

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW 2005–2006
Annual Report for the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)

MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY AND STAFFING MATTERS

In 2005-2006 the National Library's management activities were focused on several issues: retroconversion of NL card catalogues and Polish national bibliography, the National Library seat's extension, modernization of computer system, collection digitalization and creation of Digital Library, introducing the technology of mass deacidification. Moreover, the National Library plays an active role in "Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector" national program for culture by managing two of its subprograms: 1. "Improvement of the quality of library collections and increasing public accessibility of books", and 2. "Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals".

Besides, a strategic plan of the National Library development 2007-2013 was introduced in order to determine the most important investment plans.

In August 2005 the National Library has been given a new statute by the Minister of Culture. In 2006 there were significant changes in the National Library management – four new deputy directors were appointed: Dr Tomasz Makowski (Director for Research), Elżbieta Stefańczyk (Director for Collections Processing), Ewa Potrzebnicka (Director for Collections Preservation and Access) and Edward Krasowski (Director for Administrative and Technical Affairs). Also the Systems Librarian was nominated.

In July 2005 a new version of the National Library website has been launched.

FUNDING

The financial condition of the National Library in 2005 was – on the whole – stable, with the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of over 62,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 15,500,000 Euro) for the statutory activity, and 2,700,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 675,000 Euro) for various investments. The financial prognosis for 2006 is similar. The income of the National Library derived from the provision of services, sales of publications, databases and property, reached ca. 6.3 per cent of the budgetary subsidy in 2005. Personnel costs (salaries with derivatives) in 2005 absorbed over 70 per cent of the subsidy.

BUILDINGS

In 2005 a special store room to house and preserve the most precious collections of the National Library was built and furnished. Within the long-term government program "Acid paper", the expansion of annex to the Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory has been completed in 2005 in order to adjust it to new technology of single-sheet mass deacidification. In relation to the National Library seat's extension preparation works, a change of building schedule passed – new stock building will be built first. The National Library appealed to the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage for 3,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 750,000 Euro) to cover the cost of the investment's first stage.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. DIGITAL LIBRARY

The National Library executed the digitalization tasks determined in 2004: a list of most precious collections to be digitized has been prepared and the digitized collections management system has been improved. In 2005 the NL performed over 266,000 scans of various types of documents: monographs, drawings, maps, manuscripts, serials, both from original copies and from microfilm copies.

The National Library closely cooperated with the Warsaw University Library within the scope of Digital Collections of Periodicals project that aims to be presented on both institutions' websites. During the first half of 2006 the National Library elaborated the digitalization strategy considering the needs of information society. It includes expanding and facilitating the access to digitized documents and providing the additional protection of precious documents by means of digitalization. Therefore the National Library is going to create "Polona" National Digital Library, produce digital copies of the library documents and present the virtual exhibitions of the most valuable collections.

The National Library representatives – deputy directors Ewa Potrzebnicka and Tomasz Makowski – are members of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage Digitalization Expert Team appointed in April 2006 on four-year tenure. Its duties are to plan and coordinate Polish digitalization programs as well as develop the Internet accessibility of cultural heritage and scientific resources.

In order to provide an easy access to NL collections and information on Polish writing, the National Library started retroconversion of its catalogues and Polish national bibliography. Program includes activities to be performed till 2008.

In 2005 some of digitalization tasks were accomplished within the frames of TEL-ME-MOR Project.

ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTIONS

The growth of the collections in 2005 was similar to the previous year, by 154,422 units included 125,996 legal deposit copies, 9,318 purchased items, 9,505 units acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 9,603 units.

By the end of 2005 the National Library's collections (except for duplicates) included:

• monographs published after 1800	2,362,014 volumes
• serials published after 1800	818,811 volumes
• documents of social life published after 1800	2,088,752 volumes
• library and information science special collection (items published after 1800)	201,117 volumes
• manuscripts	26,466 units
• early printed books (pre-1801)	161,616 volumes
• printed music	116,112 units
• sound recordings	78,828 units
• graphics and engravings	476,712 units
• cartographic documents (maps, atlases and globes)	113,878 units
• electronic documents	8,221 units
• microforms	241,518 units
• negatives of graphics and engravings	98,406 units
In total	6,792,451 units

In 2004 the National Library collections were enriched with 92 Czesław Miłosz's letters, bookplates of known artists, many drawings and photographs, collections of materials concerning Polish minority in Latin America and gifts from Swiss and Chinese Embassies in Poland.

