

ANNUAL REPORT TO CENL 2010

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

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General overview of recent major developments at the reporting library

In 2009, the National Library continued to improve digital access to the collection focusing its activities on development of the Digital Library cBN *Polona*, retroconversion of NL card catalogues and creating a new website of NL which was launched in May and ranked first as the best website of a cultural institution in Poland in 2009. Our new project “Academica - Digital Library of Scientific Publications” carried out in cooperation with Scientific and Academic Network was awarded a grant of 34,000,000 PLN by the EU's Operational Programme Innovative Economy. One of the most important tasks of the National Library – along with the acquisition and permanent archiving of Poland's literary heritage – is to compile and publish the current national bibliography. In 2009 our monthly national bibliography of monographs, "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" [Bibliographic Guide], registered 30,544 titles of books that had been published in Poland.

In 2009 National Library organized numerous cultural and scientific events. The most noteworthy of these was “The Mask of Juliusz Słowacki”, comprising open lectures, exhibitions, a scientific conference and a teachers' contest to mark the Juliusz-Słowacki-Year established by the Polish Parliament, or the international musicologist conference “The Musical Heritage of the Jagiellonian Era in Central and Eastern European Countries”. We continued to organise the cyclical meeting ‘The Booksellers' Parlour’ and also launched a “Librarians' Parlour”.

In October 2009, the presentation of the "Programme for Digitization of the Cultural Heritage and for Creating, Maintenance and Providing Access to the Digital Objects in Poland 2009-2020” took place in the National Library, and the National Library was appointed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage as the Competence Centre for digitization of library materials.

Note of the reporting 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 is authorised by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to keep a register of scientific libraries in Poland (in 2009 there were 1,381) and of libraries belonging to the Polish Library Network (2009 – 3,231 libraries). Since 2003 the National Library has run a Centre for the Protection of Cultural Assets, which examines and approves applications for taking library materials abroad that originated before 1949. In 2002, the Chief Executive of the National Library became entitled to render an expert opinion as to whether library material represents a cultural asset and to decide to which state institution it shall be allotted. In December 2008 the National Library was also entitled to confirm the vocational qualifications for librarians gained abroad. In 2009 continued by order of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to run the offices of the National Library Council and the Council for National Library Resources. During 2009 the National Library continued to manage the subprogram 1. 'Maintenance and development of library collections' of the state programme 'Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector' and transferred to the public libraries in the country 10,000,000 PLN for the purchase of new publications.

Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

The National Library's collection numbered a total of 8,902,051 items at the end of 2009.

At the end of 2009 the staff of the National Library consisted of 985 employees.

In consequence of the difficult situation of state finances, the subsidy for statutory activities, allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, was reduced from 95,000,000 PLN in 2008 to 74,000,000 PLN in 2009.

New developments in creating and building collections.

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2009 amounted to 178,570 items (in 2008 – 179,567 items). This included 155,066 legal deposit copies, 4,415 purchased items, 5,997 items acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 13,092 items.

Thanks to a special subsidy from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage the National Library was able to purchase one of the most precious collections of early printed books in Poland – the Collection of the family Tarnowski from Dzików.

New developments in providing access to collections.

The National Library is the largest public library in Poland, providing on-site access in 11 reading rooms and via interlibrary loans. The number of readers has decreased constantly. All of the National Library's

reading rooms were visited in 2009 by 150,497 patrons (in 2008 – by 154,216). At the same time we register a steady increase of our websites users.

In 2009 the Digital National Library cBN *Polona* had 6,855,000 visitors (2008 – 6,325,000). At the end of 2009 the cBN *Polona* contained 21,820 digitized items, while 7,161 of them were added in 2009.

Our main database INNOPAC/MILLENNIUM increased in 2009 by 490,966 records different types and contained 5,166,536 records as of 31 December 2009.

Examples of collaboration between the reporting library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

As in previous years, 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. Since 2008 the National Library has been a member of the International Internet Preservation Consortium and Innovative User Group. In 2009 the National Library took actively part in the European Digital Library project *Europeana* and joined the new project *Europeana Travel*. In June 2009 the Chief Executive of National Library Tomasz Makowski has been appointed to the management board of The European Library Management Committee. 63 staff members took part in international library conferences, study tours, professional exchanges, and other important events abroad. A significant number of these trips were co-sponsored by Polish institutions (the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage). Moreover, bilateral cooperation with the national libraries of neighbouring countries, as well as with Polish institutions abroad, remained an important issue. The main goal of said cooperation was the registration of foreign Polonica and support for Polish libraries abroad.