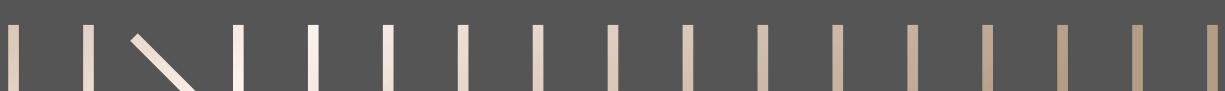




**LIBRARIES
IN POLAND**



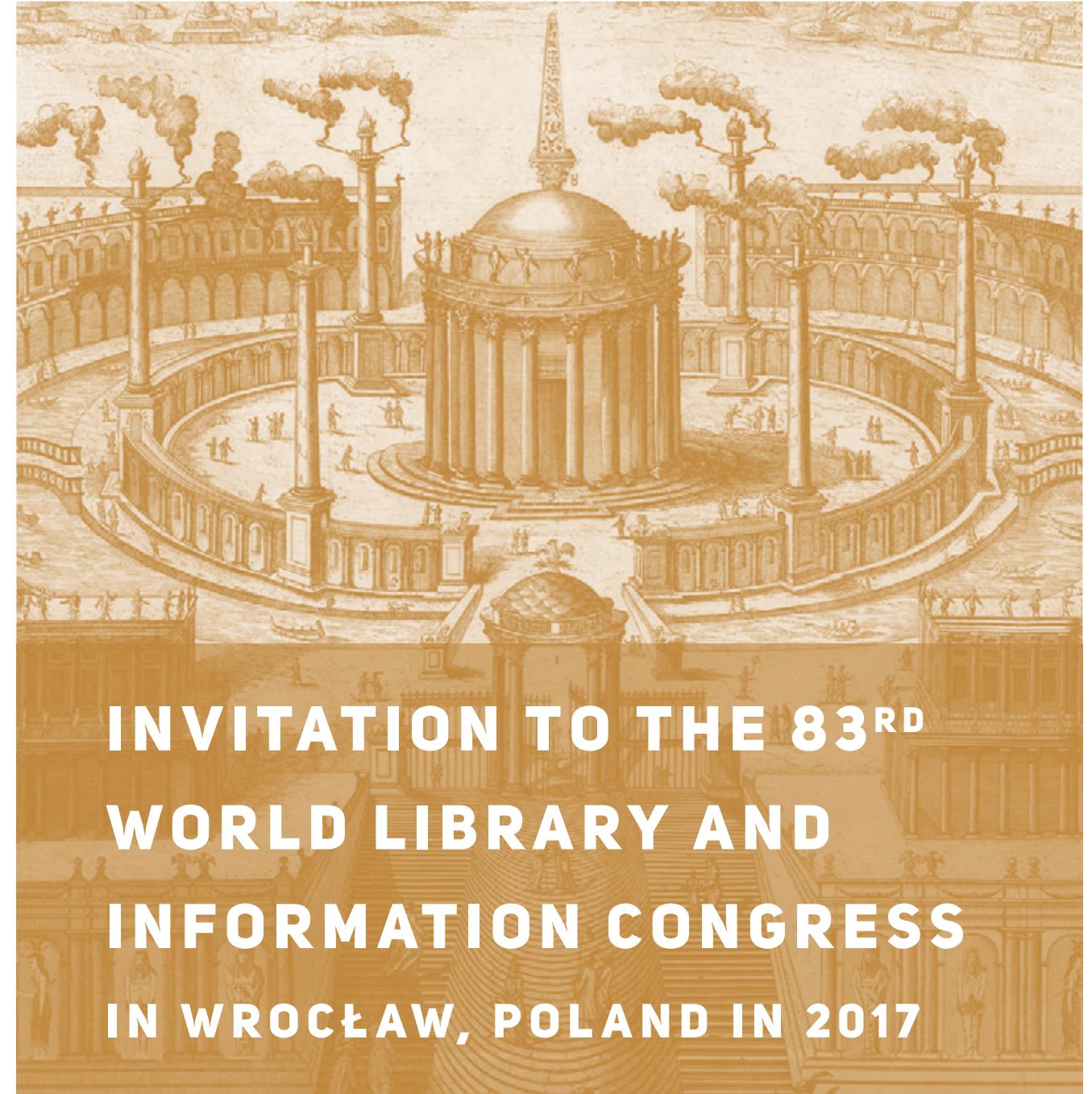


**LIBRARIES
IN POLAND**



National Library of Poland
Warsaw 2016





**INVITATION TO THE 83RD
WORLD LIBRARY AND
INFORMATION CONGRESS
IN WROCŁAW, POLAND IN 2017**



Bernardo Bellotto also known as Canaletto, *The Krasieński Square* (from the collection of the Royal Castle in Warsaw, stock No. ZKW 454)

On behalf of the Polish National Committee we are pleased to invite you to the 83rd World Library and Information Congress in Wrocław, Poland, which will take place from August 19–25, 2017.

LIBRARIES
SOLIDARITY
SOCIETY

A straightforward, yet powerful message that resonates with a singular truth in a country where the most powerful union movement of the past century was born and went on to change the face of history. A message from a robust library community that managed not only to survive the challenges of the transformation, but excelled and flourished in the new social and political reality.

Poland hosted the IFLA World Congress only twice in its history: in 1936 and 1959, both times in the nation's capital, Warsaw. Since then, the progress made in Polish science, information technology and librarianship, has been nothing short of revolutionary. Over half a century later, the Congress in Wrocław has a feeling of starting over: new, full of ideas and ready for the challenges of the modern world.

While Wrocław is graciously inviting librarians from all over the world to come together and share their ideas in this unique city, we all know that organizing WLIC is a task that challenges the nation's entire librarian community. A task this community is ready to take on, seeing it as an opportunity to present their achievements and engage with fellow librarians from all over the world.

Wrocław is a town filled with vibrant and varied libraries. Only in the past several years the University Library, the Wrocław University of Technology, and the Wrocław University of Economics have acquired new state of the art facilities equipped with the best technology. Together with the unique special collections of the Ossoliński National Institute as well as those of Wrocław's public libraries, such as the Mediateka, they represent a very special offering to library professionals.

In 2016 Wrocław has the double honor of being named European Capital of Culture as well as World Book Capital, a title bestowed by UNESCO in recognition of the quality of its programs to promote books and reading and the strength and dedication of the book industry.

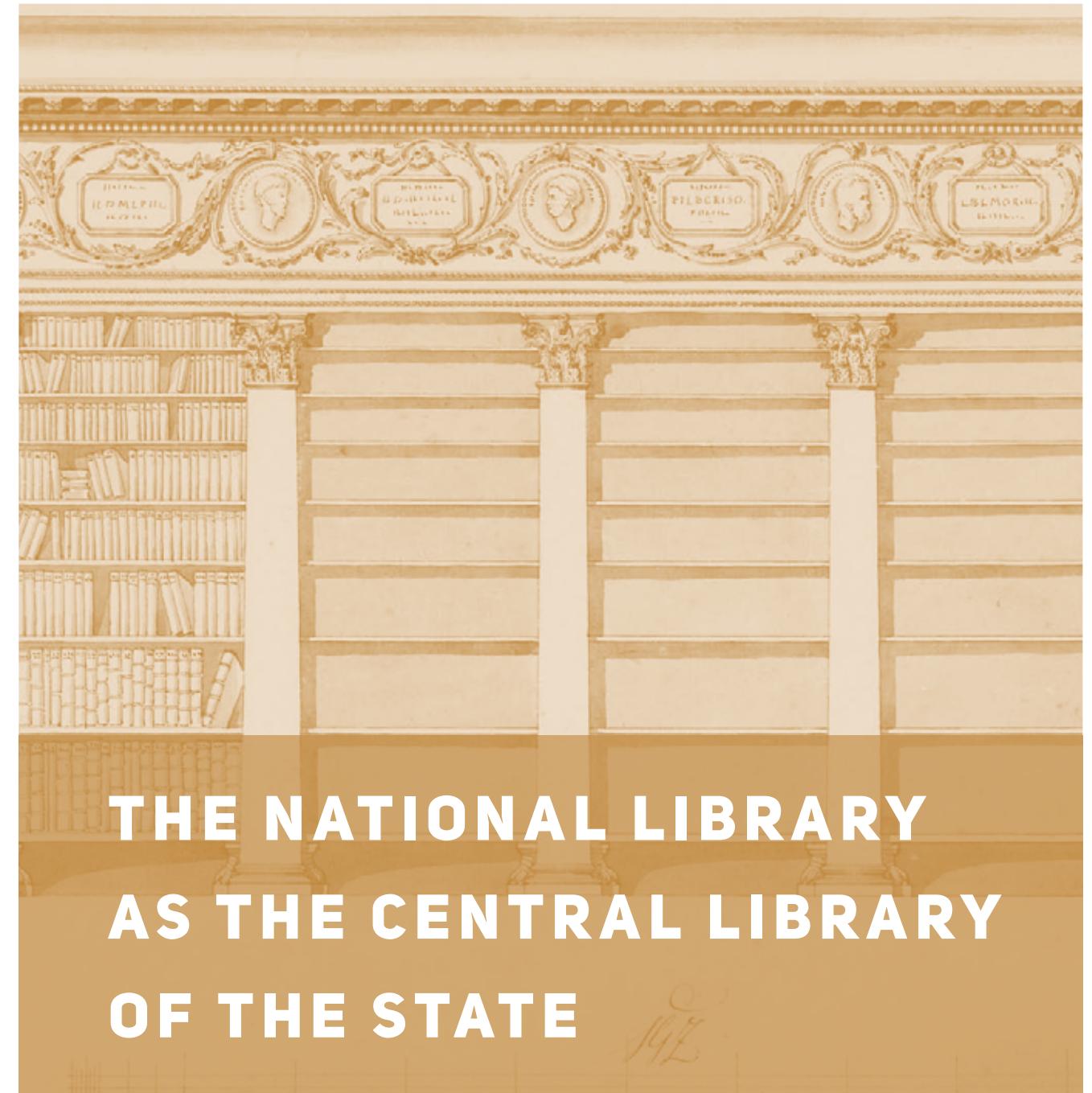
Poland, with its 1,000 years of history and a network of over 32,000 libraries providing access to information and technology, has much to offer to the international community of librarians and book lovers, and so we are proud and honored to be hosting the 83rd World Library and Information Congress in Wrocław.

