cataloging in the union database.

## Final remarks

The launch of a database of ready-made records, achieved through shared cataloging, was an important milestone for the Polish library community, and it has more than justified the call for cooperation among libraries. The NUKAT project has considerably accelerated the process of building local catalogs, reduced the costs of cataloging, raised its quality and helped in the development and broad implementation of cataloging standards. As a result, NUKAT has become a fast growing source of centralized information on the holdings of Polish research libraries but at the same time it has obliged catalogers to build high-quality records and accept into their local databases records made by their colleagues from other libraries. Now, everyone works for everyone else and there is no further point in cataloging on a local level.

Regrettably, the union catalog is still perceived by librarians as mainly a source of ready-to-use records and they are failing to recommend it to library users as a useful tool for searching bibliographic information (6). However, library users increasingly are able to find the NUKAT website on their own. The counter of visitors of the union catalog webpages, activated in September 2005, records approximately 40,000 hits per month.

NUKAT offers two valuable sets of data – bibliographic records and nearly two million authority records. Records for uniform names (7), titles and subjects comprising the latter should not be associated exclusively with library catalogs, as they may and should be employed as access keys across a range of services: digital libraries, informative databases and the catalogs of archives and museums. Everyone recognizes this as the universal element of the NUKAT database. The shift in the awareness of the library

### Notes

- (1) <http://www.nukat.edu.pl>.
- (2) Library software developed in 1970s at the National Library designed for medium-size libraries used prevalingly in public libraries.
- (3) All data are based on the statistics available at <http://nukat.edu.pl>.
- (4) The division of Warsaw University Library, which ran and supervised the Union Authority File in the years 1996-2002. In 2002 the Union Authority File became a part of the NUKAT database.

community, although clearly noticeable in recent years, is still not enough to keep up with advances in information technology. However, these developments will have to be studied in much greater detail if Polish libraries intend to play a meaningful role in the development of an information society.

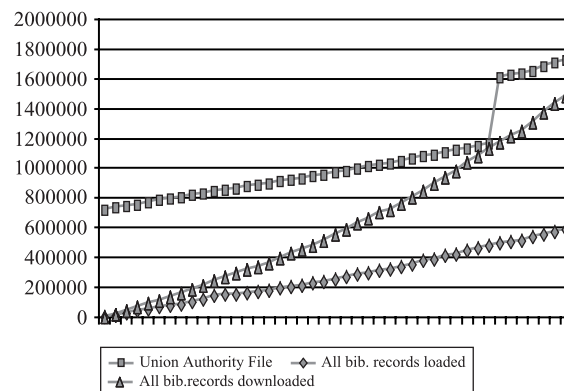


Fig. 1. Growth in records added to NUKAT, 2002-2005  
Growth in records downloaded/copied from NUKAT, 2002-2005

- (5) In the years 1996-1997 methodological materials concerning formats, rules of authority file construction and KABA Subject Headings were published in the sub series *Formaty. Kartoteki* [Formats. Indexes] of the series *Propozycje i Materiały* [Proposals and Materials]. In 1998 *Formaty. Kartoteki* became an independent series with 14 volumes published to date.
- (6) Statistical data as of January 31, 2006 show that NUKAT contains information on approximately 1,500,000 documents held by Poland's university and research libraries.
- (7) Approx. 700,000 name authority records as of January 31, 2006.

# Cataloging: Cooperation and New Technologies

*Maria Nasitowska*

## KABA Subject Headings – The Current Situation and Prospects for the Future

*Abstract* This article gives an interesting overview of one of the most popular subject heading system in Poland – called KABA. One can learn about the history of the project, its current status and also about its prospects for the future, especially in the context NUKAT (National Universal Union Catalog), where three subject headings systems are used – KABA, SJHP (National Library of Poland Subject Headings), and MeSH

The title of this article is a paraphrase of the title of a conference held in Sopot in September 1997 – “Język haseł przedmiotowych KABA. Stan obecny i perspektywy rozwoju” [The KABA Subject Headings – the current status and chances for development]. (1) After nearly ten years of creating and implementing the KABA system, after numerous modifications and heated debates, it is time to draw some conclusions, summarize KABA’s evolution, and present the latest trends in the field. Moreover, it is necessary to rediscover unsolved problems, which remain a serious obstacle to the further development of this subject cataloging system. While there is no doubt about KABA’s chances for survival, the changes that might have to be introduced could potentially reshape it beyond recognition. These changes cannot be disregarded as they correspond both to changes in the system’s operating environment and to the current needs of the NUKAT Union Catalog users.

The KABA (Katalogi Automatyczne Bibliotek Akademickich – Automated Catalogs of Academic Libraries) Subject Headings system has been developed by several academic libraries (2) under the supervision of Teresa Głowacka since the early 1990s. A division of Warsaw University Library (3) coordinated the creation of KABA authority headings with librarians from participating libraries. It supervised the consistency of the system and its compliance with the original assumptions (4). With regard to KABA vocabulary, these basic principles comprised the following features: an unrestricted subject range; the applicability for precise subject cataloging; presentation in the form

of an authority file integrated with the name and title authority file; and compatibility with such international subject heading systems as RAMEAU and LCSH. Some of these principles are still valid and irrefutable; others, controversial from the very beginning, have remained bones of contention; others still, e.g. the integration of subject and name authority file, though justified, have proved difficult to implement.

The KABA Subject Headings System is based on RAMEAU (Répertoire d’Autorité-Matière Encyclopédique et Alphabétique Unifié), a system of subject headings developed at the National Library of France and used in the majority of French research and public libraries. Various elements of the KABA language – vocabulary records, methodology, application rules for individual headings – find their prototypes in analogous solutions of the RAMEAU system. The division of Warsaw University Library supervising the development of KABA has had a long and fruitful cooperation with a similar division of the National Library of France, which is coordinating the development of RAMEAU. Another subject headings system, originally the primary one, i.e. LCSH, was used considerably less often as a model for developing KABA.

The choice of RAMEAU rather than LCSH as a pattern to be followed by KABA was influenced by the fact that the French subject headings system was seen as being culturally better adapted to the Polish environment than the American one. The lesser factors determining the choice were the data format and the integrated library system. The system of KABA Subject



Headings is built in the MARC 21 format (formerly known as USMARC) used by the Library of Congress for LCSH records, while the RAMEAU language employs the INTERMARC (5) format developed and used only by the National Library of France. In the process of building the KABA vocabulary, the records whose content matched that of RAMEAU records were built within the framework of the American format with the priority set to the unaltered content, which resulted in some divergence from the American MARC format rules. This divergence may result in serious obstacles to the efficient use of automatic data processing. Moreover, MARC formats are being gradually replaced by other developing formats. The MARC 21 format, due to its popularity, is subject to intense research on the automatic transfer of data saved in it to other formats seen as better adapted to contemporary requirements. At present any divergence from the format used for KABA Subject Headings requires a thorough analysis of the problem, often followed by considerable modifications to KABA records. This is one of the high priority tasks of the KABA Subject Authority File Division, a unit currently operating within the structure of NUKAT Center, the supervising body for the NUKAT Union Catalog of Polish Research Libraries.

When referring to RAMEAU in the process of creating KABA records one cannot disregard the importance of options available from the integrated library system (ILS), which serves a given subject headings language. The KABA Subject Headings system is built and displayed using Virtua ILS of VTLS Inc. offering a certain set of search options, while the system supporting the RAMEAU language provides fairly different search possibilities. The designers of KABA need to take these differences into consideration while constructing the KABA language, so as not to restrict the search options. One of the examples of the presently non-existent option is searching for enhanced subject headings using variants of established headings of which those enhanced subject headings are made. For example, the term "Gastropoda" is a variant of the established heading "Brzuchonogi". The keyword search term "Gastropoda" would neither return any enhanced subject headings containing it, nor – obviously – any bibliographic records including such headings. The library system used for RAMEAU does not

offer such possibilities and the designers of KABA have long been aware of this problem. One of the solutions that were proposed entailed adding variants to records for enhanced subject headings. Justified as it seems, the project was not preceded by any methodological analysis and this solution was used in only a few of the most obvious cases. The KABA Subject Authority File Division will carry out further research on variants in records for enhanced subject headings in the nearest future.

The principle of unlimited vocabulary is related to the unlimitedness of the scope of library collection topics – the vocabulary of subject heading language is developed gradually and reflects new events and ideas described in the cataloged documents. The method of cooperatively creating the KABA vocabulary, developed and introduced by Teresa Głowacka, has been recognized as an innovative solution in the field and offered as an example to other libraries intending to develop a similar cataloging tool. The first contributors to the KABA language have been research libraries, which certainly influenced the adoption of the principle of precise cataloging. A KABA subject heading (the enhanced subject heading) has to precisely answer the question about the subject of the document. In order to create such a heading KABA contributors have been often requested to build one or more authority subject headings. Another principle is the construction of "nests" – except for the heading requested for a given document, records for other headings are built to provide it with necessary semantic context, i.e. locate a given heading within the whole subject headings system, and defining hierarchical and associative relationships among headings. Moreover, KABA authority records include semantic and syntactic synonyms and quasi-synonyms for the established headings in fields 1XX. The current KABA subject authority records are constructed in a similar way, the only novelty being the parallel reference to RAMEAU, LCSH and sometimes even RVM (6) records, which enables KABA creators to model KABA headings on the semantically nearest patterns. More emphasis is also placed on the construction of new authority records for subject headings to answer in the first place the needs resulting from the subject analysis of the currently cataloged document (7). This principle remains in accordance with the

basic principle of KABA development – KABA was to be developed in a process of regular subject cataloging (8) carried out by contributing libraries.

Placing the emphasis on that principle of KABA language might be seen as a turning point in its history. It results from the evaluation of the level of KABA saturation with the vocabulary required for relatively uninterrupted subject cataloging of Polish library collections as well as the analysis of the usability of vocabulary built in strict relationship with its French RAMEAU source. A strict adherence to RAMEAU often resulted in the generation of headings that were useless when it came to Polish subject cataloging with KABA Subject Headings. The shift in emphasis from a convergence with RAMEAU to the usability of headings in current subject cataloging is not a denial of the basic assumptions of KABA, but rather a natural stage of its evolution. Emphasis has also been placed on developing KABA vocabulary irrespective of RAMEAU content (9), in particular the vocabulary insufficiently covered by RAMEAU due to a lack of documents in French libraries that would require such headings. The vocabulary has to cover – as it is stated in KABA basic principles – the semantic scope of cataloged documents. One example of the situation described here is the insufficient number of established headings including established chronological subdivisions, to be used in subject cataloging of literary works written in Poland and neighboring countries, and the resulting lack of precision in cataloging.

Some subject domains have not permitted catalogers using KABA to conform to the principle of precise subject cataloging, which is particularly noticeable in the case of subject cataloging of literary works. RAMEAU Subject Headings allows the use of genre/form headings, which do not define the subject of the document but rather its content form. The question of content form in KABA language is complex enough, and a thorough analysis is required before modifications can be introduced both in records for topical headings and records for subdivisions. Genre/form headings inform users about the literary, musical, etc. form of the document, i.e. the nature of its contents (e.g., “Literatura polska” [Polish literature], „Nowele austriackie” [Austrian short stories]). The KABA Subject Authority File Division has

only recently started working on extracting genre/form headings from KABA vocabulary. The MARC 21 format for authority records allows to identify the genre/form headings used to describe the form or genre of the content of documents and to record these headings in the field 155 (655 in bibliographic records). In spring 2005 a working group, commissioned by Anna Kucewicz, defined guidelines for the construction of records for genre/form headings and the scope of their use, beginning with literature and music.

The initially planned consistency of KABA vocabulary and name headings used in descriptive cataloging has only been partially implemented in the process of developing KABA, at first only through identical heading fields (tags 1XX in authority records). The next stage consisted of repeatedly discussed and analyzed integration (10) on the level of authority files: the subject and the name authority files. While both files have already been integrated as regards authority records for personal and corporate names, the titles remain pending. So far none of the KABA source subject heading languages (RAMEAU and LCSH) have made it to the final stage of title integration, and uniform titles in authority files have consistently raised more questions than answers.

The compatibility of KABA Subject Headings with its source systems, RAMEAU and LCSH, has remained its most controversial feature. On the one hand the proponents of the devotion to RAMEAU worry that the freedom in developing KABA might potentially result in its isolation on the international level (11). On the other hand the opponents of building KABA as a clone of RAMEAU call into question the production of vocabulary and structures of little use while cataloging Polish publications (12). The best solution appears to be the “golden mean”, which should be possible to achieve through discussion and cooperation between KABA users and observers. The issue of the compatibility of KABA with RAMEAU and LCSH will remain an important factor in its development, although Anna Kucewicz has argued that it is more a question of the compatibility at the level of general language structures and basic principles of KABA construction. Some divergence, which may be necessary on the level of individual headings, is influenced by (and stems from) the application of KABA Subject Headings to the cataloging of Polish documents.

The KABA Subject Headings system belongs to the category of pre-coordinated information retrieval languages – the elements of the heading are arrayed in a fixed order, which in turn defines the meaning of the whole subject heading. The way this system is designed prevents it from being properly used in keyword searches, yet it is this type of search that is most often used in modern library catalogs, e.g. those of the National Library of France (the user interface offers this type of search as the default search) or NUKAT contributors. An attempt to reach out to the users in this respect had been made in the United States, where a post-coordinated IR language was developed on the basis of vocabulary of pre-coordinated LCSH. However, the language in question – FAST (Faceted Application of Subject Terminology) – proved to be grossly oversimplified and incompatible with LCSH despite the assertions of its inventors. Moreover, it did not provide solutions to any of the crucial problems resulting from the pre-coordinated structure of LCSH (13). In fact, any similar attempts are bound to fail as the number of library collections and catalogs where LCSH principles are applied may be too big to allow for automatic mapping to the simplified version of the subject heading language. The solution may be the application of more advanced search tools while retaining the current structure of the language, e.g. the AquaBrowser search tool developed in partnership with VTLS to increase the compatibility of this tool with VTLS library software. The KABA Subject Authority File Division has been running consultations with the designers of the AquaBrowser on possible future cooperation, all the while bearing in mind the amount of work that would be required from the Polish side of the project. KABA needs to return to its original principles and to become simpler and more formalized. A number of syntax exceptions and complicated usage rules have to be eliminated and enhanced subject headings must be given a clear, simple and concise structure. The subject analysis of a document would incorporate a few simple or enhanced subject headings. All enhanced subject headings should – with no exception – conform to fixed syntax: topical heading – topical subdivision – geographical subdivision – chronological subdivision, and – form/genre subdivision. The form/genre headings should also be created in a form of separate authority records. The ultimate

aim would be to create a subject heading that would provide a simple answer to the question: “What is the subject of the document?” or “What is the content form or genre of the document?” If such a search tool as AquaBrowser was then applied, considerably simplified pre-coordination principles would not be an obstacle in the search for information.

The last question on the current status of KABA is its coexistence with JHPBN (National Library of Poland Subject Headings) in the NUKAT Union Catalog. Jadwiga Sadowska, in her paper entitled *Dwa języki hasel przedmiotowych* [Two Subject Heading Languages], proposes to treat KABA and JHPBN as being complementary to each other, comparing both languages and listing their similarities and differences. Sadowska concludes with the proposal that KABA might be used in cataloging the collections of academic and specialized institutions, while public, school and pedagogical libraries might prefer JHPBN (14). The proposal is worth considering as such a functional split would fit into the current line of KABA development and allow it to pursue its original mission as defined by its designers. Obviously, the process of defining usage limits for both languages would require many years of cooperation between the makers of KABA and JHPBN, but the expected benefits would serve not only librarians but primarily the disoriented users of NUKAT. The cooperation between the proponents of KABA and JHPBN does not have to spell the end for any of these languages – it is intended and expected to help in the development of subject cataloging that will prove adequate for various types of documents and collections.

As far as the KABA system is concerned, its chances of survival depend on both librarians and library users. The KABA Subject Authority File Division strives to consider and fully meet their needs, which does not seem to conflict with the original principles set out by the first designers of KABA, but on the contrary, are in full agreement with them. And finally, it only remains for me to say that the changes taking place in the current context, in which KABA is being developed and in which it operates, require for it to be a highly independent and flexible information retrieval system. In turn, its evolution must be competently supervised.

## Notes

- (1) *Język haseł przedmiotowych KABA. Stan obecny i perspektywy rozwoju* [The KABA Subject Headings Language. Current Status and Chances for Development] [conference papers], Warsaw, 1998.
- (2) Initial members: Warsaw University Library, Jagiellonian Library, Gdańsk University Library, the Library of Kraków University of Mining and Metallurgy. Since 1994 also Wrocław University Library. One year later they were joined by four libraries from Lublin: the Library of Lublin Catholic University, the Library of Maria Skłodowska-Curie University, Lublin University of Technology Library and Lublin University of Agriculture Library. Current users of the KABA Subject Headings system comprise over 40 libraries, of which more than 20 are actively involved in creating its vocabulary.
- (3) Originally the KABA Subject Headings and Subject Authority File Division, a unit of the Center for Formats and Authority Files at Warsaw University Library. Since 1996 the KABA Subject Authority File Division is part of the NUKAT Center at Warsaw University Library.
- (4) *Język haseł przedmiotowych KABA. Zasady tworzenia słownictwa* [KABA Subject Headings Language. Rules for Vocabulary Building], edited by Teresa Głowacka, Warsaw 2000, p. 9.
- (5) Most French libraries use the UNIMARC format. Problems resulting from the lack of appropriate mapping between the INTERMARC and UNIMARC formats are still waiting for more permanent solutions.
- (6) Répertoire de vedettes-matière – French subject headings developed by the Library of Laval University in Canada.
- (7) Burchard, Maria, Kucewicz, Anna, *Język haseł przedmiotowych XXI wieku* [A Subject Headings Language for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century] *Przegląd Biblioteczny* 2004 No 3/4, p. 202.
- (8) Głowacka, Teresa, op. cit., p. 9.
- (9) *Ibid.*, p. 197.
- (10) Nasiłowska, Maria, *Integracja kartotek haseł wzorcowych NUKAT* [Integrating NUKAT authority files] *Przegląd Biblioteczny* 2004 No 3/4, pp. 215-221.
- (11) Wilczyńska, Grażyna, Maria, Woźniak-Kasperek, Jadwiga, *Kompatybilność – zaleta czy obciążenie? Dwugłos o języku haseł przedmiotowych KABA* [Compatibility – A Virtue or a Vice? Dual View Relating to KABA Subject Headings] *Bibliotekarz* 2005 No 9.
- (12) Burchard, Maria, Kucewicz, Anna, op. cit., p. 202.
- (13) Nasiłowska, Maria, *Precoordination in subject indexing systems and FRBR model*, retrieved from URL: [http://www.oclc.org/research/events/frbr-workshop/presentations/nasilowska/JHP\\_a\\_FRBR\\_ENG.ppt](http://www.oclc.org/research/events/frbr-workshop/presentations/nasilowska/JHP_a_FRBR_ENG.ppt).
- (14) Sadowska, Jadwiga, *Dwa języki haseł przedmiotowych* [Two Subject Heading Languages], *Bibliotekarz* 2001 No 4, p. 197.

# Cataloging: Cooperation and New Technologies

## Wanda Klenczon, Anna Stolarczyk Subject Headings of the Polish National Library (JHP BN)

*Abstract* Authors give an overview, with a historical background, of the subject authority tool created at the National Library of Poland, called *Słownik Języka Haseł Przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej* [The National Library Subject Headings]. One can learn also of the development of this language, and find out about several issues that need to be resolved out in the near future, as well as its future prospects both as one of the subject authority tools used in NUKAT (National Universal Union Catalog), and as the subject cataloging aid for these libraries that do not cooperate in the shared cataloging system (mostly public, school, institutional, and special libraries).

The National Library Subject Headings (Język Haseł Przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej, referred to below as JHP BN) is a universal information search and retrieval language developed at the Polish National Library and used for the decades in the Polish current national bibliography, the National Library catalogs, and also in several hundred Polish libraries.

Subject cataloging at the National Library – aimed to create the subject headings language covering terms used while subject processing the National Library holdings and while compiling the current national bibliography. The author of the first thesaurus, Jan Kossonoga (1), relied on the methodological principles devised by Adam Łysakowski (2), one of the leading Polish experts in this field at the time. All the bibliographic records of *Przegląd Bibliograficzny* [Bibliographic Guide – the Polish current national bibliography], created since 1957, are added subject headings. The subject catalog – at the beginning as a card-index, and later on as the database – became the National Library's main subject catalog in 1969. Two decades later, in 1989, the National Library published the first edition of *Słownik haseł przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej* [The National Library Subject Headings – referred to below as JHP BN], arranged and edited by Ewa Stępnikowa and Janina Trzcńska. Two revised and expanded editions of JHP BN followed over the next fourteen years. (3) Since 1997, the JHP BN Development Consultation Group (whose members include representatives of large public libra-

ries), the Bibliographic Guide Department and the Subject Cataloging Department of the National Library, have assisted the team tasked with overseeing the development of JHP BN (Joanna Kędzińska, Wanda Klenczon and Anna Stolarczyk). Both library automation and international and national standardization measures have led to an increase in the size of the vocabulary used, whilst also resulting in the phrasing of topics to be modified – changes reflected in each edition of JHP BN. (4)

The printed version of JHP BN contains general subject headings, even though these are limited to several selected categories (i.e., referring to individual subject headings) (5). All individual headings are controlled with an authority file, which has been successively developed since the mid-1990s. By the mid-1990s the contents of the card catalog was transferred into the MAK system, and then into the integrated library system (INNOPAC). The next stage involved the adding of personal, corporate, title and geographic authority headings. From the very outset, the JHP BN authority file operated in the MARC format, primarily in a custom format of the Polish National Library, and from 1994 in USMARC/MARC21. Due to this feature the language could be used in library systems that supported references and tracings within information search and retrieval language.

All types of headings, whether personal, corporate, title or geographic, are created with the use of the same template in accordance with all

relevant bibliographic standards and instructions. (6) Even though subject cataloging does not have to be as strongly standard-compliant as descriptive cataloging, it is recommended that headings of the same type be given the same form, regardless of how they then are used in a specific context. The phrasing of name, corporate and title headings in JHP BN complies with relevant standards and guidelines. Exceptions are recorded in instructions referring to individual types of headings. (7)

The subject headings authority file is available to its users in a variety of forms. The printed version of JHP BN, which has been published once every four years since 1989, contains an overview of general topics and selected individual topics. (8) The website of the Polish National Library has been providing access to the subject headings authority file since 2001. (9) Additionally, libraries may also order the file on a CD-ROM. In 2005, JHP BN headings, a category that included enhanced subject headings, were provided for the first time in the NUKAT catalog. (10)

The first authors of JHP BN, Ewa Stepniakowa and Janina Trzcińska, based their rules for JHP BN on the basic methodological principles devised by Łysakowski, i.e. the detailed formulation of subjects and the creation of subdivisions, defined the rules for JHP BN creation that are valid until now:

1) The vocabulary is universal in nature.

JHP BN is designed as an open system with an unrestricted vocabulary, the nature of which reflects the thematic range of the collected resources.

2) Terms that are used as subjects are to correspond to Polish terminology in the given area, and they are also to be derived from reliable Polish sources of information.

Topics were initially selected from popular single volume encyclopedias based on the assumption that such reference works represented the most readily accessible source of information for the general user. (11) This is no longer the case however as terms are extracted from large universal encyclopedias, professional encyclopedias and terminological thesauri, and to a lesser degree, from scientific monographs and articles, official publications and legal acts,

When working with synonymous terms, they must be selected (in order of preference) from:

universal encyclopedias and specialized encyclopedias, from the literature on the subject, databases and Internet resources. Terms are verified with the usage of recently published Polish language dictionaries; however, this rule cannot always be kept. A different approach has to be selected when working with subject headings for the index of periodicals: newspaper and magazine articles on recent social phenomena, new technologies and political events, the existence of which has not yet been acknowledged by the authors of encyclopedic publications. Dealing with such texts, catalogers face the often-daunting task of finding the right name. Such headings are phrased using the available sources, e.g., foreign databases, periodicals and Internet resources. Once they have been drawn up, headings can be modified whenever a more appropriate name comes along. Foreign language terms – especially English ones – are selected when no corresponding Polish equivalent can be found (e.g., Timesharing, Public Relations, Hosting, Outsourcing, or Streetworking). Even though indexers choose terms adapted to contemporary usage and verify headings in that context, older terms may be chosen as well, the aim being to describe historical as well as current documents. (12)

3) Only unambiguous terms may be used as subjects.

In relation to the term with several meanings in various disciplines, JHP BN makes use of homonyms paired with an additional explanatory phrase, e.g., “Koncert” defined as a “concert” (musical event) or as a “concerto” (musical genre); “Mars” understood as a planet or as a Roman god. Homonyms are disambiguated by the use of additional phrases, which most often consist of the abbreviated names of disciplines related to a specific term.

Initially JHP BN was used to catalog monographic titles recorded in the current bibliography. Gradually, subject cataloging has been expanded to cover other types of collection documents, beginning with articles from serial publications listed in *Bibliografia zawartości czasopism* [Index to Periodicals]. (13) JHP BN subject headings were assigned to various categories of documents covered by the catalog database of the Polish National Library: periodicals, electronic documents, printed sheet music, audio and audiovisual documents, and cartographic items. Electronic documents and

printed sheet music have currently been recorded in special issues of *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* [Bibliographic Guide], and cartographic documents have been compiled in *Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych* [Bibliography of Cartographic Documents]. (14) JHP BN subject headings have also been assigned to a selected range of documents of social life, comprising exhibition catalogs, theatre bills, and ephemera of historical significance. The catalog database of the National Library contains 700,754 bibliographic records of various types of documents (as of July 13, 2006) – a number that amounts to approximately 30% of the collection of monographs published from 1801. Records are consistently updated and supplemented with the aim of covering the entire collection with JHP BN subject headings.

JHP BN continues to be developed and maintained by the National Library. The scope of vocabulary strictly corresponded for a long period of time with the thematic range of the National Library's monographic collections, but currently headings and methodological rules are strictly linked with subject processing carried out by the divisions of the National Library and by other Polish libraries. New subjects – to be submitted by any cataloger – are verified with regard to terminological and linguistic correctness, and after that incorporated into the JHP BN system using the relevant hierarchic and associative relations. They are also checked for their usefulness in relation to the terms already existing in the catalog database. Each new or changed subject or subdivision entered into the database is subject to relevant corrections in all bibliographic records that use or should use this very subject/subdivision. This tough job is performed on a regular basis in order to keep the database consistent for the benefit of its users.

Although JHP BN is being used by a number of different institutions, including research libraries (The Library of Parliament, the Library of the Jewish Historical Institute, the Library of the Warsaw School of Economics), its primary end-users, apart from the National Library, have been public and pedagogical libraries. (15) Public libraries use JHP BN to perform subject cataloging of documents recorded in regional bibliographies, a valuable supplement to the national bibliography. Some smaller libraries act as “passive users” of JHP BN since they do not catalog their

collections but only import/copy records from *Przewodnik Bibliograficzny* [Bibliographic Guide] or from the National Library database. All this makes it not easy a task to estimate the number of users, especially as some libraries modify headings, adapting them to their individual needs. The National Library does not, in any way, oversee the use of JHP BN; assuming that local librarians are better qualified to assess the needs of their users and the nature of their collections.

As a universal language, JHP BN does not match the profile of any single specific user. Instead, one takes into account the actual needs of a number of different Polish libraries. Nationwide user training workshops are provided each year, beginning from 1999, under the name “JHP BN – new vocabulary and methodological solutions for library catalogs”. (16) Out-of-town training sessions in subject cataloging, organized by employees of the National Library, provide the participants with a timeframe for the exchange of information and for debating the problem-related issues. They also allow the authors of JHP BN to learn more about the techniques used by other libraries, and about the needs and problems faced by its actual users.

The process of cataloging boils down to a question of simplicity versus attention to detail. A good solution might be the creation of a range of discipline-oriented thesauri based on JHP BN, which would supplement the available set of terms required to catalog the collections of specialized libraries. *Słownik haseł przedmiotowych piśmiennictwa wojskowego* [The Subject Headings Thesaurus for Military Literature] was designed to meet the requirements of the users of military libraries. Its authors were librarians from the Central Library of the National Defense Academy and the Central Military Library (17). This single thesaurus widens the scope of JHP BN to include a further 5000 headings related to military terminology. A similar thesaurus might be created for pedagogical libraries, which have been reporting an urgent need for more specific headings. Representatives of several large pedagogical libraries are carrying out work in this area, with additional assistance being provided by the Center for Teacher Training (Centralny Ośrodek Doskonalenia Nauczycieli). (18)

In the years to come the development of JHP BN should focus on:

- the vocabulary: extending the scope of JHP BN to cover terms used for the cataloging of special collections. The JHP BN team will continue to develop headings related to vocal music. The team will also start work on extending the range of terms used for cataloging collections of etchings and drawings. These aims are not only a response to a request on the part of the National Library, but also to the wishes of large public libraries;
- the methodology: designing new methodological instructions comprising rules for creating headings and cataloging different types of documents. Existing sources are seen largely as being inadequate, (19) while methodological guidelines published in *Biuletyn JHP BN* [The JHP BN Bulletin] provide an answer only to the most basic questions related to the day-by-day activities in the field of developing the language. (20) Librarians have repeatedly expressed the need for a comprehensive manual for JHP BN subject cataloging. Due to staffing shortages, the methodology and development team has so far been unable to respond to this demand. New items, however, are due to be published in the

series *Materiały Metodyczne JHP BN* [The JHP BN Methodological Materials], and on the JHP BN section of the National Library website ([www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl)).

Subject cataloging methodology should also focus more on options for retrieving information. Computer statistics prove that most search queries do not rely only on the index of authors and titles but prevalingly on the “Subject Headings” index. (21) In what is an interesting side-note, words from the title and subject headings appear much less frequently (in less than 10% of the queries), suggesting that readers may be unaware of the results they might obtain by using this option. This is likely to change with the implementation by the National Library of an advanced search function that would allow users to ask more complex questions. The designers and developers of JHP BN should examine search strategies used by readers in the same way as they study the comments and reactions of librarians. Only then will this search and information language become an effective tool that will live up to the demands of both users and the producers of information.

### Notes

- (1) Kossonoga, Jan, *Słownik tematów dla bibliografii i katalogów w układzie przedmiotowym* [A Thesaurus of Headings for Subject Bibliographies and Catalogs], Warsaw, 1956.
- (2) Łysakowski, Adam, *Katalog przedmiotowy* [The Subject Catalog], vol. 1, Theory, Vilnius, 1928; *Katalog przedmiotowy. Podręcznik* [The Subject Catalog. A Handbook] Warsaw, 1946.
- (3) *Słownik języka haseł przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej, na podstawie „Słownika tematów dla bibliografii i katalogów w układzie przedmiotowym” Jana Kossonogi* [The National Library Subject Headings Based on Jan Kossonoga’s “Thesaurus of Subject Headings for Bibliographies and Catalogs”], edited by Janina Trzcińska and Ewa Stepniakowa, Warsaw, 1989.
- (4) *Słownik języka haseł przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej* [The National Library Subject Headings], edited by Joanna Kędzińska, Wanda Klenczon and Anna Stolarczyk, Warsaw, 2001; 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. and Eng. edition published in 2005.
- (5) The first edition contained 5,000 headings and 300 subdivisions; the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition – respectively, 14,000 and 436; the 5<sup>th</sup> edition – 48,867 and 769.
- (6) Standards related to bibliographic description: PN-N-01229: 2002 *Hasło opisu bibliograficznego – Hasło osobowe* [Bibliographic Description Heading – Name Description Heading] PN-N-01230: 2001; *Hasło opisu bibliograficznego – Hasło korporatywne* [Bibliographic Description Heading

- Corporate Heading] PN-N-011231; *Hasło opisu bibliograficznego – Hasło tytułowe* [Bibliographic Description Heading – Title Heading] PN-N-01228: 1994; *Hasło opisu bibliograficznego – Forma nazw geograficznych* [Bibliographic Description Heading – Geographic Name Form]; and instructions: Janowska, Maria, *Hasło osobowe. Wybór i zasady tworzenia w bibliografii narodowej i katalogach Biblioteki Narodowej* [Rules for Selecting and Creating Personal Headings in the National Bibliography and Catalogs of the National Library], Warsaw, 1998; Klenczon, Wanda, Stolarczyk, Anna, *Hasło geograficzne. Wybór i zasady tworzenia w bibliografii narodowej i katalogach Biblioteki Narodowej. Zasady wypełniania rekordu wzorcowego* [Rules for Selecting and Creating Geographic Headings in the National Bibliography and Catalogs of the National Library. Rules for the Creation of an Authority Record], Warsaw, 1998; and *Hasło korporatywne w opracowaniu przedmiotowym BN* [The Corporate Heading in National Library Subject Cataloging], Warsaw, 2004.
- (7) The rules for formulating geographic headings are also consistent with the standard *Forma nazw geograficznych* (cf. footnote 6), its range, however, is limited to the names of states and cities, and as such is too narrow to meet all the requirements of subject cataloging.
- (8) Published in 1989, 1993, 1997, 2001 and 2005.
- (9) Retrieved from URL: <http://mak.bn.org.pl/w5.htm>. Access also via the website of the National Library, URL: [www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl) > English > Databases > Słownik JHP. The database is updated at the beginning of each month.



(10) URL: <http://www.nukat.edu.pl/> Access via the index > Browse > Subject > JHPBN, after having selected an English version.

(11) Cf. Stępnikowa, Ewa, Trzcńska, Janina, *Introduction to the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the JHP BN*, p. IX.

(12) E.g., the Polish term “Handel wymienny” (“barter trade”), substituted for “Barter”. Whereas the second term is commonly used in the Polish language, the word “Barter” would have been anachronistic in relation to older historical documents. For this reason “Barter” has been used as a see from tracing to an established heading “Handel wymienny”.

(13) Retrieved from URL: <http://mak.bn.org.pl/w14.htm>. Containing descriptions of over 600,000 headings, this database has been operational since 1996. The PRASA [Press] database, which has been created in cooperation by the National Library and 11 public libraries, and which contains records of newspaper and magazine articles.

(14) The first volume of this semi-annual publication, covering documents published in 2002, was issued in 2005. *Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych* [Bibliography of Cartographic Documents] 1 (2002).

(15) In 2003, Jadwiga Sadowska estimated the number of JHP BN users at 700 libraries, comprising “(...) 300 subscribers to the digital version of JHP BN, and approx. 2000 volumes of each edition of the printed version” (Sadowska, Jadwiga, *Język haseł przedmiotowych Biblioteki narodowej. Studium analityczno-porównawcze* [The Subject Headings of the National Library. An Analytical Comparative Study], Warsaw, 2003, footnote 10, p. 17). The current number of users is larger due to the introduction of JHP BN cataloging by a considerable group of pedagogical libraries. Research is being planned to assess the actual scope of use regarding JHP BN.

(16) These workshops are organized by the Subject Cataloging Commission assigned to the Main Office of the Polish Librarians Association working in cooperation with the

National Library, and the Institute of Information and Library Science of the University of Warsaw.

(17) *Słownik języka haseł przedmiotowych piśmiennictwa wojskowego* [A Subject Headings Thesaurus for Military Documents] edited by Zofia Skrok et al., Warsaw, 2001.

(18) Gawrońska-Paluszkiwicz, Iwona, *Współpraca bibliotek pedagogicznych w rozwijaniu słownika haseł związanych z edukacją* [Pedagogical Libraries Cooperating to Create an Educational Subject Headings Thesaurus], retrieved from URL: <http://www.bib.edu.pl/codn2.html>.

(19) Apart from the instructions mentioned above in footnote 6, the other existing handbooks are: Czarnecka, Jadwiga, *Katalog przedmiotowy na podstawie opisów z Przewodnika Bibliograficznego* [A Subject Catalog Based on Descriptions from the *Bibliographic Guide*], 2<sup>nd</sup> rev. edition, Warsaw, 2000; and Sadowska, Jadwiga, *Język haseł przedmiotowych Biblioteki Narodowej* [The Subject Headings Language of the National Library], Warsaw, 2001; as well as the methodological guidelines published in *Biuletyn JHP BN* [The JHP BN Bulletin]. A selection of materials related to JHP BN has been published in the proceedings of the Subject Cataloging Commission (Komisja Opracowania Przedmiotowego Zbiorów): *Opracowanie przedmiotowe w bibliotekach publicznych: materiały z ogólnopolskich warsztatów, Warszawa 18-20 października 2000 r.* [Subject cataloging in Public Libraries: National Workshop Proceedings, Warsaw, October 18-20, 2000], edited by Jadwiga Woźniak and Piotr Bierczyński, Warsaw 2000; and *Opracowanie rzeczowe* [Subject Cataloging], edited by Jadwiga Woźniak-Kasparek and Piotr Bierczyński, Warsaw, 2006.

(20) Retrieved from URL: <http://www.bn.org.pl/index.php?id=6&jhp=3>. Access via the website of the National Library URL: [www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl) > “Dla bibliotekarzy” > “JHP BN” > “Biuletyn JHP BN” (available in Polish only).

(21) All three of these indexes are used with comparable frequency – up to 25-30 % depending on the time of year.

*Abstract* The article presents the political context and the current status of digital libraries in Poland. It demonstrates the major challenges in the various areas in which libraries operate. It describes two important library initiatives that emerged in order to coordinate activities, and presents concrete examples of the actual digital collections accessible via the Internet. The author also attempts to diagnose the situation and indicate solutions, which may bring measurable benefits to Poland.

## Poland's policy towards digitalization

Poland does not pursue any policy connected with the building of digital resources, and though some elements of such a policy may be pointed out in several governmental documents, they hardly provide a cohesive system. What is more, very little funding has been allocated. All technological initiatives focused on digital collections development in recent years, have been grass-root activities funded either by the library institutions themselves or, in very rare cases, by the EU structural funds. Their objective was to support learning and education and to close the gap between our libraries and those from the technologically more advanced countries. The gap is very large, not only considering the economic and organizational dimension, but also the level of know-how that Poland represents in terms of learned resources management or new technologies.

Institutions of culture have failed to make an impact on state cultural policy, and there is also a problem with the political and administrative system in which these institutions must operate. It is not an easy task to implement the kind of organizational and work strategies seen in more advanced countries, particularly when the role of libraries in Poland is so poorly defined. What is more, social consultations are not very efficient, whereas there is no institution that is prepared to take responsibility for strategic planning. On the other hand there are an excessive number of strategies devised within individual ministries that have all failed to provide adequately for digital libraries. It took librarians several years to convince

the public administration of the importance of building digital collections. When finally the projects were launched in conjunction with the Ministry of Science and Information Technology Development, a new government was elected, which moved „information technology development” together with all the library projects to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Administration.

Information technology development is now the area of competence of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Administration, which has no projects for libraries, and is more interested in e-administration. The Ministry of Science and Higher Education responsible for academic libraries, concentrates on electronic journals and the building of repositories, whereas the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, statutorily responsible for digitalization, places it in public libraries, museums and archives lying within the Ministry's area of competence. Under such a system reality and practice could only diverge with regard to administrative planning.

What is needed for the building good digital libraries in Poland is cross-sectoral cooperation involving officials, librarians, archivists, museum specialists, IT engineers and publishers. Library communities have been lobbying for this for years, but all to no avail.

However, since Poland's accession to the European Union provisions on the necessity of building digital resources have been added to government strategic documents: *Narodowa Strategia Spójności* [National Cohesion Strategy 2007-2013] *Narodowa Strategia Kultury* [National Strategy for Culture 2007-2013] (1) (2) and subsequent

operational programs of the ministries: for instance in the *Krajowy Program Ramowy* [Domestic Framework Program], with reference to the *Lisbon Agenda* or the most recent *i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment* (3). Most importantly, these provisions are beginning to take effect. Towards the end of 2006 the Ministry of Science and Higher Education came up with a competition for a commissioned research project No. *PBZ-MNiSW-6/3/2006, Elektroniczne archiwum zabytków piśmiennictwa polskiego* [Electronic Archive of Polish Literature Heritage Items], (4) inviting interested parties to submit applications. It needs to be stressed that the project emerged suddenly, and was not reviewed by the library community. All of these elements indicate that the competition was prepared from outside the mainstream of activities by a body unconnected with the community developing digital libraries, just as if the Ministry of Science and Higher Education had no information about the fact that centers of learning and research were already running over 10 digital libraries and providing access to the digitalized heritage items in the Internet using public funding. It is also unclear as to why the Minister of Science insists on the digitalization of books and manuscripts dated before the 16<sup>th</sup> century? Does this mean that it is now incumbent upon the administration to define the priorities of digitalization? Incunabula and manuscripts created before that time, often on parchment, will survive longer than 19<sup>th</sup> century book and scholarly journals printed on acid paper – and this is the chief concern of librarians, museum keepers and archivists. We cannot lose what is already subject to visible degradation.

