NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND
ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2014

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

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1. General overview of recent major developments

The National Library has launched a digital lending service called 'Academica'.
https://academica.edu.pl/

The Project was initiated by and implemented under the auspices of The Foundation for Polish Science, while The Scientific and Academic Computer Network was the partner of the national Library providing support for the technical realization of the enterprise. The work started back in 2010, and the library's on-line resources were made available in November, 2014 at https://academica.edu.pl/. The objectives set by the system designers included giving all the readers all over Polish libraries the access to the still growing collection of scientific and academic publications. The National Library, the project coordinator, took advantage of the fact of being a holder of obligatory copies of each Polish publication in printing and in a digital form. The launch of the *Academica* Digital Lending Service was based on the collection so accumulated. The idea behind it was replacing of a traditional paper form routinely used in inter-library lending, by the new electronic form.

Each single Polish library, even the smallest, can use on-line book lending service. The only condition is to sign a declaration of participation and provide a computer with Internet connectivity. The system software was designed in such a way that libraries might use even their older computers. The authors of *Academica* took an allowance for the fact of budget limits in most Polish libraries. For the ones unable to designate a single computer for this project, a

special pendrive has been designed, by installing of which each computer can be turned into a system terminal for the time *Academica* is being used. It means that the reader using *Academica* system is denied access to text editors, e-mails and selected websites. The reason is the safety of the copyrighted resources available via electronic lending service. After the end of each session and upon removal of the installation key the computer resumes its standard function.

It can be noticed easily that the main difference between the traditional and digital system of inter-library lending lies in the use of new technologies. Due to the module of on-line lending the reader is provided with an immediate access to digitalized resources of the National Library. This access is not unlimited, but its huge merit is that it is a time-saver. Let's give more insight into this advanced system and analyse its advantages to the reader and the cooperating librarian.

Functioning of *Academica* is based on the same rules used in traditional Inter-library lending service, i.e. the reader reports his/her desire to use some publication which is not available in his/her mother library, then its copy is lent to the reader for a specified period of time, however, the approval for using it in a reading room must be arranged ahead of time. What makes a difference is the speed of the order realization.   The searched book is displayed on the screen of a library computer as soon as this title has been ordered.

Another similarity between the traditional system of inter-library lending and the *Academica* lending service is the limited availability of a given publication. It can be used at the same time by only one reader all over Poland. It is connected with a ban on multiplication of the copies held by libraries. In this way the author's interest is fairly protected as it is stipulated by the Polish copyright law.

The consequence of such limitations is equipping the *Academica* with a booking system which enables the reader to schedule his/her work on a terminal in the library he/she has chosen. The reader can make a booking, and then use 5 publications at the same time for 3 days. The booking should be made in the system two weeks in advance. The user and the librarian arrange a convenient time for doing the work. It is necessary to give a specific day and hour as each publication can be made available to the reader for one hour. 15 minutes before the end of the session a warning notice pops up, and the system informs the user about the possibility of extending his/her reservation unless somebody else had already made a booking for the book. In

case the book is very popular with the readers on this day and many people want to use it, the user has the opportunity to make another booking for this specific item for another convenient date. Each unused reservation will be automatically cancelled as soon as 15 minutes pass after its start.

Detailed reservation schedule makes the reader and librarian's work easier. *Academica* supports good organization and coordination of operations. Owing to the necessity of keeping a booking schedule, the librarian knows perfectly who and when uses the publication ordered. The reader, in turn, gets a ready-made specification of the book availability.

Before the automatic lending system was officially activated, The National Library had organized three consultative meetings in Warsaw, Cracow and Torun. The aim was to get feedback from the librarians on functionality and preferences for further project development, and analyse critical comments and implement valuable ideas.