In this book, you will find more information about the Polish Libraries network; its organization, goals and challenges. We hope you will find it interesting and look forward to seeing you in Wrocław!

Dr. Tomasz Makowski
Director General National Library of Poland

Elżbieta Stefańczyk
President, Polish Librarians' Association

Rafał Dutkiewicz
Mayor of Wrocław





The main seat of the National Library, surrounded by the extensive parkland of Pole Mokotowskie, is situated in the centre of Warsaw. The entire library complex consists of three buildings linked by passageways and is punctuated by numerous inner gardens and courtyards admitting daylight into the interior. The highest building provides storage space for the 19th–21st-century holdings, as well as for certain special collections (cartographic, music and audiovisual). The two other facilities house most of the reading rooms and book conservation workshops, along with an array of specialized library and user services pertaining to the collection categories.



The historic 17th-century Krasinski Palace, also known as the Palace of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, is home to the National Library's manuscripts and early printed books. On-site access is provided in a specialized reading room. The collections are regularly put on display for exhibitions and showings held in the most representative interiors of the Palace – namely, the Caryatid Hall and the Knights Hall.



^
The Krasieński Palace (The Palace of the Commonwealth), the Wilanów Hall

— The National Library acts as the central library of the state and is one of the most important cultural institutions in Poland. Its mission is to protect the national heritage preserved in the form of handwritten, printed, digital, and recorded sound documents. The primary task of the National Library is to acquire, store, and permanently archive the intellectual output of Poles, whether this be the works of citizens living on Polish soil, the most important foreign works, or publications related to Poland and published abroad.

Following this fundamental function, the National Library is also responsible for a number of tasks that are of crucial importance to Polish culture. Serving as the chief archive of Polish literary output, the National Library is also a national bibliographic agency, a large research library focusing on the humanities, and moreover a nationally and internationally recognized centre of preservation and conservation. It also fulfills a surpassing role in research, documentation, and methodological activity in bibliography, library, and information science.



**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY'S
COLLECTIONS**



Psalterz floriański [Psalterium trilingue]
Manuscript in Latin, Polish and German,
illuminated. Austria, ca 1395–1405.
Parchment, 32 × 22.5 cm, 297 + iv lvs.
Binding from 1564, wooden boards
and leather. Call No.: rps III 8002
polona.pl/item/285246/6/

The National Library continues the tradition of the Library of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, set up in Warsaw by the Załuski brothers, Józef Andrzej and Andrzej Stanisław, both of whom were bishops. That library, established in 1732, was opened to the public in 1747. It was one of the first libraries in the world intended to fulfill the tasks of a modern national library in developing collections covering the entire body of Polish literature and making those works accessible to the public. In 1780 the Polish Parliament granted the library the right to receive a free legal deposit copy of every book printed in the country.

After Warsaw was invaded by Russian troops in 1794, the collections of the library were taken as spoils of war to St. Petersburg, where they formed the core of the newly founded Imperial Library. The collections taken to Russia numbered 394,150 volumes, including about 11,000 manuscripts and over 24,500 etchings. After Poland was partitioned, the idea of the national library was cultivated by other book repositories, primarily by foundation libraries of Polish aristocratic families who – aside from national literature – also made efforts to collect and protect other memorabilia of the national heritage. Many treasures of national literature held in foundation libraries were later incorporated into the National Library's collections, the building of which began immediately after Poland regained independence in 1918. The reconstituted holdings of the National Library included the collections of the Załuski Library, returned from the Soviet Union over the period of 1923–1935, as well as the collections of other Warsaw-based libraries and collections from Rapperswil and Paris created by Polish émigré communities and transferred to Poland.

During World War II the most valuable part of the National Library's holdings – almost 800,000 registered items – was lost forever. The Library's special collection was almost completely destroyed, including ca. 50,000 manuscripts, 2,500 incunabula, 80,000 early printed books, and 100,000 drawings and engravings. The few most precious treasures evacuated to



Mszał Erazma Ciołka [Missale – The Missal of Erazm Ciołek]. Manuscript in Latin, illuminated. 1515–1518. Parchment, 35×26.5 cm, 231 lvs. 20th century binding, board and leather. Call No.: rps III 3306 polona.pl/item/7651562/15/

Canada survived the ravages of war: this included the earliest manuscript records in the Polish language, the mid-14th-century *Kazania świętokrzyskie* [Holy Cross Sermons] and the late 14th-century *Psalterz floriański* [Psalterium trilingue – Sankt Florian Psalter]. Of priceless value are the following items of European writing and illumination art: the 8th-century *Testamentum novum*, the 11th-century *Sakramentarz tyniecki* [Sacramentarium – The Tyniec Sacramentary], the 12th-century *Ewangeliarz Anastazji* [Quattuor Evangelia – The Anastasia Evangelistary], the mid-13th-century *Psalterz Potockich* [Psalterium – The Potocki Psalter], and also the 11th-century *Kodeks supraski* [The Supraśl Codex], listed on the Memory of the World Register as one of the world's oldest Cyrillic manuscripts in Old Church Slavonic. Among the noteworthy works that came into being in Polish scriptoria are the 15th-century *Rozmyślanie przemyskie* [Meditation on the Life of Lord Jesus. The Przemysł Meditation], the early 16th-century *Mszał Erazma Ciołka* [Missale – The Missal of Erazm Ciołek] with miniatures by Stanisław Samostrzelnik, and Jan Długosz's *Katalog arcybiskupów gnieźnieńskich* [Catalogus archiepiscoporum Gnesnensium – The Catalogue of Gniezno's Archbishops] (1531–1535). The manuscript collections include the earliest surviving documents of Polish law, as well as the earliest items of mediaeval historiography. They include: the early 12th-century *Rocznik świętokrzyski dawny* [The Old Holy Cross Annals]; the Polish Chronicle by Gallus Anonymus; the Polish Chronicle by Bishop Wincenty Kadłubek; the Chronicle by Janko from Czarnków.

Autographs hold a special place in the National Library's manuscript collections. These include the works of the great 19th-century romantic poets: Adam Mickiewicz, Juliusz Słowacki and Cyprian Norwid, along with the Nobel Prize-winning novelists: Henryk Sienkiewicz and Władysław Reymont. In the rich collection of letters some of the most interesting are writings of influential European thinkers such as Erasmus of Rotterdam and Georg Wilhelm Hegel.