## Digitalization initiatives 2006

### The Digitalization Team at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

Since 2005 the activity of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has greatly intensified. Through its Department of National Heritage, the Ministry will stimulate the creation of digital resources in Poland. On April 24, 2006 the Minister of Culture and National Heritage set up a Digitalization Team to act as its auxiliary body. The responsibilities of the Team are the:

1) development of a uniform digitalization strategy with regard to Poland's cultural heritage and scientific output, irrespective of legal status or place of storage,

2) development of uniform requirements for libraries, archives and museums for the digitalization process, access and digital materials storage

3) integration of activities launched by individual libraries, museums and archives in the area of cultural heritage digitalization.

The team has already started to work along these lines, while consulting with librarians, archivists, museum specialists and IT engineers. There is a chance that once the digitalization strategy is ready, it will be possible to talk, about cohesion with EU policy, and it will be easier to raise the necessary funds. Additionally, the meaning of digitalization in this document will be broader – it will be understood as the building of digital resources, also repositories and the archiving of Internet resources from the PL domain.

## Polish Digital Libraries Consortium

The second initiative that appeared in 2005 was connected with the building digital libraries in the academic community. Librarians from large research libraries who started to work on the creation of digital resources out of their own funds or EU funds made steps towards the consolidation of such activities. Fifteen of the largest research centers in the country, in conjunction with two public libraries, decided to cooperate within a loosely organized consortium structure.

The main objective of the consortium is to provide all interested parties with free access to the digital resources concerned with learning, education and culture by developing a network of digital libraries. The consortium, acting under the binding copyright, press and publishing laws, wishes to pursue the following strategic goals:

- coordinating domestic endeavors focused on the creation, acquisition, processing, access and archiving of digital resources;
- recommending international standards and best practices in the area of the creation, acquisition, processing, access and archiving of digital resources;
- securing digital resources against loss of data.

To pursue these goals the following priorities were adopted:

a) developing and submitting recommendations and standards indispensable for the creation of digital resources;

b) applying to the appropriate domestic and European institutions for funds to create digital resources; participating in national and foreign projects;

c) promoting digital libraries at home and abroad.

The consortium is an open organization and wishes to cooperate with the Digitalization Team, particularly in the working groups. It plans to divide the work so as to avoid the duplication of effort. One of the major objectives shall be the raising of external funds for libraries for their cooperative projects, as well as continued international cooperation.

## Polish digital libraries – their genesis

Digitalization and building of world digital resources began in 1990s, mainly in rich countries, determined to improve the quality of access to historical materials in writing. The first digital collections could be viewed already in 1995 (American Memory), but an entire decade was needed to implement similar solutions in Poland. The 2004-2006 period was an important time in the development of digitalization in the country. The reasons for this state of affairs were multifarious, while it needs to be stressed that librarians have:

1) acquired know-how over these years in the area of digital collection building;

2) received a reliable and inexpensive IT tool to build resources (dLibra), supported Poznań-based IT engineers;

3) looked for additional funding both from the EU and national funds;

4) seen at least a minimum level of understanding demonstrated by the ministries;

5) understood that digitalization is the future;

6) received models in the form of Great Poland and Kujawy-Pomerania Digital Library and part of the pragmatics involved which makes decision-making easier;

7) sensed the social change (electronic reading statistics);

8) discussed among themselves the possible opportunities and threats.

Owing to the above circumstances in 2002-2006 thirteen digital libraries were established,

not counting the Polish Internet Library, which was officially launched in 2001, but so far has not achieved the functionality of the more recent ones.

### Regional digital libraries (5)

1. Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Great Poland Digital Library]

Since October 2002

WWW: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/>

2. Dolnośląska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Lower Silesia Digital Library](formerly: Biblioteka Cyfrowa Politechniki Wrocławskiej – Digital Library of the Wrocław University of Technology)

Since November 2004

WWW: <http://www.dbc.wroc.pl/>

3. Kujawsko-Pomorska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Kujawy-Pomerania Digital Library]

Since September 2005

WWW: <http://kpbc.umk.pl/>

4. Zielonogórska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Zielona Góra Digital Library]

Since October 2005

WWW: <http://zbc.uz.zgora.pl/>

5. Małopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Little Poland Digital Library]

Since January 2006

WWW: <http://mbc.malopolska.pl/>

6. Śląska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Silesian Digital Library]

Since August 2006

WWW: <http://www.digitalsilesia.eu/> and <http://www.sbc.org.pl/>

7. Podlaska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Podlasie Digital Library]

to be launched soon.

WWW: <http://pbc.biaman.pl/>

8. Jeleniogórska Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Jelenia Góra Digital Library]

Since September 2006

WWW: <http://jbc.jelenia-gora.pl/>

### Institutional digital libraries

1. Biblioteka Cyfrowa Politechniki Łódzkiej [Digital Library of Łódź University of Technology]

Since December 2005

WWW: <http://ebipol.p.lodz.pl/>

2. Biblioteka Cyfrowa Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego [Digital Library of the University of Wrocław]

Since December 2005

WWW: <http://www.bibliotekacyfrowa.pl/>

### 3. Pedagogiczna Biblioteka Cyfrowa [Pedagogical Digital Library]

Since May 2006

WWW: <http://www.ap.krakow.pl/dlibra/>

### 4. Biblioteka Cyfrowa Politechniki Warszawskiej [Digital Library of the Warsaw University of Technology]

Since May 2006

WWW: <http://bcpw.bg.pw.edu.pl/>

### 5. Księgozbiór Wirtualny Federacji Bibliotek Kościelnych FIDES [Virtual Book Collection of the Federation of Church Libraries FIDES]

Since August 2006.

WWW: <http://digital.fides.org.pl/> (6)

The earlier attempts at establishing a professional digital library lacked an efficient digital platform, consistent metadata and formats, not to mention both valuable resources and a professional interface. Having said that, volunteers are creating such collections worldwide (Projekt Gutenberg, Wikipedia). It is not guaranteed, however, that they will survive. Librarians, archivists or museum specialists must and do consider projects and processes that are completely different and are concerned with the creation of the national writing resource. First of all, the essence of building national digital resources is to ensure long-term storage and security. The appropriate state institutions that may always count on public support provide such a guarantee. It is also vital that librarians communicate with each other as to the collection content and try to agree what they should scan. The regionalization of digital libraries is a very good development for Poland – there is no duplication of effort as every region works on different items.



Fig. 1. Map of Digital Libraries in Poland

© Marcin Werla, PCSS Poznań 2006.

## Technologies

Thanks to the Poznań-based digital platform *dLibra* Polska offers a good-quality electronic product, which supports the creation of digital libraries. The Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe (Poznań Supercomputer and Network Centre) has developed a metasearch engine that enables to search and view the collections as a whole. The company's plans for development indicate that IT engineers are interested in this topic and are observing world trends, which raises hopes that the migration of documents or emulations to more advanced software will be a seamless and professional operation. If we manage to convince the political and decision-making bodies in the country that it is worthwhile to technologically support such endeavors and solutions, there is a chance for a coordinated approach to more ambitious projects. (6)

Other products of commercial companies are also of good quality, but they are very expensive, and therefore they encounter implementation problems in individual libraries or even consortia of libraries. It is likely that technologies will become cheaper and that it will be possible to consider the building of knowledge repositories operating in a slightly different way than traditional digital libraries based on digitalization of content, and not on content that is already born digital. Repositories operate on the basis of the acquisition of deposits and the self-archiving principle, which helps to eliminate the problems with the copyright law. Depositing equals consent to store and provide online access to the material entrusted to the repository. Poland does not even have a single, real contemporary knowledge repository. Many of our scientists deposit their works in foreign, English-language sectoral repositories. Among librarians, however, there is a dominant view that domestic repositories need to be launched and that they should acquire and store all kinds of scientific material (reports, postprints, preprints, summaries, academic textbooks, lectures, courses) in the Polish language. This is the task that Polish librarianship needs to face.

## Digitalization in Poland – a study

In 2006 Małgorzata Kowalska produced the first extensive scientific study on digitalization in libraries. "The gathered data enable the discussion of the status of digitalization in Polish libraries and

show that until the end of 2005 38 libraries of various types were actively engaged in collection digitalization. The most numerous were the group of 21 research libraries. The next group was public libraries (10), and the last group on the list was central libraries (7). The territorial distribution of libraries engaged in collection digitalization is shown in Figures: 1, 2 and 3.

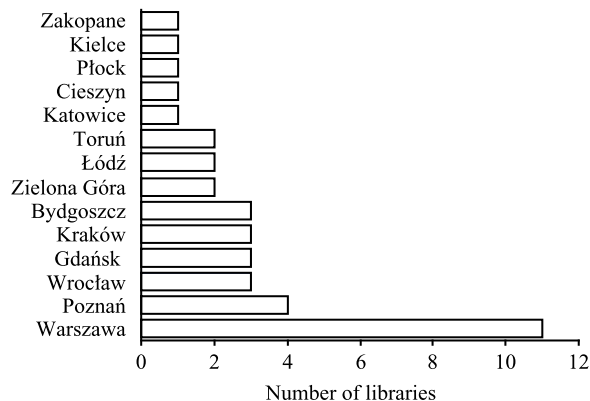


Fig. 1. Digitalizing Libraries by Cities

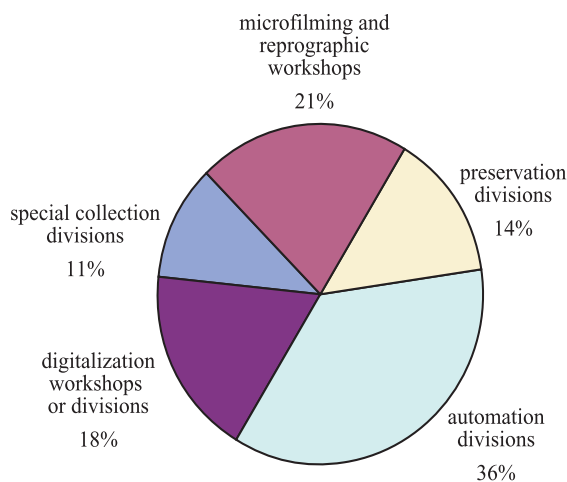


Fig. 2. Digitalizing Libraries by Regions

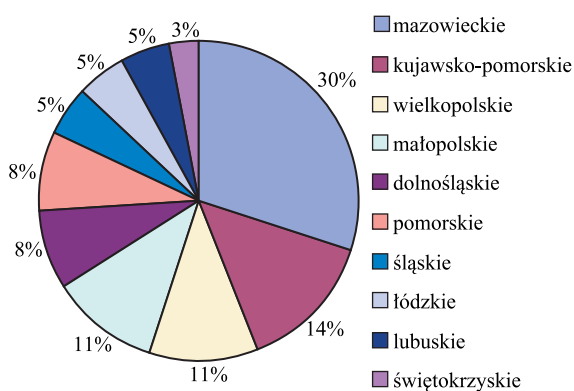


Fig. 3. Digitalization by Library Organizational Structures

It follows both from the data and the diagrams that compared to 2003 the number of digitalizing libraries grew by 13 (53%). Most of these libraries (11) were based in Warsaw, which resulted directly from the fact that all of the central libraries are located in this city. The next group on the list were libraries of the Kujawsko-Pomorskie voivodship, of which as many as 5 systematically digitalized their collections until the end of 2005. Another active digitalization area was also the Wielkopolskie and Małopolskie voivodships where 4 digitalizing libraries operated. “(7)

Obviously, not all libraries that have digitalization units, or have started to digitalize their resources, have created digital libraries. It does not happen automatically, because it depends on the implementation of an IT platform and on professional technological background, as well as a have high quality support team in place. Polish digital libraries need research on the use of digital resources, demand in this area, social reception, e-inclusion or e-exclusion, and the relationship with e-learning or education in general. Also legal and economic analyses are necessary in order to assess directions for development and changes in digitalization. The research aspect has been strongly emphasized in the digitalization strategy that is currently underway in order to be able to apply, as the next step, for the necessary funds.

### Practical examples

To provide a full picture of digitalization in Poland it seems worthwhile to present practical examples of digital libraries that have been launched and may serve either as an example or a warning to those who wish to start a digital collection. The chronological list given below includes the projects that seem most important and exhibit potential for growth as they originated in institutions capable of implementing long-term plans and one divergent example that, however, was the first large-scale Polish project.

There is every indication that in 2006 many large Polish libraries will be involved in some kind of a scanning project. Thus the amount of resources will grow, and if libraries receive any financial support, we may soon create a considerable national resource. The list below does not comprise all the existing digital libraries in Poland, it provides only examples of such libraries.

Polska Biblioteka Internetowa PBI [Polish Internet Library] <http://www.pbi.edu.pl/> – 2001

It is the first digital library created in Poland, commissioned by the government. The way it was developed, diverged, however, from the worldwide standards. Officials from the Ministry of Science and Information Technology designed the project with no prior consultations with librarians or archivists, and in spite of good intentions, its quality leaves much to be desired. A private company outside the library did the scanning, and it was not supervised in terms of metadata creation.

The first assumptions for this library were very general and it followed from them that the resource would cover all types of documents and all areas of knowledge represented by Polish science, and today there is rather talk about the literary resource and Polish cultural heritage. PBI contains at present over 20 thousand items. However, they are not uniform and coherently arranged, nor are they provided with correctly created bibliographic descriptions, thus they are very difficult to be identified. At present plans are underway to transfer the resource to different software and to complete the metadata. PBI has received substantial funding, so it has every chance of becoming a serious national digital library. Currently the Digitalization Team at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage recommends the transferring of the digitalized items for repeated processing and introducing them, mindful of world standards and best practices, to a different digital platform. The National Library announced its own project codenamed *Polona* and there is a chance that it will use the resources that have been scanned with the use of very substantial public funds for the needs of PBI.

Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa WBC [Great Poland Digital Library] <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl> – 2002

WBC was the first digital library in Poland made according to European standards. Described as a cooperative initiative of the Poznań-based academic community, it was developed by the Poznań Foundation for Research Libraries. The project participating bodies include research and public libraries of Poznań and the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and also other

regional institutions, such as archives or publishing houses. The main assumption was to provide access via the Internet to four types of resources: educational (academic textbooks, school textbooks and scientific monographs); cultural (selected literary heritage items held by Poznań-based libraries); regional (literature on Poznań and the Great Poland region); and musical (printed music and literature of music).

WBC is based on *dLibra* software – developed and updated by a Poznań-based company Poznańskie Centrum Superkomputerowo Sieciowe PCSS (Poznań Supercomputer & Network Centre). At the beginning of 2005 it contained over 6,500 digital items of different types ranging from maps, to journals to book and printed music. In October 2006 the number of items increased to over 22,000. The most comprehensive resource covers documents on Poznań and the Greater Poland region. Next to historical monographs it provides access to numerous archival documents (location acts, privileges, decrees), advertising leaflets of Poznań-based companies, exhibition catalogues, statutes of Poznań-based associations, electoral leaflets etc. The earliest material dates to the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The total number of online users from June 10, 2004 to October 10, 2006 was 2,971,752.

Dolnośląska Biblioteka Cyfrowa DBC [Lower Silesia Digital Library] <http://www.dbc.wroc.pl/> – 2004

The project was launched at the Main Library of the Wrocław University of Technology early in 2003 with the objective of providing online access to the university's library holdings. At first the digitalized didactic material was accessible only for the University of Technology's faculty and students, but thanks to agreements concluded with other libraries of the region today it may be used by all Internet users. The repository contains academic textbooks, handbooks and monographs, and pre-1949 library holdings. It contains publications of the Oficyna Wydawnicza Politechniki Wrocławskiej [University of Wrocław Publishing House]. During the building process all licensing and consortia agreements were observed, as well as all legal regulations, and the Law on Copyright and Related Rights. The total number of users from November 24, 2004 to October 10, 2006 reached 744,463.

Kujawsko-Pomorska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (KPBC) [The Kujawy-Pomerania Digital Library] <http://kpbk.umk.pl/> – 2005

KPBC is a project implemented by the University Library in Toruń as a coordinating body in conjunction with the Library of the Casimir the Great University in Bydgoszcz since 2003. It assumes also cooperation with other libraries operating under the Consortium of Research Libraries of the Kujawy and Pomerania Region. It is the first project in Poland that has been meticulously designed and is financed from the EU structural funds under the Regional Development Integrated Operational Program ZPORR. The goal of the project is to create a digital library supporting education, culture and tourism in the region. It will ensure fast access to knowledge resources and valuable literary heritage items. The KPBC resource breaks down into three big collections covering:

- regional holdings – digital versions of books and collections: iconographic, cartographic, musical and ephemera related to the Kujawy, Pomerania, and Dobrzyński Region; also Vilniana will be placed in this collection – as resources of vital importance for the tradition and history of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń;
- didactic material – digital copies of selected academic textbooks, monographs and scientific articles produced in the region;
- cultural heritage – copies of the most valuable and most frequently consulted items: incunabula, rare books, manuscripts, iconographic, cartographic items and émigré collections coming from the region's libraries.

The Kujawsko-Pomorska Digital Library will serve scholars, students, pupils and all citizens of the Kujawy and Pomerania region. The institutions of higher learning in this region are interested in providing access to its own contemporary publications as fast as possible. The legal status of the publications introduced into KPBC has been settled. Access to certain items may be restricted – as requested by authors or copyright owners – to specific IP addresses or may be protected by a password. The first items with restricted access have already been published. KPBC has been built with the use of the dLibrary software. In January 2005 KPBC contained 2, 222 digital items of various types: books, journals, maps,

leaflets, catalogues, fine prints and other items. In October 2006 ca. 1,200 items were browsed and read. The total number of „netizens” who accessed the service from May 22, 2005 to October 10, 2006 reached 1, 853, 576.

Zielonogórska Biblioteka Cyfrowa (ZBC) [Zielona Góra Digital Library] <http://zbc.uz.zgora.pl/> – 2005

ZBC enables broad online access to knowledge repositories, educational resources, digital copies of the most precious written heritage items, the collection of works of art and regional material. The major features of the library are universality and accessibility. It is a service designed for scholars, students, pupils and all those who are interested in knowledge, science, art and culture. The project envisages regionalization of the resource at present under construction at the Library of the Zielonogórski University, and in the future to be shared by scientific, cultural, educational establishments from the city of Zielona Góra and the region. ZBC divides the online holdings into four main collections:

- learning and didactics – covers academic textbooks, handbooks, monographic, serials and other local publications;
- diplomas, Ph. D. theses, habilitation theses;
- culture and art – covering the most valuable written heritage items (manuscripts, rare books, iconographic, cartographic and musical collections) and collections of works of art held by the University Library (drawings, fine prints, painting, posters, artistic photographs, bookplates);
- regional holdings – embracing material, documents and works on Zielona Góra and the Lubuski Region, also within its historical borders. It presents contemporary publications and archival collections (annals, statutes, privileges, iconography, cartography, gray literature), and also the works of local artists forming part of the collection of the University Library.

The selection and preparation of documents for access in ZBC is the responsibility of the University Library. Access to some material may be restricted – as requested by authors or copyright owners – or may be protected by a password. ZBC was developed on the basis of an agreement and in conjunction with the Poznańskie Centrum



Superkomputerowo-Sieciowe company and is based on *dLibra* software. In early 2005 the digital library provided 522 digital items of different types from academic research works to fine prints, postcards, leaflets, books or serials. In October 2006 their number grew to over 1,000, and the total number of users who logged in from October 25, 2005 to October 10, 2006 was 516,796.

Biblioteka Cyfrowa Uniwersytetu Wrocławskiego [University of Wrocław Digital Library] – 2006

This was an initiative of the University Library in Wrocław, which looked to preserve and promote its rich cultural heritage resources. It enables users to view written treasures, collections of works of art and regional material in a digital format. The University of Wrocław Digital Library also uses the *dLibra* software. It provides access to written heritage items, educational collections

### Notes

- (1) *Narodowa Strategia Spójności 2007-2013* [National Cohesion Strategy 2007-2013], [access date: October 10, 2006]. Ministerstwo Rozwoju Regionalnego, Warszawa 2006. Website at: [http://www.mrr.gov.pl/Aktualnosci/strona\\_glowna/nss\\_porm.htm](http://www.mrr.gov.pl/Aktualnosci/strona_glowna/nss_porm.htm).
- (2) *Narodowa Strategia Kultury 2007-2013* [National Strategy for Culture 2007-2013], MKiDN, Warszawa 2006. Website at: [www.mk.gov.pl/docs/Narodowa\\_Strategia\\_Rozwoju\\_Kultury.pdf](http://www.mk.gov.pl/docs/Narodowa_Strategia_Rozwoju_Kultury.pdf).
- (3) *i2010 – A European Information Society for growth and employment*, [access date: October 10, 2006]. Bruxelles 2006. Website at: [http://ec.europa.eu/information\\_society/europe/i2010/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/europe/i2010/index_en.htm).
- (4) *Krajowy Program Ramowy* [Domestic Framework Program] . access date: October 10, 2006]. Ministerstwo Nauki

and exhibitions presenting the most interesting collections chosen from the notable holdings of the University Library in Wrocław. In October 2006 the number of digital items viewed exceeded over 4,800, and the total number of visitors from December 21, 2005 to October 10, 2006 counted 631,373.

### Conclusion

If we combine the five digital libraries presented above, then we are faced with a rich resource counting 40,100 items, visited 6,717,960 times since June 2004, i.e. slightly over 3 million per year over two years. This figure indicates the immensity of social demand for electronic resources. Supported by better funding and dynamic promotion these figures could visibly increase, which would only have a positive impact on the dynamics and the state of research and education in Poland.

i Szkolnictwa Wyższego, Warszawa 2006. Website at: [www.mnii.gov.pl/mnii/\\_gAllery/12/53/12535.pdf](http://www.mnii.gov.pl/mnii/_gAllery/12/53/12535.pdf).

(5) *Wdrożenia oprogramowania dLibra* [dLibra software implementation], [access date: October 10, 2006]. Poznań PCSS 2006. Website at: [http://dlibra.psn.pl/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=27](http://dlibra.psn.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=12&Itemid=27).

(6) Mazurek, Cezary, Parkoła, Tomasz, Werla, Marcin, *Distributed Digital Libraries Platform in the PIONIER Network*, 10<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Research and Advanced Technology for Digital Libraries ECDL 2006, 17-22.09, 2006, Alicante, Spain. *Proceedings: LNCS 4172*, Berlin, Heidelberg 2006, p. 488-491.

(7) Kowalska, Małgorzata, *Digitalizacja zasobów bibliotek polskich* [Digitalization of Polish Libraries Holdings], a Ph. D. thesis at the Institute of Library Science and Bibliology of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń under the supervision of Asst. Prof. Ewa Głowacka. Toruń 2006. (Published in 2007)

# Digital Libraries

Joanna Potęga, Katarzyna Ślaska  
Polona Digital National Library

*Abstract* The Authors give a short preview of the Polona Digital National Library. The history of the project has been presented with the background information of similar projects in both other cities and regions of Poland and abroad. The characteristics of Polona covers used software and hardware, material selection to be included in the project and the stage of progression in the project's accomplishment.

The Polona Digital National Library ([www.polona.pl](http://www.polona.pl)) was launched in October 2006. Like most digital libraries it has two main goals:

- the presentation of collections (books, periodicals, manuscripts, graphic documents, maps, etc.) in electronic form and the providing access to them via the Internet
- the protection of collections' original copies, regardless of its physical form, by the creation of high quality digital copies, and their long term, preservation.

## The European context of Polona DNL activities

Preparations for the activation of Polona DNL have been carried on simultaneously to the publication of important European documents concerning digitization. Based on the *i2010: European Information Society in 2010*, an initiative, passed on June 1, 2005, the European Commission published the *i2010: digital libraries* document (1), which concludes that: "Information technologies have the potential to make Europe's cultural and scientific heritage visible and available for present and future use. This requires a common effort at the level of the Member States – whose efforts on digitization and digital preservation are at present very much fragmented – and at Community level. A successful response to the challenges involved can speed up digitization, increase the accessibility of information, and ensure the long-term preservation of digital content."

To create the European Digital Library (EDL) has become the European Commission's leading initiative as part of the "i2010: digital libraries" program. In March 2006 the European Commission announced its plans for the creation of a European Digital Library (2) that to the end of 2006 encompassed the national libraries of European states. In 2008 it is to contain at least two million digital documents from European libraries, archives and museums. Until the end of 2010 it is projected to contain no less than six million digitized items.

In order to aid the European Commission's initiative and create organizational and legal conditions for Poland's inclusion in the European Digital Library, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Kazimierz Michał Ujazdowski, on April 24, 2006 called into being a special team to deal with the processes of digitization. (3) The team's goals are the development of a uniform strategy for the digitization of Polish cultural and scientific output, the setting of criteria for processes concerning digitization, the access and storage of digital materials universal to all libraries, archives and museums as well as the integration of all digitization activities concerning the country's cultural heritage. The twelve-person team is made up of the representatives of libraries, museums and archives, and officials from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

The next important document concerning digitization activities in Europe is the European Commission's Recommendation from August 24, 2006 on digitization and Internet access to cultural output

as well as digital material security. (4) It is the next step in the implementation of the strategy contained in the *i2010: digital libraries initiative*. The recommendation discusses the goals of European digitization activities in greater detail: “The online presence of material from different cultures and in different languages will make it easier for citizens to appreciate their own cultural heritage as well as the heritage of other European countries. The recommended measures will contribute to presenting Europe’s rich and diverse heritage on the Internet and to protecting cultural assets from irretrievable loss. Beyond its fundamental cultural value, cultural material is an important resource for new benefit services. The measures recommended will contribute to enhancing growth in related high value-added sectors such as tourism, education and media. High-quality digital content is a key driver for large-scale industrial activities (hence the interest on the part of major search engines). Digitization and digital preservation are knowledge-intensive activities that are likely to grow considerably in the coming years.” Worth noting here is that, beyond the cultural values of digitization, the European Commission also points to the economic aspects and values of the process.

In November 2006 the European Council published a document entitled *Council Conclusions on the digitization and online accessibility of cultural material, and digital preservation* (5) in which we read:

“[The Council of the European Union] [...] invites the Members States

- To address the issues related to digitization and the online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation [...]

- As first steps [...] taking into account the different starting points in the Member States, to
- reinforce national strategies and targets for digitization and digital preservation;
  - contribute to the European digital library, a multilingual common access point to Europe’s distributed cultural heritage.”

The documents published by European Union institutions not only look to encourage member states to actively take part in digitization processes, but more importantly to pave the way for digital libraries to co-create an all-European digital cultural heritage through the participation in programs such as the European Digital Library, Minerva or Michael.

## Polona DNL’s origins

The program of the planned digitization of the National Library’s collections was launched in 2003 and looked to provide improved security for the Library’s material as well as to popularize works of great historical, cultural and artistic value, focusing in particular on the National Library’s extremely rare and valuable collections, being preserved with special care. Given the size and diversity of the Library’s collections, it was imperative to establish basic criteria for assigning documents for digitization and their digitization priorities. The first collections that underwent this process were the Library’s special collections, 19th and 20th century monographic and periodical collections, as well as documents of social life. Digital copies are usually made from the originals, although microfilms are also used if they are of a high enough quality. It has been established that every item coming from the Library’s collections for digitization should have a bibliographical and holdings description in the National Library’s INNOPAC computer catalogue (in the case of special collections, a description should exist in the independent and internal MAK databases, which will be converted to the INNOPAC catalog at a later date).

When the digitization program was activated in the National Library it was determined that:

- the scanning of collections should be done using library-owned equipment,
- the establishing of conversion and storage standards for digital collections is required,
- the process of digitization should be automated to a large extent.

As a result the Library developed basic technical and technological requirements for the entire process. Original items were to be scanned once, whereas all copies were to be high resolution without any change or manipulation during the scanning process with the exception of possible minor corrections that would improve legibility. For storage and filing purposes it was decided that all archival master copies should be stored in tiff format at a resolution of 300 to 600 dpi. At first they were stored on CD-R and DVD-R discs. Since November 2004 the files have also been stored on a disc array of a dedicated server located in the server room of the National Library’s Division of Data Processing. For collection Internet

presentation or reprographic purposes compressed jpg format copies are used. Thanks to this solution, the Polona digital library does not require from its users any additional special software, because jpg format files are recognizable by all computer systems.

After an initial technological analysis, scanning equipment tests and conducting trials on several items of varying condition the Library commenced formal activities aimed at setting up a Digitization Section in the Department of Reproduction and Digitization of Library Collections of the National Library. Ensuring the proper conditions for documents undergoing digitization was a priority when it came to planning the new unit. The newly-formed section was fitted out with equipment maintaining a secure environment for documents being digitized while allowing for the creation of high quality digital copies (6). All the Digitization Section facilities and workstations have been properly prepared. They are protected from the influence of external factors and are equipped with devices that ensure stable and adequate climate conditions. Furthermore all historic item scanning is conducted under the supervision of a conservator (7).

Thanks to its close cooperation with its subordinate Division of Data Processing, the process of collection digitization commenced at the National Library has been reinforced with the computer automation tool for the digitization – the Digitized Collection System. DCS's task is the assistance during a document's entire digitization process, from the selection to a digital master copy storage and filing. It also aids in digital collection presentation or creating reproductions upon request. The system has considerably increased the Digitization Section's capabilities, which has up to the end of 2006 captured images of approximately 5 thousand library objects.

The digitization activities conducted over the past three years, i.e., the adoption of established digitization standards, procedure tests and analyzed implementations, have become a solid base for the operations of the Polona Digital National Library – a library that looks to grant open and free access to its digital collections and related information. The next stage of development was choosing the proper tools for digital collection presentation, ones that would not limit either universal access or the functionality of the digital library.

It was decided that the existing National Library Digitized Collection System (DCS), used for digital item presentation, should be combined with the dLibra platform, created by the Poznań Supercomputer-Net Center for the purposes of better digital library management.

Polona DNL is supported by the National Library's framework and utilizes its potential relating to basic library tasks: acquiring and processing collections, as well as collection protection (conservation and digitization). Many National Library units have played their part when comes to the creation of Polona. The Polona Digital National Library Department is in charge of integrating all related processes and activities, while also serving as the main content-related and organizational supervisor.

Before having launched the Polona DNL, several necessary tasks were accomplished, such as implementing the dLibra software and developing an interface. The creation of a basic document description scheme in the Polona DNL was also essential. The Dublin Core scheme was chosen along with its source code that had been used in the creation of the digital collection. The next important conclusion established that a document description in the DNL should serve only as a means of identification and should therefore be short and concise and aid in finding the given item in a quick fashion. The National Library's INNOPAC computer catalogue serves as the main source for an item's bibliographical information (access to bibliographical data is possible thanks to a system of links between the INNOPAC database and the Polona DNL description). Having established the operational elements, the Library developed an interpretation of the Dublin Core scheme and prepared a set of MARC 21 format fields converted into item descriptions in the DNL. It was also decided that all documents with a digital version available in the Polona DNL will be properly linked to it in the National Library's INNOPAC computer catalogue. This solution allows National Library readers an alternative method of accessing digital material.

## Polona DNL characteristics

When establishing basic remits of the Polona Digital National Library, its creators paid close attention to user needs and the unique character of

the National Library's collections. However, it is impossible to make all of the National Library's seven million volumes accessible on the Internet considering that this would infringe on the copyrights of most of the items. This is why the Polona DNL mostly contains documents that constitute Poland's cultural, literary, historical and artistic heritage, showing the beauty and variety of the Polish language. Priority for publication in the digital library is granted to collections that are usually inaccessible to the readers, such as precious manuscripts, early printed books, the first editions of the greatest works of Polish literature, or conspiratorial documents from World War II. The creators of the DNL wanted readers in Poland and around the world to have access to books, periodicals and other types of documents that make up a large part of Polish culture and which, because of their extreme value, rarity and sometimes poor condition, would not otherwise have been made available to the public. In other words, the Polona DNL opens the National Library's treasure vaults to the reader.

Polona DNL is divided into thematic collections that present the works of the greatest Polish writers: Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki, Cyprian Kamil Norwid, and Jan Kochanowski. There are also first editions of Polish literature, treasures from the National Library, underground publications from World War II, and literature for children and adolescents. Each collection is not only a set of electronic publications on a given topic, but the description of a given collection and its most interesting items is an integral part. The content of individual collections is constantly increasing. The enhancement is supervised by a group of curators whose task it is to choose items for digitization and to create descriptions of the collections. The number of collections in the Polona DNL is also gradually increasing. Collections devoted to Stanisław Wyspiański, Mikołaj Rej and St. Jadwiga are planned to be created in the near future.

Polona DNL made a very important decision concerning digital documents. They are to resemble the original to the highest degree possible and navigation through the document should be intuitive and imitate browsing a book in its traditional form. That is why Polona mostly presents documents scanned from originals and not their microfilm copies, which do not reflect the color and

quality of the paper, print and binding, not to mention the texts' illustrations or the beautiful illuminations found in medieval codices. While browsing a book the reader can do so page by page, flipping pages from right to left, with zooming in and zooming out tools. It is possible to go to the book's contents or index of illustrations (and immediately find the given illustration within the document) as well as to examine a miniature overview of individual pages. Polona DNL not only maintains the pagination found in the originals, be it in Roman or Arabic numerals, which is very rare in digital libraries, but it also attempts to reconstruct the collation of folded sheets of early printed books lacking pagination and provides tools needed to restore a very complicated manuscript foliation.

### Polona DNL available in the European Library

In January 2007 the National Library became a partner of the European Library (TEL), which via the Internet and its web service <http://www.theeuropeanlibrary.org> grants access to the collections of 45 European national libraries. It allows for an integrated search through library indexes and provides access to the digital versions of books, periodicals, graphic and audiovisual collections. The European Library's digital database, although currently fragmentary, is constantly expanding. In the coming years TEL participants will concentrate on enriching the library's digital collections with publications documenting the cultures of different member states.

The European Library was created in the years 2001-2004 under the auspices of the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL) as a result of the cooperation of nine national libraries (Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) and the financing of the 5<sup>th</sup> Framework Program. The TEL program, with the addition of the national libraries of Austria, Croatia and Serbia, was concluded in 2005. Simultaneously, work on a new project commenced. TEL-ME-MOR (The European Library: Modular Extensions for Mediating Online Resources) was tasked with annexing the national library collections of 10 new member states of the European Union, including Poland.

Access to the TEL web service is:

- multilingual – browsing is possible in national languages
- integrated – a search engine allows users to browse the indexes of a given number of libraries
- multilevel – it is possible to browse indexes, digital collections and any combinations defined by the user. It is also possible to conduct a search in a single chosen collection
- universal – access to the European Library's catalogs has no restrictions, but access to certain digital items requires payment.

Participation in the European Library program is extremely important in the case of Polish library collections, which, as a result of the country's torrid past, are to be found in many European cultural institutions. The European Library, by providing access to the digitized reproductions of many different institutions, makes it possible to at least virtually piece together Poland's historical collections.

The opening October 2006 of the Polona Digital National Library is only the first step in creating

a fully functional virtual national library. Lots of work is still ahead of the Polona DNL, nevertheless satisfying is the fact that the National Library has undertaken this endeavor and has found its place in the global digital network.

The digitization process has allowed smaller institutions throughout their world to centralize their efforts and create nationwide or even worldwide virtual libraries. The United States Library of Congress together with Google Incorporated is preparing to launch a Global Digital Library. Europe has seen the creation of the European Library (TEL) and will soon see the completion of another project: the European Digital Library (EDL). The question is whether these tendencies will prevail in Poland? The existing network of digital libraries – founded by regional consortiums, academic and public libraries – stresses the strong regional character of digitized material. Now the National Library has joined the world of virtual libraries, bringing with it collections that present the history of Polish culture and literature, which will help with presenting the wealth of Poland's cultural and scientific heritage to the world.

## Notes

- (1) *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions i2010: digital libraries* COM(2005) 465 final [on-line]. Brussels: European Commission, September 30, 2005 [accessed on January, 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007]. Available on the World Wide Web at URL: [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/doc/communication/en\\_comm\\_digital\\_libraries.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/communication/en_comm_digital_libraries.pdf).
- (2) *European Commission steps up efforts to put Europe's memory on the Web via a European Digital Library* [on-line]. [accessed on November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006]. Available on the World Wide Web at URL: <http://europa.eu.int/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/06/253&type=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>.
- (3) The Minister of Culture and National Heritage has called into being a Digitization Team [on-line] [accessed on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2006]. Available on the World Wide Web at URL: <http://www.ebib.info/views.php?288>.
- (4) *Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social*

*Committee and the Committee of the Regions on the digitization and online accessibility of cultural material and digital preservation.* (2006) 3808 final [on-line]. Brussels: European Commission, 24.08.2006. [Accessed on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007]. Available on the World Wide Web at URL: [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/doc/recommendation/comm\\_recomm/en.pdf](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/doc/recommendation/comm_recomm/en.pdf).

(5) *Council Conclusions on the Digitisation and Online Accessibility of Cultural Material, and Digital Preservation* (2006/C 297/01). "The Official Journal of the European Union", T. 49 (December 7, 2007) [Accessed on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007]. Available on the World Wide Web at URL: [http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c\\_297/c\\_29720061207en00010005.pdf](http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/site/en/oj/2006/c_297/c_29720061207en00010005.pdf).

(6) Zeuschel OS 10 000 and DigiBook 6002 RGB scanners for color digitization and two Canon MS 800 scanners for microfilm scanning.

(7) Czajka, Stanisław, *Digitalizacja – aspekty kulturowe, miejsce i rola Biblioteki Narodowej* [Digitalization – cultural aspects, the place and the role of the National Library]. In: *Digitalizacja zbiorów bibliotecznych* [Digitalization of library collections], Warszawa 2006.

# Preserving Library Collection

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## Preservation of Collections in Polish Libraries and Archives

*Abstract* The authors provide an overview of the collection preservation issues in Poland, beginning from 1887 up to the present day, concentrating chiefly on the post-war years, and referring to libraries and archives. The article describes the preservation and research centers throughout Poland and the way preservation issues are dealt with in our country, i.e., preservation microfilming, preservation digitalization, mass deacidification and reinforcement of endangered artifacts stored in libraries regardless of their type and financing body, and in archives.

### Collection Preservation and its Scope

Preservation has become one of the fundamental tasks of a today's library, understood as „a set of diverse and complex activities aimed at ensuring the collection's safety and good condition”.

The concept of „collection preservation” encompasses:

- 1) any activity preventing damage to the collections, i. e. the protection of the original copies against the existing threats;
- 2) any activity eliminating damage to the collections, i. e. the restoration and conservation operations performed in order to save the damaged collections;
- 3) any activity protecting the content (i.e. transferring of the collections' content to other media);
- 4) planning the above activities in line with priorities.

These four, seemingly obvious elements, contain a wealth of solutions and methods developed over the past century. Conservators, archivists or librarians developed these methods – many of them were invented through research, which enabled the formulation of recommendations and requirements to slow down or stop the ongoing ageing processes.

### The Beginnings of Collection Preservation in Poland

Collection preservation in Poland has developed gradually since the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from regular bookbinding activity, libraries began to engage

in the first, still intuitive conservation operations. Library publications began to publish guidelines on how to avoid damage to collections. In turn, research on permanent paper was launched in our country in 1887. (1)

### Accomplishments of the Interwar Period

Further developments at that time were mainly linked with Bonawentura Lenart, who ran the Experimental Division of Printing and Bookbinding at the Stefan Batory University in Vilnius in the academic year 1926/1927. In the 1930s Lenart created a Book Conservation Laboratory at the National Library in Warsaw and lectured on conservation to students of the Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts. His legacy includes also a number of books on the conservation of the historical book, professional binding and the need to use permanent paper. (2) Indeed his work led to the passing of the Bill, *Ustawa o bezpłatnem dostarczaniu druków dla celów bibliotecznych i urzędowej rejestracji* [Law on the Free Delivery of Printed Matter for Library Purposes and for Official Registration] passed on March 18, 1932, which – in the Article No 1 – asserted that “printed material, intended for library purposes, should be made on permanent paper”.