In April 2006 the National Library has signed a deposit agreement with the Potocki family from Krzeszowice, on the strength of which the National Library (for at least 15 years) is entrusted with the collection of early printed books and manuscripts confiscated by Polish government in 1946. The collection holds over 300 early printed books, 38 printed materials issued since 1801 and 7 manuscripts.

PRESERVATION & CONSERVATION

In 2005 the realization of the long-term government program "Acid paper" – launched in 2000 after having been approved by the Council of Ministers in 1999 – was continued. Its goal is to create several centers in Polish libraries and archives equipped with modern technology of deacidification and strengthening of books, serials and archival matter printed on brittle, acidic paper. The other goal of the program is to accelerate the process of microfilming and/or the digitization of threatened collections. The National Library coordinates this program. In January 2003 the National Library was charged with a task to manage the accomplishment of the research project – as the result of the open bid – entitled *The Evaluation of the State of Preservation and the Complete Definition of Threats to 19th and 20th Century Collections in Polish Libraries*. In 2004 the National Library's share in this task encompassed the evaluation of the collections' preservation in the Silesian Library, the State Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw, the State Archives in Olsztyn, and (in 2005) the Ossolinski National Institute in Wrocław and the State Archives in Poznań. Also the National Library Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory building was modernized, enlarged and equipped with the new Neschen A.G. C-900 device for single-sheet mass deacidification. In 2005 the process of mass deacidification of single-sheet objects has been established and launched at the National Library. NL performs deacidification of single-sheet objects from the Warsaw University Library collections and prepares the purchase and initiating the "Bookkeeper" technology for mass deacidification of books.

In 2006 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has assigned 6,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 1,500,000 Euro) for accomplishment of the long-term government program "Acid paper".

CULTURAL EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

During 2005-2006 the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events. "The Publisher's Parlor" series prepared numerous meetings to promote Polish publishing houses. In 2005 "The Writer's Parlor" series organized discussions with 18 Polish writers. In the second half of 2005 the National Library organized many exhibitions, eg. *Między obcością a bliskością. Polacy – Niemcy* [Between Nearness and Alienation. Poles – Germans] within a series "Our Neighbors – New Perspective", *Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz – pisarz europejski* [Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz – European writer], *Duchowość w sztuce artystów estońskich* [Spirituality in the art of Estonian artists]. Among the exhibitions shown during first six months of 2006 there were: *60 lat książki historycznej w Polsce i w Niemczech* [60 Years of Historic Book in Poland and Germany], *Jerzy Giedroyc i "Dziupla Kultury"* [Jerzy Giedroyc and Polish Emigrée Monthly "Kultura" in Paris], *Grafika polska 1918-1939 ze zbiorów Biblioteki Polskiej w Monterealu, Kanada* [Polish Engravings 1918-1939 from the Collection of the Polish Library in Montreal, Canada]. The display of *Psalterz floriański* [The Sankt Florian Psalter] and 19 Polish oldest written texts from the 15th and 16th centuries, has inaugurated new series of the National Library's presentations: "The Treasure Display".

Many exhibitions were accompanied by scientific sessions, concerts and promotional meetings. Three conferences were organized at the National Library within the frames of the Standing European Conference on Cultural Cooperation: “Europa – dialog mijany” [Europe – a Missed Dialogue], “Ciągłość i zmiana – polskie widzenie Niemiec” [Continuity and Change. Germany in Polish Eyes], “Gdzie jesteśmy, dokąd zmierzamy – stan polsko-ukraińskich stosunków kulturalnych” [Where are we, Where are we going to – the Condition of Polish-Ukrainian Cultural Relationships]. All the abovementioned events were attracted by eminent representatives of Polish science, culture and politics.