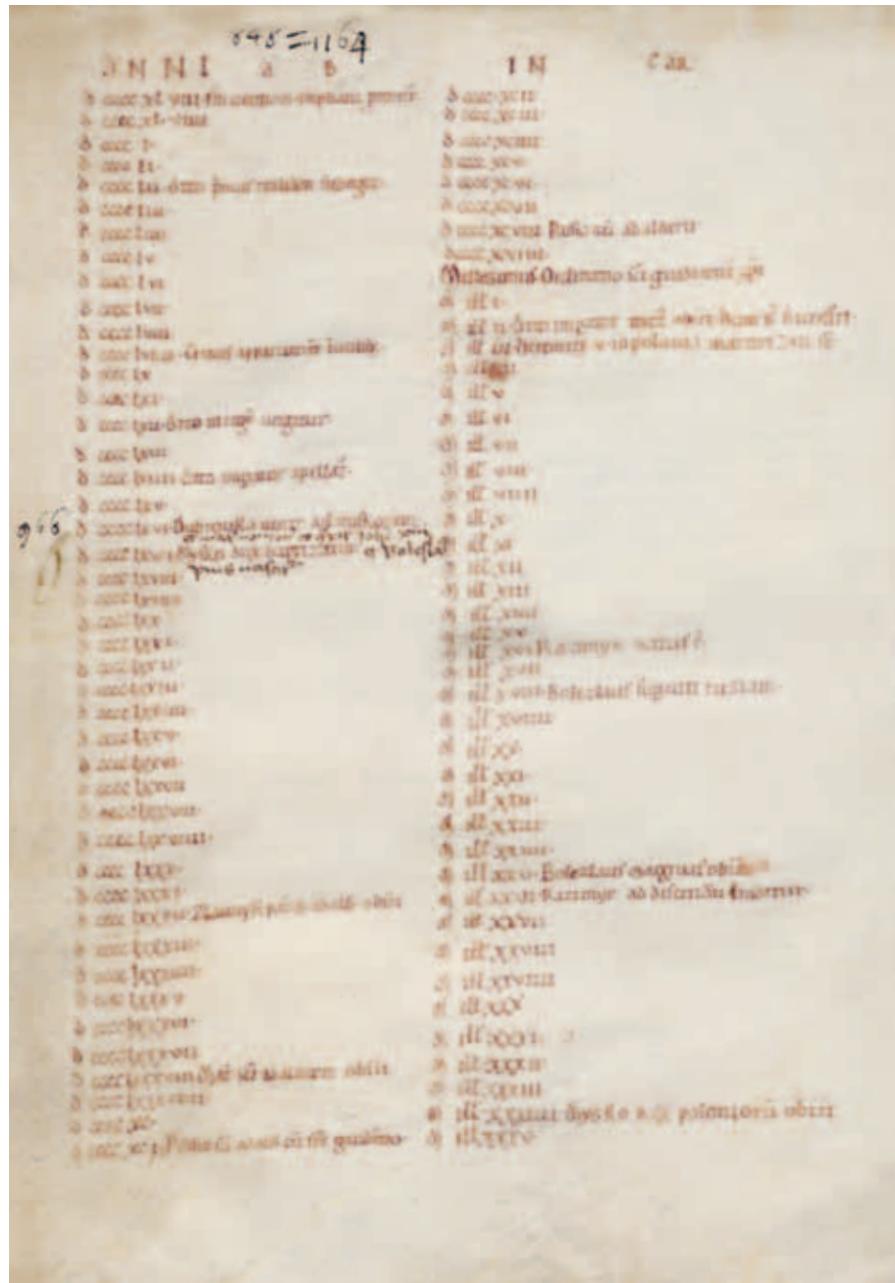


Kazania Świętokrzyskie [The Holy Cross Sermons]. Manuscript in Polish. 14th century. Parchment, 20.5 × 1.5 cm and less, 18 strips. 20th century binding, wooden casket with glass. Call No.: rps 8001
polona.pl/item/304920/5/



Jan Długosz *Katalog arcybiskupów gnieźnieńskich* [Ioannes Długosch, *Catalogus archiepiscoporum Gnesnensium* – The Catalogue of Gniezno's Archbishops]. Manuscript in Latin, illuminated. [Kraków], 1531–1535. Parchment, 31 × 24 cm, 145 lvs. 19th century leather binding. Call No.: rps B0Z 5
polona.pl/item/36618320/8/





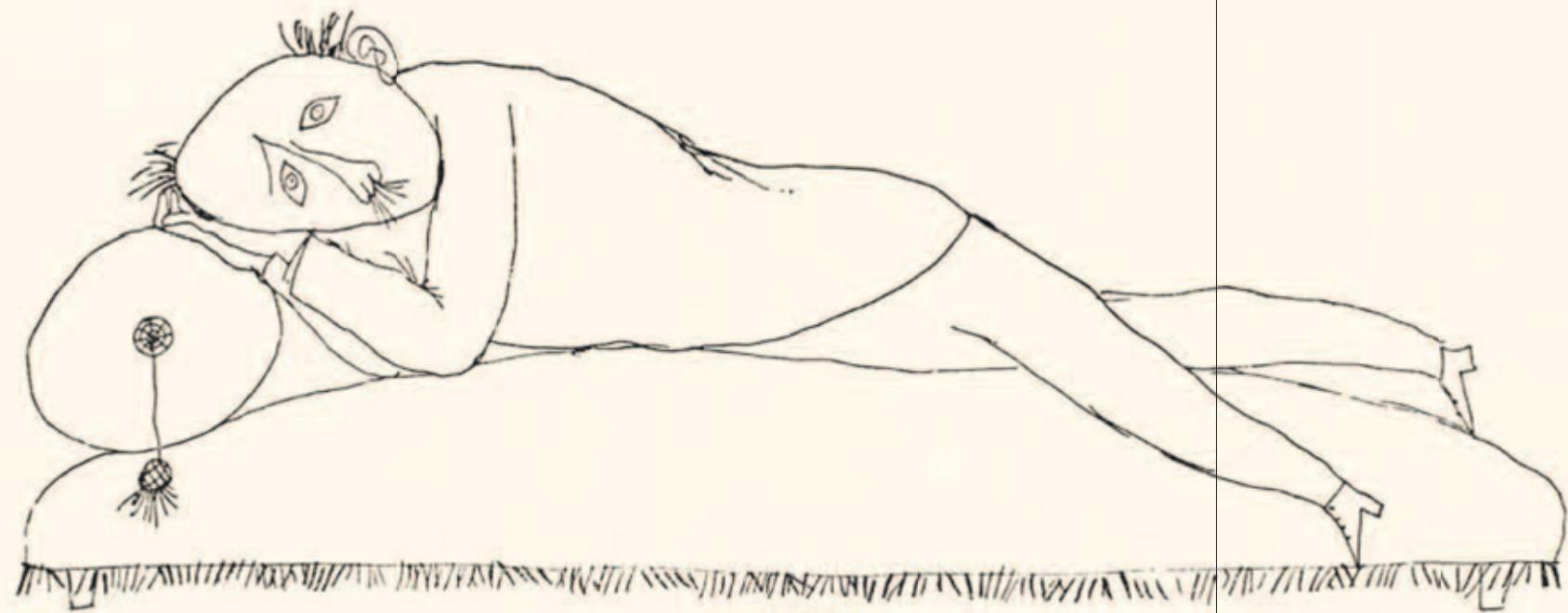
Among the most recent acquisitions, especially noteworthy are the Zbigniew Herbert Archive, the Archive of the Nobel Prize-winning author Czesław Miłosz as well as the Themerson Archive and the archive of the famous philosopher, Professor Leszek Kołakowski.

The collection of early printed books features numerous unique items, from incunabula and 16th-century books produced by illustrious Polish printers (Haller, Wietor, Januszewski) to 18th-century publications. The value of this collection is greatly enhanced by hand-ornamented French and Italian incunabula, such as the 15th-century *Sforziada*, and the 15th-century French Prayer Book of Jan Zamoyski. Taking into account the displacement and destruction of Polish book collections in the past, particularly valuable are their preserved fragments, e.g., the magnificent Renaissance library of Polish King Sigismund Augustus or the estate libraries of the Zamoyski and Krasieński families.

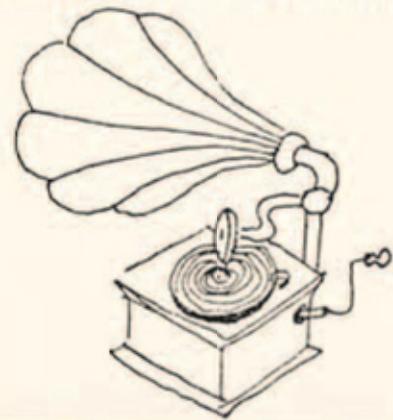
The Library is also home to important cartographic artefacts, such as Ptolemy's works, early maps of Poland, and also a rich collection of fine prints and drawings by Jan Piotr Norblin, Aleksander Orłowski, Cyprian Norwid, Artur Grottger, Józef Chełmoński, Jan Matejko, Stanisław Wyspiański and others.

Among the musical documents, the Fryderyk Chopin manuscript collection, the largest in the world, is regarded as priceless in itself. The music collection also holds works penned by other Polish composers, including Józef Elsner, Karol Szymanowski, Grażyna Bacewicz, Witold Lutosławski and Krzysztof Komeda.

◀ *Rocznik świętokrzyski dawny [Epistola s. Pauli Apostoli cum glossis – The Old Holy Cross Annals]. Manuscript in Latin. Beginning of the 12th century. Parchment, 22×14 cm, 40 lvs. 19th century binding, half leather. Call No.: rps II 3312 polona.pl/item/7720442/79/*



Themerson.



Franciszka Themerson, *Gaberbochus
some of the old favourites*, [London],
[ca 1950 – ca 1960], 156 k. ; 35,5 × 46 cm,
Postcards of X Series and a part of Z Series.
Call No.: rps akc. 19523
polona.pl/item/30943494/o/

Key facts and figures

The National Library's collection numbered a total of 8,946,146 items at the end of 2015. New acquisitions in 2015 numbered 194,467 items. At the end of 2015 the staff of the National Library consisted of 805 employees.

New developments in creating and building collections

Under the Act of November 7, 1996 on Legal Deposit Copies, the National Library receives two copies of books and serials and other publications: newspapers, printed music, atlases, maps, ephemera, electronic publications, recorded sound, and audiovisual documents. The Library receives over 200,000 published items of various types, including ca. 85 percent on legal deposit. The library also expands its collections by purchase, by gifts and by exchange with other domestic and foreign libraries.