The interwar period saw also the first use of photography for the copying of archival works. Jan Rutkowski, a professor at the University of Poznań, initiated this method of collection preservation. In 1935 photographs were taken of

the documents pertaining to royal property, held at the Central Archive of Historical Records in Warsaw (approx. 20 codices). Professor Rutkowski proposed also the setting up of microfilming units in libraries and archives in Poland's main research centers.

## Collection Preservation in Poland in 1945-1995

### Conservation Studies at a University Level

The enormous scale of war damage in library and archive holdings made the staff of these institutions fully aware of the immense challenges they faced when it came to preservation and conservation, and also the high demand for professionals in order to be able to efficiently cope with the task. In the post-war period two third-level institutions were established to teach conservation. The first was the Chair of the Study and Restoration of Historic Relics, active since 1846 at the Nicolaus Copernicus University of Toruń (3), and the second one was the Laboratory of Book and Graphic Art Conservation, established in 1947 as part of the College of Conservation of Works of Art of Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts (4). At the time, the decision to organize such studies placed Poland among the leading countries of Europe.

### Leading Scientific Research Institutions

The extent to which the Warsaw archival material was damaged meant that in 1948 the Central Archive of Historical Records turned to the Main Institute of Industrial Chemistry (GICHP) to develop methods for the conservation of archival documents. Soon the GICHP opened the Microbiological Laboratory, headed by Professor Romuald Kowalik, whose major task was to identify the microorganisms destroying the archival material, select effective exterminants, and develop methods for their use in conservation laboratories and archival stacks. In 1949 the Central Archive of Historical Records (AGAD) established a Chemical and Biological Laboratory that was to cooperate with the GICHP microbiologists and to start as swiftly as possible the actual preservation and restoration treatment of the archival collection. The laboratory was the first of its kind in Europe serving solely the needs of archives. (5)

In 1950 a vacuum-gas chamber was constructed at the GICHP for the disinfestations of files. Over the next number of years research was done on microbiological degradation of paper, leather, sizes, inks and wax. The AGAD workshop in turn investigated the physicochemical reasons for paper and leather degradation. As a result several dozen scientific works were written. They were most often published in such journals as *Archeion*, *Biuletyn Konserwatorski* [The Conservator's Bulletin], *Zeszyty Konserwatorskie* [The Conservator's Fascicles], *Blok-Notes Muzeum Mickiewicza* [The Mickiewicz Museum Notepad]. Some of these pioneering works became internationally recognized, were translated and have been cited ever since.

In response to the postulates voiced by archivists and librarians, in 1959 the Head Office of State Archives began to form a main scientific center and a network of conservation units, thus transforming the Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory at the AGAD into a Central Conservation Laboratory for Archival Material (CLKA). The CLKA also set out to train archivists and librarians. As a result, numerous recommendations, instruction manuals or handbooks were written at the CLKA, including one landmark publication by Maryna Husarska and Irena Sadurska *Konserwacja zbiorów archiwalnych i bibliotecznych* [The Conservation of Archival and Library Collections] (Warsaw, PWN, 1968).

In 1982 The CLKA terminated the cooperation with the GICHP. The CLKA activity focused on damage prevention measures in archival material storage, the restoration of documents belonging to the archives and the organization of training sessions, lectures and demonstrations. In 1988 the CLKA was eventually transformed into a conservation and bookbinding laboratory.

The second scientific research center was the Paper and Leather Conservation Division of the Chair of Study and Restoration of Historic Relics set up in 1969 at Toruń's Nicolaus Copernicus University. Starting in 1972, the Division was first headed by Professor Alicja Strzelczyk. Until today the Division is actively involved in research on the biodegradation of paper material and the disinfestations of historic relics.

In 1949 in an attempt to identify the needs and possibilities of archival and library conservation, the library community sent a questionnaire to



14 libraries and 6 archives. The findings showed that at that time there were only two conservation workshops: one at the Central Archive of Historical Records, and the other at the University Library in Wrocław.

In 1954 the National Library Book Conservation Laboratory was reactivated. Similar units, being opened first of all at large libraries and wealthy archives, followed this event. A leading activity area and the main subject of scientific research in that period was the conservation treatment of collections historical relics. The developed methods were immediately put into practice at the CLKA and its subordinate conservation laboratories. The damage prevention measures used in storage were developed with some delay and at a slower pace. Recommendations in this respect relating to collection storage conditions or to the usage of protective packaging were drawn up at the CLKA.

The efficiency of these activities was too small considering the needs, thus it was necessary to seek other solutions. Collection microfilming proved to be one such solution. After the war the Toruń Scientific Society conducted the first microfilming trials. In 1948 the actual microfilming of the archival material began and the copies of microfilms were sold as positives to the interested libraries. The founder of the project was Karol Górski, a professor from Toruń University.

In 1950 a Microfilming Station was opened at the National Library. Its task was to microfilm the Polonica collection. (6) Also here in the 1960s an operation to produce microfilm copies of complete runs of displaced Polish serials was launched - and it has continued until the present day. This original and unprecedented program, combining collection preservation with acquisitions, enabled the National Library to house in its holdings a complete resource of the most important Polish serials. Over the next years microfilming stations were also opened in other libraries and archives.

However, spreading knowledge on preservation and conservation issues among librarians proved far more difficult. Polish libraries had neither any tradition nor achievements in this field. The majority of the professional publications were meant for conservators. Training courses, conferences or other conservation experience-based activities were usually organized without the participation of librarians. Also in the library

studies curricula of colleges and universities this subject was practically absent. The situation changed in the 1980s when Professor Bronisław Zyska started to lecture on library collection preservation at the Silesian University in Katowice. A milestone event in making these issues popular among librarians was an all-Poland conference on the conservation of archival and library material, organized in 1983 by the Head Office of the State Archives. Also Jan Wieprzkowski, head of the National Library's Book Conservation Laboratory, made an attempt to introduce these issues to the library community. In 1983-1991 he published 3 guidebooks for librarians: *Vademecum konserwacji książki* [Vademecum of Book Conservation] published in 1983 by the Polish Librarians Association, *Konserwacja księgozbiorów. Informator dla bibliotekarzy* [Collection Conservation. A Guide for Librarians] published in 1991 as No 11/12 of the journal *Biblioteka w Szkole* [Library at School], and a collection of translations of leading foreign-language works, entitled *Ochrona zbiorów bibliotecznych* [Preservation of Library Collections] published in 1992 by the National Library in the *Zeszyty Przekładów* [Translation Series]). Moreover, in 1989 a Collection Preservation and Conservation Commission was established at the Polish Librarians Association's Main Board. One of its main goals was to disseminate knowledge on preservation issues.

### Initiatives of the 1990s

The 1990s saw a great deal of vigorous activity in the preservation and conservation sector. In 1991-1994 the three first volumes of *Ochrona zbiorów bibliotecznych przed zniszczeniem* [Library Collection Preservation against Destruction], by Professor Bronisław Zyska, were published. Also two other publications by the same author were issued, pertaining to the question of permanent paper.

In the newly built premises of the National Library a Library Collection Conservation Department was created combined with appropriate laboratory facilities. It created jobs for specialists in special collection conservation, microbiology and conservation chemistry. Whereas in 1992 a Division of Preservation and Conservation of Library Collections was set up at the National

Library. One of its first projects for the whole library community was a survey on the preservation, conservation activity and storage conditions in libraries based on a questionnaire sent in 1994 to 260 libraries. The 208 replies revealed that an overwhelming majority of libraries had voiced the need for intensified preservation operations. (7)

The next step was the all-Poland conference on "Collection Saving and Preservation" held in 1995. (8) The conference highlighted the most recent trends, with a particular view to collection biodegradation caused by the acceleration of paper acidity. Among other topics, an analysis was presented of the above-mentioned questionnaire, which gave an insight into the current condition of preservation in our country, and the potential of conservation and reprographic services.

The discussed period was also marked by enhanced cooperation and the exchange of experiences both on a national and international level. The annual Conservation Fair „Conservatio” that was launched in Toruń, and the Association for Preservation of Archival and Library Collections established in 1995, looked to serve this goal. (9) The newly formed Association's policy aimed to promote preservation and to encourage cooperation amongst librarians, archivists, scholars and the representatives of world of culture in the pursuance of preservation projects. The very first attempt to develop contacts with collection preservation organizations based abroad was the National Library's participation in the European Commission on Preservation and Access (ECPA), tasked with saving European cultural heritage on paper.

## Library Collection Preservation in the past decade (1995-2007)

Whereas 1995 was a breakthrough year, the past decade has seen an intensification of preservation activities in Poland. This is due to the fact that:

- the number of institutions and organizations dealing with conservation is now greater than ever before,
- conservators work on a professional basis and are well equipped,

- there is an awareness amongst archivists and librarians of the indispensability of preservation and the need to share experience in this area,
- the scope of preservation has been extended by new solutions, technologies and devices, and
  - this has entailed the need for the continued development of professional skills,
- inter-disciplinary and inter-institutional cooperation is needed to engage in large-scale projects.

### Main operational areas

The identification and the definition of factors accelerating the ageing process exerted a meaningful impact on preservation-oriented activities. Preventive conservation has come to the foreground, covering a broad spectrum of issues: the adequate housing of stacks, climate control in the stacks, collection facilities and cleanliness control, the reduction of lighting, atmospheric pollution control (chemical and microbiological), systematic collection surveys, and the use of protective packaging made of acid-free material.

The traditional conservation treatment (restoration) of individual library or archival artifacts no longer plays a leading role. Extremely time-consuming and cost-intensive by nature, it is recommended only for the saving of the most valuable historical collections.

The so-called preventive conservation has become increasingly popular in recent years, involving the protection of the item against further destruction and the reinforcement of its structure, with as little interference as possible.

At the same time with the increasing awareness of the systematic destruction of library and archival collections, due to acidic paper, a new conservation field emerged, called mass-scale conservation, looking to save a larger amount of damaged collections at one time. Mass conservation technologies nowadays include: disinfestations and desensitization, lyophilization, polyester film encapsulation, deacidification and paper structure reinforcement.

On the other hand, the development of the digital format provided a new technology for collection protection.

## Major Projects

### Poll-Based Research

In order to find out that preservation activities Polish libraries and archives are pursuing, the National Library and the Collection Preservation and Conservation Commission of the Polish Librarians Association's Main Board conducted systematic poll-based research. In total six poll surveys were conducted.

In 1998 the abovementioned Commission prepared two questionnaires and distributed it to 32 libraries. Both concerned equipment: the first in a conservation department, and the other in a reprographic department. (10)

A year later the Commission elaborated a questionnaire on the program of collection preservation (copying) and sent it out to 150 libraries. Out of 70 replying libraries, seven planned to launch the digitalization of their holdings. (11)

It needs to be added that the entire process of collection preservation in both an analog and a digital format has always been completed in accordance with ISO international standards, translated and edited by the Technical Committee No 261 on Micrography of the Polish Standardization Committee PKN, and established by this body. Around 50 standards of such a type have been published so far.

The next questionnaire – The National Reserve of Library Collections. Collection preservation and Conservation. The Status of Information about Collections – was prepared by the National Library in 2000 and covered 55 libraries whose holdings form part of the National Reserve of Library Collections (NZB). (12) The Ministry of Culture's regulation of 1998 (*The Journal of Laws* No 146 item 955 of December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1998) provides that these collections should be protected with an extra care, and the library holdings under the NZB should undergo conservation. Fifty library institutions replied. The obtained data speak of ca. 16,500,000 registered units of the National Reserve of Library Collections. (13)

In 2003, under a research project commissioned by the State Committee for Scientific Research named – Acidic Paper. The Mass-scale Saving of Endangered Polish Library and Archival Holdings – the National Library worked out a questionnaire on the development of an

inventory of threatened 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century library and archival collections. The questionnaire, containing 62 questions, was sent to 235 institutions – feedback 131. In-depth analysis of this survey was published in *Notes Konserwatorski*, No 9 (13), 2005.

That same year one more questionnaire was elaborated on the digitalization of library collections. It was sent to 55 libraries that are members of the National Reserve of Library Collections. The questionnaire contained 8 questions. The feedback came from 50 libraries. It follows from the gathered data that half of the libraries embarked on a digitalization project by setting up their own units or outsourcing the operations to specialist companies. A detailed discussion of this last poll was also published in *Notes Konserwatorski*, No 9 (13), 2005. (14)

The reading and analysis of the poll results made us aware of the broad spectrum of needs regarding the proper storage and preservation that will enable to save the collections for the future generations.

### Saving the Flood-Stricken Books

The flood that hit several hundred libraries and archives in the south-western part of Poland in July 1997 proved to be a real test and a great lesson for our country's archivists, librarians and conservators. Despite the lack of adequate training and equipment, we managed to organize ourselves and rescue the most precious collections. The emergency operation captured the attention of the entire library community, whereby it became a case of "all hands on deck". (15)

At first the Toruń-based conservators and librarians joined the emergency operation which set the entire library community and the National Library in motion. The National Library developed and issued on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1997 *Recommendations for Procedures to Rescue Flood-Stricken Library Holdings*. In conjunction with the Polish Librarians Association a team was also called to life to provide organizational and material assistance to flood-stricken libraries. To ensure better documentation of the activities and needs the team issued the newsletter entitled *Rescue Operation Signals from Flood-Stricken Libraries*. The most urgent issue though was to dry up the collections.

It was an extremely difficult operation in the flooded areas. Thus the decision was made to temporarily move part of the holdings to different locations. The institutions that rushed to join the drying operation were first of all the University Library and the Chair of the Restoration of Historic Relics at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the University Library in Poznań, the Library of the Gdansk University of Technology, and the Jagiellonian Library.

At the same time intensive work was embarked upon to dry up the holdings. Most of them were frozen, while the rest was dried up using traditional methods. The individual libraries used different solutions depending on resources and funds. The institutions equipped with vacuum chambers used them for disinfestations and collection drying. Such was the case in Toruń, where within a month 2,000 volumes were dried. At the Warsaw University Library one third of the books were dried using traditional methods, and the rest were frozen and underwent lyophilization. This modern method was applied thanks to the staff of the University of Warsaw's Environmental Laboratory of Heavy Ions, who built the first book-drying lyophilizer in Poland in order to serve this particular purpose. It stood the test perfectly well and was later used for drying rare books from Nysa that were at first frozen in Poznań. These operations were finally terminated in September 1997, and a month later a meeting was held at the National Library to assess the flood damage and to specify the directions for further action.

On January 6, 1998 an All-Poland Council for Rescuing Flood-Stricken Library Holdings was established. (16) The Council set forth the principles for the conservation of rescued holdings. After the funds were obtained from the Bureau for Flood Damage Recovery and Prevention at the Office of the Council of Ministers, over the next few years the holdings underwent recovery treatment. In total 16,570 volumes have been recovered and returned to normal library use. Additionally the *Uwagi i wnioski wynikające z katastrofy powodziowej w 1997 r* [Remarks and Conclusions in the Wake of the 1997 Flood Disaster] were published. (17)

The experiences of the flood raised in a spectacular way an awareness of the necessity to invest in collection preservation and rescue facilities. This led to many changes and unleashed

valuable initiatives. Already during the rescue operation the state archives acquired a large, rolling vacuum chamber and a lyophilizer. A vacuum chamber was also purchased for the Province Library in Opole. About fifteen libraries received several dozen dryers. Later, in 2002 a professional collection disinfestations system with a lyophilizer was installed at the National Library. Konvac, a vacuum chamber manufacturing company, was founded in Wrocław, which, in cooperation with the Wrocław University of Technology, has gradually improved its products. Today these chambers meet European standards and receive very positive evaluations from their users. Recommendations and procedures were developed, including the Instructions for Pre- and Post-Disaster Emergency Handling of Library Holdings. (18)

#### **The Scientific Research Project: “Acidic Paper. Mass-Scale Saving of Endangered Polish Library and Archival Holdings”**

On the initiative of the Association for the Preservation of Archival and Library Holdings a memorial was published *On the Need of the Rescuing of the Polish Cultural Heritage from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Library and Archival Holdings*, submitted to the Prime Minister of Poland in early 1998. The problems contained in the document captured the government's interest, and as a result an expert team was established at the Ministry of Culture and Art headed by Professor Krzysztof Zamorski, the then director of the Jagiellonian Library. The team produced detailed terms of reference for a long-term government program for the years 2000-2008 titled “Acidic Paper. The Mass Preservation of Endangered Polish Library and Archival Holdings”. The Polish government on November 17, 1999 approved the project. As a result of these decisions, in 2003 the State Committee for Scientific Research approved a three-year research project and appointed the National Library as a coordinating body. The project comprises the following four tasks:

A.1. The state of preservation assessment and the full definition of threats to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century collections in Polish libraries and archives (The National Library and The Head Office of State Archives)

A.2. The identification of microbiological and conservation-related aspects of the mass-preservation of acidified Polish 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century library and archival collections (The Nicolaus Copernicus University)

B.1. The analysis of the impact of technological factors on the permanence of alkaline paper to restrict the inflow of acid paper products to libraries and archives (Pulp and Paper Research Institute)

C.2. Analysis preceding the introduction in Poland of an optimal technology of collection deacidification (Nicolaus Copernicus University).

Current information on the completion of the „Acidic Paper” commissioned research project can be found at the National Library website, in a Polish-language version only (<http://www.bn.org.pl/inne/WPR/kwasny.html>).

### **Collection Digitalization as a Preservation Method**

Digitalization in Poland dates back to the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The first libraries that were active in this area would outsource digitalization to specialist companies (e. g. the Jagiellonian Library). In 1999 the Province Public Library – the Copernican Library in Toruń and the Main Library of the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, and in 2001 the University Library in Warsaw organized their own units and commenced digitalization operations on newly-purchased scanners.

### **Polish regional and national-level projects**

In 2001 the project named *Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa* [Digital Library of Great Poland] was launched with the objective of presenting the earliest heritage items of Polish writing, regional documents and didactic material on the web (<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/dlibra>). At the same time, the first subject-related project was implemented at the University of Gdańsk in the Institute of Polish Philology: the *Wirtualna Biblioteka Literatury Polskiej* [Virtual Library of Polish Literature] (<http://monika.univ.gda.pl/-literat/books>). The project is a part of the UNESCO project *Virtual Library of Classic Texts of World Literature*

[*Biblioteka Wirtualna Klasycznych Tekstów Literatury Świata*].

In July 2002 the Interdisciplinary Center for Mathematical and Computational Modeling in conjunction with the Warsaw University Library began the implementation of the project named *Biblioteka Wirtualna Nauki* [Virtual Library of Science] presenting Polish works in mathematics and physics on the web (<http://matwbn.icm.edu.pl>), and in the future it plans to extend its offer and add works covering other sciences, as well as didactic material.

On the other hand, on December 21, 2002, on the initiative of the State Committee for Scientific Research and under the Prime Minister’s protectorate. a project named *Polska Biblioteka Internetowa* (PBI) was launched, with the objective of covering all kinds of Polish literature to make them accessible online for people living in rural and small town areas (<http://www.pbi.edu.pl/index>).

The poll survey conducted by the National Library in late 2003 covering 55 libraries, forming the National Reserve of Library Collections, showed that 25 of these libraries – to a lesser or greater degree – had embarked on the digitalization of their collections, whereas 9 possessed their own digitalization units (i. e. they possess professional collection scanning equipment). These are: the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Silesian Library, public libraries, including the Province Public Library in Kielce, the Province Public Library – the Copernican Library in Toruń, the Province and Municipal Public Library in Łódź, and four university libraries: in Kraków (BJ), in Poznań (BUAM), in Wrocław (BUWr) and in Warsaw (BUW). Three months later the number increased to 10. On February 23, 2004 the National Library opened its scanning unit.

### **Preservation Departments**

Poland’s libraries and archives have 185 functioning units at present, dealing solely with collection preservation and conservation (56 conservation units, 67 binderies, 27 microfilming units, and 35 digitalizing units). These are both one-person units, and big divisions employing several dozen people. They possess diverse equipment and their scope

of responsibilities varies. Most of them focus on selected preservation directions, i. e. only bookbinding or collection copying. Only a few deal with the comprehensive range of collection preservation operations listed above.

For archives the leading institution is still the CLKA. It is officially responsible for all the remaining 13 conservation workshops operating in the structure of Warsaw-based and regional state archives. It is well equipped, but its functions are limited to conservation operations. (19)

Of all the libraries the best facilities are at the disposal of the National Library's Division of Preservation and Conservation of Library Collections. This Division is a leader in Polish librarianship, though formally speaking it has no power over the collection preservation units existing in other libraries. Yet, its research facilities at the Laboratory of the Collection Conservation Department, and its operations cover all aspects of collection preservation. Other preservation centers are situated mostly in large Polish libraries, and they range from conservation units to reprographic units or bookbinderies. Only five libraries in Poland have divisions dealing with a whole array of preservation issues.

### Scientific Research Centers

Bearing in mind the need to solve a variety of collection preservation problems, the cooperation of conservators with scientific research institutes is of paramount importance.

In the past ten years centers like the Toruń-based Chair of the Restoration of Historic Relics and the team at the Paper and Leather Division raised by Professor Alicja Strzelczyk, was joined by:

- Pulp and Paper Research Institute (ICP) in Łódź, which developed technologies for the production of permanent printing paper that meets the ISO 9706 standard. ICP undertook also studies on the permanence of hand-made paper and leaf casting during paper conservation. At ICP is based the only Paper Quality Laboratory in Poland. The ICP's experimental and manufacturing installation enables paper-mass composition, followed by paper formation, ranging from laboratory samples to a paper band.

- The Laboratory of the National Library's Collection Conservation Department, which completed a series of research projects indispensable for the conservation treatment undertaken at the National Library Collection Conservation Department and carried out research on the implementation of collection deacidification.
- The Environmental Laboratory of Physico-chemical Analyses and Structural Research at the Jagiellonian University, where since 1998 research has been done, supervised by Professor Andrzej Barański, on paper degradation.
- The Department of Chemistry at the University of Warsaw, where since 1999 research work has been in progress at the Laboratory of Basic Aspects of Analytical Chemistry, with the use of modern instrumental methods, on the impact of particular chemical compounds on the paper degradation process.

Most of the enumerated institutions organized seminars, symposia or conferences, where they could present their research results. These also published articles and research works in the Polish and foreign professional press.

### Professional publications

Next to several dozen scientific publications carried out by the above research institutions, other works also need to be mentioned, such as volume 4 of Professor Bronisław Zyska's *Protection of Library Collections against Destruction*. It discusses disaster prevention issues in collection preservation, and marks the completion of the most extensive and comprehensive handbook on preservation ever published in Poland.

In 1998 the National Library launched a new popular scientific series entitled *Notes Konserwatorski* [Conservator's Notebook]. (20) The goal of this initiative was to provide a common forum for librarians and conservators. Until now ten volumes of the Notes were issued. Featuring diverse subjects such as descriptions of conservation treatments next to theoretical considerations, analysis of research findings, descriptions of procedures, technologies and specialist equipment used, reviews, reports from domestic and international conferences. The value of the publication is additionally enhanced by its graphic design and transparent typographic layout.

Moreover, a fact worth stressing is that in the past decade also the proceedings of the numerous conferences, symposia, seminars or workshops had been systematically published. The Wydawnictwo SBP [The Publishing House of the Polish Librarians Association] most often published publications of this type. The most noteworthy include:

- *Ochrona i konserwacja zbiorów bibliotecznych* [Preservation and Conservation of Library Holdings]. Proceedings of the All-Poland Conference, Warsaw, October 15-17, 1998. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo SBP, 1998 (Nauka – Dydaktyka – Praktyka [Learning – Didactics – Practice] 32),
- *Działania profilaktyczne w bibliotece. Wskazówki metodyczne* [Damage Prevention Activities in a Library. Methodological Advice]. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo SBP, 1998. – (Propozycje i Materiały [Proposals and Materials] 21),
- *Ochrona Narodowego Zasobu Bibliotecznego* [Protection of the National Reserve of Library Collections]. Proceedings and Documents of the Training Course for Directors of Libraries Forming Part of the National Reserve of Library Collections. Kraków, April 2001. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo SBP, 2001,
- *Aktualne tendencje ochrony zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych* [Current Trends in Library and Archival Preservation]. Warsaw, June 13-14, 2002. Warsaw: Wydawnictwo SBP, 2002. – (Propozycje i Materiały [Proposals and Materials] 53).

### National Cooperation and Experience Sharing

The years 1995-2007 saw nationwide cooperation amongst institutions dealing with library and archival preservation. The platform for the exchange of ideas involved meetings: conferences, symposia, seminars, consultations, and workshops. The number of such events totaled 38, including 5 international events. Compared to the preceding period, when over a period of 50 years only about a dozen conferences had been held, this marked a significant quantitative leap.

### The Polish Librarians Association and Library Preservation Activities

Over the past ten years the members of the Polish Librarians Association has been deeply involved in collection preservation issues, publishing

an array of related works and organizing different meetings which served the exchange of ideas. One of the most important events was first of all the conference *The Preservation and Conservation of Library Holdings* that accompanied the 4<sup>th</sup> PLA Forum. Its participants developed and adopted *The Program for Preservation, Conservation and Restoration of Library Holdings* and *The Appeal for Permanent Paper on the Polish Publishing Market*. (21)

Since 1997 the Collection Preservation and Conservation Commission at the Main Board of Polish Librarians has visibly enhanced its activity – it has taken an active part in organizing assistance for flood-stricken libraries. What is more, it co-organized or organized conferences, workshops, seminars and consultations, and took care of publishing the proceedings. Its members were also involved in disseminating knowledge on library preservation in the columns of library journals: *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Library Review], *Bibliotekarz* [Librarian] and *Poradnik Bibliotekarza* [Librarian's Guide].

### International Cooperation

In 1996 Poland announced its accession to the Memory of the World Program aimed at preserving the collections constituting world cultural heritage, and providing access to them by producing their copies in a digital format. That same year a list was drawn up of the most precious collections and groups of documents held in our libraries and archives, made according to the UNESCO criteria. Here the Polish National Commission for UNESCO selected 25 of the most prestigious artifacts or groups of artifacts, of which the last four, namely, the works of Nicolaus Copernicus, Fryderyk Chopin, the Ghetto Archives, known as the Ringelblum's Archives, and the list of 21 Postulates of the „Solidarity” Trade Union in Gdańsk were included in the World Heritage List in 1999 and in 2003. (22)

### The EROMM Program

Cooperation of the National Library with the European Register of Microform Masters was started only after the Library moved to the new building and computerized its processing of microform bibliographic records. That happened in 1996,

and since then the National Library microfilm collection has been present in the international information systems. (23)

### **The International Training Center for the Civil and Cultural Property Protection in Kraków**

In 1996, under the Partnership for Peace program, an international conference on *The Protection of Cultural Property against the Threats of Times of War and Peace* was held in Kraków. During the debate the Polish delegation came forward with an initiative to set up a training center for civilians and the military responsible for cultural property protection in the event of imminent threats in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The idea gained approval and in 1997 a training center was established. In 2001 it was transformed into an international center. So far around 600 persons have been trained. (24)

### **The Blue Shield Program**

In March 2002 the Bureau for Defense Affairs of the Ministry of Culture in conjunction with the Monument Protection Service, the Polish ICOMOS and ICOM National Committees, the Associations of Polish Librarians, Polish Archivists and Conservators made a decision to implement the Blue Shield program created under the auspices of UNESCO to provide assistance and advice on enabling cultural property protection in the event of emergencies and armed conflict. The goals of the program shall be achieved through activities of a legal, organizational, documentary, and educational nature, and – as one of its fundamental principles – shall engage voluntary workers. Three regional consultation and information points were established, in Warsaw, Kraków and Toruń. During the next meeting in December 2002 a presentation took place of the websites created to promote the idea of the program and disseminate the experiences with regard to protection of historical collections (<http://www.mk.gov.pl/pobt> and <http://www.bn.org.pl>). (25)

### **Polish-German Cooperation**

Besides international programs, Poland has built up many professional contacts with conservation centers in various European countries. Most

prominent in this respect has been Polish-German cooperation.

It began with the 1997 project of the Robert Bosch Foundation entitled *The Improvement of Access Conditions and Preservation of Collections Related to the Polish-German Cultural Borderland Held by Polish Libraries. The Common European Heritage* involving the National Library (as a coordinating body), the Jagiellonian Library, the University Library in Wrocław, the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin, the University Library in Poznań, and the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. As a result, up till 2002, 40,784 early printed books were micro-filmed, as well as 40 titles of Silesian and Pomeranian serials, 780 titles of Jewish serials, and a collection of freemasonic printed books. (26)

Apart from this, in the years 1997-2004 a Polish-German seminar was held in Szczecin, and a seminar and a conference in Warsaw. Also four training trips were organized for the representatives of Polish archives and libraries, among others to the Zentrum der Bucherhaltung (2002), and the Preservation Academy in Leipzig (2004).

### **Concluding Remarks**

In our evaluation of the activities of Polish archival and library services with regard to collection preservation, we have shown that in the past 60 years a balance has been struck between theoretical and practical issues.

In turn, much has been done to popularize preservation issues, whereas there is an awareness of the both the scale of the problem, and of the level of cooperation needed to tackle the issue. The Program of Preservation, Conservation and Restoration adopted by a resolution of the 4<sup>th</sup> PLA Forum of 1998 enumerates postulates outlining the directions for the future. They pertain to such problems as: preservation of the national written heritage, saving of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century library and archival holdings, preventive measures, preservation by means of copying to other media, and the use of permanent paper. One idea envisaged the establishment of a central institution to coordinate and oversee these projects. Another proposal suggested the founding of regional, professional conservation centers that would specialize in saving library and archival holdings. Some of these ideas have already been



put into effect, and it is hoped that more initiatives will be implemented in the future.

It needs to be emphasized that the cooperation of archives and libraries has deepened and gained momentum since the founding of the

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- (20) Stachowska-Musiał, Ewa: *Pierwszy tom Notesu Konserwatorskiego: Ratowanie i ochrona zbiorów* [The First Volume of the Conservator's Notebook: Collection Saving and Preservation]. *Biuletyn Informacyjny Biblioteki Narodowej* 1998 No 3, p. 48-51.
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## Preserving Library Collection

### *Władysław Sobucki* The Long-Term Government Program “Acidic Paper”

*Abstract* The article is devoted to a detailed description of the Long-Term Government Program “Acidic Paper” (WPR). An historical background is provided together with a presentation of the participants, some statistical data on threats, plus stipulated remedies. The author gives an overview of deacidification centers already operative in Poland, and those planned to be open in the near future.

In 1995, on the initiative of the National Library was formed the Association for the Protection of Archive and Library Holdings, whose goal was to initiate and support campaigns that would raise society’s awareness of the threats posed by the inevitable degradation of library and archive holdings. The Association was also created with a view to instigating work on a national program for the protection of Poland’s national cultural heritage.(1) As a result, a mass scale rescue of endangered Polish library and archive holdings program (WPR Kwaśny Papier) was launched in 2000 – set to continue up to 2008 -, financed by the central budget and implemented by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, with National Library being appointed as the co-coordinator of the program. (2)

This now ongoing program concerns archive and library holdings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries printed on different types of low-quality paper, commonly known as “acid paper”, which are subject to a quickened degradation process. The program covers a range of actions whose ultimate goal is to preserve national documentary heritage recorded on impermanent paper. The implementation of the project was entrusted to skilled conservators. The project primarily looks to:

- identify chemical and biological factors that pose a threat to the materials
- introduce in Poland the production of permanent papers conforming with the ISO 97006 standard and archive papers conforming with ISO 11108
- develop scientific research on the mechanisms of paper degradation

- take steps aimed directly at preserving the endangered holdings: that is to intensify the practice of microfilming and to start the process of deacidifying holdings.

Conservation work is taking place throughout Poland, in such centers as the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw (the Chair of Old Prints and Graphics Conservation), the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (the Paper and Leather Conservation Faculty). Conservatory studios are also to be found in major Polish libraries and in many archives. However the largest and the best-equipped one is the National Library’s Department of the Conservation of Library Holdings, which has at its disposal research facilities that include a chemical-biological laboratory.

In terms of its own role in the Acidic Paper project, the National Library Department of the Conservation of Library Holdings has set out its core priorities and obligations:

- the protection of special holdings
- the use of top-quality, reliable materials for conservation works
- the control of temperature and humidity in library stockrooms
- the implementation of research activities. (3)

Professor Bronisław Zyska from the University of Silesia in Katowice has carried out independent research on paper durability, (4) while the Pulp and Paper Research Institute in Łódź had already made its first attempts at mass-producing permanent papers. (5)

All these activities have formed the basis of the program and have allowed experts to forecast an effective implementation of the project.

Over the past five years the Acidic Paper project has refined its aims:

A.1. To evaluate the condition of Polish archive and library holdings from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and to define the factors that pose a danger to them.

A.2. To learn about the microbiological aspects of the mass protection of Polish 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century archive and library holdings.

B.1. To eradicate the practice of using acid paper as an information medium (especially information being accumulated by libraries and archives) and to substitute it with either permanent paper, or, when necessary, with archive paper.

B.2. To prepare documentation for the legislative regulation governing the use of non-acid paper.

C.1. To create a network of microfilming centers and to undertake the protective microfilming of library and archive holdings selected for this purpose through the implementations of points A and B.

C.2. To purchase a system of facilities and to create several laboratories for the mass deacidification and reinforcement of archive and library holdings (this goal was accomplished in cooperation with point A).

So far, the program has been highly successful, and many endangered holdings are being deacidified on a mass scale. The process involves a method being used in Poland for the first time. Poland is now leading the way in library holding deacidification, together with European countries such as Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Spain and – recently – Russia. Outside Europe, the mass deacidification of library collections is being practiced in the United States and Canada. The first materials to be deacidified in Poland were single-sheet objects. This process involves a device with the symbol C 900, manufactured by the German company *Neschen*, and purchased and installed in Krakow’s Jagiellonian Library as part of a pilot study. The process of deacidification takes place in a water environment wherein magnesium bicarbonate acts as the deacidifying factor. The deacidifying bath also includes the addition of cellulose derivative (which reinforces the paper), as well as substances which consolidate pigments, thus enabling the deacidification of documents written in ink, ballpoint pens, and containing aniline seals.

First, documents are subject to a deacidifying bath. Subsequently, when the excess of liquid has been drained, they are dried with a stream of warm air (50°C).

Although the water environment guarantees the minimal rolling of paper, sometimes the sheets have to be smoothed.

The C 900 system allows for the deacidification and reinforcement of 300 sheets over the course of one hour, which is a significantly higher capacity than that of manual deacidification.

An identical system was launched in the National Library in 2005. Additionally, it was equipped with a process line, which allowed for the manual deacidification of documents with an exceptionally weak structure. Figure 1 shows the organization of the deacidification process:

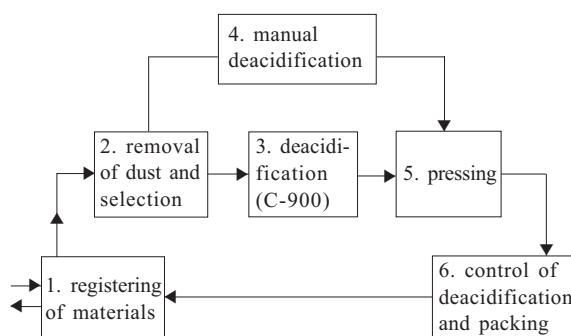


Fig. 1. The organization of the deacidification process in the National Library

Up to the end of 2005, the two libraries together managed to deacidify over 1,100,000 sheets (in the A-4 format).

In 2006, thanks to the “Acidic Paper” project, four more C 900 systems were launched in state archives: – the Central Laboratory for Conservation of Archival Records – the Studio in Milanówek, the State Archives of New Records, and the State Archives in Katowice and Gdansk.

2005 saw the beginning of the second stage of mass deacidification, namely the deacidification of entire books. A processing hall was opened in the Jagiellonian Library, equipped not only with the C 900 system, but also with the *Bookkeeper III* – an apparatus delivered by the American company *Preservation Technologies LP* – which was the first system of this kind to be used in Poland. Its capacity is estimated at 40,000 kg of prints processed on a yearly basis. The system came into operation in December 2005 and is supposed

to reach its full capacity by the end of 2006. It consists of two chambers: a vertical chamber which processes books attached for this purpose to special holders, and a horizontal one, used to deacidify large books, brochures, and documents consisting of separate sheets.

The effective agent applied in the *Bookkeeper* system is microcrystalline magnesium oxide suspended in an organic solvent (perfluoro heptane), which is a neutral substance and doesn't cause decoloration or deliquescence of pigments. That is why the *Bookkeeper* can safely process manuscripts written in ink, ballpoint pens, felt-tip pens, as well as aniline seals, etc.

The *Bookkeeper* system will also be purchased for the National Library and will be launched in December 2006.

Apart from deacidification, the "Acidic Paper" program entails the microfilming of endangered documents deposited in state archives. In the years 2004-2005 two exemplary microfilming centers were provided with equipment (the Archives of Audio-Visual Records in Warsaw and the State Archive in Kraków) as well as the laboratory for chemical processing of microfilms at the Archives of Audio-Visual Records in Warsaw. The centers received cameras, scanners and an editing table. So far, around 270,000 pages of documents have been microfilmed and around 130,000 scans of microfilms and more than 30,000 meters of positive copies of acidified documents have been made.

A different task, executed within the framework of the "Acidic Paper" project (with relation to aims A-1, A-2, B-1 and C-2) was a research program carried out in the years 2003 – 2006 at the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, the Pulp and Paper Research Institute in Łódź, and the National Library in Warsaw. The research involved the compilation of a report on the condition of holdings. Experts from the National Library applied the Stanford method to evaluate the condition of collections in 5 libraries and 3 archives. The final reports of the project revealed that circa 90% of Polish library collections created after 1800 and all 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century archival holdings were in dire need of deacidification. The degree of acidification of those collections is shown in figures 2 and 3. The last diagram also shows the dramatic increment of pH factor in library prints received after 1995.

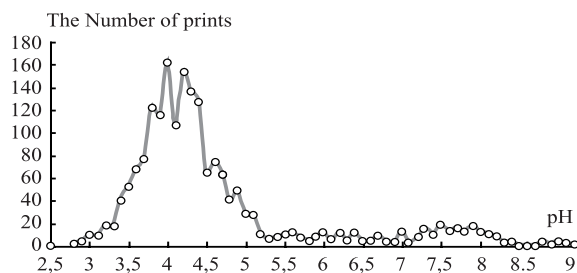


Fig. 2. The degree of acidification of prints in Polish libraries.

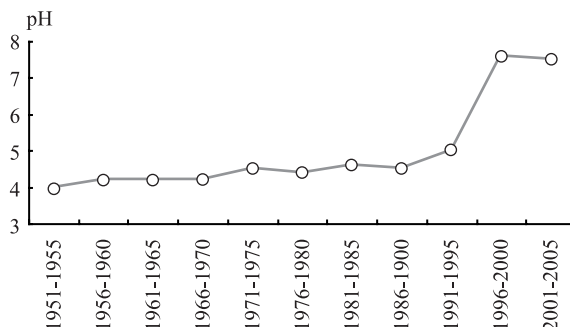


Fig. 3. The average pH of paper in prints from the years 1991-2005

The research also revealed that the most acidified library collections were found in Kraków, Wrocław and Zielona Góra, that is in the southwest of Poland.

The program, among other accomplishments, led to the creation of the Laboratory on Paper Durability and Degradation at the Jagiellonian University and its provision with state-of-the-art equipment. The research carried out at the Jagiellonian University enjoys the support of the European programs: *Metals in Paper* (2003-6) and *PaperTreat* (2006-8), as well as other research projects. The Acidic Paper research group working at the Jagiellonian University has demonstrated its findings during international panels and has contributed to the work of international bodies tackling the problem of acid paper.

It would be difficult to overestimate the educational aspect of the program with relation to the mass conservation of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century holdings, as the project has entailed various publications in specialist magazines both in Poland and abroad, and the presence of Polish experts at numerous conferences.

As a result of the program, two books have been published: *Kwaśny papier. Zagrożenie zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych* [Acidic

Paper. The Endangered Library and Archive Holdings], a collective work edited by T. Łojewski, Z. Pietrzyk, Biblioteka Jagiellońska, 2001 and *Stan zachowania polskich zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych z XIX i XX wieku* [The Condition of Polish Library and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century Archive Holdings], a collective work edited by

B. Dewniewska-Idziak, Biblioteka Narodowa, Warsaw 2006.

Up-to-date information concerning the program can be found on the following websites: [http://www.bn.org.pl/inne/WPR\\_3/kwasny.html](http://www.bn.org.pl/inne/WPR_3/kwasny.html) (the National Library) and <http://www.bj.uj.edu.pl/KP/index.php> (the Jagiellonian Library).

