

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND
ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2013

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

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1. General overview of recent major developments

One of the most important developments in 2013 was the inauguration of the new version of the National Digital Library "Polona".

In the presence of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski, the Director of the National Library Dr. Tomasz Makowski launched the new digital library, tailored to the needs of those users who need to ask specific questions as well as those who wish to browse the digital world looking for inspiration, entertainment, and contact with other people. The new "Polona" is based on years of experience in digitization, its system corresponding to the clearly expressed expectations of Internet users who wish for fast, accurate and free access to reliable information, published with the highest quality digital copies of books, magazines, maps, notes, photographs and engravings that can not only be looked at but also freely downloaded and used - for free and without restrictions. The portal also provides the ability to share collections found on social networks.

In 2013, one of the most popular Polish singers, Maryla Rodowicz (who in 2014 will celebrate the 50th anniversary of her stage debut), gifted the National Library with her own private archive. The ceremony was attended by, among others, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Bogdan Zdrojewski. The content of the archive will be organized and digitized by the National Library's specialists and made available to the public at a specially organized exhibition, planned for 2014. The archive contains numerous manuscripts and typescripts of songs written by Maryla Rodowicz, set lists with handwritten notes, press clippings, CDs, posters, letters from fans, and official letters of congratulations and thanks. The archive is supplemented by personal documents such as passports and ID cards, memorabilia, books from school as well as photographs, drawings and portraits of the artist. Particularly interesting is the singer's private correspondence and stage costumes.

One of the most memorable events organized by the National Library in 2013 was the second annual St. John's Night, a centuries-old Polish celebration of the Summer Solstice used to celebrate the name day of Jan Kochanowski, the Polish Renaissance poet who established poetic patterns that would become integral to the Polish literary language. This outdoor fête, hosted by the National Library, was an all-night festival of literature, music and dancing that drew thousands of Warsaw residents and became a major media event of the summer season. Over 30 publishing houses and over 70 authors – writers, poets, publicists, reporters and actors – participated, encouraging guests to read and talk about literature.

Another noteworthy event was an exhibit of the treasures of the National Library in connection with the XXVII International Congress of Papyrology. The exhibit took place in the National Library's old location in the Palace of the Commonwealth on July 30, 2013.

The National Library had prepared a special screening of unique objects from their collections, for example Ptolemaic maps made in Florence in 1467, as well as the two oldest objects in the collection of BN - Egyptian papyri containing tax returns from the second and third centuries. Among the objects were also medieval manuscripts such as collections of Greek classical texts, among them those of Synesius, Herodotus and Homer's Iliad copied by Michael Apostolis in Crete, as well as collections of Latin classical texts by Ovid, Juvenal and Claudius. Also presented were collections of medical treatises and treatises relating to ecclesiastical law and legal texts, theology, and philosophy of the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, as well as the music of Italian initials from medieval illuminated liturgical books.

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 9,634,026 items at the end of 2013.

New acquisitions in 2013 numbered 210,180 items.

At the end of 2013 the staff of the National Library consisted of 814 employees.

4. New developments in creating and building collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2013 amounted to 210,180 items. This included 188,067 legal deposit copies, 9,479 purchased items, 6,392 items acquired through exchange programs, and 6,242 items received as gifts.

In 2013 the National Library received the donation of several heritage collections.

Among the most valuable objects purchased in 2013 at auctions and from private individuals are: *Summarius book Computus ex libris variis computualibus breviter recollectus*, published by the printing shop of Maciej Szarfenberg in Krakow in 1534 and unique among Polish collections; the manuscript of two novels by Stefan Zeromski: *Faithful River* and *Klechda*; two letters of Henryk Sienkiewicz and the unknown, probably unpublished essay *Siberia and Polish exiles*. Also purchased were Victor Hugo's letter to Władysław Mickiewicz (Adam Mickiewicz' son) from 1867, correspondence between Kazimierz Przerwa-Tetmajer and Zofia Osberger, letters of Zbigniew Herbert and Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz, Czesław Miłosz' correspondence with Michał Zabłocki, correspondence of the Krakow poet Józef Baran with Sławomir Mrożek, Miron Białoszewski, Jan Twardowski and Arthur Sandauer as well as letters of Tadeusz Różewicz. The National Library also purchased the first edition of *Bolero pour le piano forte* Op. 19 by Frederic Chopin 1834, the first edition of Chopin's works, edited by his student T. Tellefsen, the *Collection des oeuvres pour le Piano* by Frederic Chopin published in Paris in 1860, and the first recording of "Halka" by Stanisław Moniuszko from 1929.