Teofil Kwiatkowski,
Portrait of Fryderyk Chopin, 1849,
watercolour on pencil sketch;
14 × 9,5 cm on 27,9 × 22,2 cm paper.
Call No.: r.947
polona.pl/item/361457/0/



The National Library's holdings in registered items

Monographs	3,063,960
Serials	1,014,219
Ephemera	2,619,476
Manuscripts	32,233
Early printed books	183,169
Printed music	128,025
Fine prints and drawings	369,153
Maps and atlases	135,290
Recorded sound and audiovisual documents	236,338
Electronic documents	236,144



**NEW DEVELOPMENTS
IN PROVIDING ACCESS
TO COLLECTIONS**

24-HOUR CATALOGUING WORKFLOW IN THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND

In January 2012 the National Library of Poland implemented a new organizational model for cataloguing part of the legal deposit materials in traditional and electronic form: books, maps, sheet music, leaflets and audiovisual publications. This was the result of a survey conducted in the National Library, which showed that the cataloguing workflow had consisted of 9 different steps and lasted on average two weeks, because legal deposit materials were processed in six departments. Such an organizational flow of library materials seemed to be not only time consuming, but irrational and expensive as well, and – what is worth stressing – legal deposit catalogue descriptions and newly acquired electronic documents were not accessible to the users immediately.

The management of the library was sure that a reorganization of the workflow was necessary to shorten the cataloguing process, to lower costs, and to increase the quality of service. Our goal was to redesign cataloguing and materials flow processes to increase productivity, improve efficiency, and improve timely access to legal deposit materials.

The principle of the new workflow model is “the rule of one desk”: all acquisition and cataloguing activities are carried out by one librarian. The members of the legal deposit team have the same duties, work in one location and are cross-trained in the fields of formal and subject cataloguing, as well as authority control. All members of the newly organized team were flexible enough to learn how to adopt new workflows for better productivity.

The workflow was designed to meet the objectives of the library in terms of timeliness and quality with the lowest cost, by eliminating repetitive work that only added a small amount of value to a product already

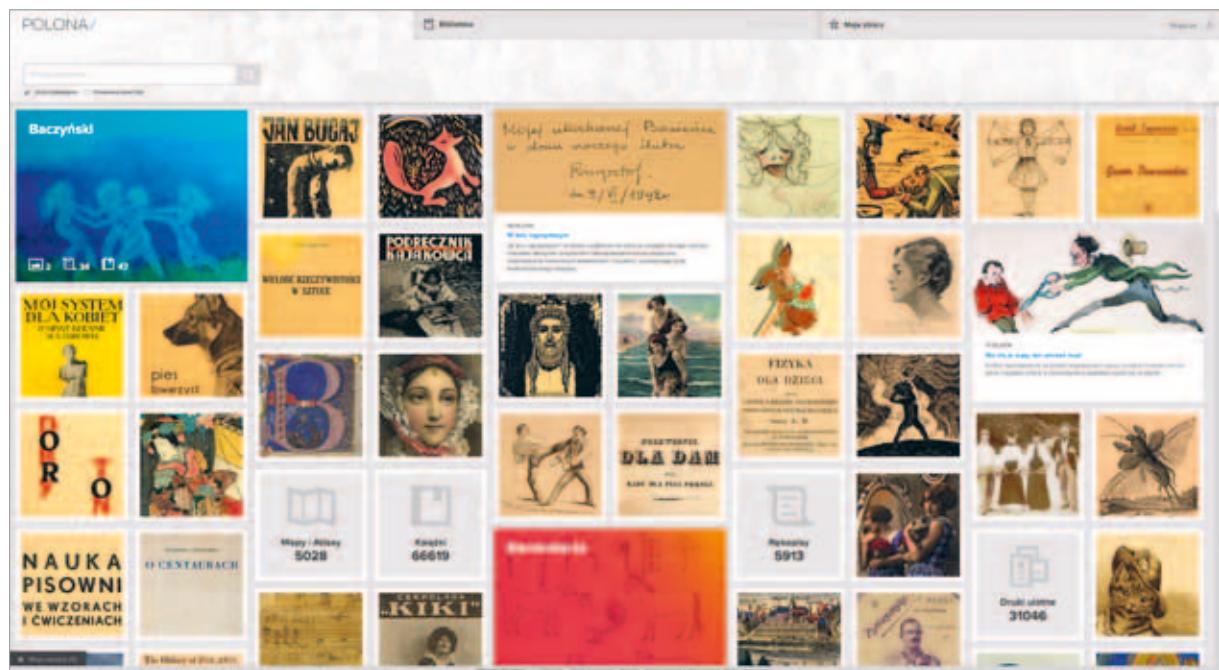
reasonably good. New acquisitions are transferred every day in the morning from the Post Office straight to the Legal Deposit Office, where books are divided among librarians and fully catalogued during one working day. The second copy of the legal deposit materials (non-archival copy) is transferred the following day to the stacks, and the first copy (archival copy) is kept until the end of the week in the National Bibliography Office, which publishes a new issue of the “Bibliographic Guide” (“Przewodnik Bibliograficzny”) weekly.

Thanks to the new organizational model legal deposit monographs are catalogued and are ready to use by readers within 24 hours. Catalogue descriptions of the newly acquired books, maps, sheet music, and audiovisual publications are accessible on the Internet for re-use by librarians and commercial entities as well within 24 hours.

The success of the new workflow for monographs led to the implementation of a 24-hour workflow for journals and newspapers in January 2014.

As many as 2,352,859 records were added to the computer catalogue of the National Library of Poland in 2015, which now comprises 9,831,103 descriptions. This is a big increase from 2014, when it amounted to 937,400 records.

All types of publications and other library materials collected in the National Library of Poland are included in the main catalogue served by the Sierra system. Beginning 1 January 2012, publications received by the National Library of Poland as obligatory copies are catalogued within 24 hours. Since October 2014, the National Library has been cataloguing all articles in collective works and all authors.



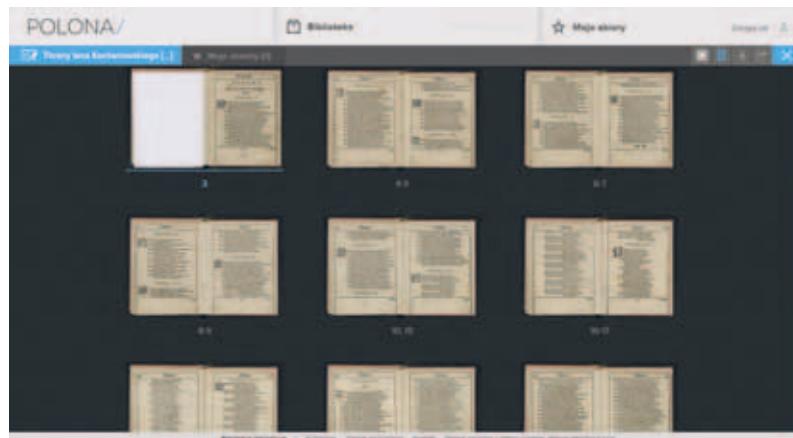
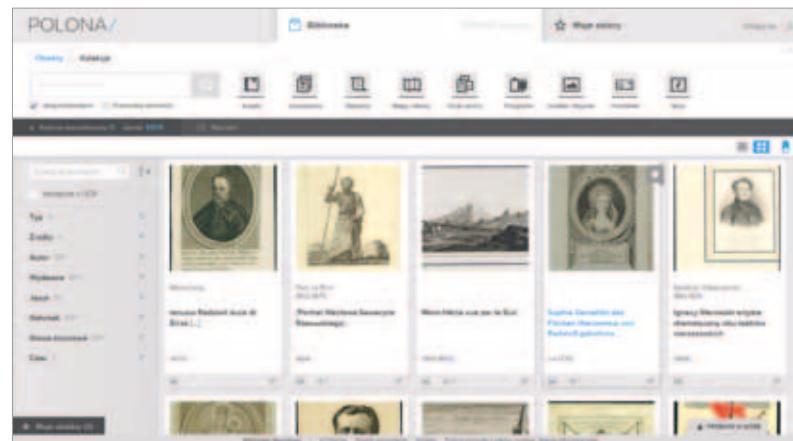
THE NEW VERSION OF THE POLONA DIGITAL LIBRARY

POLONA in the new version is a modern portal built on the principle of a one-page application – this avoids the effect of reloading the page after going to the next place or next object. POLONA’s search feature is equipped with assistive technologies: filters, full-text searching, hints based on semantic relations, and many other tools, including allowing smooth zooming – the so-called “Infinity zoom”. Many of the solutions used in the construction of the portal are cutting-edge.

The new POLONA not only offers innovative technological solutions and reflects the best user experience guaranteed by the most modern portals that provide access to the world’s cultural heritage, but also uses a new way of communicating with the user, aimed at reaching and involving both professionals and “digital tourists”, i.e. users who wander the Internet in search of interesting content. The homepage of the portal, which is edited in such a way as to attract the attention of recipients and encourage them to explore digital objects, serves this very purpose.

Thanks to its innovative structure, the POLONA homepage allows for any composition and arrangement of materials, thus giving its users an opportunity to directly reach objects of interest, collections, POLONA/Blog entries and external websites. Regularly updated, it presents the most important and the most interesting objects, collections, articles and provides information about actions and projects undertaken by POLONA. The effectiveness of this strategy is confirmed by statistics on visits, visit duration, number of websites seen during one session and bounce rate, i.e. the percentage of single-page visits, which has dropped from nearly 60% to less than 3% since the new version of the digital library was launched.