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# Education and Professional Development

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## The Development of an Integrated Model of Library and Information Science Studies at Warsaw University in the Light of Higher Education Reform in Poland

*Abstract* The author provides a detailed information on the transformation of Library and Information Studies education in Poland, beginning with postcolaire studies, and ending with MA university studies. This picture includes the characteristics of several educational centres and exemplary curricula.

### Introduction

The current information and communication revolution has made it vital to constantly modernize teaching approaches, as well as to reorganize education systems, in order to prepare young people for the future. Given the radical political and economic transformations occurring in Poland early in the 1990s, it was also considered essential to adapt the curriculum to the requirements of the dynamically developing labor market.

In 1999, the main guidelines for the reorganization of higher education were drawn up in the Bologna Declaration as a foundation document for the European Higher Education Area, which is currently being created.

Today, the reform of the Polish education system encompasses all levels of education, from elementary schools to higher education institutions. One of its basic assumptions is to widen access to education, so that at least 80% of society can have a secondary education (up to the end of the 1990s it was only 30%), and so that 40% may have a higher education (up to the end of the 1990s it was only 7%). The reorganization of educational system should also envisage equal opportunities in the access to education. It should also effectively control the quality of education by drawing up standards and the elaboration of mechanisms that monitor their accomplishment. At the state administration level the implementation of complex structural reforms was launched in 1999 and its accomplishment has been scheduled for at least ten years, gradually encompassing all

levels of learning, beginning with elementary schools, and ending with higher education institutions. Central system changes concerning higher education were therefore introduced as late as in 2005, together with the introduction of the so-called New Matura (GCSE, i.e., secondary school certificate), that is to say a central secondary school final examination, whose results are to constitute the basic criterion of acceptance to higher education institutions. Subsequently, on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2005 the Higher Education Act was passed, which looked to adapt Polish higher education institutions to all the requirements outlined by the Bologna Process. However, third level institutions have been developing a new model of higher studies since early 1990s, and if they had been allowed the autonomy, this model could have been gradually introduced, tested and perfected by different universities much earlier than the government-created central projects.

### The Reform of Educational Syllabus at the Institute of Information and Book Studies at Warsaw University (IIBS WU)

Within the context of the general transformation, LIS studies were reorganized and curricula modernized. In turn, general changes were introduced in the Institute of Information and Book Studies of Warsaw University (IIBS WU), in 1994, centering around the modernization of education syllabi and the reorganization of studies in the field of Library and Information Science. (1)

In co-operation with a network of colleges pertaining to the Center for Library, Information and Documentation Education (Centrum Edukacji Bibliotecznej Informacyjnej i Dokumentacyjnej – CEBID, the then Center for the Permanent Training for Librarians, that is the Centrum Ustawicznego Kształcenia Bibliotekarzy – CUKB), an attempt was made to develop a new model of national macrostructure of library and information education. Apart from adjusting the rules of higher education stratification in the field of Library and Information Science to the principles of two-stage studies, as recommended by the European Commission and codified in the Bologna Declaration, the new model was also designed to ensure the integration of the already existing two-stage system of educating librarians and information specialists. In this system, adopted in the 1950s, the first stage was carried out by the library and documentation colleges and secondary schools specializing in documentation, whilst higher education institutions, offering 5-year uniform MA studies, at the faculty of Library and Information Science, constituted the second stage. However, there were no permeability mechanisms between these two levels of education. Graduating from a college or a secondary school meant receiving both a secondary vocational education and a qualification to work as a librarian or archivist. However, if a graduate had wanted to continue his/her education at a university by studying Library and Information Science, his/her professional qualifications would not have been taken into account. Formally, this meant that such a person had to repeat a number of subjects already completed in college, while the time of obtaining their qualifications was two years longer than in the case of the candidates beginning their studies directly after the Matura examination.

The first attempts at adjusting the higher education system to the new conditions after the political changes of 1989, were visible in the Higher Education Act of 12 September 1990, which regulated, among other things, the universities' right to run three types of higher studies: uniform MA studies, higher vocational studies and supplementary MA studies. (2) The requirements, set by the Ministry, determining whether or not the university could obtain a license to run

vocational and MA studies curricula, including the requirements concerning the qualifications of teaching staff, made a number of smaller state institutions lose the right to run MA programs, which, consequently, made them to implement higher vocational studies. This new form of educating librarians and information specialists was also on offer at newly created private higher education institutions. Therefore, in the first half of the 1990s there were three independently co-existing forms of educating the same vocational group, targeted at the same category of candidates, that is candidates who had passed the Matura examination; these forms included: library and documentation college studies, five-year uniform MA studies and three-year vocational BA studies. The supplementary MA studies, guaranteed by law, were being created reluctantly and slowly, as the academic institutions preferred the prevailing five-year uniform MA studies. This, in turn, meant that both the library colleges and the newly created library and information vocational studies were in a way “dead-end streets”. Meanwhile, international recommendations concerning the education of librarians and information specialists made it clear that MA studies (3) are the preferred level of education. Nevertheless, they did not question the variety of forms and levels of education existing in most countries, which reflected the variety of workers needed in different types of libraries and information centers.

Initially, the main objectives of the works on a new IISB WU curriculum, started in the middle of the 1990s, were: the modernization of teaching methods and teaching content, the introduction of an internal system of credit points to control the realization of the syllabi by students, and, in accordance with the postulates of Warsaw University authorities, the creation of three-year vocational studies (BA), which, together with 5-year uniform MA studies, would provide the possibility of gaining a higher education in the field of library and information science (4). This curriculum was created in accordance with the so-called minimal curriculum requirements, accepted by the Central Council for Higher Education in 1991 and co-created by members of IISB WU. These minimal requirements defined the teaching content, which should be present in every studies syllabus at the Faculty of Library



and Information Science, without giving guidelines pertaining to the organization of the mentioned studies.

The preliminary introduction of the new model of LIS studies at Warsaw University took place in the 1996/1997 academic year, when the University offered an integrated, modular curriculum of five-year MA studies, which had an option of BA vocational studies pertaining to the profession. The first three years of studies comprised mainly vocational subjects. Moreover, in the third year there existed the possibility of writing a paper, which was the basis for being awarded a BA title in LIS. The decision whether or not to use this option was left to the students. They were also guaranteed a right to continue their education for the subsequent two years and to take the MA examination, regardless of their having – or not – used the BA option, as long as they completed all the obligatory subjects of the first three years. These two following years, in turn, had a form of specialized studies, which can be realized by both the students of IISB WU (with or without the BA option) and graduates of BA LIS studies from other universities, as well as graduates of BA studies from other faculties.

Both the development of this model and its integration with the secondary educational level for librarians and information specialists were the goals of a project financed by the European TEMPUS-PHARE program. The project was successfully accomplished in the years 1997-2000, in co-operation with four foreign partners: City University London, Fachhochschule Hannover, Ijselland Hogeschool Deventer and Universität Tübingen (JEP-12165-1997) (5). Permeability between the new BA studies and MA studies was ensured, based on the assumption that BA studies should not only provide certain professional qualifications but also be the basis for the continuation of specialized MA curricula, whose objective is the education of management and research staff in the field of library science and information. Moreover, two stages of studies were explicitly defined, while uniform MA studies were rejected. Consequently, for the first time in Poland, the faculty of LIS has offered a second stage MA studies. The final studies model at IISB WU in turn was significantly extended, taking the shape of a system of four syllabi:

- two-year library postcolaire studies (PSB)
- three-year BA studies at the faculty of LIS studies (SL)
- one-year individual BA studies (SLI)
- supplementary MA studies in three variants
- two-year studies for graduates of IISB WU BA studies (SMU1)
- five-term studies for graduates of LIS faculties at different universities (SMU2)
- five-term studies for graduates of BA studies at other faculties (SMU3).

The first of these syllabi was targeted at the CUKB (CEBID) schools network, the rest were realized at IISB WU.

### PSB, SL and SLI syllabi

The necessity to expand the preliminary model of education arose mainly from a growing interest among graduates of library colleges in continuing their education at IISB WU. As long as the number of such students at IISB WU did not exceed 5-10%, the problem of repeating a certain part of vocational teaching content was solved individually, usually through extramural examinations. The best CEBID students were allowed to complete the first two years of studies simultaneously and were absolved from the necessity of attending classes that they had already taken at CUKB. However, the percentage of CEBID graduates among IISB WU students grew to nearly 30% and a large number of college students were willing to apply for a place at the LIS university faculty, and it became vital to provide a systemic solution to the issue of repeating the curriculum content, as well as to shortening the overall time of education of students who first complete two-year college studies and then complement their qualifications with a three-year BA or five-year MA studies.

Close co-ordination of studies curricula at IISB WU coupled with the modernization of teaching syllabi in CEBID colleges, carried out within the TEMPUS-PHARE project, made it possible to create coherent BA syllabi. The PSB syllabus was restructured so that it could provide graduates not only with the basic professional skills but also with a minimum of theoretical knowledge, essential to comprehend contemporary library science and information activity.

The three-year BA syllabus (SL), serving as a preparation for professional work, focuses mainly on the organization and techniques of library and information activities. Particular attention was paid to students' mastering the skill of both traditional and electronic information sources, creating simple information services (databases, web pages, etc.) and monitoring the information needs of users. Moreover, the curriculum was also to provide graduates with a wide general humanistic knowledge, expected of modern librarians and information specialists. In addition, the graduates could familiarize themselves with the basic research methodology, necessary for the completion of a BA thesis. Therefore, the SL program includes basic knowledge of library and information techniques, as seen in the context of general humanistic and methodological knowledge. This solution made the SLI syllabus possible, which is a special form of BA studies, targeted at the best CUKB graduates. It gives them an opportunity to obtain a BA degree after one-year of individual studies. These have an intensive curriculum, which is substantially the same as the three-year BA syllabus, but which requires proficiency when it comes to the application of basic knowledge. Two other institutions which educate librarians and information specialists showed interest in introducing a similar solution to the problem of the lack of permeability between college studies and BA and MA university studies: Pomaturalne Studium Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej (College of LIS) at the University in Białystok and Policealne Studium Informacji, Archiwistyki i Księgarstwa (College of Information, Archivistics and Bookselling) in Warsaw. The former syllabus was based on one of the first versions of BA studies syllabi prepared for IINSB, and so determining the scope of the teaching content for the individual one-year BA studies was almost mechanical here. However, soon after this, the College at the University in Białystok was closed down, and so after completing one cycle of SLI addressed at its graduates in the 1998/1999 academic year, the program was cancelled. In the case of the graduates of the Policealne Studium Informacji, Archiwistyki i Księgarstwa, the differences in teaching syllabi were greater. Therefore, leveling them off required a four-term teaching cycle, which, at the end of

the day, did not turn out to be attractive enough for the graduates of this school.

Both the BA studies SL syllabus and its derivative – the individual BA studies syllabus SLI were assigned a modular structure, which facilitates the updating of particular subject blocks. The ECTS system was introduced as an instrument for controlling the completion of the syllabus; 60 ECTS points were required to complete each year of studies. A minimum of 2,247 hours were allocated to the realization of the three-year SL syllabus at stationary studies, including 1,935 hours of classes and 312 hours of professional practice, while for extramural studies this number was reduced to 30%, in accordance with the principles adopted in Poland. Didactic activities were grouped into seven subject modules: three containing basic subjects, obligatory for all students (including thesis seminars); two containing optional subjects, chosen individually by the students; one module was assigned to obligatory supplementary subjects and one to obligatory practice.

*Module I* – obligatory specialist subjects (705 hours): Basics of Information, Book and Library Science; Basics of Information Technologies; Information Sources (general); Specialized Information Sources (field options to choose from); Documents and Collections of Documents; Issues in Publishing and Bookselling; Organization and Usage of Collected Information; Information Processing (subject block including various forms and methods of compiling mainly documentation information); Internet Tools and Navigation; Reading Habits; Book History; Basics of Information Search and Retrieval; Information Activity; Information Users; Library Automation.

*Module II* – obligatory general subjects (630 hours): Elements of Linguistics; Elements of Mathematics; Philosophy; History of Science; Social Communication; Belles-Lettres; Logic; Research Methodology; Science of Science; Organization and Management; Communication Techniques; Elements of Polish History in the Context of General History.

*Module III* – obligatory, includes these seminars (60 hours).

*Module IV* – optional specialist subjects (min. 120 hours): includes a varied offer of courses, which present in a detailed way different issues

concerning Library and Information Science activities and research in the field of information science, book and library studies, e.g. Bibliophilia; Bibliometry and Informetry; School Librarianship; Scientific Libraries; Public Libraries; Special Libraries; History of Bibliology; New Technologies in Bibliologist's Work; Writings in Culture; Legal Bases of Libraries' Activities in Poland; Library Law of the European Union; Programming; Reading Workshops; Introduction to Database Design. It is obligatory to choose at least three to four subjects from this module, which, in principle, should give the student a firm grasp of the variety of issues within the specializations offered at the MA level.

*Module V* – facultative general subjects (min. 120 hours), such as Economics; History of Culture; Art History; Theory of Literature; Issues in Marketing. This Module includes also the so-called generally accessible lectures, offered by other faculties.

*Module VI* – supplementary subjects (540 hours): foreign languages (360 hours) and physical training education (180 hours). These classes are obligatory and the initial idea behind them was to make sure that the student masters two modern foreign languages and systematically takes part in physical education. The extra-mural studies curricula include only consultations concerning one foreign language, and a subsequent pass.

*Module VII* – professional placement (312 hours), obligatory for both full-time and extramural students (it was agreed that students already working as librarians may apply for exemption from this obligation). The realization of this module was planned for two blocks: after the second and the fourth term of studies, the placement can be organized during either the holiday period or the academic year.

### Curricula of supplementary MA studies: SMU1, SMU2 and SMU3

Creating supplementary MA studies was one of the most important innovations in the new model of library and information education, as on the one hand they give people who have already completed higher vocational studies in this field an opportunity

to continue their education, while on the other they give the possibility of obtaining LIS qualifications to those students who completed the first stage of their studies in a different field. The specific character of the BA syllabus at IIBS WU could make access to MA studies difficult for BA graduates from other universities, because, apart from vocational subjects, it includes a number of humanities subjects, as well as subjects concerning academic level bibliology and information studies, e.g. linguistics, philosophy, history of culture, books, science and literature, research methodology, logic, mathematics. In order to prevent this kind of barrier and at the same time to ensure permeability between BA and MA studies, it was necessary to develop three variants of supplementary MA studies: the SMU1 syllabus, targeted at BA graduates of IINSB UW; the SMU2 syllabus, targeted at BA graduates of other LIS faculties at other universities; and the SMU3 syllabus, targeted at BA graduates of other faculties.

The basic syllabus, SMU1, was created as a syllabus for specialization studies, offering educational possibilities in several different domains. For each of these domains the so-called model specialization paths were prepared, and each of them requires the completion of a number of specialist subjects, specialization practice and an MA seminar. The SMU2 syllabus was created by combining the specialization studies syllabus SMU1 with several humanistic and methodological subjects, which were not part of library science BA studies at other universities. These additional subjects were introduced to provide students with an opportunity to master a certain type of knowledge and skills, e.g. a basic knowledge of linguistics, mathematics, history of science, and economics. The third variant of supplementary MA studies, the SMU3 syllabus, is a combination of the SMU1 syllabus with a number of subjects introducing Library and Information Science together with several humanistic and methodological subjects, which were not part of the student's previous studies.

As in the case of BA studies, the supplementary MA studies syllabus was assigned a modular structure. Module I, General Theoretical and Methodological Basics, includes about 300 hours of different subjects, which are to provide the graduates of other faculties or universities with

the basics of LIS. The remaining four modules are part of the specialization path and they amount to 600-750 hours: Module II – MA seminars, Module III – obligatory specialist subjects, Module IV – facultative specialist subjects, Module V – specialization practice. The subjects comprising Modules II–V form the SMU1 syllabus, while from Module I the subjects obligatory for SMU2 or SMU3 are chosen. It is also possible that outstanding students, with help from their tutors, can create individual specialization syllabi, choosing from the subjects offered in all the model specialization paths. The general principle governing the construction of a specialization syllabus is to devote about 60% of time to specialization classes, 120 hours to MA seminars and 156 to specialization practice. Within the specialization classes, 30% are optional subjects, chosen by students. The completion of the supplementary MA syllabus is also controlled by the ECTS system, as in the case of BA studies. This, in turn, facilitates student mobility both in Poland and abroad.

The supplementary MA studies curriculum, introduced in 1999, offered thirteen paths: Information Systems – Databases, Internet, Business Information, Company Documentation, Automated Library Systems, Organization and Management of Libraries, Libraries in Education System, Bibliotherapy, Child Librarianship, Knowledge of Old Books, Editorship, Bookselling, and Bibliography. The list has been modified and developed since then. Every year three to five paths are offered, as long as there are a required minimal number of students willing to take them. Tab. 1. shows the modular structure of an exemplary specialization path, in this case – Information and Knowledge Management (6), introduced in 2005.

Considerable flexibility has been granted to the supplementary MA studies curriculum enabling the adaptation of education content to (on the one hand) interests of students, and (on the other hand) to Faculty staff possibilities and their research interests. In practice, it turned out that the considerable individualization of the curriculum is not of much interest. An offer of several specialization paths and the possibility of free selection of several subjects – within each of them – seem to be meeting the needs of the majority of students.

## Realization of the new studies model at IISB WU after 10 years

Up to 2006, that is to say throughout the ten years that have passed since the implementation of the first version of integrated studies syllabus, its general framing has not changed. A few modifications have been introduced, which concerned the set of optional subjects for BA students in Modules IV and V, and the set of specialization paths, which make up the syllabus of supplementary MA studies.

### Information and Knowledge Management (IKM)

Due to a significant improvement in the language competence among university candidates, in the 2000/2001 academic year the number of language hours in Module VI in the BA syllabus was reduced to 300, including 120 hours of foreign language course (lektorat), whereas in 2001/2002 this number totaled 420 hours, including 240 hours of language course.

The introduction of new BA specialization subjects was supposed to create a kind of a mini-specialization in the three main fields of information, book and library science, which are researched at IISB WU: Information Systems and Services Design, Book and Library Collections History and Modern Librarianship. The modifications introduced in the offer were intended to present the research carried out at IISB WU to the students, as had been done in the case of the following lectures and seminars: Written Culture and Books of the Middle Ages, History of the Polish Press, Informational Fears and Barriers, Military Information. The offer of optional classes in the case of MA specialization paths was created in a similar way.

On the table 1, we present an exemplary IKM specialization path:

Academic year 2006/07 daytime studies II year, extramural studies II year

(Prof. Barbara Sosińska-Kalata)

Daytime studies: 645 hours of classes, 156 hours of practice (D)

Extramural studies: 255 hours of classes, 90 hours of practice (E)

No.	SUBJECT	No. OF HOURS		POINTS	CREDIT
		D	E		
Block II: MA seminars					
3103-20201	MA seminars	120	80	30	MA exam
Block III: obligatory subjects (daytime studies: 465 hours, extramural studies: 155 hours; 65 ECTS points)					
3103-21701-1	Information Society	30	10	4	pass
3103-21702-1	Information Systems Design	30	10	4	pass
3103-21703-1	Knowledge Management	30	10	4	pass
3103-21704-1	Information Needs	30	10	3	pass
3103-21705-2	Text Databases	30	10	5	exam
3103-21706-3	Publishing Internet Databases	30	10	5	pass
3103-21707-1	Methods of Knowledge Organization and Representation	30	10	4	exam
3103-21708-2	Hyper- and Multimedia	30	10	4	pass
3103-21709-1	Strategies and Methods of Data Retrieval <sup>30</sup>	10	5		pass
3103-21710-2	Virtual and Digital Libraries	30	10	3	pass
3103-21711-3	Introduction to Ontology	30	10	2	pass
3103-21712-1	Information Architecture: Internet and Intranet Tools	30	10	5	exam
3103-21713-3	Editing WWW Services	30	10	5	pass
3103-21714-2	Methods and Techniques of Content Analysis	30	10	4	exam
3103-21715-3	Information Auditing	15	5	3	pass
3103-21716-2	Information Policy	15	5	3	pass
3103-21717-2	Information Ethics	15	5	3	pass
Block IV: facultative recommended subjects (daytime studies: min. 60 hours, extramural studies: min. 20 hours; 10 ECTS points)					
	Linguistics Basis of SI	30	10	5	pass
	Logical Basis of SI	30	10	5	pass
	Modern Publishing Technologies (EDY)	15	5	5	pass
	Polish Language Culture (EDY, IKE)	45	15	5	pass
	Information Policy and Legal Bases (INT-f) (SIN-f) s(ZSB-f)	30	10	5	pass
	Open Source Programs	30	10	5	pass
	Systems of Public Information	30	10	5	pass
	Business and Information Sources	30	10	5	pass
	Introduction to EU and RE Information	30	10	5	pass
	Computer Text Editing	30	10	5	pass
	Structure and Aesthetics of Electronic Text	30	10	5	pass
	Digitalization of Information	30	10	5	pass
	Archivization and Data Security	30	10	5	pass
	Advertising on the Internet	30	10	5	pass
	Marketing and Public Relations	30	10	5	pass
Block V: specialization practice					
3103-23003	Information practice	156		15	pass

Tab. 1. Information and Knowledge Management an exemplary specialization path

Moreover, the modifications of specialization paths in the case of supplementary MA studies were also based on the idea of making the most of the specialist competence of Institute's research and didactic staff, and, on the other hand, to adjust the curriculum to students' changing preferences. Some specialization paths were never even started (e.g. Bibliography), while others, proved unpopular (e.g. Bookselling, Automated Library Systems). What is more, other paths had to be merged because of the small number of candidates and the convergence of their subject-matter (e.g. Knowledge of Old Books and Editorship, which mainly aimed at investigating the issues in the publishing of historical sources – by the way, both these paths were also retained in the offer as separate and are realized alternating with the combined path). Furthermore, some paths evolved and were tailored to the students' expectations. For example, the path initially called Company Documentation, which was meant for those interested in the circulation and archivization of documents in institutions, was reshaped into Electronic Documentation and its Storage, which focuses on information flow in institutions in the light of new information and communication technologies. The new aspects of library and information activity inspired us to create further specialization paths. The latter include Information and Communication in the European Cultural Institutions, which focuses on cultural differences and their influence on library and information activities, and Information and Knowledge Management, which aims at training information managers to work in different organizations.

The current offer of specialization syllabi for supplementary MA studies at IISB WU still includes thirteen paths. The new set is, however, slightly different from the original one. In the 2006/2007 academic year the following paths were offered: Child Librarianship, Libraries in Education System, Bibliotherapy, Electronic Documentation and its Storing, Editorship, Editorship/Knowledge of Old Books, Business Information, Information and Communication in the European Cultural Institutions, Internet, Organization and Management of Libraries, Information Systems – Databases, Knowledge of Old Books, Information and Knowledge Management. Out of this offer, three to five paths are chosen and started each year, depending on their popularity among students. Having

analyzed students' choices of the last ten years, one can state that the changes are symptomatic.

In the case of full-time studies, usually taken up by the graduates of stationary BA studies with no professional experience, library science is losing its popularity, to the advantage of information science and editorship, which are becoming more and more popular. However, in the case of extramural studies, mostly taken up by working librarians, library science paths are the most popular ones, while there is little interest in bibliology and editing. Moreover, the detailed library science problems are more often chosen for specialization. While initially the most commonly chosen paths were Libraries in Education System or Child Librarianship, nowadays the most popular path chosen by students is Organization and Management of Libraries. Most probably, these changes can be attributed to the growing importance of manager competence in Polish librarianship. It is also interesting to note that the popularity of such paths as Bibliotherapy or the newly created Information and Communication in the European Cultural Institutions is gradually growing.

There are also visible changes in the number of students interested in information science. Even though the number is still quite high, less and less stationary students are choosing the specialization paths connected with the design and use of modern IT and communication technologies. Obviously, these are becoming more complicated and require greater competence in the IT field. However, methods of information management and information services are gaining popularity. At extramural studies, in turn, the technology-oriented paths Internet and Information Systems – Databases are still commonly chosen, probably because extramural students usually work in various information centers and already have certain experience when it comes to using new information tools.

Similarly, to Warsaw University, ever since the 1990s other Polish universities offering studies at the faculty of LIS have been working on the modernization of their curricula, as well as on the introduction of an ECTS point system. In the 1990s, apart from IISB WU, a two-stage studies system was also introduced at LIS Institutes at the Jagiellonian University, Silesian University and the Nicolaus Copernicus University (UMK) in Toruń. Wrocław University and the Maria Skłodowska-Curie University (UMCS) in Lublin retained

a five-year uniform MA studies. In 2002, the new curricula of all these universities were assessed by the University Accreditation Commission (UAC), established in 1998. According to the UAC's library and information science standards, developed in 2001, a two-stage study was recommended. After the assessment procedures were carried out, the first five of the above listed universities were awarded UCA accreditation for five years, while UMCS was initially accredited for two years, and after further assessment in 2004, its accreditation was prolonged for the following five years.

In the course of works on higher education system reform, carried out by the Ministry of Education and Sport in 2002, new teaching standards were also adopted for LIS faculties. However, they only allowed for the possibility of creating traditional uniform studies. Consequently, because of this, the universities that had introduced two-stage studies had to go back to the uniform studies model. Some of them resorted to a compromise, similar to that used in the first organizational variant at IISB WU, creating so-called BA options within uniform MA studies (this variant has been introduced in 2005 for example in Silesian University and the Jagiellonian University). In the case of IISB WU, the reorganization of education was related to the necessity of meeting the requirements of the TEMPUS-PHARE project agreement. According to this agreement, IISB WU was obliged to realize the established education model over the forthcoming years, which made it possible for the Institute to preserve the two-stage model.

More radical changes in IISB WU curricula did not take place until 2006, due to another alteration in central teaching standards. In 2005 a new Law on higher education was passed, which made it possible to develop a studies model, which would encompass three levels (BA, MA, doctoral studies) (7) and be in accordance with the assumptions of the Bologna Process. Consequently, it became our most important task to develop a model of educational standards, which on the one hand would make it possible to diversify curricula realized at different universities, according to their mission, scholarly potential and research programs, and which on the other hand would ensure their comparability and an efficient teaching quality control system. Polish teaching standards in

effect up till then had not met these demands, as they only indicated a list of subjects, the minimal number of hours to be realized at each faculty and the duration and organization of studies. All this blocked innovative solutions. The new law, however, defines standards as a set of educational rules at different faculties and studies levels, which determine the qualifications of a graduate, the duration of studies, the duration of professional practice, and the framework of teaching content (instead of the hitherto required subject list) (8). This new approach, therefore, focuses mainly on the identification of qualifications (knowledge, skills and attitudes), which are supposed to be developed at a certain faculty and on a certain educational level, and it departs from imposing a central program model. According to the assumptions of the Qualifications Framework for European Space for Higher Education (9), accepted in Bergen in 2005, the general framework for the qualifications structure consists of four postulates: preparation for the European and national labor market; preparation for the role of an active citizen in a democratic society (national and European); personal development; the development and sustaining of advanced knowledge. For each faculty and educational level there are new detailed standards, which define a set of the required general, domain and faculty qualifications. The assessment of education quality at a certain university is supposed to be based not only on the analysis of their syllabi, but also, primarily, on the analysis of the education results, knowledge, skills and attitudes acquired at the university. In 2005 a team of experts from the Institute of Knowledge Society, supported by the Polish Rectors Foundation, created a new model of educational standards, compatible with the above-mentioned assumptions. This model gave universities the freedom to choose how they were going to achieve their educational results, which are a part of the graduates' qualifications required at each faculty and level of studies. Furthermore, this model assumed that, in order to ensure the mobility and comparability of studies at different faculties, a framework of teaching content should be indicated for each of them, which would refer to certain defined qualifications, but which could be realized through any set of subjects or teaching methods (10).

Based on the new model of educational standards in Polish higher education institutions and the agreement between six universities that offer the discussed studies, approved by UCA, in 2006 a project of new standards for LIS studies was developed (11). In these standards a two-stage organization of studies was adopted, while the qualifications of first-stage graduates (BA) and second-stage graduates (MA) were defined by specifying the scope of knowledge and skills that should be provided by the syllabus, general content was established, divided into basic and course-related for both levels, and a minimal overall number of hours: 1,900 for first-stage studies and 800 for second-stage studies.

For first-stage studies, the general content includes foreign language courses, physical education classes and information technology training; the basic content includes: issues in social and media communication, communication systems in science, management methods, history of culture, book science, library and information science, readership; the course-related content includes: analysis and development of documents, librarianship, book and library history, social contexts of library and information activity, information users, design and assessment of information systems and services, publishing and bookselling activity, information sources and searching for information. All the above forms part of the first-stage studies syllabus at IISB WU. Its realization usually takes up 1,900 hours of classes. Therefore, apart from a small reorganization of subjects, the syllabus did not have to be significantly modified.

However, comparing the syllabus of second-stage studies at IISB WU with the new standards gave slightly worse results. SMU1, SMU2 and SMU3 syllabi assumed the existence of many specialization paths; their only common elements were MA seminars and specialization practice. The new standards, even though they promote the diversification of programs, introduced the common teaching content framework and thus imposed the necessity of including new subjects in all paths. As far as the general content is concerned, graduates are expected to acquire knowledge from three fields: issues in information and knowledge society, specialist terminology, and research in library and information science and bibliography. The common elements of the programs

were also indicated by reference to the course-related content: management and marketing in librarianship and information practice, information and library activity law, ethics in information and library activity. Another reason for the modifications in the second-stage studies curriculum at IIBS WU was the postulate included in the new standards, which stated that the credit obtained for subjects freely chosen by students should amount to at least 40 ECTS points, that is to say 30% of all the points required in the course of MA studies. Up until that point, optional subjects formed only 20% of the Institute's syllabus. Finally, yet another cause of the program modifications is the requirement that the completion of the second-stage studies should take up at least 800 hours (whilst thus far the Institute's syllabus included 600-700 hours).

However new standards did not change the idea behind the second-stage studies' syllabus at IIBS WU, for it was elaborated according to the same principles as the standards themselves. We aimed at creating flexible studies, with a diverse specialization offer and a freedom to choose subjects, which complete the basic content of each path. Nevertheless, formal requirements of the new standards imposed certain developments on the program. Their scope is different for each path. The required content in the basic and course-related content framework was included in some MA studies paths at IISB WU (for instance, in the case of Information and Knowledge Management specialization path, presented in Table 1), in some of them, however, it was either included partially, or was not included at all. Introducing new content, common for all paths, and having to devote 30% of ECTS points (and, consequently, 30% of time) to optional subjects, called for either a significant reduction of the obligatory specialization subjects, which constitute the core of each path, or expanding the syllabi and adding new classes. The latter was considered a better choice, as it allowed for the retention of MA specialization studies at IISB WU, and at the same time set new standards. The modified syllabi of second-stage studies, which will be introduced in October 2007, will make it obligatory to complete 900-950 hours of classes, but shall also be richer in content, integrating the education of LIS specialists on the MA educational level.



## Conclusion

Apart from BA studies and supplementary MA studies, IISB WU offers four types of postgraduate studies: Postgraduate Library Science Studies, Postgraduate Studies in Publishing Policies and Bookselling, Postgraduate Studies in Library And Information Science and Postgraduate Studies in Information Management and Informational Technology. Like most postgraduate studies in Poland, these are aimed at MA graduates who want to perfect their qualifications in the field of library, information and publishing activities. Those interested in obtaining a doctoral degree in humanities can take up four-year doctoral studies in the field of bibliology (book, library and information science), offered in the History Faculty of Warsaw University, which is the parent faculty of IISB WU. Every year six to twelve candidates take up the studies, including one or two specializing in bibliology. Today, pursuant to the recommendations of the 2005 Higher Education Act and Bologna Process, we are aiming to make these studies more accessible and establish certain fixed curriculum elements.

The experience of the past ten years confirms the functionality of the model of library and information education, which was established in the 1990s. In addition, this integrates IISB WU studies and CEBID college studies. Every year, nearly 20%

of the national CEBID network schools graduates want to start their BA studies at IISB WU, and most of them continue their education at the second-stage MA studies. Moreover, it was demonstrated that both the modular organization on all levels and the general substantial concept are functional and in line with the assumptions of the reform of higher education in Poland currently underway.

Currently, ten Polish state universities offer LIS studies. The following universities run two-stage or uniform studies: Warsaw University, the Jagiellonian University, Wrocław University, Silesian University, UMK in Toruń, UMCS in Lublin, Pedagogical Academy in Kraków and Świętokrzyska Academy in Kielce. Łódź University and Kazimierz Wielki University in Bydgoszcz offer first-stage studies. In addition, two private universities offer first-stage studies; these are Wyższa Szkoła Biznesu (Higher School of Business) in Piła, and Wyższa Szkoła Umiejętności Społecznych (Higher School of Social Skills) in Poznań. Even though many universities still offer the traditional uniform studies model, it would be advisable that, in relation to the new standards, they no longer be organized. Therefore, the two-stage library and information studies model should be adopted, as it provides greater mobility between the levels and faculties, with reference to both the Polish education system and the EU higher education institutions.

## Notes

- (1) Until 1997 the Institute was called the Institute of Library Science and Scientific Information (Instytut Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informatyki Naukowej – IBIN UW), and then from 1997 – Institute of Information and Book Science Studies (IIBS WU) (Instytut Informatyki Naukowej i Studiów Bibliologicznych – IINSB UW).
- (2) *Higher Education Act of 12 September, 1990*, Art. 4, Section 2. *Journal of Laws* 1990 No 65, item 385.
- (3) Cf. *Workshop on Education and Training of Information Specialists in Eastern Europe and CIS Countries. Bratislava, Slovakia, 14 to 18 November, 1994. Final Report*. Paris, 1995.
- (4) Cf. Sosińska-Kalata, Barbara, *The Reform of Information and Book Studies in the University of Warsaw, Polish Libraries Today* 1997 No 4, p. 27-32.
- (5) The details concerning the model prepared within the PHARE-TEMPUS project: cf. Sosińska-Kalata, Barbara, *Interpretation of the European Standards in Library and Information Science Education – An Experience in Diversity*.

In: *Information Specialists for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The German-Deutsch University Conference, Hannover, October 14-15, 1999* [CD-ROM edition].

- (6) For detailed syllabi of the currently offered specialization paths see ECTS Package, available on the Institute's webpage, URL: <http://www.lis.uw.edu.pl/pdf/b.pdf>.
- (7) *Higher Education Act of 27 July 2005*, Art. 2, Section 1, Paragraphs 7-10, *Journal of Laws* 2006 No 164, item 1365.
- (8) *Higher Education Act of 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2005*, Art. 9.
- (9) *A Framework of Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. Bologna Working Group on Qualifications*, available at URL: [http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main\\_doc/050218\\_QF\\_EHEA.pdf](http://www.bologna-bergen2005.no/Docs/00-Main_doc/050218_QF_EHEA.pdf).
- (10) *Nowe podejście do standardów kształcenia w szkolnictwie wyższym* [A New Approach Towards Educational Standards in Higher Education], edited by Jacek Woźnicki. Warsaw, Konferencja Rektorów Akademickich Szkół Polskich, Fundacja Rektorów Polskich, 2006.
- (11) The projects of new standards are available at the website of the Central Council for Higher Education at URL: <http://www.rgs.edu.pl/?q=node/238>.

# Education and Professional Development

*Marcin Drzewiecki*

## Bringing Poland's System of Academic Education in the Field of Library and Information Science into the 21st Century

*Abstract* The author gives an outline of the transformation of Library and Information Science (LIS) studies in Poland. In this regard, special attention is given to the way Poland has adopted European standards.

Research carried out by agencies of the European Union has shown that neither Poland nor most countries on the continent fully appreciate the role that librarians and information specialists can (and should) fulfill on behalf of Europe's information society. With the "information society" taking shape, "information specialists" have already become a rapidly expanding profession. And not only are specialists in demand – expectations as to their skills are rising as well. Responding to a clear social trend, libraries too are coming up with new initiatives aimed at providing information, many at a regional and local level. According to some views, nearly half of the active workforce in highly developed countries is professionally involved in producing, processing and distributing information. Even though this opinion is based on a broad understanding of the concept of an "information profession", no one can deny the growing number of and variety of jobs available each year to graduates in library and information science.

### The Polish System for Educating Library and Information Specialists at the Turn of the Century and Beyond

The 1990s saw major changes to the Polish library and information sector. These changes were for the most part related to:

- new IT capabilities,
- new models of providing information,
- the availability of automation to a growing group of libraries and centers of information, followed by the reorganization of these institutions;

- a legislative redefinition of how libraries and information centers are expected to operate in a new political, social and economic environment.

In the wake of these events, in the early 1990s, Poland's library and information science institutions started work on the modernization of their curricula. In 1993 a series of consultations between academic institutions and the Higher Education Council led to the introduction of "minimum curricular standards" for a five-year master studies in this field. Since then, teaching curricula at all academic institutions have been systematically upgraded, in most cases with the explicit aim of ensuring that they corresponded to European educational standards.

Coupling the Polish system of higher education to the requirements of the EU meant that the previously existing monolithic structure had to be transformed into the multi-tier system preferred by the countries of the EU. This model of higher education, i.e. the "Bologna Process", consists of two distinct stages of education:

- a) the first tier, consisting of Bachelor's studies (B.A. or B.Sc.) lasting two to three years;
- b) the second tier, lasting in most cases two years, leading to a Master's degree (M.A. or M.Sc.) – known in Poland as "Supplementary Master's studies"

With the increasing access to education for a wider section of society, the "Bologna Process" is widely seen as the most effective foundation for library and information studies and other disciplines. In this context it is worth recalling that according to recommendations by UNESCO,

IFLA and EUCLID, an academic degree is a precondition for obtaining the title of a licensed professional in any information-related profession.

The European Union's recommendations for a modern system of higher education additionally emphasize both vertical and horizontal mobility on a national and international scale. Vertical mobility ensures a factual and organizational consistency of curricula at each level of education, while relying on an economically and organizationally feasible system to raise the skills and competence of graduates. Horizontal mobility is aimed at adapting education to the needs of individual students by tailoring the curriculum to their interests and by allowing them to pursue studies in a given field at a number of different universities. This aspect of the modern European system of education is considered an essential guideline for the growth of the European civic society; its objective is to help students develop contacts beyond the borders of their respective EU member states and to stimulate their interest in the cultures of other countries. Horizontal mobility in all its aspects has also been highlighted in the Polish *Higher Education Act* (2005).

The twin-tier division of academic studies into Bachelor's studies and Master's studies has been one of the key issues debated in Poland since the mid-1990s by representatives of academic institutions and professionals in the field of library and information studies. The conclusions of this debate, supported by recommendations of the European Union, acknowledged the need for better alignment between the three-year Bachelor's studies (corresponding to higher professional education) and present-day requirements in library and information science. Additionally, it was posited that Bachelor's studies in the selected field must maintain curricular consistency between secondary library and archival and academic education.

At the second tier, comprising a two-year Master's studies program, the university must provide a wide choice of relatively narrowly defined specialized subjects corresponding to the main fields of research. This curriculum should be adapted to the needs not only of graduates of Bachelor's studies in the field of library and information science, but also to the needs of students graduating in other disciplines. Master's studies should provide a guarantee of student mobility on each level, i.e. national as well as international.

## Academic Mobility

The principle of mobility embraced by the European Commission allows students to pursue studies in a chosen discipline at a number of different institutions belonging to the same tier of the educational system. Before this can come about, two preconditions have to be met at a national and international level:

- a unified standard of education has to be maintained by the student's own university and by the host university, at which the student attends class in selected subjects;
- curricula offered by individual departments must be varied and related to the research activity of the parent institution; in practice, this rule should lead to both a high quality of teaching and student mobility.

Most Polish and European educational institutions in the field of library and information science have been working to ensure that the form and content of their curricula meets the conditions for this type of studies. Most universities have been cooperating within the framework of the Socrates Project by sending their students to study at other universities within the European Union, and by receiving students from foreign institutions. The MOST Program started by Polish universities is a national program aimed at increasing student mobility.

