

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND 2007–2008

Annual Report for the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)

Management of the Library and Staffing Matters

In 2007–2008, the National Library's management activities were focused on several issues: retroconversion of NL card catalogues and the Polish national bibliography; collection digitization and development of the Digital Library; 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'.

In 2007, within the framework of these programs the National Library distributed almost PLN 28,500,000 (ca. EUR 8,140,000) among Polish public libraries (for new publications purchase) and transferred over PLN 4,420,000 (ca. EUR 1,260,000) for maintenance of cultural periodicals. On 30 July 2007, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage awarded the National Library with a new statute. In accordance with the statute the NL's organizational structure was adjusted to match the new way of processing library documents that had been adopted.

Funding

The National Library's financial condition in 2007 was – on the whole – stable, with the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of over PLN 93,000,000 (ca. EUR 26,500,000) for statutory activities, and over PLN 8,100,000 (ca. EUR 2,314,000) for various investments. Moreover, the National Library generated income from the provision of services and sale of publications, databases and property.

Buildings

With respect to the expansion of the National Library's main facility, preparations for the construction of new buildings were continued. In 2007, the National Library received over PLN 2,500,000 (ca. EUR 715,000) from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage to cover the cost of the first stage of the project.

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 was prepared and the digitized collections management system was improved. In 2007, the NL performed over 206,600 scans of various types of documents: monographs, drawings, maps, manuscripts, serials, both from the originals and from microfilms. The work on the development of the National Digital Library *Polona* was continued.

Several new collections were made available to the public, inter alia the Judaica kept in the National Library and – together with the Modern Poland Foundation – a website providing access to required school reading www.wolnelektury.pl was prepared.

The National Library closely cooperated with the Warsaw University Library with respect to the Digital Collections of Periodicals project. At the end of 2007, as the coordinator of the 3-year research project “The Digital Archives of Polish Writing until 1600”, the National Library received funds for its implementation from the Minister of Science and Higher Education.

Under the EU programs, in October 2007 the National Library joined the TELplus project and has been actively participating in the establishment of the European Digital Library “Europeana”. In order to provide an easy access to NL collections and information on Polish writing, the National Library continued retroconversion of its catalogues and the Polish national bibliography. This program includes activities to be performed until the year 2008.

In connection with unsatisfactory results of collaboration with the National Union Catalog NUKAT, in August 2007 the National Library withdrew from co-cataloging in it.

Acquisitions & Collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2007 (as compared with the previous year) was larger and amounted to 185,962 items (in 2006 – 172,369 items). This included 153,920 legal deposit copies, 9,019 purchased items, 7,267 items acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 15,756 items.

By the end of 2007, the National Library's collections (excepting duplicates) included:

monographs published after 1800	2,496,480 volumes
serials published after 1800	869,200 volumes
ephemera published after 1800	2,202,259 volumes

library and information science collection (items published after 1800)	215,157 volumes
manuscripts	26,810 items
early printed books (pre-1801)	161,879 volumes
printed music	119,257 items
recorded sound & audiovisual documents	106,935 items
graphics and engravings	482,769 items
cartographic documents (maps, atlases and globes)	119,058 items
electronic documents	12,614 items
microforms	266,993 items
negatives of graphics and engravings	102,233 items
In total	7,181,644 items

In 2007, the National Library received a donation from the Romer family in the form of a family archive, i.e. a collection documenting life and activities of that eminent Polish-Lithuanian family over the past five centuries. The collection has been kept at the NL since World War Two.

In 2007, for the purchase of items added to the collection the National Library allocated over PLN 3,000,000 (ca EUR 860,000) 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 permanent safekeeping of Poland's literary heritage – is to compile and publish the current national bibliography.

"Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" [Bibliographic Guide] – our monthly national bibliography of monographs, in 2007 registered 27,539 titles of books that had been published in Poland (in 2006 – 26,619 titles).

"Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism" [Index to Periodicals] (since 2005 maintained as a database only) registered 52,015 articles (in 2006 – 50,550).

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] – as of 2001 data have been 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-ROMs – "Bibliografia Dokumentów Elektronicznych" [Bibliography of Electronic Documents] – a semi-annual supplement to "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny". In 2005, the National Library brought out the very first issue of "Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych" [Bibliography of Cartographic Documents].

The following special bibliographies were compiled and published in 2007 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 2007–2008 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 2007 162,402 title descriptions were added to the catalog database of the National Library collections in the INNOPAC system (in 2006 – 83,527). By the end of 2007 it numbered 986,762 bibliographic records (in 2006 – 824,360). The main catalog database in the INNOPAC system and databases in MAK system can be searched via the Internet.

In 2007, the National Library provided its 148,384 users at its main seat's major reading rooms with 512,553 titles of monographs and serials, in 589,386 volumes. All of the National Library's reading rooms were visited in 2007 by 166,600 patrons.