 POLONA Digital Library:
 search results and thumbnails

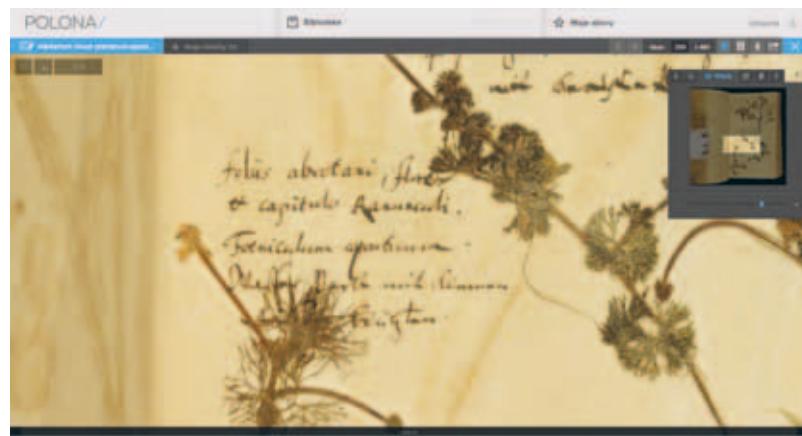
On the basis of Google Web Analytics for POLONA, from the period between 2011–2015, the new POLONA recorded:

1. Increase in visits from approximately 470,000 to approx. 992,433 (an increase by over 100%)
2. Over 1,124,305 items in POLONA digital library
3. Increase in visit duration from approximately 7 minutes to approximately 8.24 minutes
4. Decrease in bounce rate, i.e. the percentage of single-page visits, to less than 2%
5. 35,363 accounts opened in 2015.

Digital copies of objects that belong to the public domain are also available to Internet users through the Europeana portal (europeana.eu). Digital copies of objects that belong to the public domain and metadata for materials protected by copyright are also available to the international public through the European Library portal (theuropeanlibrary.org), with which the National Library of Poland has cooperated, among others, in a project to display digitized newspapers from the years 1914–1918.

One of the most important new features is that now collections of external institutions may also be presented in POLONA. This is an element of the POLONA for Culture (Polona/Cloud) service prepared by the National Library of Poland, which will be offered without charge to institutions engaged in digitalization activities.

New functions have been introduced in order to encourage users to use the service more intensively. For example, users may now create and publish their own collections on the basis of the National Library collections, and have an opportunity to follow collections of others and share theirs. A function of taking notes on the basis of text fragments marked on a scan was introduced to facilitate the handling of prints.



POLONA Digital Library:
object presentation and enlargement

In order to improve and increase the precision of reaching the collections, an innovative search module has been developed, which in its new version will also use data from the master password file – it will be the first implementation of this functionality in the world, confirming the position of the National Library of Poland as a leader in the area of innovation. A PDFjs module for handling objects that mostly appear in the PDF format has been developed and tested. Works on the execution of the PRESS module in the POLONA service have been completed. The POLONA Metadata Store module based on elastic search software has been designed, and work on the module is currently in progress. This solution offers an opportunity to supplement the bibliographic data created by the National Library of Poland with data from other databases. Another aim is to achieve greater flexibility of the system and more efficient update of data presented in POLONA.

To increase the use of digital collections, the collections must be indexed by the most popular Internet search engines. With this in mind, a method of indexing the National Library of Poland data for Google robots has been developed and implemented, and in consequence, digital collections of the National Library of Poland will become more easily accessible to network users.

Since 2015, all individual users and institutions have access to the POLONA API. This is a software functionality which enables open sharing for re-use of any cultural resources that belong to the public domain and are available in the Repository under conditions specified by the Act on the Re-Use of the Public Sector Information, prepared by the Ministry of Administration and Digitisation, that went into effect in 2016. Thanks to the POLONA API, software developers (third parties) are given access to the resources and an opportunity to use them in a flexible and creative manner. The latest version of the service was launched in 2015.

NEW PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION (PAC) CENTER FOR DIGITAL PRESERVATION AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY

In 2016, the International Association of Libraries Associations (IFLA) announced the creation of a new Preservation and Conservation (PAC) Centre, which will focus on digital preservation and digital sustainability. The new PAC Centre is based at the National Library of Poland. It will be able to support the needs of libraries concerning digital preservation and digital sustainability and will also assist in the safeguarding of digital cultural heritage. The PAC Centre will organize workshops and training on appropriate topics.

ACADEMICA: DIGITAL LIBRARY OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS

In the years 2012–2014, the National Library of Poland implemented its own digitisation project in cooperation with the Scientific and Academic Computer Network (NASK): the Digital Library of Scientific Publications ACADEMICA.

The aim of the project was to introduce a new quality to the interlibrary loan system by replacing the traditional form of lending, i.e. sending paper copies by mail, with digital lending of the publications. Users of the portal, which was launched and officially opened at the beginning of the fourth quarter of 2014, have access to 250 thousand electronic scientific publications through dedicated terminals located in scientific and public libraries throughout the country. Readers using the ACADEMICA system are

registered by means of library cards. The sharing of scientific publications is organised in accordance with the provisions of the Act on Copyright and Related Rights, and the works themselves are subject to copying and printing limits. Because of copyright limits, in the ACADEMICA system only one user at a time within the territory of Poland is provided with access to the publications, similarly as in the case of traditional library loans. Therefore, a booking system was implemented in the ACADEMICA library so that readers can schedule their work at terminals in a selected library. Publications that belong to the public domain and to the open access category as well as those which were obtained under licence are available without limits. The process of signing contracts with libraries whose users will have access to ACADEMICA was initiated in October 2014. As of 2015, 162 libraries in Poland joined the ACADEMICA system and as of May 31, 2016, 1,577,281 library objects were made available.

MASS DIGITIZATION PROJECT

The National Library of Poland is planning to scan all publications falling within the following categories of archival collections: 19th–21st century books, early printed books, 19th–21st century periodicals, maps, music, posters and leaflets, drawings, engravings, photographs, albums, postcards, sound and audio publications, and manuscript collections.

Due to the fact that the National Library of Poland is the first institution in Poland to implement a process of mass digitization and every day prepares no less than 1,700 digital reproductions of objects from its collection, the process must be planned in stages and employees from many specialist departments of the library need to be involved.



The National Library's Digitization Centre



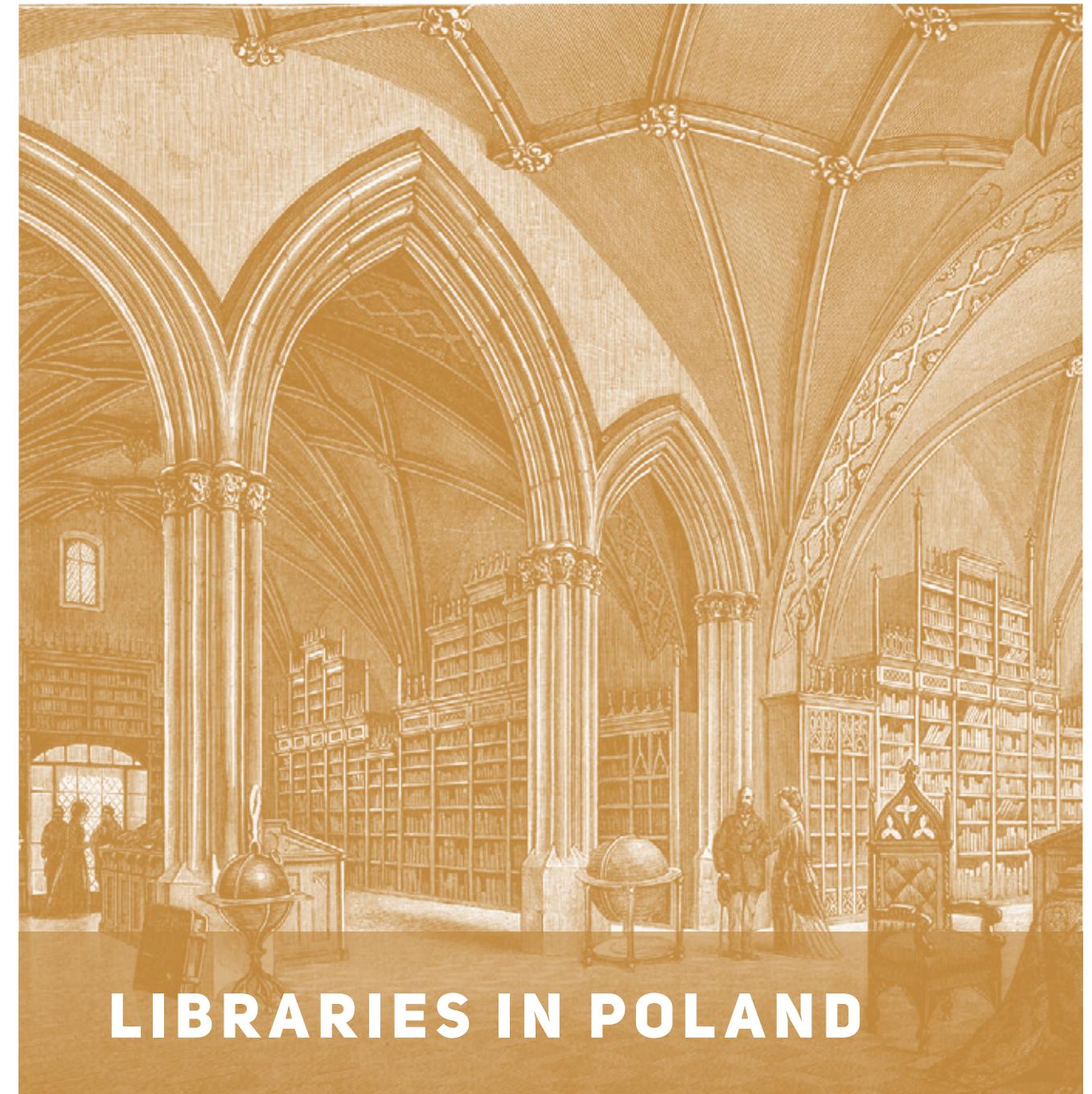
The National Library's Digital Repository

Selection of objects for digitization

The first to be scanned are collections at risk for damage (poor state of conservation, acid paper), objects that are not copyrighted, collections most often used by readers and associated with the implementation of projects in which the National Library of Poland is involved (including in particular the ACADEMICA project). Collections stored on microfilm are also scanned so that objects stored in this form can be protected and made more accessible. In total, 48,484,911 scans were produced between 2011 and 2015.