## Accreditation for Fields of Study

For many years, Poland's universities debated heatedly the merits of an accreditation framework, which would provide, as in European countries or in the United States, a more objective basis for assessing the quality of education. Two options were considered of "peer accreditation" in the context of professional organizations and inter-university commissions. In view of the generally limited interest in education on the part of Poland's professional and scholarly organizations, the first solution proved impossible to implement. Implementation of the second solution, however, started towards the end of 1997, when Poland's fifteen largest academic institutions signed a Covenant of Polish Universities for Quality of Education. The main aims of this covenant were:

- to allow Polish academic institutions to enter the European system of higher education (e.g.

by acceding to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS)),

- to lay down procedures for curricular assessment corresponding to the assessment mechanisms used in the EU,
- to consistently raise the quality of education, and
- to promote leading educational facilities.

At the beginning of 1997, the University Accreditation Commission [Uczelniana Komisja Akredytacyjna – UKA] was called into being. The Commission broadly defined the rules for accreditation by adopting a range of criteria, which the academic unit under review must fulfill in the areas of, e.g., staff, the curriculum and teaching. Accreditation is granted following a survey of the quality of education in the light of a series of general criteria. The criteria of this survey consist of:

1. analyzing the profile and research achievements of the academic staff employed by the institution;
2. assessing the involvement of professorial staff in carrying out the curriculum;
3. examining the number of students in relation to the number of professorial staff;
4. determining the availability of equipment (workshops, libraries, etc.)
5. assessing the university's cooperation with other leading academic institutions in the same field;

These generalized criteria, narrowed down to individual disciplines, are converted into specific standards for accreditation.

## Assessing the Quality of Education

Standards of education are aimed both at ensuring a high quality of education and supporting the measures that individual institutions take to achieve that goal. In keeping with the policy of European integration, standards of education are assigned yet another dimension: that of promoting educational mobility. This aim is achieved mostly by means of the unified credit transfer system (ECTS) and through the procedures implemented as part of the ERASMUS Program for improving the quality and recognizing the equivalence of education offered by different universities.

Standards of education generally consist of a set of generalized factual and formal conditions for assessing a curriculum that allows students to obtain unambiguously defined qualifications, which

permit them to practice a given profession. The aim of educational standards is restricted to ensuring factual comparison; their aim is not to impose uniformity on curricula offered by different institutions. Individual autonomy and the unique experience of each institution's teaching and research staff are in fact considered essential for raising the quality of the educational system.

The knowledge and experience of research staff were the point of departure for creating a model of accreditation in the field of library and information studies in Poland. This model:

- takes into account the role of information professions when drawing up the curriculum;
- aims at providing methodological training to students of information technology;
- ensures a diversity of professional options geared to the present-day job market;
- looks to create the right didactic environment as a precondition for implementing the curriculum.

No concept is set in stone, and "standards" and "accreditation" are no exception to this notion. The standards and criteria for accreditation designed by Polish universities have been adopted for a specific period, but they will have to be modified over time.

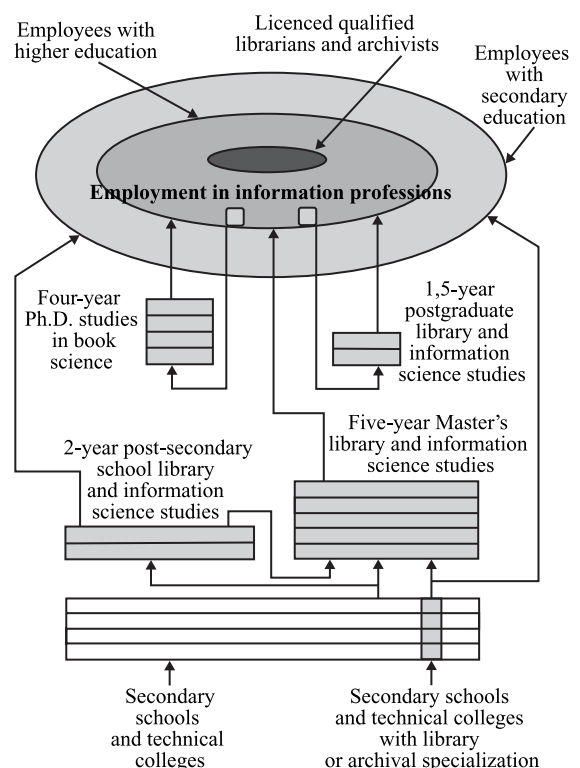


Fig. 1. The traditional macrostructure of the system of education for librarians in Poland

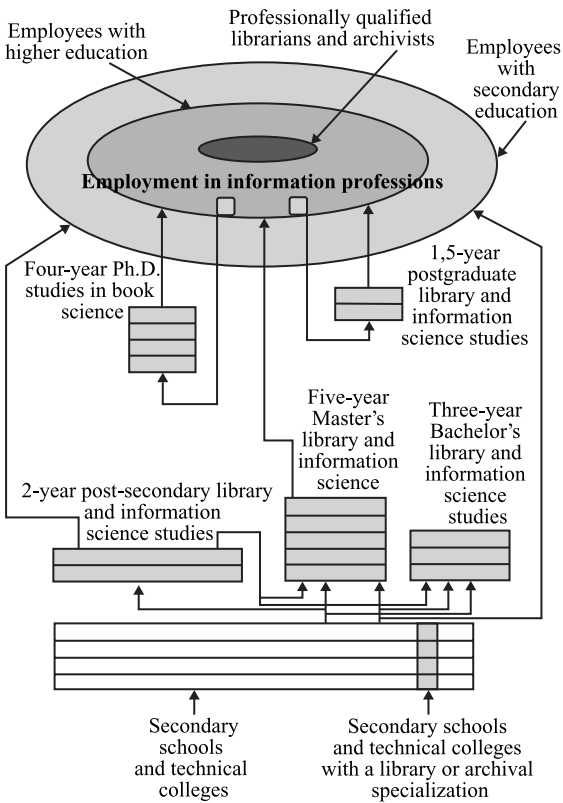


Fig. 2. The first stage of changes to the traditional macrostructure of the system of education for librarians in Poland during the 1990s.

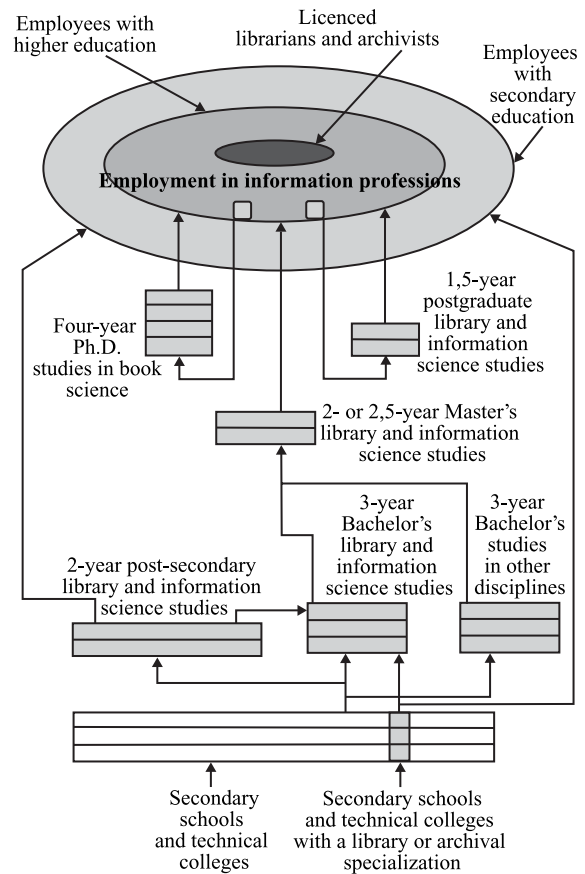


Fig. 3. The new macrostructure of the system of education for librarians in Poland

# Publishing Market of Polish Academic Literature

## Małgorzata Korczyńska-Derkacz The Market for Scholarly Books in Poland following the Social and Political Transformations

*Abstract* The article discusses the ways in which the publication of scholarly books has developed in the years 1991-2005. The analysis is based on official statistics taken from *Polish Publishing in Figures*. The point of reference is the year 1990, which marked the beginning of the social and political transformation in Poland. The goal was to present the tendencies prevailing on the scholarly book market and to compare them with the book market as a whole. The article concentrates on the number of titles published and the size of editions, and compares them with the figures relating to the book market in general. Interest in foreign works is noted (translations from English, German, French and Russian), growth rates and changes in the various disciplines, as well as the activity of scientific and scholarly institutions (universities, Polish Academy of Sciences, learned societies).

### Introductory remarks

Because of the political changes in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the Polish publishing world underwent a complete transformation. (1) This meant changes in the way publishers worked and in the number of books and periodicals published. Interest in foreign publications also increased. With the new economic, legal and organizational opportunities, a large number of new, often ephemeral publishers appeared on the market. Some however brought out only two or three books a year. It must be remembered that before the changes, until the end of the 1980s, about 80 professional publishers, the state and cooperative, existed and there were several hundred so-called non-professional publishers, such as universities, research institutions, learned societies or social organizations, for whom publishing was an ancillary activity. Another group of publishers, previously publishing texts in the so-called "second circulation", from the mid of 1990s, when the censor's office was abolished, also began to work openly. The economic transformation changed the rules governing the publishing world – books became a commodity and the publisher became an entrepreneur. After the early period (1989-1992) characteristic for many titles and large editions, from 1993 onwards the market began to change from deep (large editions) and narrow (few titles) to shallow (small editions) and wide (many titles). (2) The situation on the book publishing market is

well illustrated by the growth of registration in the National ISBN Agency (3): in 1990, 270 new publishers were assigned identification numbers, in 1991 – 312, in 1992 – 540, in 1993 – 836, and in the following years, the figures increased to over one thousand yearly. At present, there are several thousand publishers, of whom over five thousand are active in a given year, with about ninety percent publishing fewer than ten books annually and only a few publishing houses producing more than 400 titles in a year. The political changes are also reflected in the market for periodicals. Their production has doubled in the fifteen years from 1990-2005, with just over six thousand titles being issued.

Here, we are particularly interested in the situation of scholarly books. We based our data on official statistics published in *Polish Publishing in Figures* and accepted their definition of scholarly publications. The publishing statistics are based on the legal deposit copies sent to the National Library and registered in the current national bibliography. Nevertheless, one must take into account that the statistics may be slightly skewed as legal deposit copies are sometimes sent in late or not sent in at all. It is estimated that about 10% of books and periodicals do not reach the National Library and this needs to be taken into account when examining the Polish publishing world.

The scholarly book is an important type of publication, though it is not always easy to

determine what is a scholarly book, especially in the case of some documents. We can, however, list certain features that indicate that a book is of a “scholarly” nature, such as the originality and innovativeness of the research work. We should also consider the reason for which it was written – usually to publish the results of research work done by individuals or teams, or to publish the work of other scholars. However, sometimes indirectly, the aim of a scholarly book is to present the knowledge and development of intellectual culture. It also has to meet certain needs – such as the cognitive needs of scholars, experts, students and other learners. There are three other factors of importance, the condition and quality of the research tools, the rank of the publisher who issued it, and the level of presentation, depending on its intended user.

The annual *Polish Publishing in Figures* divides scholarly publications into four categories: theory and research, post-graduate education and training, academic textbooks, and reference works. (4) The latter comprise bibliographies, and encyclopedias and dictionaries when classed as scholarly works (while other texts of this kind are categorized as popular science publications). Thus, in practice, publishing statistics classify as scholarly books: dissertations and theoretical-research works, monographs, results of research, proceedings of conferences organized by scientific and scholarly institutes, organizations and societies, academic textbooks and textbooks for post-graduate education, reference books such as general and specialized encyclopedias, large atlases, bibliographies, museum inventories, collections of documents from archives. (5)

The following analysis is based on information given in the annual publication *Polish Publishing in Figures* from the years 1990-2005. The point of reference is the year 1990, looked upon as the first year of the new political system but which “statistically” belongs to the previous period, since the publishing market needed time to react to the changes resulting from the transformation. The article presents the evolution of the scholarly book market over a period of fifteen years. We concentrate here especially on the number of titles published, the share scholarly books had in the overall volume of publications, on analysis of edition size, interest in foreign scholarly publications (selected translations), the dynamics of the market according to discipline, and the activity of selected scientific institutions and organizations.

## Titles

In 1990, the year of reference, 10, 242 titles were published altogether. The following years showed systematic growth, of several percentage points in the first five years to more than double those figures in 2000 (211.4%), 2003 (201.9%) and 2004 (219.4%). The production of scholarly books also showed constant growth, especially since the middle of the 1990s, though it never exceeded 200 percent, only approaching this figure in 2004 (194.3%). The lower number of books in general in the first half of the decade was probably the result of an, as yet, insufficiently formed publishing market after the transformation, while in the case of scholarly books, the lack of growth could have been caused by the reorganization of scientific institutions: the closing down of some research institutes, organizational changes in higher education, the not fully stable situation of the non-public Third Level Colleges. In this period, compared with the previous years, several hundred fewer scholarly books were published by these institutions.

It is interesting to compare the differences in growth between books in general and scholarly books (Tab. 1). In 1991, the rate of growth was

Year	Books	% of books	Scholarly books	% of scholarly books	% of scholarly books in general number of titles
1	2	3	4	5	6
1990	10242	100,0	4801	100,0	46,9
1991	10688	104,4	4965	103,4	46,5
1992	10727	104,7	4518	94,1	42,1
1993	9788	95,6	3569	74,3	36,5
1994	10874	106,2	4107	85,5	37,8
1995	11925	116,4	4270	88,9	35,8
1996	14104	137,7	5671	118,1	40,2
1997	15996	156,2	6039	125,8	37,7
1998	16462	160,7	6089	126,8	37,0
1999	19192	187,4	8289	172,7	43,2
2000	21647	211,4	8625	179,7	39,8
2001	19189	187,4	7867	163,9	41,0
2002	19246	187,9	8850	184,3	46,0
2003	20881	201,9	8257	172,0	39,9
2004	22475	219,4	9329	194,3	41,5
2005	19999	195,3	8366	174,3	41,8

Tab. 1. Growth rate of book titles (in general) and of scholarly books in the years 1990-2005 (1990 = 100%). Percentage of scholarly books in comparison to books in general number of titles

similar (104.4: 103.4). In the following years the differences in growth rates were very marked, exceeding 30 percent in 1997 (156.2: 125.8) and in 1998 (160.7: 126.8). The situation improved in 1999 (187.4: 172.7) and, even more decidedly, in 2000 (187.9: 184.3, a difference of 3.6%). The last few years have again shown considerable, though decreasing, differences between publication figures for the two types of books – 29.9 in 2003, 25.1 in 2004 and 21.0 percent in 2005. Thus, we can see that when compared with the number of books published in Poland, the number of scholarly books is also on the rise but to a lesser extent than in the case of books in general. The differences are shown in Tab. 1 and Fig. 1.

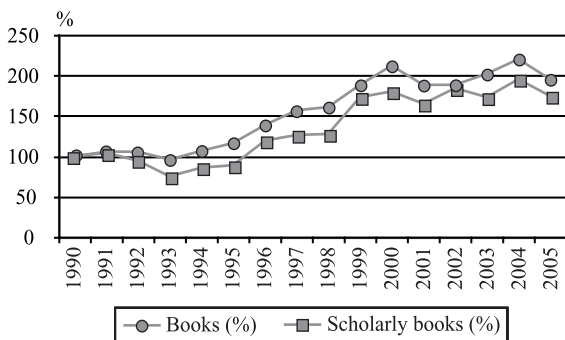


Fig. 1. Rate of growth of book titles (in general) and scholarly books in the years 1990-2005 (1990 = 100%)

Scholarly books, when compared with other types of books, make up the greatest segment of the publishing market, from 35 to nearly 47 percent (Tab. 1, column 6). It is worth noting that this index was highest at the beginning of the 90's (1990 and 1991), then dropped and only reached the same level in 2002. The ratio of scholarly books to books in general does not change much and fluctuates around 40 percent. The worst years were 1995 (35.8%) and 1993, 1997-1998, when the index did not exceed 38 percent.

## Editions

In the period we are analyzing, the number of titles grew, in the case of both scholarly books and books in general but, compared to 1990, the size of editions decreased, though not in the same degree (Tab. 2). The turning point was 1995 when the number of copies of a particular title fell in the case of books in general but rose in the case of scholarly books (Fig. 2). For books, in general the size of editions in 2005 was not quite half the size of editions in 1990.

The smallest editions, 38.5 percent, were brought out in 2002. The decreasing number of copies usually correlates with an increase in the number of titles, but economic barriers are probably also a factor – books are relatively expensive and demand is therefore limited. This decrease can be fully appreciated if we compare global figures and the number of copies per individual title. At the turn of the century, it is this last figure, which fell.

In the case of scholarly books, the decrease in the size of editions was not as spectacular. There was a fall to 50.5 percent, but only in 1993. In other years, the fall in the size of editions when compared to 1990 was less drastic and in the years, 1999-2000 did not exceed 7 points. Over the last five years, the size of editions (the number of copies) continued to equal 85 percent of the size in 1990. When compared with the figures for books in general and for scholarly books in other years, this is not a bad result. The differences even reach 57 percent in favour of editions of scholarly books in 2002 (38.5: 84.0) and 50 percent in 1999 (44.5: 94.6). In the last three years, there was a difference of about 40 percentage points. In the years 1994-1995

Year	Books (thousands of copies)	% of books	Scholarly books (thousands of copies)	% of scholarly books	% of editions of scholarly books to books in general
1	2	3	4	5	6
1990	175 562	100,0	8262	100,0	4,7
1991	125 509	71,5	6674	80,8	5,3
1992	126 525	72,1	4719	57,1	3,7
1993	105 301	60,0	4172	50,5	4,0
1994	108 227	61,6	5485	66,4	5,1
1995	115 634	65,9	5227	63,3	4,5
1996	80 306	45,7	6232	75,4	7,8
1997	93 739	53,4	6308	76,3	6,7
1998	84 999	48,4	7023	85,0	8,3
1999	78 078	44,5	7813	94,6	10,0
2000	102 774	58,5	7726	93,5	7,5
2001	74 403	42,4	6960	84,2	9,4
2002	67 568	38,5	6937	84,0	10,3
2003	80 756	46,0	7121	86,2	8,8
2004	83 974	47,8	7361	89,1	8,8
2005	81 006	46,1	7039	85,2	8,7

Tab. 2. Editions of books (in general) and scholarly books in the years 1990-2005 (in thousands of copies) (1990 = 100%). Percentage ratio of editions of scholarly books to editions of books in general



the difference was minimal, about 3 percent. The growth rate for editions of books in general and for scholarly books is shown in Tab. 2 and Fig. 2.

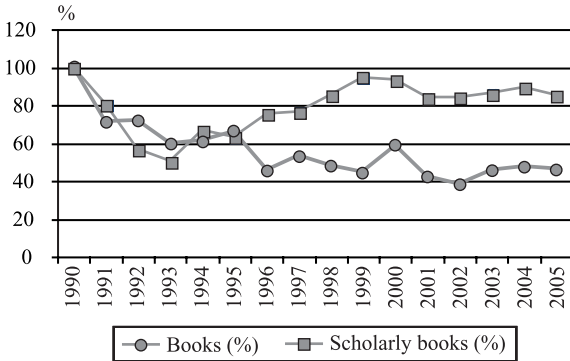


Fig. 2. Growth rates for numbers of copies of books in general and scholarly books in the years 1990-2005 (1990=100%)

The editions of scholarly books did not exceed 10% of books in general (Tab. 2, column 6), though in comparison to 1990 there was a considerable growth; the figures doubled in 2001 and even more than doubled in 1999 and 2002. In the last three years, they remained at a level of nearly 9%. This can be considered a positive state of affairs, as can the growth in the size of editions of scholarly books, since it means that in the last fifteen years there has been a growing interest in and demand for such books, caused in part by the growing number of Third Level Colleges (private, i.e., non-public) and the greater number of students.

Translations

The translations of scholarly books into Polish reflect the degree of interest in foreign scholarly writings. They also confirm the direction in which Polish scholars are turning. The easing of financial and legal constrictions connected with buying the rights to foreign books has also led to an increase in the number of translations. These changes, occurring after 1990, are clearly connected with the political transformation in Poland.

Tab. 3 illustrates the rate of growth of translations into Polish of scholarly works. A decrease in 1991 was followed by continuous growth, initially by just a few percent and then, in 1995, by 82.1%. There was also a considerable increase in 1999 (114.2%) and in 2000 (148.9%). After

Year	Scholarly books	Translations of scholarly books	% of translations	% of translations to overall number of scholarly books
1	2	3	4	5
1990	4801	190	100,0	4,0
1991	4965	116	61,1	2,3
1992	4518	208	109,5	4,6
1993	3569	228	120,0	6,4
1994	4107	293	154,2	7,1
1995	4270	449	236,3	10,5
1996	5671	468	246,3	8,3
1997	6039	474	249,5	7,8
1998	6089	501	263,7	8,2
1999	8289	718	377,9	8,7
2000	8625	1001	526,8	11,6
2001	7867	770	405,3	9,8
2002	8850	724	381,1	8,2
2003	8257	782	411,6	9,5
2004	9329	852	448,4	9,1
2005	8366	758	398,9	9,1

Tab. 3. The growth in the number of translations of scholarly books into Polish in the years 1990-2005 (1990 = 100%). Percentage of translations in the overall number of titles of scholarly books

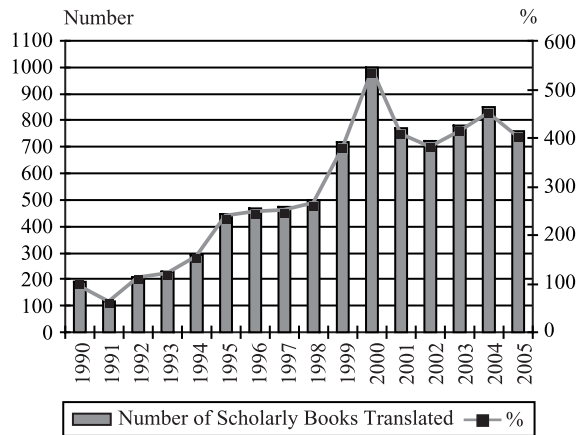


Fig. 3. The growth rate for translations into Polish of scholarly works in the years 1990-2005 (1990 = 100%)

a fivefold increase when compared with 1990, the number of translations stabilized at a level about four times higher than in 1990. This is shown in Fig 3.

There is no direct relation between the high growth indices for translations of scholarly books (Tab. 3) and indices for the percentage of translations in the overall number of scholarly books (Tab. 3, column 5). The percentage of translations has

been growing since 1992 but not quickly enough and without great fluctuations. In the first half of the nineties, the increase was minimal, whereas in the following years it was about 8% (double). In the last five years, it exceeded 9% and in 2000 reached the unusually high figure of 11.6%.

Most books have been translated from English (Tab. 4), mainly British and American, though other countries are also represented. When compared with 1990, the increase in the number of books

Year	Translations of scholarly books altogether	English	French	German	Russian
1990	190	39	14	38	23
1991	116	83	6	8	7
1992	208	72	7	47	22
1993	228	78	17	47	15
1994	293	147	16	47	21
1995	449	280	20	52	19
1996	468	234	34	81	12
1997	474	225	19	82	13
1998	501	304	17	55	19
1999	718	413	47	90	16
2000	1001	564	55	164	20
2001	770	462	40	103	29
2002	724	410	53	96	21
2003	782	484	36	90	14
2004	852	511	49	104	22
2005	758	393	39	99	37

Tab. 4. Number of scholarly books translated from selected languages into Polish in the years 1990-2005

translated has been tenfold since 1999 (in 2000 it was even fourteen times as great). The number of translations from German indicates a growing interest on the part of the Polish scientific community in that area. French is less popular, though here too the number of translations has increased. Least interest is evinced in Russian scholarship, which may be a reaction to the earlier period when the market was "inundated" by Russian literature (not only scholarly). However, it seems that the most reasonable explanation for the preponderance of English scholarly translations when compared with other languages is the expansion of the English language in the world of science and academia.

## Scholarly books according to disciplines

Scholarly works are one of the factors reflecting the condition and development of learning and science. While observing the growth in the number of scholarly works published over a longer period, it is possible to determine certain tendencies. Tab. 5 shows the percentage of scholarly books in the different disciplines, in five-year periods.

Disciplines	1990	1991-1995	1996-2000	2001-2005
	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0
Generalities	2,08	2,39	5,29	6,44
Philosophy	3,23	3,45	3,64	4,07
Religion. Theology	1,67	2,02	3,97	4,77
Social Sciences. Statistics	3,37	2,85	3,11	4,27
Political Sciences.				
Economics	11,69	10,65	11,47	12,06
Law. Administration	5,35	6,79	10,16	12,45
Military Studies	0,44	0,25	0,39	0,75
Education	6,00	5,02	5,30	5,53
Commerce. Transport.				
Communications	0,08	0,02	0,01	0,00
Ethnography	0,12	0,39	0,26	0,28
Linguistics	5,10	4,11	3,28	2,90
Mathematics	4,25	3,98	2,87	1,91
Natural Sciences	11,46	12,37	9,22	6,36
Medicine	7,00	6,65	6,43	5,56
Technology. Industry.				
Construction	16,23	16,71	11,89	8,72
Farming. Agriculture	5,04	3,71	3,43	2,48
Home Economics	0,02	0,03	0,05	0,08
Management. Organization	4,23	3,47	4,34	5,95
Fine Arts	3,31	3,57	2,82	3,12
Recreation. Entertainment.				
Sports	1,23	0,75	0,49	0,56
Literature	2,90	3,47	3,54	3,91
Geography. Travel	0,56	1,03	0,57	0,38
History. Biographies	4,64	6,34	7,46	7,45

Tab. 5. Percentage of scholarly books according to disciplines in the years 1990-2005

The percentages show the distribution of scholarly books among the various disciplines. There is a noticeable increase (from 2.08% to 6.44%) of books in the general section, including general encyclopedias and dictionaries, and other reference books. The percentage of books on religion tripled and those dealing with law and administration doubled (from 5.35 to 12.,45%). There was an increase by one and a half of

publications on literature and history. The percentage of books in such areas as linguistics (from 5.10 to 2.90%), mathematics (from 4.25 to 1.91%), natural sciences (from 11.46 to 6.36%) agriculture (from 5.04 to 2.48%) fell by half or nearly half. It is worth noting that in the last five years 25% of scholarly books have been concerned with two fields of study – politics and economy, and law and public administration. In 1990, these disciplines had a 17% share in the overall number of scholarly books, while natural sciences, technology, and industry had 28%. Since then the latter disciplines have dwindled to 15%. The tendency is towards a greater share of books on the social sciences and smaller percentage of publications in the technical, mathematical and natural sciences.

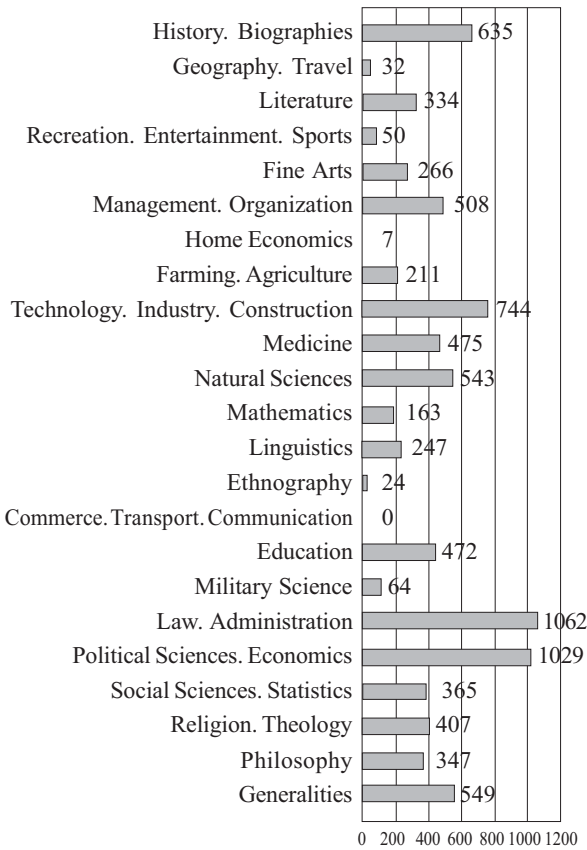


Fig. 4. Average number of scholarly books according to disciplines in the years 2001-2005

Fig. 4 gives, by way of example, the numerical proportions of scholarly books in the last five years (2001-2005), as an illustration of the changes, which have been taking place in recent years in the writings of particular disciplines.

### Publishers of scholarly books

After the war, there were a dozen or so large publishing companies in Poland. In 1956 some small editors appeared, among them firms that had existed before the Second World War. Until the middle of the seventies, the number of specialized publishers did not exceed sixty. There were also institutions for which publishing was just one of many activities. These were Third Level Colleges, universities, research institutes, learned societies, various organizations and agencies. Their share in the market in this period was 40 percent of all books published. The most prolific publishers were Third Level Colleges and universities – over 20 percent of all titles. In the middle of the 1980s, new companies were formed. Towards the end of the eighties, the “second circulation” became active. Some agencies and associations, which had published books earlier, now formed their own publishing companies. In 1990, *Polish Publishing in Figures* noted that 300 new publishers were issuing books. Some were active for only a short time, even no more than a year, others published a few titles and vanished, but some continued to publish and to grow. Companies that wanted to stay on the market-needed profits, their books had to sell and sell quickly. At the beginning of the nineties, the arrangement under which many of the publishing firms were subordinate to particular ministries was discontinued. As a result, some of the old companies disappeared and new ones appeared in their place. After 1995, some of the university publishing houses were transformed into independent companies. Some publishers were designated as non-professional due to the character of their publications and readership but differences between professional and non-professional publishers were becoming more and more indistinct. Tab. 6 shows the publishing activities of selected non-professional publishers connected with scholarly institutions.

As we can see, Third Level Colleges and universities published the most scholarly books and, after a period of decline in the years 1993-1995, they returned to their former level in 1996 and then continued to grow. The reasons for this were manifold. Third Level Colleges and universities were growing in numbers and they published a variety of books: theoretical-research works, academic textbooks, books for post-graduate

Year	Polish Academy of Sciences	Scientific institutes	Third Level Colleges and universities	National and regional societies	Specialized societies
1990	411	703	2773	41	173
1991	378	665	2760	65	155
1992	303	552	2580	38	104
1993	299	389	1895	34	73
1994	224	377	2229	55	75
1995	270	485	1959	48	140
1996	281	550	2780	92	193
1997	235	549	2951	106	186
1998	211	411	2919	79	177
1999	365	611	3993	142	324
2000	357	642	3875	95	298
2001	299	556	3632	120	260
2002	320	590	4169	133	285
2003	311	544	3730	113	228
2004	367	595	4077	137	295
2005	265	465	3931	124	216

Tab. 6. The publication of scholarly books in certain institutions and organizations in the years 1990-2005

education and training, as well as reference and informational texts. Other institutions did not publish such a variety of texts.

In second place were scientific institutes. 1990 was their best year with 703 publications. 1991 (665), 1999 (611) and 2000 (642) were also good years. The worst year was 1994, when only 377 titles were published.

The Polish Academy of Sciences is in third place. Here too there was a decided fall in the number of publications from 1990 (411) to 1998 (211). Other poor years were 1994 (224), 1997 (235) and 2005 (265). In 1993 and 2001, the same number of books was published (299). In each of the remaining years on average 300 books were produced.

Specialized societies had a period of decline until 1996 and then a period of slow growth and yearly fluctuations. The results of the first year, 1990 (173), were repeated in 1998. There were then sudden increases in 1999 and 2000 (324 and 298) and changes of between ten and twenty percent, both rises and falls, in the remaining years.

Last in the group are general and regional societies. In 1990, they only had 41 publications. In the following years there were small differences, but in the second half of the nineties things

improved. It is probable that these organizations will become more active, because of the increased activity of local communities and the growing number of such societies. Comparing the first and last years, we see a considerable, threefold increase in publications.

Scholarly books are published both by professional and so-called non-professional publishers. The second group dominates. For instance, in 2004, 58,1% of scholarly books and 68,6% of academic textbooks (6) was published by so-called non-professional publishers and 41,9% of scholarly books and 31,4% of textbooks were brought out by professional publishing houses.

### Closing remarks

To sum up, we can say that the situation of scholarly books in Poland after the political transformation does not look bad. Though the growth rate in this area is weaker than on the book market in general, it is still high and in the last five years has reached around forty percent. The difference in the number of titles for books in general and scholarly books has usually not exceeded 30 percent (33,9 in 1998; 31,7 in 2000) in favor of the former group.

The sizes of editions in the case of scholarly books, have, since the middle of the 1990s, been higher by 40-50 percent than editions of books in general and, in the last five years have been stable and nearly twice as large as books as a whole. Compared with 1990, the size of editions has grown to 84, 89% in the last five years.

The number of translations into Polish has also increased and though translations from English predominate, a growth tendency can be noted in the case of other languages too, especially German.

There has been a change in the proportion of various disciplines in the overall number of titles, with political science and economic books increasing their share, probably because of the political changes in Poland, and growth in the field of social sciences (law and public administration, religious studies, history). On the other hand, technology, mathematics and the natural sciences have seen a fall in their share of the scholarly book market. The tendency probably correlates with changes in the fields of study and at third level

colleges. Sociology, education, medicine, management and geography have changed slightly or not at all.

The publishing market in Poland after 1990 became highly fragmented, with several thousand publishers producing on average five books annually. In the case of scholarly books, the market has been more stable, partly owing to various scientific and academic institutions and organizations, especially colleges and universities, which are responsible for over half of the academic books

### Notes

(1) The issues of political and economic transformation with reference to the publishing market are discussed in Jadwiga Sadowska's article *Wybrane aspekty polskiego rynku wydawniczego po 1989 r. w świetle statystyki* [Selected aspects of the Polish publishing market after 1989 in statistical data]. *Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* [Issues of Scientific Information] 2004 No 2, p. 30-39, see also Korczyńska-Derkacz, Małgorzata *Tendencies in the development of learned periodicals in the years 1991-2005*; *ibid.* 2006 No 1, p. 75-92.

published. There are also a number of professional publishers specializing in this type of book.

Looking at the figures for the years 1991-2005 we can see that in the first five years there was little growth. The years 1995-1996 marked the beginning of changes, which continued more or less over the next decade. Overall, it can be said that the scholarly book market is in good shape, both when it comes to the number of titles and the number of copies printed. The number of foreign publications is also considerable.

(2) Walewska, Jolanta *Report on the book market*, Warszawa 2000, p. 10.

(3) Until 1993 there were 2,300 publishers in the ISBN address register; in the next ten years their number increased tenfold ([www.bn.org.pl/MAK/Bazy\\_adresowe/ISBN](http://www.bn.org.pl/MAK/Bazy_adresowe/ISBN))

(4) See *Ruch Wydawniczy w Liczbach* [Polish Publishing in Figures] R.8: 1962, p. 7.

(5) Bańkowska-Bober, Krystyna *Statystyka wydawnictw w Polsce. Historia, metodyka, organizacja* [Publishers' statistics in Poland. History, methodology, organization], Warszawa 2006, p. 36-37.

(6) As an exception, academic textbooks have been treated here as a separate group of scholarly books.

# Major Polish Libraries

*Artur Jazdon*

## The Poznań University Library

*Abstract* The author gives an overview of one of the biggest research libraries in Poland that was founded in 1902 in Poznań as Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek. He characterizes its history, collections, and the modernization processes of the past decade, new user services, cooperation with other libraries in Poznań and around the country, as an organizational partner in joint ventures.

### A brief history

At the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was proposed that Poznań (situated within the borders of the German Empire at the time) create a large library that would serve public, educational and scientific purposes, and which would also serve as a center for the promotion of German culture and propagandistic activities.

An appeal was made throughout the entire Reich, which succeeded in accumulating over 100,000 volumes in just four years. Most of these volumes covered German history, law, medical and agricultural publications, along with some fiction and propaganda literature. The committee in charge of creating a German library in Poznań was headed by the director of the Königlische Bibliothek in Berlin (The Royal Library of Berlin) Dr. August Wilmanns. The committee not only gathered donated material, but also – with the aid of the large funds that it had at its disposal – purchased literature missing in the donations. All the material was simultaneously processed (descriptive cataloging) and classified (subject cataloging), with most of the volumes being freshly bound.

That led to the establishment of Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek in Poznań in 1902. The aforementioned committee set the scope of its tasks. The primary task was the library's Germanization mission: indeed not until 1903 was the notion of creating an academic center for the region considered important. It was then that the Königlische Akademie (Royal Academy) was established in Poznań and that the Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek

became its research library, providing services to the academy's body of students and staff.

In September 1902, 96,355 volumes were brought from Berlin to Poznań and placed in the library's storehouse along with 50,000 volumes from the local Landesbibliothek (State Regional Library). Furthermore, the Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek absorbed the book collections of the Historische Gesellschaft f.d. Provinz Posen (Historical Society, approx. 15,000 volumes) and the Posener Naturwissenschaftliche Verein (Poznań Natural Sciences Society, approx. 7,000 volumes). The library quickly expanded, primarily thanks to



Front elevation of the Poznań University Library

donations and, to a lesser degree, its purchases. In 1919, the book collection consisted of 250,000 volumes, of which 3,000 units were special publications and 12,000 were serials. German language publications constituted 90% of the collected literature.

The main library holdings were divided into sections (with letter designations): travel, military

affairs, history, biographies, newspapers, social science, fine arts, languages, philosophy, pedagogy, theology, geography, mathematics, natural sciences, medicine, technology, and books for adolescents. Additionally the library reading room had two distinct sections, one for encyclopedic and bibliographic publications and one for lexical publications. The division then adopted was subsequently used in a similar form until 1999.

When Poland regained independence in 1919 the Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek came under Polish jurisdiction and was renamed the University Library. The first renovations, quickly carried out under the direction of Edward Kuntze, allowed the Library to be opened on the 1st of October, 1919, although it was impossible to meet all the readers' expectations at the time.

The book collections had to be adapted to both Polish needs and the University requirements, accomplished by withdrawing German propaganda literature and accumulating large portions of Polish books. They were obtained through the donations of institutions such as the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences in Kraków, the Society of Support of Polish Science in Lwów, and the Scientific Society of Warsaw, as well as from the gifts of private individuals in Poland and abroad; valuable book collections were purchased from famous collectors. In 1919, the Library was granted the regional legal deposit copies, whereas in 1927 it obtained the legal deposit right for a copy of each book published in Poland, which had a great influence on the shaping of the Library book collection.

Edward Kuntze's successor, Stefan Vrtel-Wierczyński, was director of the Library from 1927 to 1937. He continued the modernization process by increasing the Library's purchases, expanding its book exchange and organizing the receipts of compulsory materials. The takeover of secondary school book collections, begun in 1928, went a long way in supplementing the Library's collection. Many of the 17,500 volumes incorporated into the Library's holdings were precious and ancient works whose origin often dated back to the old monastic libraries.

In 1919, the University Library employed 28 people, whereas in 1939 it had a staff of 41. It organized systematic training courses for its employees ranging in topics from practical to research librarianship. In reality, however, the library

remained an institution open only to members of the academic community. This was mainly due to obligatory deposits required from general public users, i.e., people not linked with the University, thus limiting their access to the collections. In 1939, the Library's book collection totaled 502,000 volumes. In 1938 (the last year with detailed annual statistics), 55,500 readers visited the Library and had access to almost 80,000 volumes.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, 1939, the Library was retaken by the Germans, who, after closing it, rifled through its collection in search of the most valuable objects, which were then distributed among different German libraries. The systematic Germanization of the institution, reopened on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1941 under the name Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, lasted until 1945. These years saw the incorporation of donations from several German institutions as well as the deliberate purchasing of current Nazi literature.

The Library's losses during World War II were relatively small when compared to those of other libraries in Poznań. It is estimated that 20% of the building and its equipment was devastated, while losses in the book collection totaled 84,000 volumes, of which most were classified as unregistered, having been received in 1939 or borrowed and not returned. Precious prints removed from the Library and sent to many different places (including German libraries) and serials deposited in Poznań churches were – for the most part – efficiently vindicated.

The University Library first postwar director, Aleksander Birkenmajer (1945-1947), and his successor, Stefan Vrtel-Wierczyński (1948-1950) were faced with the task of both reconstructing the Polish book collection and making it as useful to the reopened University as possible.