5. New developments in providing access to collections

One of the most important developments in 2013, 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 place on 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. Many of the solutions used in the construction of the portal are cutting-edge. Polona's profile on Facebook and blogging communities (blog.polona.pl) is the main tool for promoting the digital collection of the National Library.

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 the year, 162,544 objects were available through Polona, of which 120,000 were placed in 2013, while the improvements in presentation of the digital library and communication with the user led to a more than 100 percent increase in the number of visits. According to the data generated by Google Analytics, Polona recorded 658,577 visits, with more than 400,000 between June 20 and December 31. The average time a user spends on the site increased threefold, to 12 minutes. Established in June 2013, Polona's fanpage on Facebook amassed nearly 10,000 fans. Another result of direct dialogue with users and creators of digital collections was an increase in the number of non-exclusive licenses granted to the Library for the publication of works covered by copyright.

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.

In October of 2013, the National Library co-organized the annual conference of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) which was held in the University Library in Warsaw. The issue of theft and security of special collections was the theme of the conference, which was titled "STOP THIEF ! Preventing and Investigating Theft from Collections in the Digital Age". It was attended by more than 70 employees of national and academic libraries across Europe. As the leader of the Polish CERL consortium, the National Library was co-organizer of the event, bringing together eight major research libraries.

The BN has also collaborated with the organization OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) on the organization of a seminar on development perspectives, the creation and storage of metadata and digital resources in the cloud, the problems associated with the interaction of resources and future issues for the WorldCat catalog, which took place in May in the Palace of the Republic.

In 2013, work continued on the publication of the catalogue of the collection of the former Żaluski Library and other Polish libraries, which were removed to St. Petersburg in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and which still remained there after the return of a substantial part of the Polish manuscript collections under the Treaty of Riga of 1921. In January 2013, the National Library of Poland and the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg concluded an additional agreement specifying the conditions for further cooperation between the two institutions on this project. The project, covering the period 2013-2016, aims to publish an inventory of the Żaluski Library manuscripts preserved in both libraries. In December 2013, the National Library published *The Inventory of the Żaluski Library Manuscripts in the Imperial Public Library*, which is the result of previous work on the project.

In cooperation with the Russians, the National Library also started work on a catalog of books from the library of King Sigismund Augustus found in the Russian National Library – in August of 2013, both parties signed a relevant agreement setting out the timetable of the project. The king's book collection, dispersed after his death, is a unique historical resource, attracting much interest among scholars since the late eighteenth century.

The National Library also continued work on the first full scientific edition of a nineteenth-century manuscript of the valuable work by Wenceslas Seweryn Rzewuski, *Sur les chevaux orientaux et provenants des races orientales* (Concerning the Horses of the Orient and those descended from Oriental races). It is a four-year project, started in February 2012, between the National Library of Poland and the Qatar Museum Authority. The scientific edition will include: a critical edition of the text in the original language (French), and its translation into Polish and English (Volume I), drawings (Volume II), scientific essays, notes on the text and a glossary of terms and names developed by specialists in various fields (Volume III). The scientific director of the project is prof. dr. hab. Tadeusz Majda, lecturer at Warsaw University and curator of Oriental art collections at the National Museum in Warsaw. The project has been recognized as the best example of cultural cooperation between Poland and Qatar during a meeting of ministers of culture of the two countries, which was held in Warsaw on October 28, 2013.