ELECTRONIC SERVICE E-ISBN

The service, launched in October 2014, is a modern, free of charge e-service of the National Library that allows publishers to obtain and manage ISBN numbers, as well as to publish core metadata on the Web.



THE ORGANISATION OF LIBRARIES IN POLAND

Libraries in Poland may be established and maintained by: the ministers and heads of the central government offices; local government units; and individuals, legal entities and unincorporated organizational units. Libraries may be organised as independent organisational units (e.g. public libraries), or may be part of another organisational unit (e.g. school libraries, libraries of institutions of higher education).

A library's organisers are obligated to provide them with suitable conditions for their operations and growth, including the premises and equipment as well as the financial resources for conducting the library's operations, specifically for purchasing library materials and for the professional development of their staff.

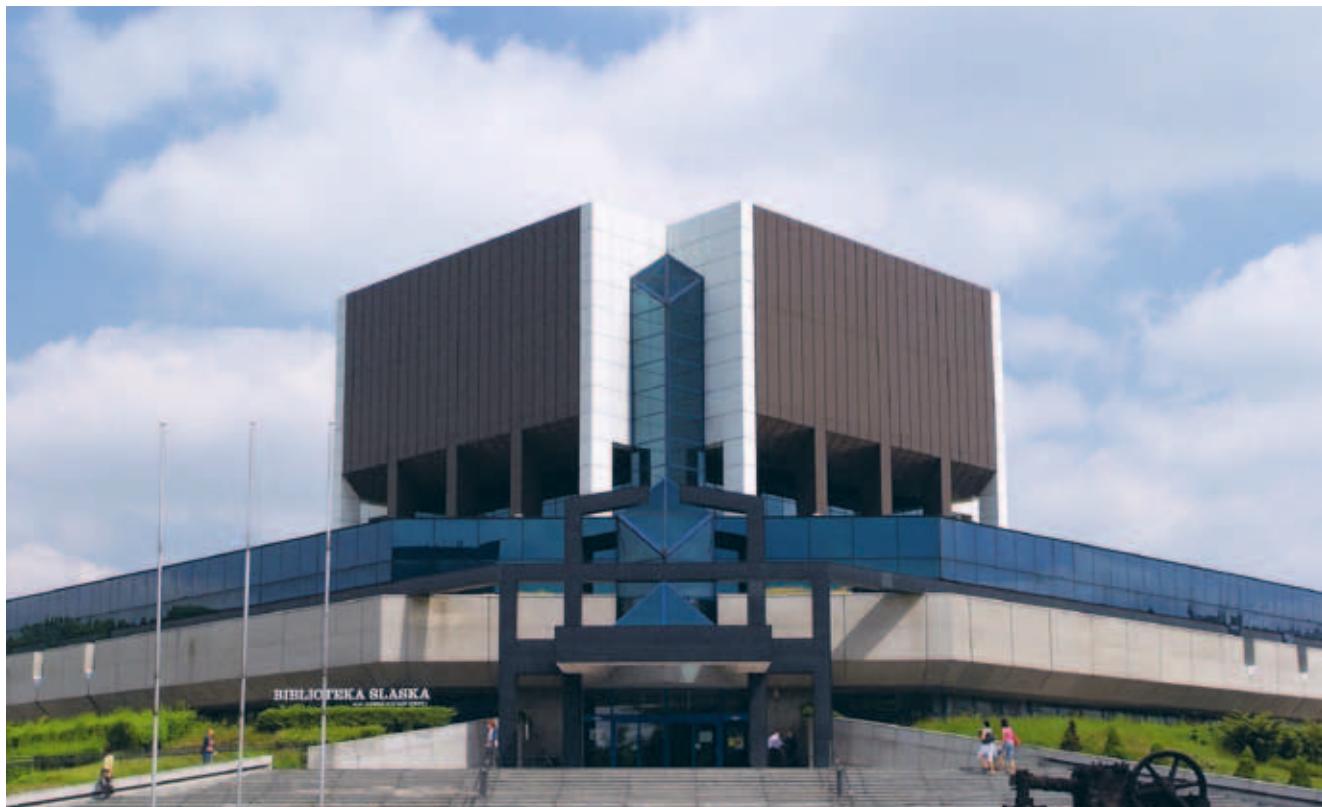
The burden of financing libraries rests primarily on local governments, appropriate government departments and other entities. The State can support library operations through restricted subsidies.

Libraries can be categorised into groups based on various criteria, such as: the nature and needs of the environment in which they operate; thematic and formal scope of their collections; territorial coverage; formal and legal basis of library operations; sources of financing; and the approach to collection usage. Library categorisation based on the above criteria is not exclusive.

Total number of libraries in Poland amounts to 31,656 and includes: public libraries – 8,094; school libraries – 20,363; research libraries – 1,044; pedagogical libraries – 269; specialised libraries – 326; parish libraries – 1,480.



^
The Pomeranian Library in Szczecin (photo courtesy of Książnica Pomorska Archives)



↑
The Silesian Library in Katowice (photo courtesy of Biblioteka Śląska Archives)

Legal conditions

The legal status and operational guidelines for libraries in Poland are established by:

- The Act of 4 September 1997, on departments of government administration and the subsequent regulations,
- The Act of 27 June 1997, on libraries,
- The Act of 25 October 1991, on the organisation and operation of cultural activity,
- The Act of 7 November 1996, on legal deposit copies.

PUBLIC LIBRARIES

In 2014, the network of public libraries consisted of 8,094 library institutions (including 2,608 main libraries and 5,486 library branches). It was supplemented by 1,290 library service points, which currently play a marginal role in servicing the readers due to the number and location thereof.

Collections and purchases of new publications

- In 2014 the collections of public libraries accounted for 130,7 million volumes of books and bound periodicals and 5 million stock units in special collections (i.e. other non-electronic collections and electronic collections on physical media).
- The average size of a collection per library or branch in 2014 was 16,152 volumes. In urban libraries it was 28,517 volumes, while in rural libraries 9,737 volumes.
- Despite the increase in expenditure on book purchases, the number of volumes in collections slightly decreased, mainly in rural libraries. Considering the increase of collection sizes in urban libraries, this does

not help to eliminate the disproportion in the availability of knowledge and information between readers from both environments. On the other hand, while developing collections in rural libraries (increasing their selection with an influx of new publications at an adequate level), it is also essential to update them and eliminate old, worn out and outdated volumes.

Readers

- The user structure in public libraries is changing. In 2014, the percentage of young readers continued to decrease. Readers up to 24 years in age accounted for 47.5% of total readers, while in 2000 they accounted for more than 70%, and in 2002, 68.1%. In contrast, the percentage of older readers increased. In 2014 readers older than 24 years accounted for 52.5%. The largest increases were in the groups 25–44 years (in 2002: 19%, in 2014: 27.5%) and above 60 years (4.3% and 10.3% respectively).
- The continuing upward trend in the share of readers of more than 24 years in the total number of readers results primarily from demographic changes in Polish society. It is aided by a sustained demographic decline and a natural process of society ageing (according to the Central Statistical Office of Poland, 20.8% of the Polish population in 2014 were people of 60 years or more). The number of people 45–60 years and above 60 years in comparison with the total population of Poland has increased (in 2002: 21.2% and 16.2%; in 2014: 21.5% and 20.8% respectively).
- An important role driving the population of public library readers is also played by the growing educational aspirations of the society and a noticeable shift of the learning period to older ages (as a result of increasing learning opportunities), as well as the necessity of repeated retraining during professional careers. These processes impact the

number of public library users of 25–44 years (with an increase from 13.3% in 2002 to 14.6% in 2014).

- However, none of the discussed factors have an impact on the fact that almost ¾ of public library readers are residents of urban areas (in 1999: 73.3%, and in 2014: 74.6%).

Summary

A new stage in library development is associated with contributions from many entities. Libraries can participate in numerous projects including Culture+ – the goal of this programme is to modernise and develop library infrastructures and to digitalise the resources of Polish museums, libraries and archives following two priorities:

- “Library+. Library infrastructure”, managed by the Book Institute (aimed at supporting refurbishing, rebuilding, extending and constructing library premises);
- “Digitisation”, managed by the National Audio-visual Institute (aimed at extending and simplifying access to digital resources of the Polish cultural heritage through digitisation of the collections and expansion of digitisation laboratories).