Presentation of electronic lending service aroused much interest among scientific and public libraries. The following advantages of *Academica* were pointed out: cutting the cost of running inter-library lending service, shortening reader's waiting time for a book, safety of collection lent as electronic publications accessible on-line will not be damaged or lost. Another strength mentioned was easier access to valuable scientific literature, thanks to which students will more rarely reach out for worthless papers available on-line. It is possible that owing to *Academica* the number of people copying of the illegally publicized texts will decrease. Some attendees of the meetings emphasized that the new type of inter-library lending service should contribute to popularization of Polish scientific papers. The authors of the system want the access to be given those scientific publications circulated in low numbers and, in particular, those which are not commercially available. Therefore in *Academica* we can mainly find publications from 1990 to 2012 such as: academic course-books, academic papers, selected scientific journals listed by The Ministry of Science and Higher Education coming from all areas of science.

In April 2015 as many as 683 840 publications were available via the *Academica* inter-library lending service, including the copyrighted ones. It means that at present each librarian is in possession of a book collection larger by half a million entries than the institution hiring him/her used to have before. The offer from the libraries registered in the *Academica* system is

getting more attractive than it used to be. Due to the on-line access to the publications stemming from all fields of science, the libraries and the librarians there employed support the reader in conducting a comprehensive research work, support the process of writing BA, MA and PhD projects, unfold opportunities before hobbyists to deepen their specialty knowledge. Using the reference resources posted on the *Academica portal* is free of charge, which is its additional asset so important these days.

2. The National Library's relationship to government, citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

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, electronic, recorded sound and audiovisual documents. The National Library's mandate is set out by the Act on Libraries of June 27, 1997, as well as by the Library's own statute. The National Library is subordinate to the Ministry of Culture, and the activity of the National Library and its financial outlays are financed from state subsidies, granted mainly by this Ministry.

Moreover, by virtue of the Library Legal Deposit Act of November 7, 1996, and the follow-up Regulations of the Minister of Culture of March 6, 1997, the National Library obtains two copies of all traditional publications issued in Poland. These include: monographs, serials, newspapers, sheet music, atlases, maps, and ephemera documenting the country's social, cultural, and political life, including posters, bills, commercial catalogues, brochures, and fliers. The Library also receives Braille publications, sound recordings, and recently also audiovisual and electronic documents, which are included in the recently amended Library Legal Deposit Act.

The National Library is authorised by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to keep a register of scientific libraries in Poland and of libraries belonging to the National Network of Libraries. Since 2003 the National Library has run a Centre for the Protection of Cultural Assets, which examines and approves applications for taking abroad library materials that originated before 1949. In 2002, the Chief Executive of the National Library became entitled to render expert opinions as to whether library materials represent a cultural asset and to decide which state institution they should be allotted to. By order of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage the National Library runs the offices of the National Library Council and the Council

for National Library Resources and, since 2008, it has been entitled to confirm the vocational qualifications for librarians gained abroad.

3. Key facts and figures

The National Library's collection numbered a total of 9,887,831 items at the end of 2014.

New acquisitions in 2014 numbered 231,977 items.

At the end of 2014 the staff of the National Library consisted of 799 employees.

4. New developments in creating and building collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2014 amounted to 231,977 items. This included: 188,148 legal deposit copies; 3,836 purchased items; 6,490 items acquired through exchange programs; and 33,503 items received as gifts.

In 2014 the National Library received the donation of several heritage collections. One of the most important acquisitions in 2014 was the purchase of the Themersons' Archive, comprising manuscripts and typescripts of poems and lectures, journals and notes, workshops, photographs, letters, graphic works, documents, projects realized and unrealized, films, documentation of the activities of the publishing house Gaberbocchus Press founded and run by the Themersons since the late 40s (including a set of materials to the first English edition of Alfred Jarry's Ubu.), as well as documentation of the Common Room, an intellectual salon the Themersons conducted in London. http://www.themersonarchive.com/

5. New developments in providing access to collections

One of the most important developments was the inauguration of the new version of the National Digital Library "Polona". 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 location 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" which is used for example by Google Art Project. Polona is not only a tool for presenting the collections of the National Library, but also an instrument for interaction with users and a source of inspiration.