The Library, after the first renovation works, was opened in October 1946. All Nazi literature were removed from the Library's collections, whilst other German literary texts were retained, thus establishing German Studies as the Library's main book acquisitions specialization. At the same time the Library's function changed – it became, and has remained to this day, a research library open to the public. Because of the Library position in the region, its next specialization became the acquisitions of literature concerning Wielkopolska (northwestern Poland). Because the historical borders of this geographical region had undergone



Poznań University Library Reading Room

great change, the scope of this task was set as wide as possible. The recovery of abandoned collections by the University Library from the territories of Wielkopolska, Pomerania and – partly – the Recovered Territories, i.e., lands recovered by Poland after World War II, caused a sudden expansion of the book collection. Thus the University Library acquired approximately 700,000 volumes of extremely precious materials from old manor libraries, which allowed the Library to create an opulent number of special book collections, e.g., early printed books and rare prints or cartographical collections. A collection of literary texts on Masonic topics, totaling 80,000 volumes, previously preserved by Germans in Sława Śląska, also found its way to the Library. Thus, free masonry writings became the Library's third area of specialization. At this time, the Library also expanded its holdings in order to meet the research needs of the new university faculties.

The following decades saw a considerable growth in the book collections, with the Library collecting texts from new fields: Scandinavian studies, the issues of the Western and Northern Parts of Poland, Anglo-Saxon literature, Southern and Eastern Slavic Literature, Baltic Studies, the History of Science, Library and Information Science (LIS). Of course, the scope of acquired material was influenced by the expanding University, which, by the end of the 1970s, was providing its students with 65 specialty options.

The acquisition policy assumed the complete compilation of literature from all fields of interest and the purchase of many copies of each item. So while in the 1950s the Library's collections increased annually by 20,000 volumes, in the 1980s

this number reached almost 80,000. The lack of foreign currency for the purchase of foreign literature was compensated by a worldwide exchange scheme, which by the end of the 1970s was being conducted with nearly 1,500 partners, yielding 12,000-13,000 volumes annually.

A departure from the complete compilation strategy was commenced during the first half of the 80s by Zdzisław Sztumik (1980-1992) – the successor of Zofia Kawecka (1950-1958) and Stanisław Kubiak (1958-1980). Thanks to the considerable reduction of multi-copy purchases in the 1990s, the annual volume acquisition decreased to 40,000 items.

In 1960 the book collection consisted of 815,000 volumes, in 1980 – 2,000,000, and in 1990 – 2,500,000, with storage becoming ever more problematic over the course of this period. The plan to construct a new library building, presented at the end of the 1940s, was never undertaken. In 1952, the existing library was enhanced by a single building and was utilized mainly as a library workshop. However, the small storage facility within its location did not resolve the issue of book storage. It was not until the opening of a new storage wing in 1993, intended to hold 800,000 volumes, that the problem was eliminated for the next 13 years.

The Library's broad expansion demanded new posts and staff replacements. As previously mentioned, on the eve of the war the Library employed 41 people. In the years from 1946-68, the Library had 45 librarians; in 1973 – 155, in 1978 – 181 and in 1990 – 173. Due to personnel reductions carried out in 1992, 131 posts were left at the Library. In the 1960s, 60% of the Library personnel had higher education degrees. This percentage increased slightly in the 1970s. After 1992, it dropped to 50% since it was deemed that many of the library's activities required only well-trained personnel with a secondary education or with relevant vocational qualifications.

In tandem with the University's expansion and the growing library collection, more volumes were made accessible: 67,000 in 1950, increasing to 133,000 in 1960 and 435,000 in 1970. Due to technical difficulties some of the library's storage facilities had to be closed down, resulting in a decrease in accessible material – only 312,000 volumes were provided to the readers in 1980 and only 220,000 in 1990. The number of University



Library users increased systematically: in the 1946, 2,800 registered, by the end of the 1950s there were more than 5,000 and 10,000 by the end of the following decade. During the 1970s the number reached 17,000, finally reaching 20,000 at the beginning of the 1990s.

During this period, the Reference Department thrived. This was accompanied by the Special Collections Department increasing the scope of



Poznań University Library Main Hall

its task of imparting specialist reference queries – catalogs for individual collection categories were created, special thematic indexes were kept. By the beginning of the 1990s, the University Library had commenced modernizing its information services by purchasing its first CD-ROM and compact disc databases.

In order to document and popularize collections, the Library prepared and published catalogs for specific categories of foreign serials and special collections. Using the materials gathered by the University Library, its employees created many research papers, source editions and bibliographies (such as the “Regional Bibliography of Wielkopolska” quarterly). The basic scope of the research papers undertaken by the librarians encompassed bibliographical issues concerning the history and current problems of books, libraries, readership, printing, publishing, papermaking, conservation and library architecture. Some of the works expressed their authors’ specific interests in literature, history, archeology, ethnology, sociology, pedagogy, geography, music, management, economics and law. By the end of the 20th century, library employees issued over 1,500 publications

in total. The librarians also conducted classes (initially at the Institute of Library and Information Science, later at the LIS Department of the Institute of Polish Philology) as well as so-called library training for first-year students and training in the *Basics of Scientific Information* for third and fourth-year students. Furthermore, University Library personnel prepared many different information brochures and annually carried out dozens of user-requested on-subject bibliographic lists.

The Library has organized many conferences and seminars. Worth mentioning are the Library’s promotional activities – besides thematic expositions of books from its own collections it has presented the materials of other libraries and publishers.

### The University Library since 1999

Using funds granted by the Andrew Mellon Foundation, the University Library purchased the HORIZON integrated library system in 1997. After two years of preparation, the system was implemented, thus commencing the Library’s computerization era. This is why the year 1999 constitutes an important caesura in the Library’s history (up to this point all procedures had been conducted manually). It is important to note that it was at this time that the Library’s organizational structure also underwent change. Over the next few years, it was modified twice and adapted to new procedures and tasks. Certain departments have now more employees, which means that the Library is always ready to respond to new challenges. This task also belongs to a number of permanent brainstorming teams – made up of employees formally belonging to different organizational cells – which make decisions concerning strategic planning and propose concrete solutions to specific problems. The University Library is the first in the country, following the example of Western libraries, to appoint from among its employees twenty-three field specialists assigned with the tasks of literature acquisitions, selecting incoming material, subject cataloging of the material and finally the conducting of a retrospective selection.

In 2002 priority was given to the task of reorganizing the library systems existing in the different organizational units of the University. It was decided that in place of the 40 different-sized

institute, faculty and cathedral libraries, a network of only 13 faculty libraries would be created. They would be large, modern, fully computerized, with open access to the bookshelves and located in specially constructed buildings. The plan will have been completed by 2011, but there are already 9 functioning faculty libraries, some of them located in new facilities.

The need to undertake new tasks resulting from the library automation process, but also those resulting from Poland's economic and political transformation (e.g., the rapid increase in the number of the University's students from 45,000 in 1999 to 55,000 in 2005, receiving an education in 149 different specialties in 39 faculties) made it necessary for the Library to hire more personnel. However, more important than the quantitative changes (currently 167 job positions) were the qualitative ones. The University Library provides many rewarding opportunities for its employees, including a wide range of international contacts, frequent research trips and training sessions, not to mention chances for the carrying out of research. Many of the new employees are young people, who are well educated, fluent in foreign languages, familiar with computer technology, and who associate their future careers with this institution. Today over 60% of the personnel possess higher education degrees. We are also proud of the fact that 23 of our staff members have become professionally qualified research librarians.

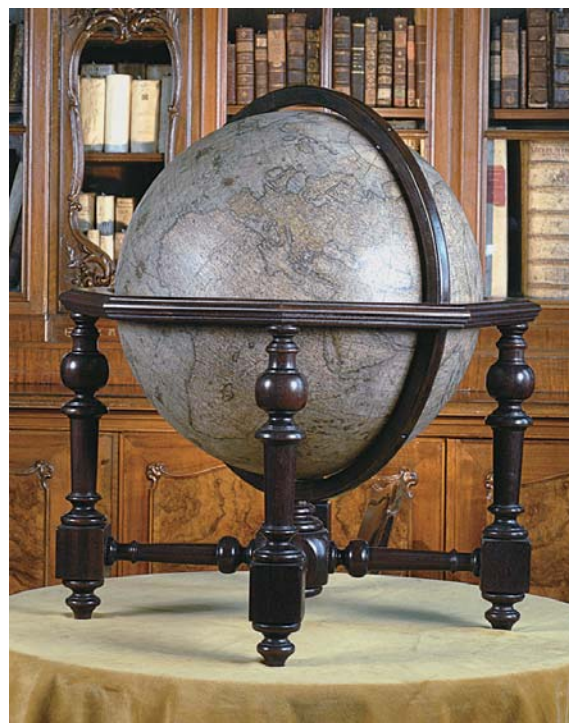
Currently the University Library of Poznań is the fourth largest research library in Poland and constitutes an important link in the nation-wide network of these libraries. Its collections (faculty libraries included) encompass nearly 4,800,000 volumes:

	University Library	Faculty Libraries	Total
monographs	1 565 670	1 549 136	3 114 806
serials	680 143	381 998	1 062 141
special collections	485 542	128 474	614 016
total	2 731 355	2 059 608	4 790 963

The Library is particularly proud of its special collections. Distinguished among them are early printed books (over 80,000 volumes) containing many valuable Polish texts and a collection of more than 60,000 volumes of Masonic literature, the

largest in Europe. What stands out in the iconographic collections (44,000 items) is the collection of old picture-postcards of Poznań and Wielkopolska. Also in the collection of maps and atlases, that contains over 27,000 units, one can find many priceless specimens such as old terrestrial and celestial globes, of which very few have survived to our times throughout the whole world. The Library has rich music collections (127,000 items) and sets of documents concerning public life (73,000 items). The University Library in Poznań does not specialize in collecting manuscripts, however, and possesses only 4,600 of them.

Worth noting is that in the Library's holdings there can be found 600,000-650,000 volumes of monographs published before 1918. Approximately 300,000 of them are German prints, of which



The Terrestrial Globe of Mathieu Greuter, Rome 1632. From the collections of the Poznań University Library

a large part was acquired from the Library's original stock (the collections of the Kaiser Wilhelm Bibliothek). They are still used as reference sources and have been divided according to fields of interest in the book catalogue: 1,000 volumes of encyclopedic publications, 2,000 general biographies, 30,000 historical studies volumes, and 15,000 economics and law items. 20,000 volumes belong to the scope of literature and language studies, whereas 10,000 concern theology. Approximately

5,000 volumes each represent fine arts, pedagogy, natural studies and medicine. Smaller are the collections of written texts concerning engineering, agriculture, geography, mathematics, philosophy, as well as the collections of serials or other materials falling under the category of early printed books.

The book acquisition policy developed for the University Library over the last two decades of the 20th century did not undergo any serious changes, but a few notable revisions were made. The rapid growth of publishing in Poland, the ease of obtaining foreign literature, and the ability to access library catalogs on the Internet have aided libraries in implementing a greater degree of the specialization of library acquisitions and sharing tasks and responsibilities among them. This is why the University Library has resigned from the acquisition of literature in the fields of medicine, engineering and agriculture. All incoming material from these fields is now transferred (e.g., as a legal deposit copy of materials published in Poland) to the appropriate libraries in the city via previously signed agreements. This has aided in the development of a network of specialist libraries that provides services to nearly 100,000 students from Poznań's twenty-four universities and colleges. The rule of collecting one copy per publication only – excluding handbooks from this rule – has also been implemented. Furthermore, the cooperation framework with the faculty libraries has been altered. They now handle the bulk of students' literary needs, allowing the University Library to limit its purchases of handbooks. According to the new guidelines, the faculty libraries are to provide an up-to-date service for research activities by making accessible current serials and specialist publications. Hence, the University Library has passed on to faculty libraries approximately 80% of its subscribed serials, as well as many foreign monographs purchased by specific order of research workers, and large portions of domestic specialist literature purchased mainly in the form of obligatory material.

In deciding that the collection process should be limited in terms of quantity, but remain purposeful, the Library resigned from its extensive exchange with libraries outside Poland. This step was entirely justified, as in many cases; the material that the Library had received did not match the acquisition policy. Therefore, funds previously

allocated for the book exchange scheme were redirected to the purchase of specific foreign titles. Besides conducting an extensive selection process of incoming material, the Library launched a large weeding operation of its main collection in the mid 1990s. Poznań Library is the only library in the country to have carried out this process extensively – in 1995, 360,000 items were introduced to the collection, while over 280,000 positions were removed.

A revolutionary change relating to the subscription of serials came about at the beginning of the 21st century. Its first stage was the centralization of all procedures, as in the University Library subscribing serials for the entire university based on one list with the expedient financial support of the faculties. Not only did this prevent the doubling of titles, it also allowed the subscription of unpopular titles to be stopped. The computerization of the university allowed in 2004 for the implementation of a new model of material acquisitions, in which electronic serials were deemed a main resource – being supplemented by printed ones. As a result of the University Library joining several consortia and participating in tender procedures, in 2005 this resulted in 11,500 serial titles becoming available, 8,000 of which were electronic. This did not involve great increases in spending.

Thanks to the Library's purchase of HAN software, users have now access to electronic sources from all of the university computers as well as from their private computers located elsewhere. The Library's computerization has brought about noticeable changes in the methods of collection processing – particularly since 1999; all new acquisitions were entered into the database. When it came to the retrospective conversion of card catalogs the solution consisted of a quick, but complete, cataloging of every publication requested by patrons from the existing collections for the first time. This resulted in 1,000,000 (22% of the entire stock) publications cataloged in the database of the University Library by 2005. Many more years of work will be required for the retrospective conversion of remaining card catalog descriptions to be fully cataloged within the computer database; nevertheless, in 2005 over 94% of book loans were conducted via computer catalogue! One can safely say that the retrospective conversion process is no longer the most urgent task facing

the Library. Currently the Library is cooperating within the National Universal Union Catalog (NUKAT), a project that has been created by the majority of Polish research libraries.

We are very pleased that Poznań University Library remains one of Poland's top 10 libraries in terms of the number of bibliographic records entered into the catalogue, and authority file records (of names and of subjects). It also relates to its catalog, which has been enhanced with the provision of a set of additional options such as subjects, descriptor fields, and keywords, and What is more, 70% of the catalog's records have already been copied (downloaded from the NUKAT) into the Library catalog! This has made it possible to decrease the number of Library employees working on compilations and to assign them new tasks, mainly within the scope of research reference services and training.

The University Library in Poznań is known for its widely publicized motto: "Our patron's wish is our command" something, which the management and staff are always looking to honor. Great emphasis is given to the organizational culture at the University Library, and the restructuring of user services. However, we are also aware that the beautiful and historic Library building does not meet present-day requirements and is not as functional as we would like it to be. Compared to the faculty libraries, the University Library's main deficiency is still the small number of seats in the reading rooms and the small quantity of books with an open access to the bookshelves. The Library is failing to meet the demands being placed on it by public use, despite undertaking to open two new reading rooms and make them subject-oriented, to equip them with computers, and to increase the number of books with open access. This has been met through the organization of a large two-story lending room of didactic books with over 70,000 volumes. A considerable decrease in the number of requests placed in the reading rooms resulting from the opening of the lending facility was followed by the decrease of stacks' personnel duties and – in the end – a much quicker delivery of the requested item from the stacks to the reading room (only some 30 minutes wait). All this has led to the systematic increase of access to library materials in a traditional way (in 2005 – over 600,000), in spite of the huge growth of electronically delivered material (some 350,000 in 2005).

It has also allowed the University Library in Poznań to reach the highest level of electronic accessibility from among the country's largest libraries. To a great extent this is due to the fact that the University Library has been creating its own electronic material stock – by mainly digitizing old collections relating to Poznań and the region of Wielkopolska as well as those monographs and serials that have been deemed special and most desired by the users. Digitized material is available in the Wielkopolska Digital Library (<http://www.wbc.poznan.pl>), the largest of its kind in Poland.

Aware that in the electronic information era the task of educating patrons is of paramount importance, the Library in 2004 began expanding its training and consulting system for students as well as research personnel.

Since the University Library's collections have been incorporated within the so-called National Reserve of Library Collections (Narodowy Zasób Biblioteczny, NZB), constituting the most important and valuable holdings in Poland's libraries and archives, a great deal of attention has been paid to their security and conservation. The renovation works have made it possible to secure the entire building by way of a constant electronic monitoring system, in addition to restricted access areas and a network of several dozen cameras. The collections are also protected through digitization (once an item is digitized, its physical counterpart becomes unavailable) as well as by creating microfilm versions and regular conservation. The Library has its own Book Restoration Laboratory that carries out extensive conservation and renovation procedures.

A major challenge that the Library faces is marketing and promotion. It also has to live up to its status as a modern institution capable of meeting any challenge. As a result, we are constantly updating our web site (<http://www.lib.amu.edu.pl>), and expanding our publishing activities (particularly after 1996). We also host academic conferences (organized every 2 to 3 years), systematic field workshops, exhibitions (6-8 times during a year), book promotions, and get-togethers with authors. All these events help to provide extra funds for both the Library and the tasks and programs that it undertakes.

Library employees have the opportunity of publishing the results of their research activities (over 50 publications and research works a year) in their annual *Biblioteka* [Library], and other

serials. Topics mentioned earlier have been enhanced with management, communication, and new forms of reference and didactic activities. This all places the Library among the most important research libraries in the country.

The University Library can also be proud of its international activities, although much remains to be done in this area. It enjoys partnership agreements with 21 foreign libraries. Traditionally the most intensive contacts are those with German libraries, but the Library holds in high esteem the opportunity of cooperating with libraries in Aarhus, Bern and Leeds. The University Library is a member of many library associations, such as LIBER, IAML and the Association of Masonic Archives and Museums, and the Polish Librarians' Association is very active within the Library.

## Looking towards the Future

The Library can look forward to the construction of a new library building, to be completed by 2010. This new building will provide state of the art library services and will also be a university reference centre, where research, popular-scientific and cultural events can take place.

When talking about current affairs, first of all one has to mention bringing to an end the reorganization of the Library's faculty libraries. This will allow for the implementation of a flat managerial scheme, in which headquarter personnel will take part in more and more technical activities related to holdings management and processing, while the faculty librarians shall take over and enhance reference services and training activities. In 2006, the Library launched the creation of an e-learning system. It is planned that during the first stage of the project a set of tools and librarians training syllabi shall be established and in the one to follow it is planned to create student-oriented resources. The latter task shall be accomplished within the framework of a project financed with

funds from the European Union. The Library's next goal is to acquire know-how in field of fundraising. This will include the creation of a new post: a project leader. So far, the Library's activities and achievements in this domain are far from satisfactory. Modern Library management shall continue to be of utmost importance for the Library.

For the past three years, the University Library has been the coordinator of a nationwide study entitled *Analysis of the Functioning of Research Libraries in Poland*. It has defined a standardized set of data, and also helped to streamline the system to collect information from all over the country, based on the relevant questionnaire. The study's ultimate goal is to define a set of indicators that would make possible the evaluation of different libraries, and, through comparison, establish for them different levels of state funding.

Due to its rich special collections, and having had a large part of them qualified as a part of the National Reserve of Library Collections, the University Library will continue to develop all its activities relating to collection safety. This task shall be accomplished by the installation of a technology line for paper deacidification.

The expansion of electronic resources will continue, including the ongoing input of didactic texts into the Digital Library of Wielkopolska.

The Library intends to intensify its editorial activities, such as the publishing of reprints of material from Library's holdings, research works documenting collections, and other publications concerning the broader trends in librarianship.

I hope that this text has presented the University Library as a living institution that is playing an important role in the scholarly life of Poznań, and indeed of Poland as a whole.

It only remains for me to state that many of our plans will soon be set out in a document defining the Library's development strategy until 2015.

## Major Polish Libraries

## Barbara Główna The Warsaw School of Economics Library

*Abstract* The article introduces the oldest Polish academic and research Library specializing in the acquisition, processing, storing and preservation of publications in the field of Economics. Aside from an historical overview, the author concentrates on presenting the modernization of the Library's infrastructure, its organizational transformation, and its new types of user services.

The SGH Library [the Library of the Warsaw School of Economics] works for the benefit of the entire School, i.e., the University of Economics, with its scope of services, ranging from research to the provision of didactic materials. The SGH Library is the main Economics Library in Poland: its collections are the largest in Poland and cover a wide range of issues including economics, econometrics and economic policy, the economic history and geography of certain countries, economic law, statistics and demographics, as well as marketing and management, environmental issues and computer science. The Library also holds a large number of first editions of famous books relating to Economics, not to mention a valuable collection of manuscripts. The institution's research, didactic and service-oriented tasks look to serve the students and research personnel of the Warsaw School of Economics, as well as the adult population of Warsaw (the SGH Library in this case acts as a public library). Indeed, the Library's mission is to meet the reading demands of both the School's patrons and those of its other users.

The Library was founded along with the School and is a century old. In 1906, August Zieliński – a graduate of the Leopold Kronenberg School of Economics in Warsaw and the School of Economics in Leipzig – founded an Economics academy, and provided it with instructors and a teaching syllabus. The new institution also began providing educational services under the name *Prywatne Kursy Handlowe Męskie pod kierunkiem Augusta Zielińskiego* [Private Economics Courses

for Men under the Guidance of August Zieliński]. Instruction however was closely monitored and regulated by the Russian authorities that controlled the eastern regions of Poland up to 1914.

Also in 1906, following the acquisition of Economics handbooks and encyclopedias, as well as basic literature in the fields of trade and industry, a small specialist Library was created. In its first year, the Library's collection totaled 820 volumes. The School – known since 1915 as the Higher School of Economics – understood the importance of developing the Library. Many Economics books were purchased, but the lack of a proper library building proved to be a major concern. As a result, the growing collections were moved every several years to larger, rented facilities.

In the year 1918 – after the end of World War I – Poland became an independent country, and in the years following independence, the Higher School of Economics (known from 1935 as the Warsaw School of Economics) became an academy with much broader reach in operation, covering the whole country. In response to this situation, the School's rector, professor Bolesław Miklaszewski, ordered the construction of a new library building. The project's architect was Jan Witkiewicz-Koszczyz – cousin of surrealist dramatist Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (Witkacy). Besides the Library, Witkiewicz's project included plans for other buildings (the Pavilion for Experimental Studies – “Building A”, and the Professors' House – “Building C”) that were to comprise the School's campus.



The SGH Library building

Witkiewicz's plans located the SGH Library on Rakowiecka Street. The Library's director, professor Konstanty Krzeczkowski, was Witkiewicz's consultant (1). The Library building ("Building B") was completed within eighteen months and opened in January 1931. It was one of the first buildings in the independent Poland that was designed to house a library. The new library building also became a home for part of the collection of the newly formed National Library. Since the number of books in the SGH Library did not exceed 150,000 volumes, and given that the library building was one of the most modern in Europe (the repository was designed to hold approximately 500,000 volumes and the reading room could seat over 300 people) it was decided that the collections, of the National Library and the SGH Library could be accommodated. Over the years, the collections of both libraries grew, but it was only in the mid 1960s that the National Library moved to a different building.

The Library building is now 76 years old, and it has been added to the Register of Warsaw's

Historical Monuments. However, in recent years, thanks to funding from the Foundation for Polish Science, the building's interior has been completely restructured and refurbished. (2) In turn, the Reference Department has been totally modernized, and has now a larger room furnished with modern equipment. The open access book collection has also been expanded, whereas the Main Reading Room has been equipped with new library furniture and seating for 210 people. The old Serials Reading Room was divided into the Polish Serials Reading Room and the Foreign Serials Reading Room. These two reading rooms were equipped with a computer network and opened in the 1998/99 academic year. The building's architecture makes it difficult to open the repositories to patrons, in contrast with other university libraries, which allow open access to their bookshelves. Only the number of easily accessible serials has been increased (3): the Polish Serials Reading Room provides access to the most popular serials dating back to 1987 onwards without readers having to wait or fill out request slips, while the Foreign

Serials Reading Room does this with foreign titles dating back to 1999 onwards. In order to facilitate user access to book collections, all the rooms on the second floor – the Main Reading Room, the Reference Department and the Polish Serials Reading Room – have been connected with an internal communication interlink. Thanks to the modernization, the number of reading stations for patrons has increased, and currently with 347 seats in all the reading rooms. The 1998/99 academic year also saw the opening of a computer room on the building's first floor, which was made available to the students of the Warsaw School of Economics. After World War II – due to a lack of housing in the ruined city of Warsaw – the School's administrative staff and their families began living in the building's third floor. When they moved out, their rooms were taken over by the Department of Serials' Processing. Some special collections were also housed on the third floor.

Changes in the Library made possible a fresh approach with regard to the collections. Piotr Tańkowski, one of the Library's employees and an expert on old books, began studying the closed-off and specially preserved early printed books, and during the course of his research, he found many valuable and historical objects, such as the works of western humanists. (4) The oldest items are the commentaries of great Renaissance scholars, such as the renowned French Hellenist, Guillaume Budé, the German theologian and Greek and Latin scholar, Simon Grynaeus, and the Italian scholar, Giorgio Valli. (5) Among these early printed books, Piotr Tańkowski also found books on Law and Economics. The oldest treatise on economics that the Library possesses is by Charles du Moulin *Tractatus commerciorum etusurarum, redituumque pecunia constitutorum et monetarum* (Lion 1558). In all, Piotr Tańkowski described several historical works, having also found a few previously unknown pieces that had not been registered in the National Library Union Catalog. (6) The question that must be asked is how did these early printed books find their way into the SGH Library – and the most likely explanation is that over the course of the past century the Library did not only purchase books, but it also acquired collections both from the School's deceased professors and from other benefactors.

Professor Konstanty Krzeczowski served as the Library's director from 1918. Over two

decades he increased the Library's importance by turning it into the richest social-economic book collection in Central Europe. Under his guidance, the Library book collection increased from 12,000 in 1918 to 150,000 in 1939. (7) What is more, during his term of office the Library found permanent storage for its collections. In September 1939 – after the outbreak of World War II – professor Krzeczowski was arrested by the Germans and put in prison, where he soon lost his health. He was released in November 1939 but died on December 10, 1939. After Krzeczowski's death, Andrzej Grodek, also one of the School's professors, and the Library's deputy director since 1936, assumed directorship of the Library. In July 1940, the German occupation authorities decided to move the Library's collections to the warehouses of the Biblioteka Ordynacji Krasieńskich (the Krasieński Library) on Okólnik street. However, Józef Grycz, the director of the National Library, thwarted this move, and the Library remained where it was, as a collection under the management of Department II of the Staatsbibliothek Warschau. The Department was made up of the collections of the National Library (combined with the Krasieński Library) and the SGH Library. Grodek was made Second Librarian of the Warsaw Staatsbibliothek, in charge of the SGH Library. (8)

Grodek was present in the Library throughout the entire occupation – including the Warsaw Uprising in 1944 (until the entire population was moved out of the city after the uprising failed). He protected the collections and hid the most precious materials outside of the Library. It was thanks to his prudence, ingenuity and courage, as well as his fluent German that the Library's collections survived. Professor Grodek was also the first librarian to return to the Library after the Germans left Warsaw – arriving on January 18, 1945. Life in Warsaw was extremely difficult at the time. Library employees slept in the library building on mattresses left behind by the German army. Water shortages were dealt with by the melting of snow. Some of the library rooms had stoves installed, which were fueled with wooden boards stripped from the fence of the cemetery of German soldiers who had died during the Warsaw Uprising, located on the Warsaw School of Economics campus. (9) Several weeks later, on February 25, 1945, the Library became the first



Library to reopen its doors to the public of the ruined city of Warsaw.

Since that time, the Library's collections have expanded considerably. Currently, the entire collection consists of 693,302 monographs, 214,619 serials and 81,905 special collection volumes. In



The SGH Library Main Reading Room

2005, 8,862 volumes were added to the main collection from domestic and foreign purchases, donations and domestic and foreign book trade with other institutions. Another 2,922 volumes, also of varying provenance, were added to the Library's multi-copy collection – a collection that is accessible only to students of the Warsaw School of Economics.

All Library purchases are paid for with money granted by the School's rector. The Library has 74 employees. According to the latest statistics, 33 employees possess a secondary education and 41 possess a higher education, of which five have a PH.D degree and another 5 are certified librarians.

Dr Maria Rekowski is the Library's twelfth director. The Rector of the Warsaw School of Economics is the Library's direct supervisor. The Library is also governed and administered by the Deputy Director and secretarial staff. The organizational structure is also composed of the following units:

- Department of Collection Acquisitions,
- Department of the Cataloging of Monographs,
- Department of the Cataloging of Serials,
- Department of User Services.

The Department of User Services is composed of the Book Lending Section, Interlibrary Loans, and the Storage and Conservation Section. Other Library units are the:

- Department of Subject Cataloging,

- Reference Department (with its subordinates: Documentation and Publications Section and the Reprographic Station),
- Independent Automation Section,
- Public Orders Specialist. (10)

SGH students make up the largest group of Library patrons (85,912 people in 2005), whilst the Library also accommodates young secondary school researchers (976 in the past year). The students of other post-secondary schools, mostly private schools, as well as students from other Economics academies, form another large group of patrons (21,462 in 2005). The General Reading Room registered 108,350 visitors in 2005; whereas the Polish Serials Reading Room hosted 10,365 guests. Furthermore, in 2005 6,081 people visited the Foreign Serials Reading Room. The Reference Department provided services for 8,300 patrons. The Library has fixed working hours – Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 8pm, Saturday from 9am to 8pm, and Sunday from 10am to 3pm.

Currently there are 103 computers in the Library, which are all linked via a local network. The Library lab alone is equipped with 20 computers. Together with the computers located in the reading rooms, patrons have access to 41 terminals. The librarians at the Warsaw School of Economics use a computerized catalog interface in the ALEPH (Automated Library Expandable Program) system. The system was purchased thanks to the help of a sponsor – the Open Society Institute. (11) The ALEPH system computer catalog has been functioning since 1994; paper catalogs were discontinued in 1995. The creation of the subject catalog was originally – during the interwar years – conducted in accordance with the *Library of Congress* scheme. These days, book collection compilation follows the *Social Sciences and Economics Subject Headings*, a system created by the Library staff. Bibliographic description and subject cataloguing of documents is done according to the rules, and criteria selected in the ALEPH system. The ALEPH catalog is accessible throughout the campus and on the Internet. (12)

In view of the incomplete open access to materials, the easiest way to find publications is through the catalog. Besides the computer catalog (available via the terminals located in the catalog hall, the library lending section, the reading rooms, computer lab and the Reference Department), access

to databases is available via the School's network, whereas the NetWare and the Internet are also accessible through the library's local network. The databases are also available anywhere on campus via the Library's web site. Once they have received their own personal logins and passwords, students and employees of the Warsaw School of Economics have also access to most foreign databases when off campus (e.g. from their home computers).

The Reference Department grants open access to its databases. The Library possesses Polish databases, but also many foreign ones, mostly English-language catalogs. The first database was acquired on December 15, 1992, when the Ambassador of the United States visited the Library and presented it with a set of CDs containing full-text *ABI/Inform* and *BPO* databases with their search engine (*ProQuest*). It also covered a three-year subscription for new CDs. *ProQuest* became a permanent tool in the Library – after the period of free use came to an end, the Warsaw School of Economics provided funds for a further subscription, which also granted access to *ProQuest* via the Internet. Library patrons have also access to its sub-databases: *ABI/Inform Global*; *ABI/Inform Trade & Industry*; and *ABI Inform Dateline*. *EIU News Wire The Economist Intelligence Unit* is another important database that was incorporated into the *ProQuest* system in 2003. It contains social-economic data on over 200 countries, and provides a series of economic prognoses. The Library also has the *ProQuest Digital Dissertations* database – a comprehensive source of information on American and Canadian research papers granting access to the abstracts and first 24 pages of full-text dissertations. Other databases found in the Library: *EBSCO* – a multi-subject database containing serials in 13 sub-bases; *EMERALD* – a database implemented in 1994 containing approximately 150 English-language periodical titles, mainly dealing with management and marketing; *Global Market Information Database (GMID)* created by EUROMONITOR – a global database containing marketing, statistical and consumer information from the year 1977 to present day. The Library has placed a link on its web page to *Euromoney's ISI Emerging Markets* database, which contains comprehensive economic, financial and political information concerning Poland and other developing countries in Eastern Europe,

Latin America, Asia and Africa. The database grants access to complete press articles, the financial reports of public and private companies, and also provides corporation profiles; it also grants access to stock exchange indicators, statistics, economic forecasts and macro-economic data. Patrons also enjoy using the *JSTOR (The Scholarly Journal Archive)* database. *JSTOR* is a full-text database concerned with a wide range of academic subjects and contains a series of 300 periodical titles dating back to their first publications (some dating as far back as the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries). The database register also contains: the *Justis Celex*, a database concerning legal regulations in European Union countries available on the Internet as *EUR-LEX* (13); the *NBER (National Bureau of Economic Research- Working Papers)* database containing research papers on economics and related topics; and the *ISI Highly Cited* – a global database of the most cited authors. The latest addition to the database collection is the static *SourceOECD*, which contains complete texts from OECD [Organization for European Cooperation and Development] publications. The Library invites its patrons to also benefit from materials available through *Open Access* – an extremely comprehensive collection of literary works open for general use and structured in the form of links to specific online publications. *Open Access* materials are available under the web address found in the Library's web site. As a subscriber of foreign serials in a printed form, the Library is entitled to grant its patrons access to the online versions of some of these titles. The list of serials available online can also be found on the Library's homepage. Altogether, the SGH Library possesses 10,000 foreign serials titles in electronic form.

From among the available Polish-language databases that the Library possesses, the “Przegląd Bibliograficzny Czasopiśmiennictwa Ekonomicznego” [Economics Serials Bibliographical Overview] is a regularly updated economics database managed by the Library's employees (the database dates back to 1993 when the Warsaw School of Economics purchased a set of MAK programs from the National Library); and the “Bibliografia Publikacji Pracowników Naukowo-Dydaktycznych SGH” [Bibliography of Warsaw School of Economics Employees' Publications], also created by the Library's employees, containing the



The SGH Library Polish Serials Reading Room

school's literary output from 1993 to 2004 (the database is also managed with the use of the MAK system). Both databases are available in paper form in the Warsaw School of Economics Reference Department – the first one as a quarterly, the second as an annual. Individuals interested in legal issues are able to refer to the *System Informacji Prawnej LEX* [Legal Information System], which contains legal acts published in *Dziennik Ustaw* [Law Journal], *Monitor Polski* [Polish Monitor], “*Dzienniki Urzędowe*” [Official Journals], as well as the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court, Appeal Courts, the Constitutional Tribunal and the *Official Journal of European Union*. The Library also offers a wide range of statistical

### Notes

- (1) Konstanty Krzeczkowski – *Library Director of WSH-SG in the years 1918-1939*. A virtual exhibition can be accessed at URL: [http://www.sgh.waw.pl/ogolnuczelniane/biblioteka/informacje\\_ogolne/wystawa\\_biblio](http://www.sgh.waw.pl/ogolnuczelniane/biblioteka/informacje_ogolne/wystawa_biblio).
- (2) Kenska, Alicja, Rekowska, Maria, *Biblioteka Szkoły Głównej Handlowej po modernizacji* [SGH Library after Modernization], *Przegląd Biblioteczny* 2000 No 3, p. 189.
- (3) Op. cit., p. 191.
- (4) Tafiłowski, Piotr, *Druki XVI w. w Bibliotece Głównej SGH* [XVIth Century Prints in the SGH Library], *Gazeta SGH* 2005 No 206, p. 14.
- (5) Ibid., p. 14.
- (6) Ibid., p. 16.
- (7) Tanewski, P. *Konstanty Krzeczkowski – twórca i dyrektor Biblioteki SGH* [Konstanty Krzeczkowski – Cre-

ator and Director of SGH Library], *Bibliotekarz* 2006 No 1, p. 28.

yearbooks, as well as the online archives of three Polish newspapers – *Rzeczpospolita* [The Republic], *Gazeta Prawna* [Legal Newspaper] and *Puls Biznesu* [Pulse of Business]. From its web site the Library presents the databases of its partner school, the Main Library of the Kraków University of Economics: *Gospodarka* [Economy] and *Zeszyty Naukowe Polskich Uczelni Ekonomicznych (Nauki Społeczne)* [Research Notes of Polish Universities of Economics (Social Sciences)]. The Library's web site provides also information on the Warsaw Stock Exchange's *Cedula* (Share-list) database, containing useful financial information from the years 2003-2005.

On April 11, 2005, the Center of European Documentation founded its headquarters in the SGH Library building. Created in 1971 as a subordinate of the Institute of Foreign Trade Policy and European Studies, it is currently a depository of European Union publications. Professor Grażyna Wojtkowska-Łodej is in charge of this Centre. The Center enjoys the benefaction of Procter and Gamble, which paid for the interior decor, and provided it with state-of-the-art computer equipment.

John Paul II once said, the library is „an exceptional temple for the creative spirit of Mankind”, and indeed the SGH Library is an institution where its staff does their best to serve their patrons to the thier ability. (14)

ator and Director of SGH Library], *Bibliotekarz* 2006 No 1, p. 28.

(8) Podolska-Meducka, Aldona *Walka o ratowanie zbiorów Biblioteki SGH w czasie wojny* [The Struggle to Save the SGH Library Collection in World War II], *Gazeta SGH* 2006 No 221/222, p. 14.

(9) Ibid., p. 16.

(10) Organizational Structure and Projects available in the web site (<M-files-Struktura organizacyjna a projekty>) at URL: [http://www.sgh.waw.pl/ogolnuczelniane/biblioteka/informacje\\_ogolne/](http://www.sgh.waw.pl/ogolnuczelniane/biblioteka/informacje_ogolne/).

(11) Kenska, Alicja, Rekowska, M., op. cit., p. 191.

(12) <http://antistep.sgh.waw.pl/ALEPH>.

(13) <http://europa.eu.int/eur-lex/cs>.

(14) See in *John Paul II Has Died*, *Bibliotekarz* 2005 No 5, p. [1].

## Major Polish Libraries

*Krzysztof Szelong*

## Euroregional Projects of the Cieszyn Historical Library

*Abstract* The author describes three research projects carried out by Cieszyn Historical Library in cooperation with Czech partners within the framework of the Cieszyn Silesia Euroregion created in 1998. He also shows the positive impact on the modernization of the Library, making it more attractive to local patrons and researchers in Poland and Czech Republic.

The Euroregion of Śląsk Cieszyński – Těšínské Slezsko – Teschener Schlesien, i.e., Cieszyn Silesia formed on April 22, 1998, at the historical intersection of Małopolska, Upper Silesia (Górny Śląsk), Moravia and Slovakia, was created as a union of 58 local communities (15 of these on the Polish side of the border). Covering an area of 1400 sq. km, the Euroregion has a population of 630,000, including 270,000 in Poland. All the cities that acceded to Euroregion had been part of the historical region of Cieszyn Silesia with only two exceptions. The towns of Jastrzębie Zdrój and Godów, which once belonged to Prussian Silesia (Śląsk Pruski), were incorporated into the Euroregion in order to counterbalance the heavily industrialized municipalities of Karviná (Karwina) and Havířov (Hawierzów) in the Czech part of the Euroregion. Located in a part of Europe where the sense of community relies strongly on the shared recollection of events from the past, Cieszyn Silesia has a history that is quite unlike that of any other Euroregion along the Czech-Polish border. While many Euroregions were forced to create an identity virtually from scratch, Cieszyn Silesia dates back to 1290, i.e., to the foundation of the autonomous province of the Duchy of Cieszyn. Undergoing the same course of history, The Duchy of Cieszyn survived in almost unaltered territorial shape until July 1920, when the Board of Ambassadors of the Allied Nations convening in Versailles made an arbitrary decision to split it up. Even today, with a national border dividing the region in two parts, the native inhabitants of Cieszyn Silesia retain a strong sense of their regional identity, one that supersedes the

divisive categories of ethnicity or nationality. Also, the local identity of Cieszyn Silesia has been untouched by the rapid pace of economic, demographic and social change, brought about by the industrial expansion that began in the 1920s in the Czechoslovak (and later Czech) parts of the region. Aside from sharing the same history, language, and customs, the inhabitants of Cieszyn Silesia have also been drawn together by a rich cultural heritage, closely linked to the region's complex past. This heritage demonstrates that since the Middle Ages the area has served as a meeting-point of world-views, philosophies and ways of life. However, the internal friction that was always part of the region's identity increased in strength during the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the nation-building processes taking place throughout Central Europe, sparked an open rivalry between the various national and ethnic group. Yet even though such rivalry sometimes led to clashes of a more violent nature, as a rule the culture of Cieszyn Silesia benefited from a variety of intellectual ideas, while the coexistence of ethnic and religious groups ensured that it would remain a thriving, open and diverse community.