The efforts towards development of MAK+ central computer system are continuing. This enables managing library collections, sharing information on collections and loans between libraries, and remote access to information through the Internet. Other activities are continuing include providing support to library computerisation and internetisation, and developing new competencies of librarians (activities undertaken by the Book Institute).

Purchasing new books for libraries – this programme, conducted by the National Library since 2005, is aimed at all public libraries. In 2014, 2,487 libraries participated in it.



The Ossolineum Library in Wrocław
(photo courtesy of the Convention
Bureau of Wrocław)

Library Development Programme of the Information Society Development Foundation, aiming at increasing the capabilities of public libraries in rural areas and small towns (with populations of up to 20 thousand) through facilitating access to computers, the Internet, and acquiring new competencies (in the form of widely available training courses). The programme was started in 2009 and ended in 2015. Over 3,808 libraries have participated in three editions of the programme, which was funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

An example of the collaboration of government institutions, NGOs and the private sector supporting public libraries is the programme called “Libraries with TP Internet”, aiming at internetisation and the development of e-society in Poland. The agreement results from the activities for library internetisation conducted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Book Institute – a contractor for the multi-year government programme Biblioteka + (“Library +”) – and the Information Society Development Foundation, which conducts the Library Development Programme. According to the agreement, Orange (formerly TP SA) provides the connection of communal public libraries to broadband Internet without charging the installation, activation and rental fees during the period of the agreement. In 2014, about 3,500 libraries (including main libraries and their branches) participated.

Since 2015, support from the government has become more systematic through various library-dedicated projects within the National Programme for Readership Development 2015–2020, with a budget of 669,400 PLN (including 435 million PLN from the State budget).

The improvement in library usage after nine years of decline was also driven by media activities targeted at various groups of readers and non-readers. Popular newspapers, weekly magazines, TV and radio stations introduced book-related topics, and the problems of readership and libraries became a subject of public debate.

The network of public libraries in Poland in 2000–2014

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012	2014
Total number of libraries and branches	8,915	8,783	8,653	8,542	8,420	8,342	8,182	8,094
in rural areas	5,874	5,839	5,744	5,658	5,526	5,512	5,391	5,329
(%)	65.9	66.5	66.4	66.2	65.6	66.1	65.9	65.8
Total number of library service points	2,457	1,973	1,811	1,670	1,555	1,437	1,280	1,290
in rural areas	1,717	1,370	1,209	1,100	1,014	922	802	607
(%)	69.9	69.4	66.8	65.9	65.2	64.2	62.7	47.1



Municipal Library in Opole (photo courtesy of MBP Opole Archive)

SCHOOL LIBRARIES

The legal status of school libraries and teacher-librarians is governed by education and library regulations. The other regulations include:

1. The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 21 May 2001, on framework statutes of a public playschool and a public school. Paragraph 10 of the Appendices No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 5a and 5b to this Regulation includes provisions regarding a detailed definition of a school library organisation and responsibilities of a teacher-librarian in a school statute, in accordance with the needs of a given school.
2. The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 28 February 2013 on detailed guidelines for public pedagogical library operations introduced a provision defining the responsibilities of the pedagogical libraries “to include the organisation of school libraries and providing support thereto including the organisation and management of a school library”.

State and availability of school libraries in Poland – aggregated data

- total number of school libraries: 20,363 in schools for children and youths, schools for adults, and schools for the arts;
- number of schools: 34,270;
- number of books in school libraries: 153,138,659 volumes;
- number of students in schools with their own library and schools with library access: 4,689,182;
- number of acting teacher-librarians: 22,397;
- average number of books per school library: 7,520.4 volumes;
- average number of students per school library: 230.3;
- average number of rooms per library: 1.3;

- average floor space per library: 51 m²;
- average number of daily newspaper and magazine subscriptions per library: 4.5;
- average number of computers used by students per library: 2.9;
- average number of computers with Internet access per library: 2.8;
- average number of computers with broadband Internet access per library: 1.9.

In the 2012/2013 school year in Poland, there were 34,270 schools including 20,363 schools with their own library (59.4%), 7,975 schools with library access (23.3%), and 5,932 schools without their own library and without library access (17.3%).

Libraries in schools

Total*	5,255,841	4,689,182	3,981,606	75.7	707,576	13.5	566,659	10.8
Schools for children and youths	4,681,003	4,527,678	3,912,959	83.6	614,719	13.1	153,325	3.3
Schools for adults	562,072	149,205	61,127	10.9	88,078	15.7	412,867	73.5
General education schools for the arts	12,766	12,299	7,520	58.9	4,779	37.4	467	3.7

Source of data: Ministry of National Education, Department for Forecasts and Analysis.
* excluding schools in health care institutions.

PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES

Pedagogical libraries conduct operations responding in particular to the needs of education and teaching, including training and advancing teachers, students preparing for the teaching profession and students of teachers' development centres. Pedagogical libraries carry out these responsibilities through service and library activities, providing assistance and subject matter training to school libraries, and collaborating in the area of teachers' development with higher education institutions and other libraries, as well as with education and training institutions for teachers.

Libraries may also conduct publishing operations, organise and conduct educational and cultural activities, in particular public classes, library lessons and meet-the-author sessions.

Legal basis and organisation of pedagogical libraries

Apart from the regulations governing the operations of libraries, the following should be mentioned:

- The Regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 29 April 2003 on detailed guidelines for public pedagogical library operations.
- The Regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 29 April 2003 on the framework statute of a public pedagogical library.

Organisation of pedagogical libraries

1. Libraries at the provincial level (capitals of provinces and former provinces) – independent or joint (with a teachers' development institution);
2. Branches of provincial libraries in capitals of districts; these are not independent, rather, they are an integral part of a provincial library and are included in the budget thereof.



Pedagogical Library in Słupsk
(photo courtesy of PBW Słupsk)

Pedagogical libraries do not operate in a homogenous network. Instead, they operate in a number of independent, smaller “networks”, i.e. joint institutions with a diverse structure, or are fully independent. “Networks” of pedagogical libraries cooperate with the teachers’ development system. There are various forms of this cooperation, ranging from a collaboration of independent institutions (a library and a development centre), to forming a team, to incorporating a library into the internal structure of a development institution.

State

In 2014, there was a total of 269 pedagogical libraries.

In 2014, the collections of pedagogical libraries included more than 12.9 million volumes of books and bound periodicals and more than 317 thousand stock units of special collections, making a total of almost 13.2 million. During the analysed period the stock was not steady. While during the whole decade the stock decreased by 1.1%, and by 10% in the last two years, in 2001–2007 it increased substantially (by 3.4%).

Book collections dominate the stock of pedagogical libraries (97.6%), while special collections account for 2.4%. Registered electronic collections (53,170 stock units) supplement the basic resources, as do licenced collections with paid access (10,360 titles), including 10,140 book titles, 205 periodical titles, and 12 databases.

In 2014, the majority of the 269 pedagogical libraries (209 libraries or 77.7%) had book collections of 10,001 to 50,000 volumes (the average collection size was 47,840 volumes, including 45,285 volumes of books, 2,554 volumes of periodicals, and 1,182 stock units of special collections). Thus, libraries with medium-size collections dominate. 57 libraries (21.2%) had large collections of more than 50 thousand volumes. Three pedagogical libraries (or 1.1%) had collections of less than 10 thousand volumes.

The stock of pedagogical libraries (in thousands of stock units) in 2001–2014

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012	2014
Total collections	14,806.4	15,266.1	15,348.6	15,315.0	15,172.8	14,983.7	14,647.9	13,186.8
Books	13,797.1	14,187.2	14,243.6	14,187.2	14,040.8	13,865.6	13,530.9	12,868.9
Bound periodicals	712.2	765.8	763.4	764.7	764.3	764.2	763.1	687.1
Special collections	297.1	313.1	341.6	363.1	367.7	353.9	353.9	317.9

* Data concerning special collections for 2001–2009 includes electronic documents; for 2011–2014 excluding electronic documents.

Readers, visits, promotional activities

The readers of pedagogical libraries include: teachers and tutors from schools and educational institutions; school administration staff; researchers and academic teachers; students of higher education institutions, post-graduate schools, and secondary schools. Many pedagogical libraries declare that the library materials are available in the reading rooms to “all who are interested”, regardless of their place of residence or education.

SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

Scientific libraries (central libraries, domain-specific libraries, special libraries, libraries of higher education institutions) create an internally diverse group of institutions and do not form a homogenous network. They are governed by regulations issued by various authorities. Apart from the basic regulations the most important ones include:

- The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 2 April 2012, on the principles and the procedure of registering libraries as scientific libraries and on the listing thereof.
- The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 5 November 2010, on the criteria and the procedure for granting and accounting of the financial resources for science for the purpose of financing of the statutory activity.

The level of their scientific activities varies. Some of them, apart from providing services and supporting education, conduct their own research activities, while others only deliver services for the sciences, provide access to materials and information resources essential for conducting research activities and presenting the results of such researches. Their common responsibility is information service and the organisation of a modern information base.