At the end of 2014, there were 465,574 objects available in the Digital Library Polona, of which 305,574 were placed there in 2014. According to data generated through Google Analytics, cBN

Polona recorded over 714,660 sessions in 2014 (658,577 in 2013) and had 17,030,447 page views (in 2013, about 10 million), with the average time users spent on the site being 11.6 minutes. Bounce rate was only 1.92%. At the end of 2014, Polona's website had 21,270 registered user accounts.

Competence Centre for digitization of library materials

According to the digitization of cultural goods and the collection, storage and sharing of digital objects in the "Poland 2009-2020 programme", announced by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in 2009, the National Library acts as a competence centre for the digitization of library materials. The tasks of the Centre of Competence should be the implementation of technological changes regarding the digitization and storage of digital content and coordination for the collection and storage of these resources.

As part of the work of the Competence Centre, the National Library has developed a new way of presenting digital collections, using the functionalities of the tool "Seadragon". Verification rules for the preparation of documents have a digital interface to make available to the digital library such items as vault objects, special collections and cimelia, all scanned at a higher resolution (600 dpi), enabling the preparation of DZI files used by the browser. Moreover, the principle of making available digital versions of magazines and newspapers, prepared as part of the development of a new interface, features a graphical digital library, reflecting their complex structure. As a result of research and development, a presentation module has been prepared, whose performance is closely linked with the redevelopment of the search module content in cBN Polona. These works are a preliminary step in efforts to present the objects in the form of a semantic web. The National Library has also developed a CMS tool for creating virtual exhibitions and for the presentation of digital collections.

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6. Collaboration between the National Library and other national and international institutions

As in previous years, the National Library was an active member of many international organizations: IFLA, CENL, CDNL, CERL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, the Bibliographical Society and Bibliotheca Baltica as well as the NAPLE Forum, and it currently coordinates its Sister Libraries program in Poland.

Europeana

In 2014, the National Library continued its partnership with the project *Europeana v 2.0*, which our Library joined in autumn of 2011. The project aims, among other things, to strengthen the position of *Europeana* on the European and world markets, expand its services tailored to users and content providers as well as cultural and educational institutions, and prepare and launch an economic organizational model that will ensure the stability and the possibility of portal development. As part of Europeana v 2.0, the National Library of Poland is committed to the task of promoting knowledge about the digitization of European cultural heritage as well as Europeana itself. In January 16, 2014, the Library organized a country-wide, digital seminar titled: "Great War", addressed to history teachers and librarians, during which it presented the ways of using Polish and European digital collections devoted to this important event. Polona Digital Library presented its resources associated with the First World War and presented the projects Europeana Newspapers and Europeana 1914-1918. The seminar was attended by over a hundred people from all over Poland.

Europeana Newspapers

In 2014, National Library of Poland continued to work on the project *Europeana Newspapers*, which involved 17 European institutions, including the national libraries of Austria, Estonia, France, the Netherlands, Lithuania, Germany and the UK. The aim of the project is to make available European newspapers from the early twentieth century, with particular emphasis on the period of World War I, and the development of Europeana.eu portal functionality through the use of tools for searching and presenting digitized newspapers. Each of the libraries participating in the project makes available through Europeana full-text versions of digitized newspapers, mainly from the years 1914-1920. It is assumed that the total made available will be up to 18 million pages of newspaper archives. The Newspapers Europeana project is funded by the European Commission under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme for 2007-2013 (CIP).

For the project, the National Library has provided more than one hundred thousand pages of magazines from the years 1914-1939, free of copyright. Scans were binarized and supplied to Innsbruck, where they underwent the OCR process, structuring and automatic correction with the use of tools developed in the IMPACT project. Developed scans together with METZ / ALTO files were submitted to the National Library. The resulting files will be compared with files generated by ABBYY Recognition Server. Parallel to the process of binarization, presentation

scans were produced, which will be made available as part of The European Library. The Library became actively involved in the promotional campaign of the project.