Preservation & Conservation

In 2007, the implementation 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 reinforcement 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. The process of mass deacidification of single-sheet objects was established at the National Library in 2005. In 2006, the "Bookkeeper" technology for the mass deacidification of books was purchased and activated. In 2005–2007, over 1,000,000 single-sheet objects and almost 50 000 books were deacidified in the National Library. In 2000–2007, PLN 58,554,300 (ca. EUR 16,700,000) were spent on the implementation of the “Acid paper” program. In 2007, the Council of Ministers adopted a new document updating the “Acid paper” program for the years 2007–2008.

Cultural Events and Exhibitions

During 2007 the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events. ‘The Publishers' Parlour’ series held numerous meetings to promote Polish publishing houses. In 2007, ‘The Writers' Parlour’ series hosted discussions with 15 Polish writers. Several meetings with librarians and books promotions were prepared.

In 2007–2008, the National Library organized several interesting presentations. Within the framework of a new series of the National Library's exhibitions: ‘Treasure on Display’, representing the earliest and most precious heritage items from the National Library’s collection, the exhibition entitled *Norwid – Herbert. Inspiracje śródziemnomorskie* [Norwid – Herbert. Mediterranean inspirations] was presented. The visitors to the National Library also saw the exhibition dedicated to Polish-Hungarian relations *Polak, Węgier...* [Pole, Hungarian...] and *Płyta gramofonowa ma 120 lat* [The gramophone record is 120 years old]. In connection with entering of the *Kodeks suprascki* [Codex of Supraśl] into the UNESCO’s “The Memory of the World Register” that priceless manuscript was shown to the public at a special presentation.

In March 2008, an online multimedia exhibition *Rzeczpospolita wielu kultur. Dziedzictwo polskie* [A Commonwealth of Diverse Cultures. Poland’s Heritage] was launched.

Many exhibitions were accompanied by scientific sessions, concerts and promotional meetings.

In 2008, many meetings and debates were organized in connection with the celebrations of the Zbigniew Herbert Year.

Publishing

As in the past, the National Library published numerous works – the outcome of its research and bibliographic activities.

In cooperation with the University of Warsaw Library a *catalogue of the book collection of the Jesuit College in Braniewo held in the University Library in Uppsala* was prepared.

The Institute of the Book and Reading published the following titles: Wojciech Tomaszewski's *Kronika życia muzycznego na prowincji Królestwa Polskiego w latach 1815–1862* [The chronicle of musical life in the provinces of the Kingdom of Poland in the years 1815-1862] and Adam Rusek's *Leksykon polskich bohaterów i serii komiksowych* [The lexicon of Polish cartoon characters and series] .

The National Library Publishing House issued several interesting items: *Antoni Kenar 1906–1959* edited by Urszula Kenar, *Tatry i poeci* [The Tatra Mountains and poets] compiled and prepared by Michał Jagiełło, and *Stanisław Ostoja-Chrostowski, Grafika, ekslibrisy, rysunki i matryce ze zbiorów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Stanisław Ostoja-Chrostowski, Engravings, bookplates, drawings and dies from the National Library collections] by Agata Pietrzak.

The 11th volume of 'Notes Konserwatorski' [Conservatory Notes] was published, as was the 7th volume of "Polish Libraries Today".

W Instytucie Bibliograficznym, m.in. przygotowano pracę Danuty Bilikiewicz-Blanc *Polonika zagraniczne w polskiej bibliografii narodowej* [Foreign Polonica in Polish national bibliography]. In 2007, the National Library compiled statistics on Polish publications covering 2006 for the 52nd edition of the annual 'Ruch Wydawniczy w Liczbach' [Polish Publishing in Figures]. The 2006 volume of 'Biblioteki Publiczne w Liczbach' [Public Libraries in Figures] was also compiled and published.

Several the National Library's publications are available online in the 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.

Library Cooperation

Many nationwide conferences and meetings on current issues of Polish librarianship were organized. Together with the Polish Librarians Association the NL held the seminar *Efektywność funkcjonowania Bibliotek – standardy* [Efficient operation of libraries - standards] and the

conference *Biblioteki publiczne – współpraca w euroregionach w zakresie upowszechniania i promocji czytelnictwa* [Public libraries – cooperation within euroregions with respect to the dissemination and promotion of reading].

In July 2007, the National Library, together with the University of Warsaw Library, organized the LIBER 36th Annual General Conference *European Integration: conditions and Challenges for Libraries*.

In December 2007, the National Library played host to general managers of national libraries in the Central and East European countries at a conference dedicated to new challenges, especially with respect to digitization and protection of collections, facing the national libraries in that region.

In 2007, 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 co-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 the neighboring countries, as well as with Polish institutions abroad, was an important issue. The main goal thereof was to register foreign Polonica and help Polish libraries abroad.