PUBLISHING

Alike the past years, the National Library has published numerous works – the effects of its research and bibliographic activities. Two works of the Bibliographic Institute are particularly worth mentioning: *Dziela Jana Pawła II: Bibliografia publikacji wydanych poza Polską* [Works of John Paul II. Bibliography of publications issued outside Poland] compiled by Anna Wolnik, and *Literatura polska w przekładach 1981-2004* [Polish literature in translations 1981-2004] edited by Danuta Bilikiewicz-Blanc and others. Together with Żydowski Instytut Historyczny [Jewish Historical Institute], the National Library published the work by Alina Cała *Żydowskie periodyki i druki okazjonalne w języku polskim. Bibliografia* [Jewish serials and ephemera in Polish. Bibliography]. The National Library Publishing House issued several interesting items: *Krzemieniec. Ateny Juliusza Słowackiego* [Krzemieniec. Athens of Juliusz Słowacki] edited by Stanisław Makowski; *Żydzi pańscy. Stosunki magnacko-żydowskie w Rzeczypospolitej XVIII w.* [Jews supported by the noble class. Magnate's – Jewish relations in the 18th century Polish Republic], and *Panek – Gielniak. Życie Przyjaźń Sztuka. Korespondencja 1962-1972* [Panek – Gielniak. Life Friendship Art. Correspondence 1962-1972].

The following 9th volume of the series “Notes Konserwatorski” [Conservatory Notes] was published, entitled *Trwale zbiory – źródłem historii* [Permanent collections – the source of history], the 6th volume of *Bibliografia polska 1901-1939* [Polish bibliography 1901-1939].

Several National Library publications are available online in PDF format via website, to name only a few: “Biuletyn Informacyjny Biblioteki Narodowej” [National Library Information Bulletin], “Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej. The National Library Year Book” [in Polish with English abstracts], “Polish Libraries Today”, *Nad złoto droższe. Skarby Biblioteki Narodowej, More Precious than Gold. Treasures of the Polish National Library* [a monumental album depicting the most precious holdings of the National Library, in Polish and in English], *Biblioteka Narodowa w Warszawie. Tradycja i współczesność; The National Library in Warsaw. Tradition and the Present Day* by J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska and H. Tchórzewska-Kabata, *Psalterz Potockich z kolekcji wilanowskiej* [Potocki Psalter from the Wilanow Collection], *Biblioteka Ordynacji Krasieńskich 1844-1944 w zbiorach i publikacjach Biblioteki Narodowej* [The Krasieński Estate Library 1844-1944 in the Collections and Publications of the National Library].

LIBRARY COOPERATION

Since the mid 2005 the National Library has been cooperating within the NUKAT union catalog. The NUKAT shared cataloging system, launched in 2002, groups over 500 most important research libraries in Poland. Within a single database, participating libraries create bibliographic and authority records of names, titles and subjects (including enhanced subject headings).

The National Library, within the frameworks of the state subprograms for culture (“Improvement of the quality of library collections and increasing public accessibility of books”, and

“Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals”) has distributed almost 30,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 7,500,000 Euro) among Polish public libraries (for new publications purchase) and transferred 3,500,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 875,000 Euro) for cultural periodicals maintenance.

Many all-Poland conferences and meetings on current issues of Polish librarianship were organized. Two of them concerned problems of libraries operating on Polish borderlands. Together with the National Library Council and the Polish Librarians Association, the NL held the seminar “Digital Libraries in Poland and their Future”.

Also the international activity of the National Library has been developing. In July 2005 the NL hosted the Annual IAML (International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centers) Conference. There were 350 participants from 36 countries and 60 papers delivered. In the beginning of 2006 the National Library, together with the Warsaw University Library, received members of LIBER Executive Board in order to prepare LIBER Conference which will take place in Warsaw in 2007.

The National Library has also organized the Regional Workshops for TEL-ME-MOR project participants (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland) and guests from other countries belonging to the Council of Europe (Russia, Ukraine and Georgia). The Workshops were aiming to disseminate knowledge about the concept and principles of the EU digital project – The European Library (TEL).

In 2005 the National Library was an active member of many international organizations: IFLA, CENL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, IRA, the Bibliographical Society, and Bibliotheca Baltica. Almost 100 staff members took part in international library conferences, study tours, exchange of professionals, and other important events abroad. A significant part of those trips was partly sponsored by Polish institutions (the State Committee for Scientific Research, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage).

Also the bilateral cooperation with the national libraries of the neighboring countries as well as Polish institutions abroad was an important issue. Its main goal was to register foreign Polonica and help Polish libraries abroad.