One of the most vivid examples of the multicultural tradition of Cieszyn Silesia is the historical library collection, which have been preserved in the region's capital, Cieszyn. While a large part of these collections was formed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many of them, comprising much older private and institutional components, go further back, in some cases even to the Middle Ages. After a relatively early merger of all holdings that took place in the

1930s, as late as in 1994 most of the Cieszyn collections were incorporated into a single research-oriented public community library – the Cieszyn Historical Library (Książnica Cieszyńska). The Cieszyn Historical Library now holds well over 130,000 volumes of printed books, including 18,500 early printed books (46 incunabula) and 17,000 manuscript units. The collections are one of the most indispensable components of the heritage of Cieszyn Silesia, and as such, they bring to mind the richness and openness of the culture created by the region's ethnic and religious diversity.

However, their significance for local culture is only part of the story. The presence of many precious *cimelia* from almost every corner of Europe has made this legacy a priceless example of a shared European patrimony.

In the post-war years, the collections were largely neglected. A large majority of scholars and researchers simply overlooked them, failing to respond to the deteriorating condition of the books. This changed after 1994, when the foundation of the Cieszyn Historical Library in 1994 opened up new perspectives for the protection, preservation



The Cieszyn Historical Library building

and research and documentary elaboration of these valuable holdings.

Out of an overall number of 1,800 volumes in need of various types of repair, 130 have so far undergone a complex renovation. Alongside these preservation issues, the collections are also being extensively researched and catalogued. The aim of these scholarly activities is to create a cohesive system of catalogue databases, which together with the databases of bibliographic and factual information that are being created independently, will become an indispensable tool for researchers studying the history of the region and working in the area of book science.

The Cieszyn Historical Library is constantly enlarging its collections by acquiring all types of regional documents regardless of their form, age, language or provenance. The Library has been organizing activities aimed at promoting the written word and stimulating regional education through exhibitions, contests, lectures, etc. It also publishes books and takes part in research initiatives. Indeed, the Cieszyn Historical Library stands a good chance of becoming the main research library for the entire region, dividing its attention equally between the Polish and Czech parts of Cieszyn Silesia.



*Orationale in Lingua Germanica*, a manuscript miniature prayer book from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. From the collections of the Cieszyn Historical Library

On its inception, the Euroregion of Cieszyn Silesia made *cultural exchange and protecting the shared cultural heritage* one of the main points on its agenda. Unsurprisingly, when the Euroregional authorities agreed to a Cross-Border Cooperation Program in 2001, the Cieszyn Historical Library quickly became one of its main actors. Aimed at stimulating cultural cooperation, the Cross-Border Cooperation Program, funded by CBC Phare, allowed the Cieszyn Historical Library to take part in three major projects. Reflecting the statutory functions of the Library, all



The Cieszyn Historical Library compact storage magazine

projects completed from 2001 to 2005 were closely related to the scope and diversity of its institutional activities, while being linked by a common theme of regional written culture as seen from a historical and contemporary perspective.

The first of the projects carried out by the Cieszyn Historical Library entitled *the Cieszyn Books: Bibliography, Exhibitions and Book Fairs Project* was designed as a “real-time” means of registering events taking place in regional writing and publishing. The idea behind the project arose from having witnessed the explosive growth of the regional publishing market after 1989. The spike in the number of books published after the fall of Communism had its origins

mainly in the civic revival that took place at that time throughout Cieszyn Silesia. Book publishing was a common theme of many of the local initiatives aimed at rebuilding a local and regional identity. Participating in these initiatives, similarly as in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, was a diverse group comprising cultural and research institutions, as well as numerous regional and local social and cultural associations, local self-governmental bodies, schools, parishes, and private publishers. The commercial profile of the book market, however, prevented a large part of the publishing output from achieving greater circulation. An even more powerful impediment, the national border on the Olza River, acted as a formal, organizational, linguistic and psychological barrier, to the effect that books in Czech and Polish could not reach bookstores on the other side of the border in greater numbers. In consequence, readers looking for books about their region could not always access them, and were sometimes even unaware of their existence.

In this environment, *the Cieszyn Books: Bibliography, Exhibitions and Book Fairs Project* was seen as a means of studying, promoting and informing about Polish and Czech regional book publishers in Cieszyn Silesia. The project’s other aims consisted of promoting and informing about regionally themed books, and creating a shared platform for book publishers, retailers, bookstore managers and readers from Cieszyn Silesia, who were interested in this kind of publishing. *Bibliografia książki cieszyńskiej 1990-2001* [The Cieszyn Book Bibliography 1990-2001] was designed as a practical instrument of this policy. Created as a database operating in the MAK software used by the Cieszyn Historical Library, the Bibliography relied on a hands-on examination of the books in the Cieszyn Historical Library, and of the books in other Polish and Czech libraries in the region. Its contents were restricted to regionally themed monographic books published on either side of the border in Cieszyn Silesia from 1990 to 2001. Despite being constrained by these narrow criteria, the complete bibliography covers nearly 1,400 items. While mostly in Polish, the books were published in almost equal proportions on the Polish and Czech side of the border, which can be explained by the publishing activity of the Polish ethnic group in Zaolzie. The computer database *Cieszyn Book Bibliography 1990-2001*

has been published online from the Cieszyn Historical Library's website, alongside with a printed version. The printed catalogue was published in 500 copies, in a fine hardbound volume equipped with personal and subject indexes, and glosses informing about each of the publishers. The graphic layout of the book was designed to attract non-professionals, and especially readers looking for information on the region, who seldom use bibliographies.

The bibliography was first displayed during the annual municipal festivities of "Three Brothers Day", which marked the conclusion of the Cieszyn Book Fair. The Book Fair, also a key part of the project, played host to over thirty exhibitors representing all categories of publishers from either side of the border. Shown at the Book Fair were several hundred books and periodicals. The visitors – estimated at around 1,000 persons – were readers, bookstore owners, sellers of antique books, and wholesale booksellers from Poland and the Czech Republic. The book fair enabled professional participants in the region's book-selling market to share their experiences and to communicate with one another – a task that it performed far in excess of its primary role as a meeting-point for readers, writers and publishers. Primarily, however, it created a working environment for promoting regional publishing; an aim that it shared with the Cieszyn Book Exhibition. Opened during the fair, the Book Exhibition was toured by several hundred visitors (not counting the visitors to the Book Fair), many of whom arrived with organized school trips. Opening the exhibition to school students made it an effective instrument of regional education. By presenting a wide variety of regionally themed publications, including books that were out of print, the exhibition also contributed towards enlarging the readership of the Cieszyn Historical Library. The library itself also benefited from the exhibition in other ways, receiving 200 books and other published items donated by publishers who took part in this event.

*The Cieszyn Books: Bibliography, Exhibitions and Book Fairs Project* was carried out over a period of twelve months (from September 2002 to September 2003), with the assistance of the Cieszyn Historical Library's Euroregional partner – the Karviná Regional Library from the Czech Republic. In retrospect, the project, whose overall cost amounted to 6,435 Euro, can be safely

said to have fulfilled all major expectations. The bibliography has proved to be more than just a useful reference tool for researchers, journalists, teachers, and amateur regional historians. Booksellers in the new and antique book market have been able to refer to it as a guide to regional book publishing. The information that it provides helps booksellers and publishers to react more quickly to the needs of their clients. Publishers have been using the bibliography to promote their products, learn from their competitors and to plan for future undertakings. The Cieszyn Book Fair can also be judged as a success. The fair was so well received by visitors and publishers that the organizers decided to hold it once every several years; the next fair has been scheduled for 2007. Finally, the abundance of new books appearing on the market must be seen as an argument for forging ahead with the following annual volumes of the bibliography.

A recurrent timeframe was one of the main concepts behind the Cieszyn Historical Library's second Euroregional initiative – *the Common Roots Project* (Wspólne korzenie). Laying down a framework for the creation of a new series of books containing edited sources on the history of Cieszyn Silesia, *the Common Roots Project* was implemented by the Cieszyn Historical Library in cooperation with the Documentation Centre of Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic (Ośrodek Dokumentacyjny Kongresu Polaków w Republice Czeskiej). Sharing the same goals as the Cieszyn Historical Library and Documentation Center, a civic institution founded in 1993, records and collects documents related to the region's written heritage, and carries out research on its history and culture. The project was implemented from 2003 to 2004; the total cost (9,578 Euro) was covered by CBC Phare, Komitet Badań Naukowych (the Committee for Scientific Research), and a Marshal's Office of Katowice. *The Common Roots Project* relied on plans set out on its inception, which called for the publication of scholarly editions of historical source documents from the collections of the Cieszyn Historical Library, while the needs and requirements of regional historiography determined the actual shape of research.

From the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards, Cieszyn's historians were heavily involved in the ethnic conflicts that were taking place throughout the region. As a result, most historical writing fell victim

to the demands of politics and ideology. In addition to this, the historians of the last half-century were also held back by censorship. Surprisingly, this combination led to a resurgence of books of all kinds related to the past of Cieszyn Silesia, and yet scholarly research on many aspects of the region's history practically ceased to exist. Many books were based on an ideologically biased selection of source materials. A large number of them – especially those hovering around issues of ethnicity – were not much different from newspaper columns or even propaganda texts. Indeed, over the past several years, in spite of an intellectual reassessment of recent history, which has been taking place in Central Europe, this background has continued to exert a very negative influence on the shape of historical writing. Even now, scholarly books uninfluenced to some degree by national prejudice are still relatively hard to find. In addition to rejecting ideologically motivated interpretations, any effort to overcome this tendency would have to comprise systematic and inclusive source-based research, and would have to yield a range of new scholarly editions of historical sources.

The truth about the past can be revealed only by bringing to light previously unknown historical documents, as that would not only help heal historical rifts, but also open up avenues of research that have not yet been explored. This kind of research might be carried out on materials documenting the peaceful coexistence of many different ethnic and religious groups. These might be texts showing the richness and diversity of the historical culture of Cieszyn Silesia, which prove that a regional sense of community and regional patriotism can exist regardless of ethnic or religious factionalism. However, such research might also be carried out on documents related to episodes of discord, which have not yet been fully chronicled due to the constraints imposed by censorship or ideology.

All too frequently, scholars have investigated the history of Cieszyn Silesia in a way that falls short of academic standards. Despite the seeming abundance – especially in recent years – of source materials, only a handful of published texts (typically either in the form of monograph editions or appendices) have met the demands of academic research. Many text editions have failed to satisfy the expectations of their readers; others did

not meet accepted publishing standards, or were compromised by shoddy editing. Some of the published text editions were of little value as they presented sources of minor importance. Older text editions, by contrast, were flawed by one-sidedness resulting from political utilitarianism. Others were marred by a biased selection of texts, or deformed through the editing, which oftentimes served only to prove a political point (e.g. through the transcription used).

Motivating *the Common Roots Project* was a conviction that these issues could no longer be ignored. The aim of the project was to publish unknown and not easy to access source documents relating to the past of Cieszyn Silesia – from the Middle Ages to recent history – and then historic sources of a universal character preserved on the territory of Cieszyn Silesia and being an imperishable component of Silesian written heri-



The Cieszyn Historical Library. The magazine of L. J. Szersznik Collections

tage. The instrument designed to implement these objectives comprised two series of source publications, which were to appear at the same time on both sides of the border: “Seria Polonica” in Poland, and “Seria Bohemica” in the Czech Republic. Both series would be published under the same title – “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”, a Latin title echoing the title of the bio- and bibliographic project envisaged by the first modern historian of Cieszyn Silesia, rev. Leopold Johann Scherschnik (Leopold Jan Szersznik, 1747-1814), who also founded the region's first public library – one of the predecessors of the Cieszyn Historical Library. Serving as a reminder of the supranational scope and relevance of the series, the Latin title of the



series also conveyed a belief that the published books would be also read by scholars in countries outside Poland and the Czech Republic. The titles of individual series – “Seria Polonica” and “Seria Bohemica” – referring to the place of publication, Poland and the Czech Republic, only served the practical purpose of allowing the reader to identify each of the two publishers on either side of the border. They were not intended to restrict the editors’ choice of materials or to limit their freedom in selecting the language in which these materials would be published, a choice that would be made solely with regard to the linguistic preference of the readers of each volume of “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”.

In the first volume of the series “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”, the Cieszyn Historical Library presented its readers with a text edition of genealogical and heraldic source documents relating to Silesian gentry, dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These materials included handwritten notes, in which rev. Leopold Jan Szersznik recorded the history of 201 noble families from the Duchy of Cieszyn. Also included were 96 drawings, commissioned by rev. Szersznik, showing each family’s coat of arms. The published text was the oldest document of its type, not only in Cieszyn Silesia, but also in the whole of Upper Silesia. The publication edited by Dr. Waław Gojniczek from the Silesian University, was published complete with an enlarged critical apparatus, an extended introduction, a personal and geographical name index, and color facsimiles of the coats of arms. The scientific editor of the volume was Professor Rościław Żerelik from the Wrocław University.

While launching the publication of “Seria Bohemica”, the Cieszyn Historical Library’s partner – Documentation Center of Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic – published a set of relatively new historical records referring to the relations between state authorities, religious institutions and persons representing national and ethnic groups in the Czech part of the region, from 1945 to 1953. Józef Szymeczek from the University of Ostrava edited the volume consisting of the texts originating from the state, church and private archives.

The series represented a deliberate decision to publish a thematically, formally, chronologically and provenancially heterogeneous body of documents, including sources, which had been little known to scholars. The publishers of the series

decided to embark on this venture with the aim of practically verifying some of the original assumptions behind their undertaking. Both editions conformed to publishing guidelines devised at the outset for the entire series of “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”, and received an identical graphic and typographic layout. They were both published with a print run of 500 copies. The goal is to publish the series independently of each other, as the organizational and financial capabilities of the Cieszyn Historical Library and Documentation Center of Congress of Poles in the Czech Republic will allow. The editors, however, are confident that elements such as the publishing schedule, the editing rules, the graphic and typographic layout, the titles and consecutive numbers of the volumes, will remain the same for both. Since their publication in 2004, they have met with favorable reviews in Polish and Czech periodicals, encouraging the editors to draw up plans for future volumes. The results have been twofold: a publishing schedule has been created for the coming years and an Editorial Board has been established to guide the publishers of “Bibliotheca Tessinensis”. Besides local scholars, the Board’s members comprise Polish and Czech scholars and historians of Silesia. A new window of opportunity has appeared in the form of cooperation with yet another partner, the Upper Silesia Foundation House (Stiftung Haus Oberschlesien) in Ratingen. To be edited in cooperation with the Upper Silesia Foundation House, the next volume in the series will contain a document of unique value for the history of Cieszyn – *Gedenkbuch der Stadt Teschen*. Based entirely on archival documents, the *Gedenkbuch* was written by Alois Kaufmann (1772-1847), the mayor of the city in the years 1814-1847. In four volumes and two volumes of supplements containing transcriptions of historical documents (most of which have not been preserved), it traces the city’s history from its legendary founding in 810 up to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. The Cieszyn Historical Library has turned to Fundacja Współpracy Polsko-Niemieckiej [The Foundation of Polish-German Cooperation] for a financial grant to enable the publication of this edition.

The next Euroregional project of the Cieszyn Historical Library was implemented over a period of 15 months. The result was a full-text database containing the biographic records of persons who were born or active in the region – *the Digital*

*Biographic Dictionary of Cieszyn Silesia (Elektroniczny słownik biograficzny Śląska Cieszyńskiego – ESBSC)*. Created at a total cost of just under 10,200 Euro, the *ESBC* was accomplished in cooperation with the Regional Library in Karviná. It referred to the database of facts, which had been launched at the Cieszyn Historical Library in 1994 relating to people, institutions and events from the past and at present from Cieszyn Silesia region and used as the authority file of names. This database, originally designed to run in MAK software, was modified in order to comply with the especially prepared instruction, which detailed criteria of inclusion in the ESBSC database (these standards also provided rules for content of the name headings, together with a list of recognized bibliographic sources).

The *ESBSC* was launched with two major objectives in mind. Its designers opted against giving it the appearance of a lexicon, and decided to refrain from providing full in-depth biographical notes on each of the selected historical figure. Instead, they decided to design it as guidebook, which in a friendly way would provide easy access to its contents for all those wishing to explore the printed biographic dictionaries of the region. In practical terms, this means that the *ESBSC* gives the user more freedom, allowing him not only to perform queries related to the name or pseudonym of a given person, but also to the year of birth or death, towns or cities, types of activity or institutions. Multiple queries, depending on the needs of the user, are also possible. Examples of multiple queries might include “priests born in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, who worked in the Vicar General’s office in Cieszyn”; “teacher-writers born in the 19<sup>th</sup> century”; “political activists born in Bielsko, who spent their professional life in Vienna”; or “writers born in the 1930s, who lived in the town of Trinec” [Trzyniec]. Clearly, *ESBSC* can be used as not only a source of purely bibliographic information, but also as a means of studying other aspects of the region’s history and culture. Each biographic description, listing a number of specific factual sources, is much more informative than it would be if it were only to contain a description of a given person’s life. The other assumption central to the *ESBSC* was related to the criteria for selection. Here, the designers decided that the only condition for including an item in the database would be its relevance for regional research. The

choice, in other words, was not determined by a person’s ethnic or religious background, but solely by his or her significance for Cieszyn Silesia in all its historical dimensions. The designers of the *ESBSC* adhered to this rule throughout the course



The Cieszyn Historical Library Special Collection Reading Room

of the project, thus avoiding the pitfalls of ethnic stereotyping, which all too frequently undermine the accuracy of Polish, Czech and German biographic dictionaries related to the history of the region.

The *Digital Biographic Dictionary of Cieszyn Silesia* relied on information from over 80 Polish, Czech and German-language biographic lexicons. In addition to national bibliographic dictionaries published in Poland, the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria, the examined source material included works whose scope was both local and regional, and specialized lexicons containing biographic information relating to renowned scholars, writers, artists, ecclesiastics, political activists, as well as representatives of other professions. This large and heterogeneous set of resources vastly increased the size of the database. The *ESBSC* now provides access to over 5,800 biographic entries, a number that is growing each day. As stated in the original assumptions of the project, new parts are being added. Usage statistics are rising as well: following its launch, the database was accessed over 5,000 times over a period of five months. In fact, *ESBSC* proved to be such a hot topic that the Karviná Regional Library, the Euroregional partner of the Cieszyn Historical Library, has drawn up plans to create a version of the database in the Czech language. Alongside an edition,

which is to be published on a CD-ROM, the Czech version is expected to increase the impact of the database, which has already become a useful tool for professional scholars, local journalists, and employees of local and regional information Centers, teachers, cultural workers, and local amateur historians.

The Cieszyn Historical Library has overwhelmingly benefited from cross-border initiatives organized in cooperation with partners from the Czech Republic. Given its limited size (16 persons, including some on a part-time basis) and budget (supplied by the municipal authorities of Cieszyn, a town with a population of under 40,000 inhabitants), the Cieszyn Historical Library has found each of the Euroregional projects to be a unique opportunity for its growth and development. The library now offers a wider range of services, and is more effective in carrying out its mission. It has also succeeded in attracting an in-

creasing number of patrons from the Czech part of Cieszyn Silesia, as well as researchers from other parts of the Czech Republic. Cross-border cooperation has enhanced the visibility of cultural and scientific communication between the Czech and Polish areas of Cieszyn Silesia. Additionally, it has helped to eliminate at least some of the stereotypes and misconceptions related to the past. Similarly, cooperation with the Upper Silesia Foundation House in Ratingen – the Cieszyn Historical Library's partner in Germany – is expected to continue. In time, perhaps the Upper Silesia Foundation House may even head up new projects, which could be carried out together with other German research organizations investigating the history of this region. Greater cooperation with scholarly centers would facilitate a more thorough examination of the available historical documents, which would in turn help to overcome any historical prejudices that are still present.

## Major Polish Libraries

*Jan Wołosz*

# Changes in Public Librarianship in Poland after the Political Transformation of 1989

*Abstract* This article gives an overview of public library issues after social and political transformation in Poland. The author describes individual stages that Polish public libraries have experienced beginning with late 1980s until early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. He also points out important changes occurring in public libraries of three administrative levels: communes, countries and provinces (voivodships, regions).

## The Dividing Line

1989 can be seen as a dividing line between two distinct periods in the history of public librarianship in Poland. The post-war period saw many old libraries being rebuilt and new ones founded (resulting in there being a total of 10,313 public libraries in 1989). The picture painted after 1989 was entirely different, however, with the network of public libraries being reduced year on year by almost 100 libraries. Consequently, by 2004 the number of public libraries and their branches had fallen to 8,653. Clearly, the different political systems had a direct effect on the divergence of policy between these two periods. More specifically, the transformation of 1989 had an impact on the guidelines for Polish library policy, with administrative principles changing from those typical of a centralized economy (before 1989) to those of today's decentralized economic system.

However, the aim of this paper is not to compare how libraries functioned in the above-mentioned periods but rather to trace the changes which public librarianship has undergone over the past 17 years. Still, it is essential to recall certain features of library policy from the period before 1989, as it continues to affect the way in which modern-day libraries function.

Libraries in the post-war period were of great interest to the propagandistic structures of the communist party and were subject to scrutiny. This was facilitated by the centrally controlled approach to the filling of managerial posts and the centralized funding system. Other important factors determining the situation of libraries included: censorship,

the active eradication of views different to those approved of by the Party (in professional and institutional life), as well as the elimination of "threatening" independent information sources and initiatives. Although the mass media repeated slogans that looked to promote a deepening of "social democracy", the conditions created by the state did little to encourage citizens to take an interest in social activism.

Post-war Polish society soon became used to the protectionist communist state, which by definition, guaranteed employment for its citizens and directly ran places of work (including libraries). The state, in turn, was deeply convinced of its ability to satisfy Polish society's growing needs. Nevertheless, because of the inefficiency of the centralized planned economy, this conviction turned out to be a mere illusion. In spite of the fall of the communist regime, certain habits and expectations formed during that period continued to affect the nation's public awareness and the functioning of the state.

## The Transition

The political transformation came as an immense shock for Polish society. The communist party had lost its position of power and, subsequently, the system of institutions that had hitherto organized the political and social life of the nation began to be questioned by various quarters.

Polish librarianship was not immune to such changes. At the beginning of the 1990's some members of the Polish parliament perceived public libraries as relics of communism, no longer

deserving of protection by the state. Even today, echoes of those views can be heard in certain local governments. Since liberal ideas were very popular at that time, many people thought that the state should be freed from the obligation to support libraries, and that non-governmental organizations and private persons should shoulder responsibility for this sector. The community of librarians, weakened by inner conflicts, did little to question such claims. Since judgments were often formulated simply in opposition to views voiced before 1989, many politicians paid heed to those claims and decided to exclude issues concerning libraries from their agendas. Although the media and public opinion did not share this attitude, public librarianship and its problems failed to become a public issue after 1989.

Because of the political transformation, the state's former centralized library policy came in for strong criticism. Once local governments had been established, they were made responsible for library management, even though they were poorly qualified to carry out this function.

Yet, partly because of inertia, and partly owing to the attitude of certain professional employees of the Ministry of Culture, who continued to support public libraries, librarians remained convinced that the responsibility for their sector lay in the hands of the government. In the following years, this responsibility came totally under the purview of local governments. The Ministry of Culture ceased to co-ordinate and control public libraries, limiting its support to monitoring the situation of public libraries and supporting of the previously well functioning and serving the Ministry analytical and research infrastructure. In turn, the number of offices dedicated to the public library network was reduced to a minimum. All these changes conformed to new legal regulations, including the new Library Act passed in 1997. Yet, social initiatives to change legal regulations, with the Library Act inclusive, were stubbornly neglected.

## The Librarian Community Confronting the Changes

The early 1990's saw the voicing of many public disputes and arguments, with many people involved in Polish librarianship looking to settle accounts with the past. Certain attempts were made (usually unsuccessful) at establishing new library

organizations. Powerful trade unions (both stemming from the Solidarity movement and from the post-communist movement) came to the fore. Nevertheless, issues concerning the improvement of the library network were practically pushed to the sidelines, with precedence being given to political, ideological and social disputes.

These disputes soon petered out, however, as the community of librarians was compelled to face increasingly difficult work conditions. Both the trade unions and the Polish Librarians Association turned to the state authorities for solutions to the existing problems, protesting in turn against the closure of libraries or their merger with other institutions, not to mention an increase in funding. They also demanded protection for those library workers facing dismissal, and protested against managerial posts in libraries being taken by people belonging to cliques and/or party to political scheming.

Before 1989 the Polish Librarians Association was the only professional organization for librarians in Poland. It was highly criticized, especially for joining PRON (an organization established by the communist authority in order to unify social forces and to maintain the communist political system after martial law had been declared in 1981). After 1989, the Association decided to start anew with a view to protecting and modernizing existing public libraries. This was even more justified due to the fact that 75% of the members of the Association were employed in public libraries.

The Association carried out activities centring around three main areas: the integration of the community of librarians, the promotion of new ideas concerning improvements in the public library network, and providing a voice for the collective body of librarians. Library directors proved to be active members of the Association, which facilitated the development of guidelines that would take into account the challenges that libraries had to face. The Association organized meetings for library directorial staff (previously, this function had been performed by governmental bodies). Numerous conferences devoted to the issues confronting public librarianship gave librarians the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience, to make demands and promote new projects. Throughout the 1990's the Association was also active in the publishing market, promoting ideas which originated from both Polish and international librarianship. What is more, since many members

of the Association were directly involved in the problems of public librarianship; it was natural for the Association to engage in various debates and to look to voice its views.

## In the Hands of Local Government

The rebirth of democracy in Poland meant that the centralized system of state administration had to be dismantled, which, in turn, led to the creation of local government system: from 1990 on the basis of communes (1), and from 1999, following administrative reforms, on the basis of voivodeship (provinces), and counties (2). The reform introduced a three-level administration, under which the number of voivodeships was reduced from 49 to 16 and the introduction of the counties, entailed a profound change to the administrative system. As many experts unanimously claim, the number of administrative units (created under pressure from various politicians) is now far too big. Consequently, many of those units are economically unstable, dependant on subsidies, and deprived of financial resources for either development or even for the covering of current expenses.

The subordination of public libraries to local governments had manifold effects. A number of communes could not afford to support libraries although the Library Act demands at least one public library to be operative in every commune. Local governments, who viewed libraries as an additional (or even unnecessary) burden on their budgets, decided to cut their expenses. This meant that many libraries, especially their branches, were closed down, or unqualified, lower-paid personnel replaced skilled librarians. Some libraries were merged with other establishments (community centres, schools, sports centres, museums, post offices or even administrative offices). Only in 2001 were these practices abolished, when an amendment to the existing law on libraries was passed, prohibiting the merger of public libraries with other institutions. Libraries affected by all those changes usually lost the ability to replenish their holdings on a regular basis. Their activity was often geared towards the aims and tasks defined by the institutions with which they had been merged.

The problem of county libraries emerged at the beginning of 1999. By virtue of the Library Law, each county was supposed to run at least one library. However, given the financial constraints,

the community of librarians, together with the Public Library Section of the Polish Librarians Association, decided to solve this problem in a less expensive way, by passing the tasks of county libraries to town libraries in county capitals. However, the project, put forward by the new Ministry of Culture, turned out to be too expensive for many local authorities. Some of them simply disregarded the new regulations. Therefore, it is not surprising that even today many counties do not have their own libraries, while the existing libraries frequently fail to meet essential requirements. According to a report from 2005, only 293 of the 379 counties existing in Poland could rightfully claim that they had complied with the regulations.

The situation of provincial libraries developed in a different direction. Since the administrative reform of 1975, there had been one provincial library in each of the 49 voivodeships. Most of them combined the function of a regional library with that of a town library catering for the needs of a given voivodeship capital. They included well-established libraries with tradition, experience and financial resources, as well as newer ones, which had yet to develop and secure their positions.

Prior to the introduction of the local-government system on the level of communes, all provincial (i.e., voivodship) libraries had functioned according to mechanisms and principles (not always formally defined as law) worked out before 1989, providing support for library establishments in their respective voivodeships (offering them guidance, training, help with the selection of new materials, technical and organizational aid, etc.)

The situation changed dramatically when local commune administrations assumed control of libraries and their finances. While some of the libraries faced financial trouble, others benefited from the reform. Inexperienced local governments restricted the independence of local libraries and often tried to make detrimental cost-cuts. Up until 1999, provincial (i.e., voivodship) libraries had not been subject to such changes, since they were still maintained directly by the state budget. The differences in the way in which local and provincial libraries were financed started to have a negative effect on the existing functional and organizational ties within the library network. This situation also impinged on relations between provincial library managements and commune authorities, with some absurd consequences: as a part of

the struggle for professional independence of local community libraries from provincial (voivodship) libraries, local libraries were aided with instructions from voivodship libraries. With all these changes taking place in the background, ties between public libraries on the voivodship level started to disintegrate.

Further changes developed after the introduction of the new administrative division of Poland in 1999, when counties were created and local governments were established in communes, counties and voivodships. One of the first results of this reform was an increasing split of provincial libraries and their tasks into two distinct institutions controlled respectively by voivodeships and municipal administrations. In spite of the librarians' outrage and the public interest, local governments continued this practice. Of course, the central factors here were local ambition and political considerations.

Provincial libraries were subordinated to marshal offices in voivodeships and made subject to the local governmental system for the financing of public institutions. What is more, the scope of services, which they had to provide for local public libraries, underwent significant change. New regional local governments started to have more influence over the functioning of provincial libraries. By maintaining two libraries in the Kujawsko-Pomorskie Voivodeship (in Bydgoszcz and in Toruń), as well as in the Lubuskie Voivodeship (in Gorzów Wielkopolski and in Zielona Góra), local governments proved that they could give priority to considerations other than financial ones. When the 49 voivodeships were reduced to 16, the number of libraries in each voivodeship with considerably bigger territorial coverage increased noticeably. However, the resources, which regional libraries had at their disposal, often decreased, frequently connected with staff reductions.

Under such conditions, the ties between provincial and local libraries were significantly weakened. It became obvious that they county libraries were the missing link within the library network. Therefore, it is not surprising that both the management and personnel of provincial libraries called for the creation of this missing link. However, at the present time, because of limited funds, provincial libraries have failed to enforce the regulations, which obliged regions to maintain at least one county library. Provincial libraries have also failed to carry out their basic function, which is to cater for the needs of local voivodeship libraries.

Presently we can see an increased diversity of operational and structural models. Indeed, it would be virtually impossible to point to two identical provincial libraries. As a result each library is trying to find its own position in the regional system and to work out appropriate forms of activity that would satisfy the needs of their users, the expectations of local authorities, the needs of local libraries and, finally, legal requirements. The individual ambitions and aspirations of provincial library directors are now crucial, who have it in their power to introduce a varied range of individualized programmes involving cultural and educational activities, as well as activities focused on the needs of students.

### The Reaction of the State Administration

The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (the name in operation from 2005) must shoulder the blame for the fact that public libraries failed to benefit from the political transformation. The ministry wanted to substitute the former library policy with a broader concept of cultural policy, which highly marginalized libraries (but, paradoxically, not books and readers). At first, after the political transformation, this change of attitude came about because politicians' uncertainty about what should be the role of the state with relation to libraries. At a later stage, what determined the library policy of the state was the introduction of the local government system and the delegation of issues concerning libraries to local authorities – a process which was not preceded by due preparation. According to new regulations, commune libraries were simply handed over to commune councils. As of 1 January 1999, provincial and county libraries were also placed under the management of local councils. After that date, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage scrapped most of the functions of the public library supervisory and coordinating body, restricting its role to the settling of legal matters concerning libraries. In 1997, the parliament prepared and passed law relating to libraries, and in 1996 the legal deposit of works published in Poland.

Nevertheless, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage could no longer ignore various difficulties which public libraries had to face: the increasing financial problems, issues concerning the dissolution of library establishments, the acquisition of new holdings, and computerization.

In December 2000 the then Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Kazimierz M. Ujazdowski, addressed an official letter to the Speakers of the Sejm, in which he called for a solution to these problems. Even earlier, in 1997, basing his decisions on research that had revealed insufficiencies in library collections, his predecessor, Kazimierz Dejmek had prompted the assignment of 2 million zlotys for the purchase of new items for public libraries. The Ministry continued to help libraries in this way in the following years, although the sums of money designated for this purpose varied in individual years. The Ministry also managed to organize small funds in order to support the purchase of library software, the preservation of library holdings and the implementation of other individual projects aimed at the modernization of libraries.

The prospect of Poland joining the European Union and of being able to utilize funds for cultural development (including the development of libraries) encouraged the Minister of Culture, Waldemar Dąbrowski, to prepare the *blue-paper National Strategy for the Development of Culture in 2004-2013* (3) (accepted by the government in 2004), as well as five other national programmes for culture. One such paper, the *National Programme for Culture Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector for the years 2004 – 2013* promised the development of the library infrastructure and the modernization of library equipment (including new computers and software), the creation of platforms for virtual networking systems, the creation and equipping of new laboratories for the digitalisation of library collections, the conservation of library holdings, an increase in the number of new items purchased for library collections, and the development of diverse services offered by libraries like the support of mass-scale reading initiatives and events.

Both of these programmes came in for criticism from the Polish Librarians Association and the Conference of Voivodship Public Libraries' Directors, the main accusation being that no one had consulted them during the planning process, and as a result the authors from Kraków University of Economics had failed to obtain vital source materials. This meant that the proposals lacked any proper awareness of the situation of libraries either in Poland or abroad.

The implementation of these proposals, undertaken in 2005, was largely limited to the allocation

of 30 million zlotys from the central budget for the purchase of new publications in public libraries. This helped to reverse the negative tendency of ignoring the existing deficiencies in library collections. In this current year, these activities are being continued, with 28,5 million zlotys allocated for this purpose. The Ministry of Culture and National Heritage aid in this respect resulted in the sizeable growth of purchases of recent publications in public libraries. In 2005 some 52% of recently published books purchased by public libraries were financed with the Ministry's subsidy. Apart from this, other projects have been launched, which enable libraries to apply for additional funds for modernization.

In recent years the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has financially supported and launched numerous projects, whilst currently the Ministry has become increasingly involved in acquiring information on behalf of libraries concerning the application for and the utilization of EU cultural development funds.

The Ministry of Science and Information Technology has launched another project deserving of mention, under the name of IKONKA. It has been implemented over the past two years and has led to the equipping of numerous public libraries, especially in the countryside and small towns, with computers, providing them with access to the Internet and enabling them to use modern techniques of communication and information searching.

After 1989 central authorities changed their attitude to public libraries in a noticeable way. The former policy of direct supervision and coordination of libraries, as well as providing innovative solutions to their problems was replaced by a policy supporting individual libraries with funds allocated for this purpose by the state and by the European Union.

## The Current Situation

At the end of 2005 there were 8,591 library establishments (with branches) in the public library network. 2,350 libraries, which don't enjoy organizational autonomy, operate as part of other institutions. 21 small communities do not have a public library at all, despite their obligations under law.

The lack of sufficient funds in communes has always had a negative effect on the acquisition of library collections. To look at the figures: the



number of new books purchased for every 100 citizens amounted to 18.6 in 1988. This ratio decreased systematically in subsequent years, dropping to 5.1 in 2003. Only in the past two years has the ratio started to rise again, thanks to funds allocated for this purpose by the state budget (9.0 in 2005).

Difficulties in the acquisition of currently published and valuable publications for library holdings have had a detrimental effect on library collections. Many public library collections lack important publications, which appeared in Poland after the abolition of censorship in 1989. Furthermore, students can now clearly perceive a scarcity of educational materials – a very serious problem given that the number of students has trebled over the last 17 years and that they now constitute approximately 75% of all library users in Poland.

An increasing number of local-governmental bodies are aware of the situation and are setting a good example for local authorities in other parts of the country. Funds, which they allocate for the complementation of library collections, the purchase of new equipment and the modernization of libraries, have allowed library establishments to attract more users. In some areas even 35-40% of residents use libraries (the average for Poland is 19 library users per 100 residents).

Modernization of the library system can be seen in the advances of computerization and the use of new technologies. However, only a small number of libraries have access to such facilities. According to data from July 2004, 25.66% of public libraries have computers at their disposal, while 23% of libraries have access to the Internet. At the end of 2004, libraries were equipped with 12,850 computers, of which 9,308 had Internet access. Such facilities are mainly available in large public libraries, and almost entirely absent in smaller, rural libraries. Provincial libraries and those situated in large cities are now finding themselves in a favourable position. For instance, they are participating in library syndicates that operate on the basis of the same system and have undertaken to create regionally networked library systems. These libraries are offering help in this respect to other public libraries. Although, apart from the

aforementioned IKONKA, it would be difficult to indicate a more ambitious governmental programme for library computerization, librarians are becoming more and more efficient in acquiring access to new technologies. To a large extent this has been made possible thanks to the funds and resources received from the European Union.

As part of an international network with access to EU funding, Polish libraries are now able to undertake many projects. Let us just take two projects recently completed by the Bertelsmann Foundation. The first endeavour led to the creation in Wrocław and Olsztyn of two state-of-the-art libraries for young readers, which hold traditional and multimedia collections and have set an example of quality for many librarians and town councils. The second project has enabled librarians to incorporate the Internet into their daily activities.

An increasing number of local governments are becoming aware of the fact that libraries constitute an important part of the educational, cultural, informational and social infrastructure. Owing to this change of attitude, more and more libraries are being located in either new or renovated buildings; they are receiving new equipment and funds for the introduction of modern technologies. A well-developed educational system is also helping to improve the qualifications of library staff.

Clearly priorities for the future lie in the construction of regional library networks and the development of community activities, not to mention authorial programs. But in order for these positive changes in Polish librarianship to continue and gain momentum, government administrations will need to play a bigger part in library management, as is the case in other EU member countries. Happily, the future seems bright, thanks to incentives from the European Union and the financial aid being offered by the EU to Polish libraries. The Polish situation can also draw on the positive governmental roles played in library, museum and archive management, as, for example, in the United Kingdom or in Scandinavia. Also, given the highly critical evaluation of the government's involvement in library issues, Polish authorities seem more readily prepared to engage in a more active library policy.

### Notes

(1) Third level of local administration in Poland.

(2) Second level of local administration in Poland.

(3) <http://www.mkidn.gov.pl/website/document/?docId=215>

## Reviews

# Research Libraries in the General Government in the Years 1939-1945

Mężyński, Andrzej, Łaskarzewska, Hanna, *Biblioteki naukowe w Generalnym Gubernatorstwie w latach 1939-1945. Wybór dokumentów źródłowych*, [Research Libraries in the General Government in the years 1939-1945. Selected source documents] Warszawa 2003, 540 p.

The publication under review was published under the auspices of the Polish Bibliological Association and concerns the history of libraries and cultural repositories during the Second World War. Research on this topic has had a long tradition in Poland and has concentrated on political history. Czesław Madajczyk's seminal work *Polityka III Rzeszy w okupowanej Polsce* [Politics of the Third Reich in Occupied Poland] (Warsaw 1970) looked at the political, national and economic dimensions of Nazi-occupied Poland, as well as the Germanization of the Polish people. Madajczyk, however, only made paltry mention of cultural issues, whereas he completely overlooked the fate of Polish libraries. For this, we would have to wait until after the political transformation of 1989, when researchers gained access to the files of the German Democratic Republic. Treaties signed with Germany in 1990 and with Russia in 1992 aimed at settling cultural disputes, to include the repatriation of library collections. The Bureau of the Government Plenipotentiary for Polish Cultural Heritage Abroad in the Ministry for Culture and Arts was set up to establish the scale of destruction or loss of Poland's library collections, particularly during World War II.

Research on this issue was presented in the research volume *Losses of Polish Libraries in World War II* [*Straty bibliotek w czasie II wojny światowej*], edited by Andrzej Mężyński (Warsaw 1994), whereas Barbara Bieńkowska followed that year with an abbreviated English version of this work. (1) When gathering data for the statistical analysis of library losses, the research team gathered new material on the history of Polish libraries under Nazi occupation, which were later used in individual research works, such as

*Kommando Paulsen* [Commander Paulsen] by Andrzej Mężyński (Warsaw 1994), which published documents and described the expeditions to Polish occupied territories by the Troop formed in Berlin by Reichssicherheitshauptamt.(2)

Thanks to the opening of new research possibilities after 1990, Andrzej Mężyński and Hanna Łaskarzewska were able to gain unprecedented access to source materials relating to the history of Polish research libraries within the terrain of the General Government in the years 1939-1945. It seems that the editors intended this work to be an inspiration for future researchers on Polish library history, involving the libraries of regions and cities, and even concrete institutions or fragments of packages (e.g. the national library's collection of medieval manuscripts and incunabula).

