

**NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND**  
**ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2013**

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

Name of Chief Executive: Tomasz Makowski, Ph.D.

Mailing address: al. Niepodległości 213, 02-086 Warsaw

Telephone: + 48 22 608 22 33

Fax: + 48 22 825 52 51

Web address of the Library: [www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl)

Email contact for the Library: [dyrektor@bn.org.pl](mailto:dyrektor@bn.org.pl)

### **1. General overview of recent major developments**

In 2012 the National Library organized numerous cultural events. The most noteworthy of these was the exhibit "Ptolemy's World. Italian Renaissance cartography in the Collections of the National Library of Poland," which presented the ancient Greek cultural work '*Geografice hyfegesis ...*' by Claudius Ptolemy, astronomer and geographer of Alexandria. It was written around 160 A.D. and influenced the self-awareness of Europeans and their understanding of the world for nearly 1500 years. The manuscript of Ptolemy's *Geographia*, which dates to 1467, was a gift from Pope Gregory XIII to Chancellor Jan Zamoyski. The text presented in the BOZ codex (Zamoyski Library) is the fourth edited version of the Geography authored by the monk Donnus Nicolaus Germanus, with the title *Cosmographia Claudii Ptolemaei* added later. The exhibit also featured 16<sup>th</sup> century marine atlases by Antonio Milla and Angelo Freducci.

The National Library also participated in an international exhibition project "Europa Jagellonica," which aimed at showcasing the art and culture of the Jagiellonian dynasty in Central and Eastern Europe. It was one of the most important cultural events in the Czech Republic as well as in Poland and Germany. The exhibit gathered over 200 objects in one place from over 150 museums, galleries and libraries all over the world and displayed the works of Veit Stoss, Albrecht Dürer and Lucas Cranach The Elder as well as jewelry, medals, illuminations and many other items. The National Library contributed precious objects from its own collections: a volume from the private library of king Sigismund II Augustus from the 16<sup>th</sup> century and a richly adorned card from an incunabulum containing a charter from Frederick Jagiellon from the end of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the most memorable events organized by the National Library in 2012 was 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 gathered thousands of Warsaw residents and became a major media event of the summer season. Over 30 publishing

houses and over 50 authors – writers, poets, publicists, reporters and actors – participated, encouraging guests to read and talk about literature.

## **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 9,455,611 items at the end of 2012.

New acquisitions in 2012 numbered 186,164 items.

At the end of 2012 the staff of the National Library consisted of 860 employees.

## **4. New developments in creating and building collections**

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2012 amounted to 186,164 items. This included 156,864 legal deposit copies, 13,155 purchased items, 7,942 items acquired through exchange programs, and 8,203 items received as gifts.

In 2012 the National Library received the donation of several heritage collections, including the Czesław Miłosz archive from the poet's home in Berkeley, California as well as his archive containing over 103 unique, previously unknown notebooks from the Beinecke Library's deposit. Another notable development in building the National Library's manuscripts collection was the acquisition of the archive of Agnieszka Osiecka, a very popular and well-loved poet and author of the lyrics of countless popular Polish songs.

#### **5. New developments in providing access to collections**

In 2012 National Digital Library "Polona" has been enriched by 5227 digital publications (which brings the total number of publications to 43 544) and registered over 558 466 visitors while the Website of the National Library ([www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl)) registered at the same time 1 461 376 Visitors. Internet services of the National Library were further developed, including new blogs and multimedia applications.

Our main database INNOPAC/MILLENNIUM grew in 2011 by 455 393 records of different types and contained 6 133 389 records as of 31 December 2012. 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 as well as the NAPLE Forum and currently coordinates its Sister Libraries program in Poland.

In February 2012, the Qatar Museums Authority and the National Library of Poland signed a partnership agreement to publish the first full scientific manuscript edition of Wenceslas Seweryn Rzewuski's "On Oriental Horses and Those Descended From Eastern Breeds," written in the 1800s. The agreement was formally signed between the QMA and the National Library in Poland in the presence of Qatar's Ambassador to Poland, HE Mr. Hadi Al Hajri. The four-year project includes the development and publication of the full three-volume edition of *On Oriental Horses and Those Descended From Eastern Breeds* which will include the original text in French, drawings, and essays.

In April 2012, the National Library signed another important cooperation agreement and joined a prestigious international internet portal for medievalists, *Méneſtreſ* (*Médiévistes sur le net: sources, travaux et références en ligne*). The *Méneſtreſ* group was created in 1997 by the URFIST in Paris (Unité régionale de formation à l'information scientifique et technique) with a view toward supporting the development of internet resources in the field of Medieval studies and creating a portal devoted to it.