

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND 2006–2007
Annual Report for the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)

Management of the Library and Staffing Matters

In 2006-2007 the National Library's management activities were focused on several issues: retroconversion of NL card catalogues and the Polish national bibliography; modernization of the computer system; collection digitization and creation of the Digital Library; implementing technology for the mass deacidification of books, and the expansion of the National Library's main facility.

Moreover, the National Library played an active role in the 'Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector' (a state program for culture), by managing two of its subprograms: 1. 'Maintenance and development of library collections', and 2. 'Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals'.

Beyond that, a strategic plan for the National Library's development 2007–2013 was introduced in order to determine the most important investment plans.

In March, 12th 2007 new Director General Dr. Tomasz Makowski was appointed by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.

The NL's organizational structure has been adjusted to the new goals related with retroconversion, digitization, and mass deacidification.

Funding

The National Library's financial condition in 2006 was – on the whole – stable, with the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of over 91,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 23,300,000 Euro) for statutory activity, and over 9,100,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 2,333,000 Euro) for various investments. Besides that, the National Library generated income from the provision of services and the sale of publications, databases and property that reached ca. 3.85 percent of the budgetary subsidy for 2006. Personnel costs (salaries with derivatives) in 2006 absorbed over 75 percent of the subsidy.

Buildings

In 2006 a special storeroom to house and preserve the most precious collections of the National Library was furnished. Within the long-term government program 'Acid paper', the National Library launched adaptive works in its technical and laboratory buildings in the aim of installing mass deacidification technology for books.

In relation to the expansion of the National Library main facility, preparation works aiming at construction of new stock were initiated. In 2006 the National Library was granted over 3,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 770,000 Euro) from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage to cover the cost of the investment's first stage.

Information Technology. The Digital Library

The National Library executed the digitization tasks laid out in 2004: a list of the most precious collections to be digitized has been prepared and the digitized collections management system has been improved. In 2006 the NL performed over 154,000 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 the Digital Collections of Periodicals project that is going to be presented on both institutions' websites.

During the first half of 2006 the National Library elaborated the digitization strategy in consideration of the needs of information society. This includes expanding and facilitating access to digitized documents and providing additional protection of precious documents by means of digitization. In October 2006 the National Digital Library Polona (www.polona.pl) was launched in order to present in digital form selected collections of research and literary works, historical documents, periodicals, graphical works, along with notes and maps from the NL's holdings. At the end of June 2007 the National Digital Library Polona contained 3495 documents.

In 2006 some of the digitization tasks were accomplished within the frame of the TEL-MEMOR Project. Adaptive works aiming at connecting the INNOPAC/Millennium system with the European Library (TEL) were conducted. New technological equipment for employees (over 260 computers) was modernized or purchased. For the purpose of European Library cooperation, all data in the National Library's computer catalogue have been coded in Unicode standard since 2006. In January 2007, on account of joining The European Library (TEL), the National Library organized a press conference with participation of Dr. Jill Cousins (TEL).

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

Acquisitions & Collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2006 (in comparison with the previous year) was larger and amounted to 172,369 items (in 2005 – 154,422 items). This included 134,711 legal deposit copies, 8,247 purchased items, 5,971 items acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 23,440 items.

By the end of 2006 the National Library's collections (excepting duplicates) included:

monographs published after 1800	2,427,756 volumes
serials published after 1800	843,811 volumes
ephemera published after 1800	2,088,606 volumes
library and information science collection (items published after 1800)	
manuscripts	26,692 items
early printed books (pre-1801)	161,780 volumes
printed music	117,678 items
recorded sound & audiovisual documents	86,455 items
graphics and engravings	479,527 items
cartographic documents (maps, atlases and globes)	116,393 items
electronic documents	8,221 items
microforms	249,619 items
negatives of graphics and engravings	100,619 items
In total	6,973,614 items

In 2006 the National Library's collections were enlarged with the literary legacies of Poland's prominent poet Zbigniew Herbert, and Jan Parandowski, renowned writer, translator and long-term president of the Polish PEN Club.

For the purchase of items added to the collection, in 2006 the National Library assigned ca. 4,000,000 Polish zlotys (over 1,000,000 Euro) granted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

Bibliography, Cataloging and Services to Readers

One of the most important tasks of the National Library – along with the acquisition and the permanent storage of Poland's literary heritage – is to compile and publish the current national bibliography.

"Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" [Bibliographic Guide] – our monthly national bibliography of monographs, registered in 2006 26,619 titles of books that had been published in Poland (in 2005 – 22,120 titles).

"Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism" [Index to Periodicals] (since 2005 maintained as a database only) registered 50,550 articles (in 2005 – 48,225).

It is worth mentioning that the National Library's other bibliographic services also registered an increased number of items: "Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych" [Bibliography of Serials] – beginning with 2001 data is being entered into the database only; "Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych Nowych, Zawieszonych i Zmieniających Tytuł" [Bibliography of Serials – New, Suspended and Changing Titles] – a quarterly; "Polonica Zagraniczne. Bibliografia" [Foreign Polonica. Bibliography] – an annual. Since 2001 the National Library has included in its bibliographic registration electronic documents on CD-ROM – "Bibliografia Dokumentów Elektronicznych" [Bibliography of Electronic Documents] – a semi-annual supplement to "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny". In 2005 the National Library issued the very first issue of "Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych" [Bibliography of Cartographic Documents], covering the year 2002.

The following special bibliographies were compiled and published in 2006 as scheduled by the National Library: "Polska Bibliografia Bibliologiczna" [Bibliography of Library Science] – an annual, "Bibliografia Bibliografii Polskich" [Bibliography of Polish Bibliographies] – an annual, "Bibliografia Analityczna Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej. Piśmiennictwo Zagraniczne" [Annotated Bibliography of Library and Information Science. Foreign Literature] – a quarterly supplement to "Przegląd Biblioteczny" [Library Survey]. Bibliographic descriptions compiled for these bibliographies are also available online as databases.

In 2006–2007 the National Library – as in previous years – regularly transferred data on Polish literary works to international information services.

Similarly as in previous years, more complete acquisition of legal deposit copies, along with the acceleration of the bibliographic and catalog processing of collections, was one of the highest priorities of the National Library. During 2006 83,527 title descriptions were added to the catalog database of the National Library collections in the INNOPAC system. By the end of 2006 it numbered 824,360 bibliographic records (in 2005 – 740,833). The main catalog database in the INNOPAC system and databases in MAK system can be searched via the Internet.

In 2006 the National Library provided its 155,652 users at its main seat's major reading rooms with 547,761 titles of monographs and serials, in 640,128 volumes. All of the National Library's reading rooms were visited in 2006 by 176,275 patrons. Among readers using the National Library's 19th, 20th and 21st century collections in its reading rooms 68 percent were students and pupils, 5.6 percent scholars, 2.6 percent teachers, 2.4 percent literati

(writers, journalists, and artists), with 21 percent from other professional groups. Conversely, among users of the special collections 57 percent were scholars, and 11.8 percent were literati.

Preservation & Conservation

In 2006 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 for the 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 digitizing threatened collections. The National Library coordinates this program. In January 2003 – as the result of the open bid – the National Library was charged with the task of managing the research project 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 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 was established and launched at the National Library. In 2006 the "Bookkeeper" technology for the mass deacidification of books was purchased and activated.

The results of the long-term government program "Acid paper" 2001–2005 were presented in 2006 in the form of reports introducing data on the preservation of Polish library and archive collections. The outcome of research work was published in *Stan zachowania polskich zbiorów bibliotecznych i archiwalnych z XIX i XX wieku* [The condition of Polish 19th and 20th c. library and archive collections].

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

Cultural Events and Exhibitions

During 2006 the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events. 'The Publishers' Parlour' series held numerous meetings to promote Polish publishing houses. In 2006 'The Writers' Parlour' series hosted discussions with 27 Polish writers.

In the 2006 the National Library organized many exhibitions. A new series of the National Library's presentations: 'Treasure on Display', representing the earliest and most precious heritage items from the National Library's collection, was inaugurated in 2007 by the exhibition entitled *Villa Laurentina. Arcydzieło epoki stanisławowskiej w trzech wymiarach* [*Villa Laurentina. The Masterpiece of the King Stanisław August Poniatowski Epoch in Three Dimensions*].

Among the exhibitions shown during 2006 were: *Estonia i Łotwa. Kraje bliskie, mało znane* [Estonia and Latvia. So close, yet barely known], *Bez cenzury: wolność słowa w Polsce i krajach Europy Środkowo-Wschodniej* [Without censorship: freedom of speech in Poland and countries of Eastern and Central Europe].