According to the Act on libraries, the scientific libraries include:

- The National Library;
- libraries organised by higher education institutions (i.e. universities);
- libraries organised by the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- libraries organised by research and development units;
- other libraries.

Other libraries listed in the act gain this status based on the regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, according to which a library



University Library in Zielona Góra
(photo courtesy of BUZ)



The National Library viewed from Pole Mokotowskie park

can be considered a scientific library if: (1) it has a specialised library collection in at least one scientific or artistic discipline, that is employed to conduct scientific and research efforts and contains results of researches; (2) it employs at least one licenced librarian or employee with a scientific degree in bibliology and informatology or in one of the scientific or artistic disciplines included in the scientific domain handled by the library, who conducts scientific activity or science promotion activity; (3) it has a technical and ICT infrastructure providing access to an electronic database of scientific periodicals and other electronic databases used to conduct scientific activities.

Gaining a scientific library status means gaining opportunities to benefit from preferences in allocation of financial resources for development of research and publishing activity, preparation of the staff, subsidies for science promotion activities (e.g. for digitalisation of collections). The regulation provides for the possibility of depriving a library of these rights in cases when it fails to perform the responsibilities defined for scientific libraries. Some of the scientific libraries are entitled to receive legal deposit copies, and collections of two of them are considered the national library resource.

The National Library – as the central library of the State and the library with the collection of national writing it performs functions of a nationwide significance. While serving as a scientific library specialising in the humanities, it remains a main archive of the national writing and the nationwide centre of bibliographic information about books. It is a central domain library in library science and bibliology, scientific information and archive science. It maintains central catalogues, and is responsible for the statistics of publishing houses and public libraries. It plays an important role in nationwide bibliographic standardisation. It is also the methodological centre for other libraries in Poland. It conducts training activities associated with the professional development of librarians and information science staff.

Central special libraries are institutions acquiring the most complete possible collection of writing in a specific scientific domain, of a specific type or with a specific reading usage. Central libraries are both scientific and special libraries, performing the functions of a central library for a given domain or several related domains and a main centre of scientific information in a specific specialisation. Central libraries include the University of Warsaw Library and the Jagiellonian Library, which collect writing in the social sciences, the Central Medical Library as the centre of medical scientific information, the Central Agricultural Library in the area of agriculture, forestry and food economy, the Sejm Library as the central legislative library, the Central Statistical Library as the main library in the country in the area of theory and practice concerning statistics, demography, statistical techniques and related disciplines.

Libraries of research institutes (until 2010 libraries of research and development units) belong to the group of special libraries having collections of documents acquired to serve the needs of the special institutes (governed by the ministries, and various central institutions) within which they exist (being part thereof), and are tightly connected with the scope of their scientific and development research.

Libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences are libraries of the scientific institutions (research institutes) and institutions supporting the operations thereof, managed and governed by the Polish Academy of Sciences. Libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences receive funding from their organisers (institutes), to which they are subordinate. In other words, these are budgetary funds (units of the Polish Academy of Sciences may also participate in EU programmes or acquire external funds from other institutions). They acquire collections for the needs of the researchers of the Polish Academy of Sciences, conduct abstracting and information activity, and perform their own researches. The network of libraries of the Pol-

ish Academy of Sciences consists of the following independent units: The Kórnik Library, the Gdańsk Library, the Scientific Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and several dozen libraries of various units of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The majority of them are institutes (such as the Institute of Literary Research, the Institute of Art, the Institute of Physics) and the libraries are integral parts thereof.

Libraries of scientific societies cooperate with libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, acquire collections in many scientific disciplines and publications on topics associated with the region.

Libraries of higher education institutions (public and non-public) are discrete organisational units within higher education institutions. Acquisitions and approach to cataloguing depend on the needs of their main users: students, teachers and researchers. They operate on the basis of the *Act Law on Higher Education*, which indicates that in a higher education institution “there is a library and information system, with a library as a basis”.

A distinct group of scientific libraries (not mentioned above) comprises municipal public libraries of local governments, such as the Raczyński Library in Poznań and the “Książnica Cieszyńska” Library in Cieszyn – cultural institutions maintained by the city of Poznań and the county of Cieszyn – the Provincial Pedagogical Library in Cracow (a budgetary unit of Lesser Poland province), public libraries with provincial status, and libraries of museums.

Scientific libraries (in particular central libraries, libraries of higher education institutions) undertake numerous activities, such as establishing consortia, foundations or other agreements, aiming at increasing the availability of library services and scientific information. Important drivers of these activities are both content-related and economic considerations.

These activities include:

- The catalogue of the National Library;
- Central catalogues;
- Licences for access to worldwide databases of scientific writing;
- Digital libraries (for example projects such as: Digital Library of Scientific Publications ACADEMICA, POLONA, Digital Libraries Federation);
- Repositories (e.g. Digital Repository of Scientific Institutes), knowledge bases (e.g. SYNAT).

At the end of 2014, there were 1,044 scientific libraries in Poland. The largest group among scientific libraries are libraries of higher education institutions (823), mainly universities (355) and technical schools (199) as well as medical schools (40), schools of physical education (7), theological schools (6), schools of the arts (24), pedagogical schools (20), economic schools (9), agricultural schools (10), schools of the Ministry of National Defence (4), schools of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration (2), naval schools (2) and other higher education institutions (145);

- the second largest group are research institute libraries (111);
- libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (67);
- public libraries (13 – including 12 provincial libraries in Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Opole, Szczecin, Toruń, Łódź, Warsaw, Wrocław, Zielona Góra, and one municipal library – the Raczyński Library in Poznań);
- 29 other large specialized libraries: the Central Medical Library with 14 branches, the Central Agricultural Library with one branch, the Central Military Library, the Central Statistical Library, the Central NBP Library, the Central Library of Labour and Social Security, the Main Library of Transport, the Sejm Library, the Provincial Pedagogical Library in Cracow, the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences, the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock, the Library of the National



University of Warsaw Library
(photos courtesy of the Archives of BUW)

Museum in Cracow, the Library of the National Museum in Warsaw, the “Książnica Cieszyńska” Library in Cieszyn;

- the National Library.

In 2014, the book collections of scientific libraries included 91,732,430 volumes; special collections, currently referred to as other non-electronic collections (such as manuscripts, microforms, audio-visual materials) included 20,152,294 stock units; and electronic collections (on physical media) included 607,609 stock units.

LIBRARIES WITHOUT A UNIFORM LIBRARY NETWORK

This category includes: specialised libraries (of institutions, offices, companies, service providers, museums, theatres, etc.); libraries of scientific, technical and economic information centres (information/library institutions being part of a scientific, technical and economic information (“inte”) network); and libraries of scientific societies.

Up through 2010, data regarding specialised libraries, fiction/specialised libraries, libraries of “inte” centres, and libraries of scientific societies were gathered by the Central Statistical Office of Poland every two years. Since 2011 they have been collected on annual basis.

Libraries of scientific societies

The smallest group of libraries included in the research of the Central Statistical Office of Poland are libraries of scientific societies. In 2014, there were 14 such libraries (mainly in the Masovian province, with 5). There are two types of such libraries: general ones, acquiring collections concerning various scientific disciplines, and specialised ones, acquiring col-

lections concerning a single discipline, complemented with literature on related sciences and regional publications. Libraries with focused collections dominate. They have a high scientific value as collections of literature regarding a specialised subject. The quantitative data concerning libraries of scientific societies with scientific status (the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock and the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences) were included in the section concerning scientific libraries. However, the conditions of their operations and problems that are common to this group of libraries will be dealt with in this section.

Libraries of scientific societies are not organisationally independent. Instead, they are established and maintained by scientific societies and associations, i.e. non-profit organisations. These institutions conduct their core business operations without regular budgetary financing. They operate mainly on the basis of acquired restricted subsidies and in the case of libraries with scientific status based on funds from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (granted on an annual basis as part of science promotion to institutions that are not organisational units of the Polish Academy of Sciences or higher education institutions).

CHURCH LIBRARIES

Libraries of the Catholic Church Parish libraries

The research conducted by the Institute of Catholic Church Statistics shows that these libraries are associated with parishes in a strict sense. They are part of the activities of the parish that organises and finances them. Libraries are primarily maintained by volunteers who were or are otherwise involved in the parish activities. These libraries do not form

a network. Their origin and decline depends largely from the willingness of the organiser (a parish priest) and laypersons engaged in the creation and maintenance of a library. If a parish priest changes or the persons who maintain a library leaves, it is often closed down or liquidated.

In 2011, there were a total of 1,480 parish libraries (out of 10,150 parishes). The largest number of these libraries were operating in the Silesian province (235) and the Lesser Poland province (190). These accounted for almost $\frac{1}{3}$ of all libraries. There were 596 libraries in urban parishes, 541 in rural parishes, and 343 in urban/rural parishes.

The total book collections accounted for more than 4 million volumes (4,732,329 volumes). The purchases totalled to 60,525 volumes; however, in most cases these libraries receive books as gifts from parishioners.

Parish libraries were used by 128,839 readers who borrowed 286,305 volumes. They had 660 active computers. There were 1,938 persons working in parish libraries (an average 1.3 persons per library).

Libraries of the other Christian Churches

- Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church
 - The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession
 - The Pentecostal Church
-

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