

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2012

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

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1. General overview of recent major developments

In 2011, the National Library has continued its digitization efforts by using its own resources and funds from numerous national and international projects. Over 8373 publications were digitized last year, mainly of the books and documents from the 19th and 20th Centuries, some of them within the framework of Europeana Travel program. The National Library also performed the role of national Competence Centre for the digitisation of library materials by organizing trainings, practices and consultations for librarians.

In 2011, the National Library continued the implementation of the project ACADEMICA (2009-2013) - Digital Library of Scientific Publications carried out in cooperation with the Scientific and Academic Network, which in 2009 was awarded a grant by the EU's Operational Programme – Innovative Economy. Thanks to the funds from ACADEMICA, the National Library was able to buy, in addition to three automatic book scanners purchased in 2010, a microfilm scanner as well as a program for optical character recognition (OCR).

The National Library has been taking part in the project SYNAT/PASSIM, which aims at creating a universal hosting and scientific content storage and sharing platform for science, education and knowledge based society, financed by the National Center for Research and Development. This project is one of the elements of a strategic initiative "Interdisciplinary system for interactive scientific and technical information". The project is to be carried out between 2010-2013 by the research consortium directed by Warsaw University of Technology and including, among others, Jagiellonian University, Scientific and Academic Computer Network (NASK), Military Technical Academy (WAT), Warsaw University as well as Lazarski University.

In 2011 the National Library organized numerous cultural events. The most noteworthy of these was a debate on the strategy for access to Europe's digitized cultural legacy (European Cultural Commons), inaugurated in the National Library during the conference organized by the European Digital Library Europeana and the National Library within the framework of Polish presidency in the European Union. The Europeana conference was followed by digitization workshop for representatives of the libraries from the Visegrad Group.

In the fall, the National Library of Poland, together with the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow, organized and hosted the XVII Congress of the International Association of Bibliophiles, an event which coincided with the Polish presidency of the European Union.

Another notable public event was the signing of a "Culture Pact" by the Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Culture Minister Bogdan Zdrojewski, which guarantees spending of at least one percent of the government's budget on cultural projects, including projects aiming for encouraging reading. The signing ceremony took place at the Congress of Citizens of Culture in Warsaw and was attended by leading members of cultural sector. The original of the Pact was given, as a special deposit, to the National Library.

2. The National Library's relationship to government, and 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 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 the 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. They 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 Polish Library Network. 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 9 263 967 items at the end of 2011.

New acquisitions in 2011 numbered 187,137 items.

At the end of 2011 the staff of the National Library consisted of 878 employees.

4. New developments in creating and building collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2011 amounted to 187,137 items. This included 171 814 legal deposit copies, 2,232 purchased items, 4,737 items acquired through exchange programs, and 8, 354 items received as gifts.

In 2011 the National Library received a donation of several heritage collections, including the Czesław Miłosz family archive and the inheritance of the jazz composer and musician, Krzysztof Komeda, which became the first step in the establishment of the Library's Polish Jazz Archive.

5. New developments in providing access to collections

In 2011 National Digital Library "Polona" has been enriched by 8 373 digital publications, including a collection Travel and Tourism (within the framework of Europeana Travel project) and registered over 470 000 visitors while the Website of the National Library (www.bn.org.pl) registered at the same time 1,536,051 Visitors.

Internet services of the National Library were further developed, including blogs and multimedia applications: in 2011 over 140 short educational films were made available on the Library's Website and three new library science blogs were launched as well.

Our main database INNOPAC/MILLENNIUM grew in 2011 by 410,117 records of different types and contained 5,709,770 records as of 31 December 2011. The National Library also continued the retro-conversion of its card catalogues.

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. In 2011 the National Library joined NAPLE Forum and currently coordinates its Sister Libraries program in Poland.

Also in 2011, the National Library and Bibliothèque nationale de France signed a cooperation

agreement which aims at pursuing joint projects of digitization of both libraries' collections in the areas pertaining to the historic, artistic and scientific relationships between Poland and France. The first among the projects undertaken by both libraries was a virtual exhibit of works by Jean Pierre Norblin, a noted French artist working in Poland near the end of the 18th Century. The exhibit contained about 250 of prints from both libraries' collections set against a historic and artistic background of the era.

On occasion of the 20th anniversary of a treaty of friendship and cooperation between Poland and Germany, the National Library and the Staatsbibliothek in Berlin signed a cooperation agreement which sets out a framework for digitization of both libraries' collections as well as preservation of works that constitute a common heritage of both countries.

An important issue in 2011 remained the bilateral cooperation with national libraries of neighbouring countries and the exchange of publication with libraries and institutions worldwide.