Both the Foundation for Polish German Cooperation and the Ministry for Culture and Art financed this book. Project consultants were German researchers: Manfred Komorowski from the University Library of Duisburg, and Armin Hetzer – professor of General and Applied Linguistics of the University of Brema.

The book's introduction is limited to the presentation of sources and a description of the construction of the work. Here however they neglected to contextualize such documentary evidence with either historical background or facts. One could pardon this oversight, but it does seem that the reader should have been provided with basic information on the political situation of the General Government, the German administrative structure, the competencies of certain organs of power – specifically the central administration, the government in Kraków, and the governance of specific districts.

In the documents and commentaries to the texts, a lot of space is taken up attempting to understand the disputes between the power centers of the General Government and the Reich. One example could be the activities of the Warsaw SS, which, as a result of a dispute between Heinrich Himmler and Hans Frank refused to allow the civil administration to save book collections which had been abandoned in the Warsaw ghetto. We simply do not find this kind of information in the Introduction.

The publishers divided the book into two halves. The first half looks at *Official documents*, created mainly by the German administration (94 texts), and hitherto unknown. These documents are primarily acts of the Main Library Board in the General Government, and were later held in the GDR Central German Archive in Potsdam. They are currently available in the archives of the Institute of National Memory in Warsaw and help us to form a picture of the research library administration in the General Government, not to mention the mechanisms of German civil administration.

What is more, the publishers made use of important documents from the Bundesarchiv in Koblenz relating to the Reich's Ministry for Science and Education, which although situated in Berlin, had an influence over the fate of research libraries in occupied Poland. Other administration documents were uncovered in the then General Government's library archives of the Jagiellonian University, Warsaw University, and Ossolineum, and comprise reports, occupational administrative documents, minutes of meetings, administrative correspondence, and the registration of library objects.

Also to be found in the book are documents, relating key decisions concerning Poland's network of libraries, and their dependence on civil German authorities, including the General Government and the General Governor himself. For example, we have copy of the speech given by Hans Frank on April 4, 1941 at the opening of the Jagiellonian Library, pp.71-71). We also get a sense of the atmosphere within libraries during occupation, together with the everyday problems and issues that librarians had to contend with, featuring, for example, the enforced loyalty text of Adam Lewak, the then director of the Warsaw University Library (p. 76-77). We also find out some more humdrum aspects of the librarians' lives, such as the declaration of Wilhelm Witte relating the fictional activities of the family members of librarians – we also learn for example that Wiktoria Pękalska ran the home of the librarian Józef Pękalski, her husband (p. 102).

Clearly the chosen documentation is of exceptional value, but for a fuller assessment we would need to look at the documents rejected by the publishers. Archival material relating to the organization and functioning of libraries is set out in chronological order, although missing are the founding documents of public libraries in cities such as Lublin or Lvov. However, we may assume that these documents are simply no longer extant. Worthy of mention is the choice of texts depicting the everyday lives of librarians, or rather the unofficial life of libraries, as illustrated in the humorous parody of the register of library artifacts (pp. 208-210).

However, the administrative local government acts of the occupying powers are written in a bureaucratic and enigmatic style, and they do not throw light on some of the pressing issues relating to those times.

The second half of the book entitled *Diaries, Memoirs and Correspondence* comprises commentaries to these official documents written after the war provided to archives, journals, and the editors of memoirs and research books. These materials certainly paint a clear picture of life in libraries in occupied Poland.

The footnotes also play an important role in this work, where the publishers made use of a wide range of sources and in particular the archive and research materials held in the National Library. However, a number of the footnotes to selected documents contain simple factual errors, with additional information that the cited authors could not have known.

Footnotes for *Research Libraries in the General Government* far surpass these borders – the commentaries tend to extrapolate whenever there is a gap in the documentary evidence.

To take an example, the size of the special collections gathered at 9 Okólnik Street (chapter 1. fn. 251) changes according to the research work being referenced, whereas proper bibliographical referencing would have avoided the application of such a flawed approach. Having said that, the presence of misrepresentations may be explained away by the factual errors to be found in the memoirs of German librarians, for instance.

Aside from specifying dates and events, the publishers also looked to correct the accounts and judgments of U. Johanssen (chap. I doc. 14), A. Himpel (chap. II doc. 15) and W. Witte (chap. II doc. 13), relating to the operation of libraries under Nazi Occupation and the given political situation. Such assessments are often subjective and misleading as people naturally looked to paint their

activities during the Nazi occupation in a positive light. In this respect, the publishers have the right to point out such anomalies, although this often results in footnote-polemics with the cited authors – and the commentary to Witt’s “Memoirs” are particularly vitriolic. Indeed, this eagerness to question the opinions expressed in the German memoir archive becomes something of an irritant. There are more appropriate places for such a discussion on the authenticity of such accounts. However, having said this, it is important to state that this book does bring to the fore many historical issues relating to Polish librarianship during World War II.

The book is accompanied by three indexes: Proper names, Institutions and organizations (according to city), as well as the Register of institutions and organizations. And so what can we determine from these published materials? Well, although the publishers give readers a free hand to imagine how things must have been during this time in the world of Polish libraries, it is possible to discern a number of facts, such as the losses incurred by Polish libraries in 1939, or how the library authorities functioned during this time.

Here the Main Board of Libraries administered these institutions, and was located within the governmental structure of the General Government.

In certain districts managers of libraries were responsible for all aspects of librarianship, incorporating the functioning of research libraries. Library budgets were unexpectedly high, and these funds helped to fill the gaps in the collections, particularly when it came to the purchase of journals. Purchased also during this time were special collections, such as the Chopin collection of the French collector Eduard Ganche. The Germans who ran these libraries attempted to Germanize them by introducing contemporary German literature to the catalogues. What is more, they also changed the cataloguing system to the Prussian model, and introduced German onomatopoeia to the circulation of library books.

The numerous groups of documents refer to the regrouping of the Warsaw library collections held in 1941, which at the time was a contentious issue amongst Polish librarians. Such changes led to the post-1800 Polonica collection being transferred to

the National Library, whereas foreign literature held in the University Library, and the special collections of both libraries and of the Krasinski Library were placed in the library at 9 Okólnik Street. In 1944 the Brandkommando would burn this library to the ground, with the loss of 400,000 volumes.

The material published in this book, recounts the efforts of Polish librarians to save the collections from destruction: firstly during the defense of Warsaw in September 1939, and then later during the Warsaw Uprising in August-September 1944, when they had to survive hunger and thirst in buildings which were coming under fire, and all the while fighting to extinguish the fires. They also took part in the “Operation Pruszków”, which involved the evacuation of 300,000 volumes from Warsaw libraries. The documents also show how the librarians refused to collaborate with the Germans, whereas it also shows that the Germans did not exert ideological pressure, and were content with the notion of having Poles as loyal library employees. The profile given to us of the German librarians are not stereotypical and contrast with the dark accounts current in Polish library historiography. Gustav Abb – director of the University Library in Berlin, and Verein Deutscher Bibliothekare, who also held the position of Poland’s head librarian, gave work to 200 Polish librarians. He also made sure that the collections being held within the General Government were not dispersed. Whether true or not, according to Abb, these collections would serve German scholarship after the war.

One can hope that this selection of administrative documents and memoirs, will serve as an inspiration to library scholars researching the period of World War II, whereas the publishers are sure to promote this book in both Poland and Germany. Here the Polish-German bilingual introduction should help, as too in the case of certain documents, wherein German documents are provided with a Polish translation, and vice-versa. Unfortunately, the footnotes are only in Polish. It is also must be surmised that due to the fact that German scholars generally have a poor knowledge of the Polish language, that they may only refer to this book on occasion.

Janusz KostECKI

### Notes

(1) Bieńkowska, Barbara, *Losses of Polish libraries during World War II*. Warsaw, 1994, 142 p.; Bieńkowska Barbara, *Straty bibliotek polskich w czasie II wojny światowej*. Warszawa, 1994, 131 p.

(2) The German translation of this book (*Kommando Paulsen organisierter Kunstraub in Polen 1942-1945. Kulturgüter während des Zweiten Weltkrieges*, ed. By Andrzej Mężyński, Hanna Łaskarzewska) was published in Cologne in 2000 by Dittrich publishers.

## Library Periodicals

*Przegląd Biblioteczny*  
*Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej*  
*Bibliotekarz*  
*Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej*  
*Roczniki Biblioteczne*  
*Biblioteka*  
*Biuletyn EBIB*

*Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Library Review], Warszawa: Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich, quarterly, R.1 (1927)-, ISSN 0033-202X

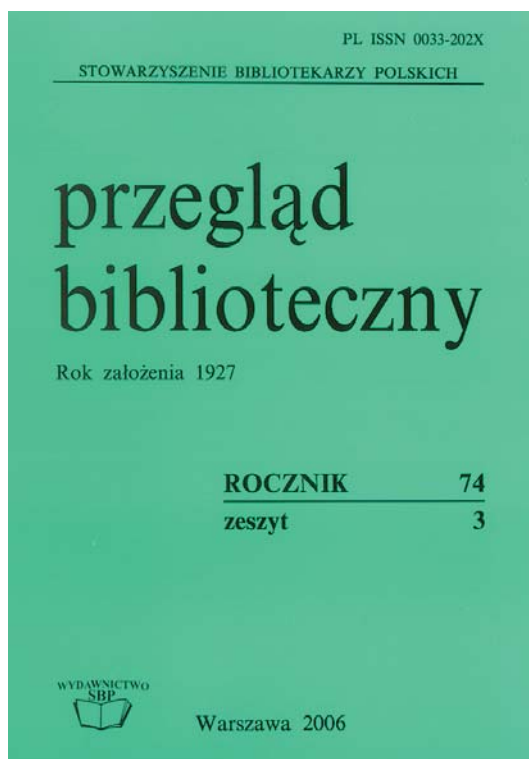
Editor-in-Chief: Barbara Sosińska-Kalata

Supplement: *Bibliografia Analityczna Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej* [Analytical Bibliography of Library and Information Science], Warszawa: Biblioteka Narodowa. Instytut Bibliograficzny, quarterly, 1969-, ISSN 0033-233X

Among Polish library and information science journals, *Przegląd Biblioteczny* holds a special place since it is the oldest periodical in this field, and from the very beginning it has attracted the cooperation of the most outstanding scholars and practitioners of Polish librarianship. The very first attempt to found a Polish journal covering the theory and practice of librarianship was made by the Society of the Warsaw City Public Library, which started to publish a quarterly in 1908 under the lengthy title of *Przegląd Biblioteczny. Czasopismo ilustrowane poświęcone bibliotekoznawstwu, bibliotekarstwu i bibliografii* [Library Review. An Illustrated Journal on Library Science, Librarianship and Bibliography]. Its first editor was Stefan Demby (1862-1939), who would go on to become the first director of the National Library.

In 1908-1911, six issues of the quarterly came out, after which it was suspended because of a lack of funds. Nearly twenty years later, after Poland regained independence, Stefan Demby and other activists of the Polish Librarians Union returned to the idea of publishing a journal of Polish library scientists. On receiving the necessary funds from the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Education, in 1927 a journal appeared under the title of *Przegląd Biblioteczny. Wydawnictwo Związku Bibliotekarzy Polskich. Centralny organ naukowy bibliotekarstwa polskiego* [Library Review. A Publication of the Polish Librarians Union. The Central Scientific Organ of Polish Librarianship]. Its first editor was Edward Kuntze, the director of the Jagiellonian Library and at the same time the President of the Polish Librarians Union, who ran the journal until 1948. His successor was Aleksander Birkenmajer, who had been one of the most eminent representatives of Polish librarianship and book studies of the interwar period, and who after World War II founded the library science school at Warsaw University. Józef Grycz was appointed as the executive editor, a yet another important person in the history of Polish library science, he was the director of the Kórnik Library, and was known for being a dynamic organizer and promoter of modern librarianship in Poland.

In the interwar period 13 yearbooks of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* appeared, published in Kraków by the Jagiellonian Library. After the war in 1945, the publishing of the journal was resumed, first as a yearbook,



and then from 1946 as a quarterly serial. Until 1948 the journal was published in Kraków, whereas in 1949, it moved to Warsaw. In 1946-1953, the quarterly functioned as the scientific organ of the Polish Librarians and Archivists Union, and when the Polish Librarians Association was established in 1954, it became its scientific journal. From 1972 to 2003, it was published by the Polish Librarians Association in conjunction with the Main Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and since 2005, the PLA has again become the sole publisher of *Przegląd Biblioteczny*. The editors of the quarterly were: Bohdan Horodyski (1949-1965), Zbigniew Daszkowski (1966-1968), Maria Dembowska (1969-1977), Barbara Sordylowa (1978-2003), Maria Lenartowicz (2004), and since 2005, Barbara Sosińska-Kalata. In 1978 the journal's editorial council was established: its first chairperson was Helena Więckowska, and followed over the next number of years by Zbigniew Jabłoński, Krzysztof Migoń, Barbara Bieńkowska, and Barbara Sosińska-Kalata assumed the function in chronological order. At present, Elżbieta Barbara Zybert chairs the Council.

The subject range of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* reflects contemporary research trends in library and information science and book studies. To provide a wider context, an interdisciplinary approach has been adopted. Various aspects of the role of the book, libraries and information in society are covered. Its central focus is a scientific reflection on contemporary Polish and world librarianship. The articles provide analyses of various aspects of library and information science, and aim to identify the qualitative differences of the practical solutions in use. However, generalizations and theoretical statements are very much to the fore in this publication. *Przegląd Biblioteczny* articles bring into focus the most important problems and achievements of contemporary book studies, library and information science. Over the past 18 years, *Przegląd Biblioteczny* has been the place to publish in-depth analyses and discussions on library automation, the maintenance of libraries and information centers in the new socioeconomic conditions, not to mention modern management methods. Topics have also included the implementation of integrated library systems and the shaping of the culture of cooperation based on the use of modern information and communication technologies. Articles have covered also standardization in library and information science activity, specialist terminology, the creation and operation of library consortia, the creation and management of digital information repositories, and the evolution of the education systems for librarians and information specialists, etc. In recent years, research on IT development and its implementation in library and information science practice has been featured regularly. The journal's tradition is to ensure communication between the research community and specialists making use of new theories and methods in their practical activity. The broad circle of authors is recruited both from the academic community, and from librarians, chiefly from research libraries, and also specialists cooperating with information centers and services.

Like in any scientific journal, the structure of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* breaks down into several sections that have evolved gradually over the 80-year history of the quarterly. The basic sections are *Articles* where original scientific dissertations are published, and *Recent Research Projects* dedicated to research reports and other contributions. Other permanent sections are *Literature Reviews and Surveys*, where the most valuable scientific publications are reviewed and accompanied by critical surveys of recent domestic and foreign literature; and *Reports* providing analytical accounts of the most interesting domestic and foreign conferences. Each *Przegląd Biblioteczny* issue contains a *Chronicle* recording of the most important current scientific and professional events, and a section entitled *From the Life of the Polish Librarians Association*, containing reports on the activities of the Association and its agencies. An irregular, but highly valued section, introduced in 1979, is the *Creators of Polish Librarianship*, featuring interviews with outstanding librarians and scholars in library and information science. A regular supplement to *Przegląd Biblioteczny* is the *Bibliografia Analityczna Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informatyki Naukowej* [Analytical Bibliography of Library and Information Science] compiled at the National Library's Bibliographic Institute as an analytical bibliography of foreign literature in this field.

The contents of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* are recorded in *Library and Information Science Abstracts*.

*Przegląd Biblioteczny*, celebrating its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2007, is the most popular and the most highly-rated Polish scientific journal on librarianship.

Barbara Sosińska-Kalata

*Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* [Information Science Issues], Warszawa: Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich, Instytut Informacji Naukowej i Studiów Bibliologicznych Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego, semiannual, 1972-, ISSN 0324-8194  
Editor-in-Chief: Bożenna Bojar

*Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej*, known among information science circles as ZIN, is the only scientific journal in Poland dealing with information science, and considering both its theoretical and practical aspects.

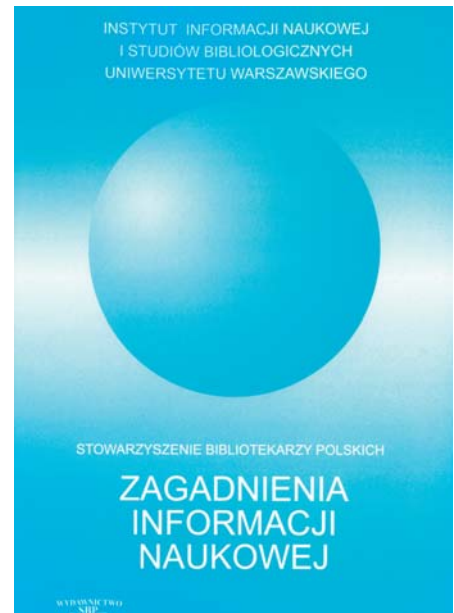
Articles published in the ZIN cover the widest possible range of information science topics, both from the theoretical and practical perspective, focusing mostly on: designing, development and running information systems (including library systems), theory, creation, presentation and the usage of information search-retrieval tools, theory and practice of information, designing, maintenance and evaluation of computer databases, methods of data processing and access on electronic media, efficiency of information systems evaluation, investigation information needs and behavior of users, processing information in natural and artificial languages.

The journal deals also with the most current issues pertaining to information science theory, discussing the latest publications in this field. It also publishes book reviews and introduces masters, doctoral and postdoctoral dissertations. The chronicle provides reports from scientific conferences on information science and related fields. The journal's contents are registered, among others, in the *Library and Information Science Abstracts* and the *Knowledge Organization*. Every five years users are provided with the index to the ZIN.

*Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* is a journal open to the members of staff of many research centers specializing in research and education in library and information science. It is also a journal where practical users of information science, including librarians, may publish their findings.

*Zagadnienia Informacji Naukowej* enjoys a loyal readership and it will continue to be a source of indispensable didactic materials.

Bożenna Bojar



*Bibliotekarz* [Librarian], Warszawa: Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich [Polish Librarians Association], monthly, 1919-, ISSN 0208-4333  
Editor-in-Chief: Jan Wołosz

The Polish Librarians Association and the Public Library of the City of Warsaw have published the *Bibliotekarz* monthly since 1919. Since 1991 its editor-in-chief has been Jan Wołosz, whereas Professor Marcin Drzewiecki currently presides over the Editorial Committee.

The periodical is addressed to all library professionals, with its readers looking for new ideas, concepts and information pertaining to librarianship. *Bibliotekarz* provides its readers with articles on modern solutions in libraries, such as the usage of state-of-the-art information technology, the methods and forms of the library profession, organization, management, education and the ongoing vocational training of librarians. The journal editors are also very much concerned with issues relating to the library profession, the policy and social-economic conditionings



of library operations, especially in terms of challenges resulting from the development and the propagation of new information and communication technologies. What is more, much attention is given to the publication of reports on library and librarians achievements, to indicating and discussing major professional publications, to exchanging experiences, and to the sharing of views, ideas and opinions.

Jan Wołosz

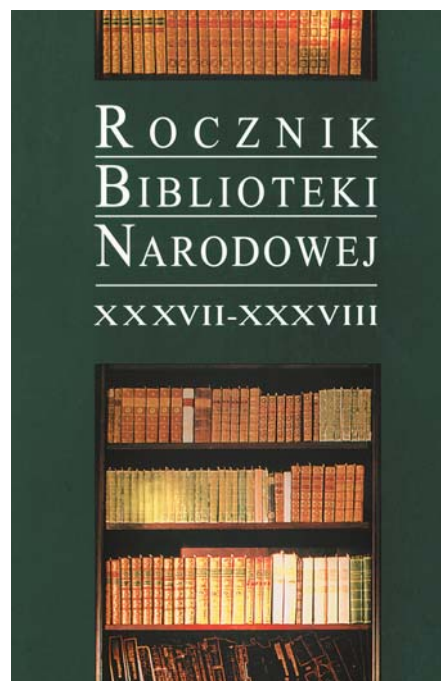
*Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej. National Library Yearbook*, Warszawa: Biblioteka Narodowa, annual, 1 (1965)-, ISSN 0083-7261  
Editor-in-Chief: Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata

*The National Library Yearbook*, the scientific periodical of Poland's National Library has been published since 1965. The subject range covers librarianship and library science, particularly with regard to national libraries, books, press, publishing houses and many other related fields of culture and science. The yearbook is a scientific journal not only of the National Library, but also of the library and scholarly community. To some extent, it is also addressed to foreign readers – since each volume publishes the table of contents and the summaries of all articles in English. Beginning with the 2001 volume, the electronic version of the yearbook is also available from the National Library website at the URL: <http://www.bn.org.pl>.

Throughout the years, articles have been penned by outstanding Polish and foreign scholars, as well as numerous National Library staff members.

The Yearbook is first and foremost a scholarly publication of the National Library and its contents reflect to a large degree the directions and level of research conducted at the Library. This is why so much space in subsequent volumes is devoted to historical issues, especially those concerning special collections kept in the Library which have for long been the subject of comprehensive, competent scholarly studies conducted by the Library's specialists. The publication of materials of this type encourages authors outside the National Library who, seeing the Yearbook as a periodical representative for the whole milieu, send in further texts of this kind, as a result of which too much stress has probably been laid on history in some volumes. This is becoming a problem, for it is relatively more difficult to find authors willing to write about contemporary problems in the competent, comprehensive way required by the periodical's editors.

The contents of the individual volumes reflect the kind of research and information projects pursued at the National Library, which for instance explains the presence of historical topics. The comprehensive formula of the yearbook allows for the inclusion of both highly specialized dissertations, and popular-scientific sketches. These are most often arranged into the following thematic blocs: *Librarianship and Library Science*, *The History of Books and Libraries*, *National Libraries Worldwide*, *The Polish Book Abroad*, *In the Premises of Libraries* and many others. Some volumes are of a monographic character. The most recent volume (37-38) presented research on early printed books, and the next volume will focus on contemporary reading and Polish books, both in a traditional printed and electronic format. Each volume contains a block of reviews and discussions on scientific publications relating to its leading subject. The average volume size of *The National Library Yearbook* runs to about 400 pages. It is published in soft cover; the texts are often illustrated by iconographic material, or accompanied by color inserts. Each volume also provides information about the authors.



Halina Tchórzewska-Kabata



*Roczniki Biblioteczne* [Library Yearbooks] Wrocław, Warszawa: Ministerstwo Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego, annual, 1957-, ISSN 0080-3626  
Editor-in-Chief: Anna Zbikowska-Migoń

*Roczniki Biblioteczne* is one of Poland's top scientific journals on book studies, library science and related fields. The periodical was founded in 1956 as "the organ of libraries of schools of higher education". The founder of the journal and its first editor-in-chief was Professor Antoni Knot (1904-1982), the then director of the University Library in Wrocław, one of the initiators of the Academic Center of Library Studies at the University of Wrocław. Over the past fifty years, editorial board has had prominent names such as Aleksander Birkenmajer, Jan Baumgart, Radosław Cybulski, Zbigniew Jabłoński, Janusz Kapuścik, Józef Korpała, Jan Pirożyński, Irena Treichel, Helena Więckowska, Jan Wróblewski, and Zbigniew Żmigrodzki.

The editors-in-chief were Antoni Knot (1956-1980), Kazimiera Maleczyńska (1981-1996), whereas the present editor-in-chief is Anna Zbikowska-Migoń (1997-).

Since the journal's inception, the editorial board has been based at the University of Wrocław's Institute of Library and Information Science.

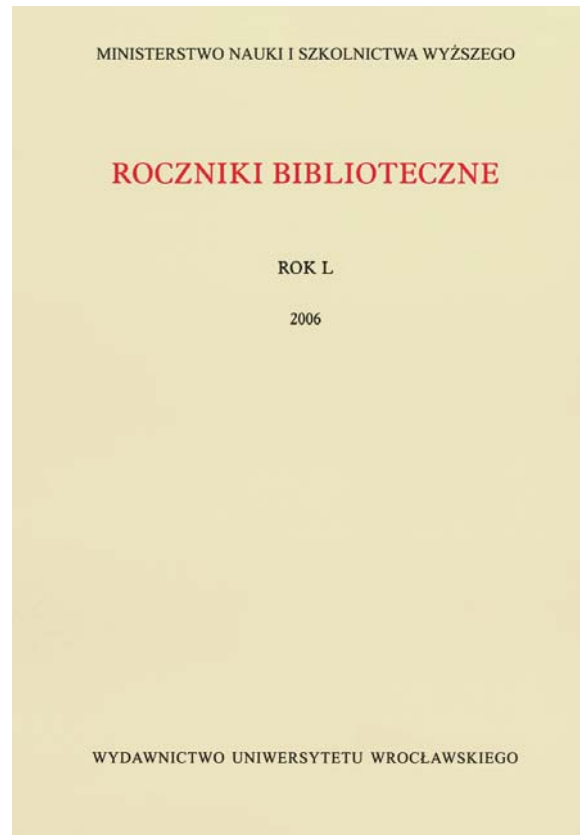
Until 1980, two extensive volumes of the periodical were published per year. At present, one issue is published each year, and its volume runs to about 200 pages.

The subject range of *Roczniki Biblioteczne* is very broad, and from among all the Polish serials currently being published it can only be compared with *the National Library Yearbook*. Many articles refer to the history of the book and libraries; such topics as the history of the manuscript book, printing, publishing and bookselling, libraries, librarianship, and bibliophily.

A prominent place is also devoted to theoretical and methodological dissertations, particularly in library science. New research trends are presented in book studies, bibliography, library and information science. Whereas there has always been a distinct predominance of subjects related to research libraries.

The reviews column contains critical discussions and surveys of Polish and foreign titles. A chronicle of world and domestic scientific events is published, as well as obituaries.

It has become the journal's tradition to dedicate its volumes to outstanding Polish bibliologists and library scientists: estimated names such as Aleksander Birkenmajer (1961), Stefan Vrtel-Wierczyński (1963), Adam Lewak (1964), Antoni Knot (1970), Helena Więckowska (1971), Marta Burbianka (1973), Helena Radlińska (1974), Bronisław Kocowski (1977;1988), Józef Korpała (1979), Ksawery Świerkowski (1980), Karol Głombowski (1983), Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa (1985), Konrad Zawadzki (2002), and Kazimiera Maleczyńska (2005).



*Biblioteka* [Library], Poznań: Uniwersytet im. Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu, annual, 1997-, ISSN 1506-3615

Editor-in-Chief: Artur Jazdon

*Biblioteka* yearbook has been published in its present form since 1997. It is a follow-up publication of a serial published in 1960-1970 under the same title, edited by the Adam Mickiewicz University Library members of staff, as part of *Prace Naukowe Uniwersytetu im. Adama Mickiewicza* [The Adam Mickiewicz University Scientific Papers]. To underscore this continuity, the new yearbook, differing from its predecessor both in terms of form and extended content policy, has received a double numbering. The first volume was assigned number 1, whereas its continuation was marked by a consecutive number in the complete run, given in parentheses.

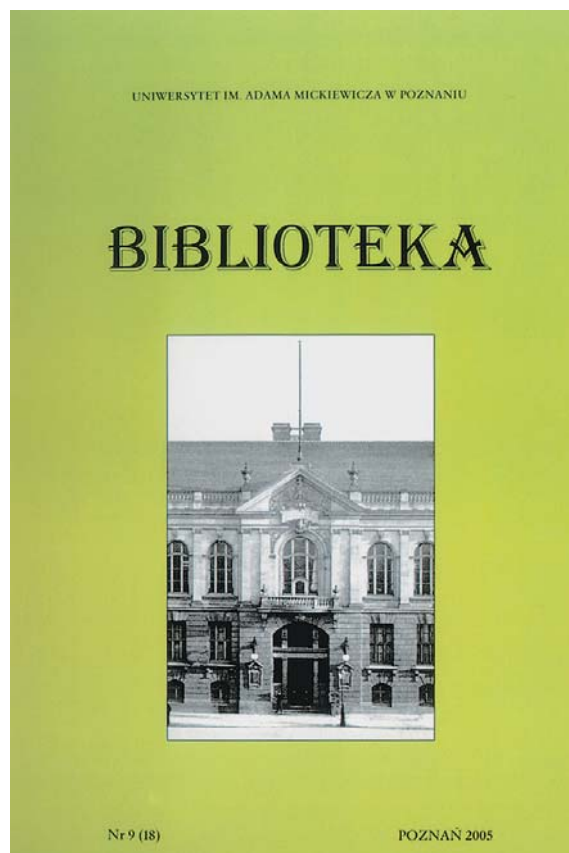
The serial's profile covers the entire subject range related to current issues of librarianship, book studies, information science, documentation, press studies, as well as the history of libraries, the book and library collections. The yearbook presents also interesting libraries and solutions used in foreign research librarianship. There are no plans for the preparation of monographic issues.

The Library's permanent columns are *Materials and Dissertations*, *Miscellanea*, *Reviews and the Reports of the University Library in Poznań*. The *Materials and Dissertations*, usually published in Polish, are then followed by abstracts in English. In addition, the table of contents is translated into English. The articles may contain black and white photographs. The full-text version of the Library's first five yearbooks was added to the Wielkopolska Biblioteka Cyfrowa platform (Digital Library of Wielkopolska). The Adam Mickiewicz University Library website provides access to tables of contents of all of the journal's yearbooks.

With its national character, we intend that at least one-half of its articles originate from research centers based in other cities. For three years now, outstanding experts in the field of library and information science have been reviewing the journal. Eminent authors include Professor Ryszard Marciniak from the Library of the Poznań Friends of Science Society, Professor Jacek Wojciechowski from the Jagiellonian University, Professor Piotr Nowak from the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań.

The *Biblioteka* journal is primarily addressed to academic library staff, librarians working in major public libraries, and the faculty and students of institutes of library and information science.

Since the new edition's inception in 1997, the yearbook's editor-in-chief has been Dr. Artur Jazdon, the director of the University Library in Poznań, and the executive editor is Dr. Aldona Chachlikowska.

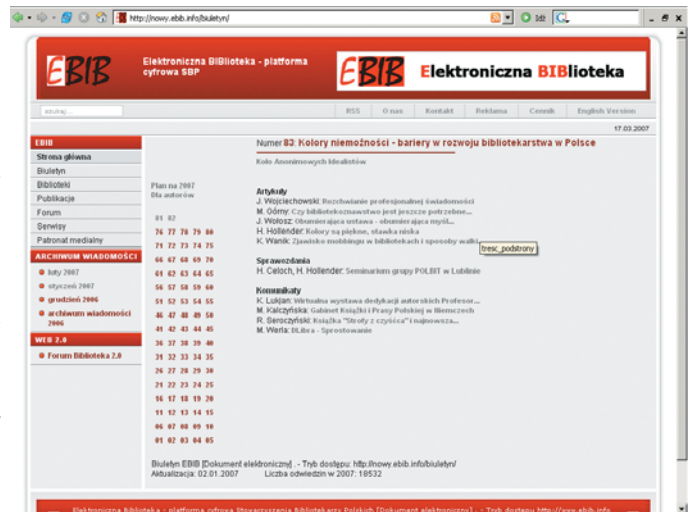


*Biuletyn EBIB* [Bulletin EBIB], Warszawa: Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich, monthly, 1999-, ISSN 1507-7187 [electronic resource], <http://ebib.oss.wroc.pl/>  
 Editor-in-Chief: Bożena Bednarek- Michalska

*Biuletyn EBIB* is a newsletter for librarians and information specialists. When it was created, librarians decided that each issue would have one leading topic and a different issue editor. This arrangement enabled readers to return to their favorite topics and update their knowledge on the progress and changes in a given field. *Biuletyn EBIB* was launched in the autumn of 1998 at a librarians' electronic forum entitled INFOBIB-L. Since then it has been edited on a voluntary basis by a group of 25 librarians from research, public and private libraries. The editing of the bulletin involves tele-working and remote team management. Since 2001 it has been published under the auspices of the Commission of Electronic Publications of the Polish Librarians Association. So far, 83 issues have been published and read by twelve thousand readers. The annual statistics indicate that the most popular titles are read by over 6,000 users, and some individual issues have recorded over 10,000 visits. Considering the fact that in 1999 the number of visits per one issue reached 1,000, today we are facing a genuine surge in the *Bulletin's* popularity. Clearly its high readership can be put down to the fact that there is 24h online access and that the article are both scholarly and interesting.

*Biuletyn EBIB* is a part of a major electronic information service, the Polish Librarians Association digital platform that provides up-to-date news of major events both at home and abroad. The editorial board also publishes *Materiały konferencyjne EBIB* [EBIB Conference Proceedings], patronize conferences, take part in national and international projects (BIBWEB), makes efforts to promote Polish librarianship abroad, and holds a regularly organized conference "Internet in Libraries". What is more the editorial board organizes discussions and meetings intended to facilitate the integration of librarians. It also lobbies on behalf of libraries, and partakes of projects looking to develop new technologies. They have also created a database on libraries.

Put simply, *Biuletyn EBIB* is as a cutting-edge journal that responds to new developments and information society-related issues.



Bożena Bednarek-Michalska

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The publishers reserve the right to make changes and editorial revisions  
to the submitted articles.

On the cover: the buildings of the National Library in Warsaw, and of the Warsaw University Library.

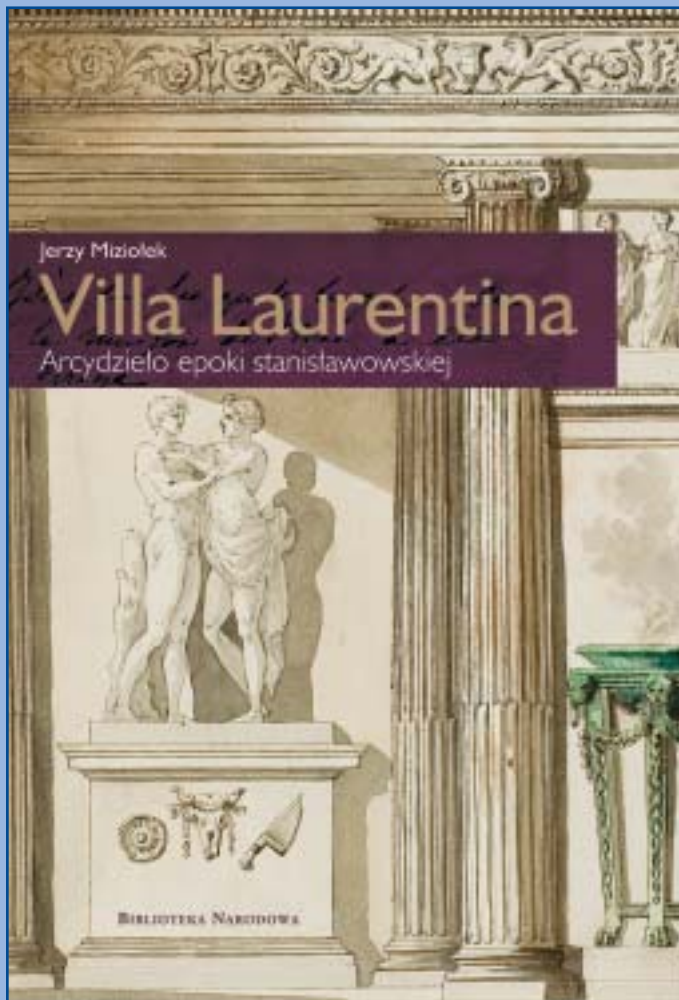
THE WARSAW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY founded in 1816 along with the University. The Library quickly obtained the status of a public library with the right to legal deposit copy. The Library holds priceless collections: mediaeval manuscripts, more then 130,000 early printed books, and authographs of Polish composers. It also has in its possession art and graphic collections of some of Europe's great artists, such as Dürer, Rembrandt, Mantegna.



Now it is one of the three biggest libraries in Poland, along with the National Library and Jagiellonian Library in Kraków, with approximately 2,800,000 items: 1,780,000 printed books and 360,000 special collection items.



In 1999 Warsaw University Library moved to an entirely new location, and it now offers patrons open access to approximately 400,000 items from its holdings.

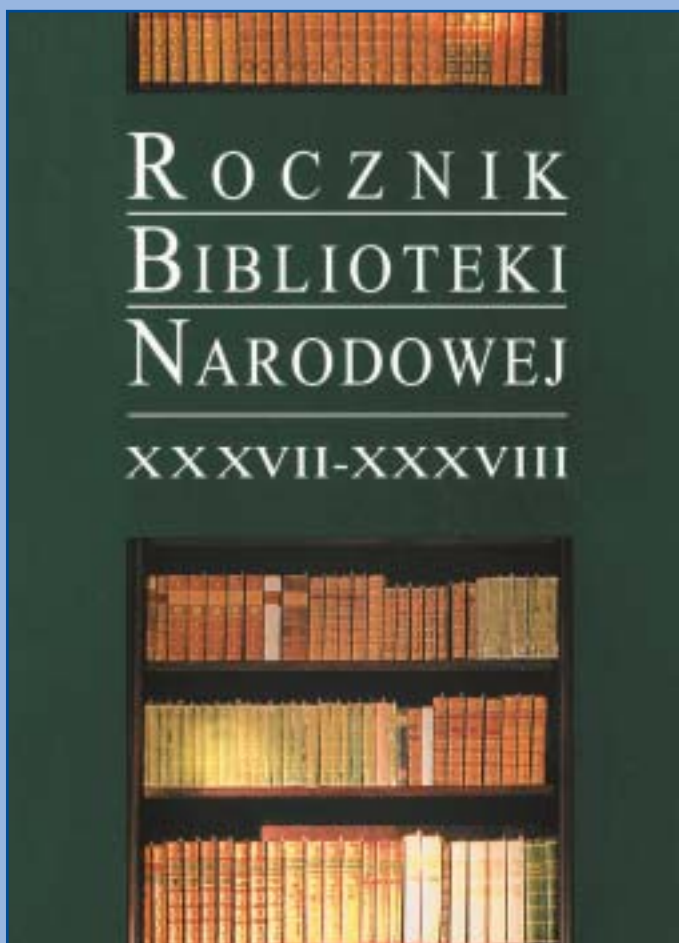


Jerzy Miziołek

*Villa Laurentina. Arcydzieło epoki stanisławowskiej*  
(Villa Laurentina. A Masterpiece of Polish Enlightenment Period). With contributions from Mikołaj Baliszewski and Maciej Tarkowski  
Warsaw, National Library, 2007  
ISBN 978-83-7009-575-8

This work presents reconstructions and plans of the villa belonging to Pliny the Younger at Laurentum, sketched in Rome in the years 1777-1778 by artists Vincenzo Brenna, Giuseppe Manocchi, and Franciszek Smuglewicz, all of whom were inspired and guided by Stanisław Kostka Potocki. This publication looks to encapsulate the legacy of Stanisław Kostka Potocki, who travelled extensively throughout Europe, and who dedicated his creative genius to the recreation of lost architectural treasures and ancient works of art.

This publication comprises color reproductions of all sketches of the villa together with its interior. 3D visual representations of the villa and its surrounding environs are also provided. What is more, this book provides valuable appendages, such as a letter penned by Pliny the Younger, in which he describes his affection for his Laurentina home, as well as Stanisław Kostka Potocki's *Comments and Thoughts on Pliny's Villa*, published here for the first time.



Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej  
(The National Library Yearbook)  
vol. XXXVII- XXXVIII  
Warsaw, National Library, 2006  
ISSN 0083-7261 ISBN 83-7009-581-X

The most recent volume of The National Library Yearbook looks at the history of Polish books, and particularly – early printed Polish books in the European context. Specific themes treat areas such as: current Polish incunabula research, methodological studies on old Polish prints, and the nineteenth century reception of old Polish writings. All the contributors to this volume are renowned experts in their fields. Furthermore, this volume has been dedicated to professor Paulina Buchwald-Pelcowa, distinguished book researcher and expert on old Polish literature and history of the early printed books. This volume can also boast the facsimile publication of two priceless objects from the collection of the National Library: the manuscript and the first edition of Kochanowski's *Idylls* (1578).