Many exhibitions were accompanied by scientific sessions, concerts and promotional meetings. Two conferences were organized at the National Library within the frame of the Standing European Conference on Cultural Cooperation: "Polska–Litwa. Dialog kultur i narodów" [Poland – Lithuania. A dialogue of cultures and nations] and „Nowa polska

emigracja w Wielkiej Brytanii i Irlandii” [New Polish emigration in Great Britain and Ireland].

All the above events attracted distinguished representatives of Polish science, culture, and politics.

Several conferences dedicated to eminent librarians and subject cataloguing were also organized.

Publishing

As over the past years, the National Library published numerous works – the effects of its research and bibliographic activities. A bibliography entitled *Granice wolności słowa w zaborze rosyjskim w latach 1865–1904. Wykaz publikacji polskojęzycznych zakwestionowanych oraz dopuszczonych do obiegu przez carską cenzurę zagraniczną* [The limits to the freedom of speech in the Russian part of partitioned Poland, 1865–1904. A list of Polish publications oppugned and approved by tsarist foreign censorship] by Janusz Kostecki and Małgorzata Rowicka was issued as well as the second volume of *Żydowskie druki ulotne w II Rzeczypospolitej w zbiorach Biblioteki Narodowej* [Jewish ephemera in the Second Polish Republic from the National Library Collection], edited by Barbara Łętocha, Alina Cała, Aleksander Messer and Zofia Głowicka.

The Institute of the Book and Reading prepared its latest report presenting readership in Poland: *Czytanie, kupowanie, wypożyczanie. Społeczny zasięg książki w Polsce w 2004 roku* [Reading, buying, borrowing. The social range of the book in 2004 in Poland], edited by Grażyna Straus and Katarzyna Wolff.

The National Library Publishing House issued several interesting items: *Z króla książę. Stanisław Leszczyński w grafice XVIII wieku ze zbiorów polskich i francuskich* [From king to prince. Stanisław Leszczyński in the 18th c. French and Polish graphical works] by Hanna Widacka.

As a result of close cooperation between the POSK Polish Library in London and the National Library, *Przewodnik po zespołach rękopisów Biblioteki Polskiej POSK w Londynie* [A guide to manuscript collections of the Polish Library in London], edited by Maria Wrede and Jadwiga Szmidt, was issued.

The 10th volume of ‘Notes Konserwatorski’ [Conservatory Notes] series was published, entitled *Przeszłość i przyszłość papieru* [The past and future of paper], as was the 7th volume of *Bibliografia polska 1901–1939* [Polish bibliography 1901–1939].

In 2006 the National Library compiled statistics on Polish publications covering 2005 for the 51st edition of the annual ‘Ruch Wydawniczy w Liczbach’ [Polish Publishing in Figures].

The volume covering 2005 of ‘Biblioteki Publiczne w Liczbach’ [Public Libraries in Figures] was also compiled and published.

Several the National Library's publications are available online in PDF format via its website, to name only a few: ‘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 English.

The second exposition of the 'Treasure on Display' series *Villa Laurentina* was documented in an album *Villa Laurentina. Arcydzieło epoki stanisławowskiej* by Jerzy Miziołek [Villa Laurentina. The Masterpiece of the King Stanisław August Epoch] and its digital version in DVD format. Also *Album strojów tureckich* [Album of Turkish costumes] was published on CD-ROM.

Library Cooperation

Since mid-2005 the National Library has been cooperating within the NUKAT union catalog. The NUKAT shared cataloging system, launched in 2002, groups over 50 of the 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 framework of the state subprograms for culture ('Maintenance and development of the library collections' and 'Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals') has distributed almost 28,500,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 7,300,000 Euro) among Polish public libraries (for new publications purchase) and transferred over 4,380,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 1,123,000 Euro) for cultural periodicals maintenance.

Many nationwide conferences and meetings on current issues of Polish librarianship were organized. Together with the Polish Librarians Association, the NL held the seminar *Saving the Past for the Future: Modern Technologies in Conservation of Library Collections*.

Since 2006 the National Library, together with the University of Warsaw Library, has been working on the organization of the LIBER Annual Conference in Warsaw in July 2007.

In 2006 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, professional exchanges, and other important events abroad. A significant part of those trips was partly sponsored by Polish institutions (the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage). Moreover, bilateral cooperation with the national libraries of neighboring countries, as well as with Polish institutions abroad, was an important issue. The main goal of this was to register foreign Polonica and help Polish libraries abroad.