

Poland

THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW



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Online databases: <http://alpha.bn.org.pl> (NLP OPAC)

<telnet://alpha.bn.org.pl> (NLP OPAC; login: library)

<http://mak.bn.org.pl/wykaz.htm> (union catalogs, bibliographic and reference databases)

2001-2002 Annual Report

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MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY

During 2001 and 2002 the Library's internal organisation and management have not undergone any major changes.

HANDLING OF ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS AND FORMATS

The National Library acquires and processes legal deposit copies of offline electronic publications of monographic and serial character. In 2001 the bibliography of electronic documents of monographic character was launched, published as a semiannual supplement to current national bibliography of monographs under the title "Bibliografia Dokumentów Elektronicznych", covering multimedia, CD-ROM and disquette editions. Due to technical and budgetary constraints it has not been possible to launch the project of the acquisition, processing, storage and providing access to online publications. This task shall be undertaken in the following years. In 2002 the National Library began the preparations to launch the program of digitization of the most precious and most endangered collections, to be introduced - due to budgetary constraints - in 2003/2004.

FUNDING

The basic source of finances of the National Library was the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture of 41,390,693 Polish zloties (ca. 10,000,000 Euro). The income of the National Library derived from the provision of services, sales of publications, databases and property, reached ca. 7 per cent of the budgetary subsidy. Personnel costs (salaries and derivatives) in 2001 absorbed ca. 70 per cent of the subsidy. In comparison with the previous year the subsidy did not reach the level of the inflation. Therefore the National Library was forced to restrict the employment. Following recommendations of the government staff salaries remained at the nominal level of the previous year. Budgetary cuts resulted in lower expenditures for renovations, restrictions in purchases of state-of-the-art equipment and the collections.

BUILDINGS

In 2001 the National Library completed the move of its cartographic collections across Warsaw to the new seat on Niepodleglosci Avenue. The Cartographic Collection magazines now occupy an area of 600 square meters, i.e., four times as much as at their previous location. The area is specially designed and equipped to accommodate a variety of cartographic collections, and includes shelves, drawers and cabinets to store single-sheet wall-size maps. The Cartographic Reading Room, opened in 2001, together with its card catalogs and reference services, occupies an area of 90 square meters and can provide access to large-scale maps. Since 2001 the National Library provided 610 seats for its readers in a total of ten reading rooms, including the Cartographic Reading Room in the new building.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

In 2001 the National Library continued the implementation of the INNOPAC circulation module, and purchased an unlimited number of OPAC users' licenses to meet the needs of the rapidly growing number of OPAC remote users.

National bibliography of monographs "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny", covering the years 1978-2001, was published on CD-ROM with 310,000 bibliographic records. Additions to the INNOPAC database in 2001 reached the number of 58,000 bibliographic records, and by the end of 2001 the database counted 454,521 bibliographic records (in 2000 - 395,587 records), 819,279 item records of monographs (in 2000 - 709,136 records), and 239,557 authority records of names, corporate bodies, series' titles, including 51,586 National Library subject headings. Main catalog and bibliographic database of the National Library in the INNOPAC system, and 22 bibliographic, reference and union catalogs' databases in MAK system are accessible via the Internet.

National Library Web Site in Polish and English was systematically updated and new services were added (several new databases were introduced via MAKWWW, two of them of international significance, as well as the National Library publications in electronic format). The National Library Web Site and databases are easy to reach via many important domestic and international Internet portals worldwide.

It is also worth mentioning that also in 2001 the National Library implemented several computer programs to manage the budget, personnel, property, etc.

ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTIONS

The growth of the collections of the National Library in 2001 by 129,193 units (in 2000 - by 133,595 units) included 110,314 legal deposit copies, 7,471 purchased items, 5,657 units acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts - 5,751 units. Among legal deposit copies were 47,111 volumes of monographic publications, 7,000 annual volumes of serials, 47,103 units of documents of social life, 5,751 sound recordings and audio-visual documents, 586 maps and atlases, 1,944 items of sheet music, 494 offline electronic documents, and 326 graphic documents.

In 2001 the National Library spent 1,523,856.75 Polish zloties from its budget for the purchase of items added to the collections. Also over 790,000 Polish zloties, acquired by the National Library from external sources, were spent for additions to the collections.

By the end of 2001 the National Library's collections (excluding duplicates) included 6,013,055 units (2,129,315 volumes of monographs published after 1800, 736,115 volumes of serials published after 1800, and other types of documents).

PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

After several years of endeavors and preparations, our own system of collections disinfection became operational in 2001. Thus the National Library can pursue disinfection and delousing of its collections with the vacuum-compression method, which also relies upon fumigation with Ethylene Oxide (Rotanox).

In 2001 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 equipment for the de-acidification 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. In 2001 the program encompassed training sessions, and led to the opening at the Jagiellonian University in Cracow of a Laboratory designed to carry out research in the field of collection examination with the use of the Stanford method. Similar studies to be conducted at the Jagiellonian Library and the archives were also prepared.

SERVICES TO READERS

In 2001 the National Library provided its 178,755 users in its new seat's major reading rooms with 572,233 titles of monographs and serials, in 694,061 volumes. The decline in the number of visits to the National Library reading rooms (in 2000 - 197,712 users) resulted in particular from the opening of the new seat of Warsaw University Library. Among readers using National Library's 19th through 21st century collections in its reading rooms 73.8 per cent were students and pupils. Our users were provided with more computers to access INNOPAC OPAC on site. Basic services - according to the Library Law - remained free of charge.

CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING

Similarly to previous years, the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events. Within our series of "Publishers' Parlors" 10 meetings took place promoting Polish publishing offices; and within our series of "Writers' Parlors" - the National Library hosted 20 writers.

In 2001 the National Library organized 18 exhibitions, a few of which were of international character. Among them the most significant ones were: *Wspaniale, kapitalne. Nie do publikacji! Literatura piekna i eseistyka w drugim obiegu 1976-1989* [Splendid, brilliant. Not to be published! Belles-lettres and essays published beyond official censorship, 1976-1989]; *Od Buzuluku do Bolonii. Dzialalnosc wydawnicza na szlaku Armii Polskiej na Wschodzie - 2. Korpusu Polskich Sil Zbrojnych 1941-1946* [From Buzuluk to Bologna. Publishing activity of the Polish Army in the East - the 2nd Corps of the Polish Armed Forces 1941-1946]; *Bialorus - Dobrorus* [Byelorussia - Dobrorussia]; *Baltyckie sasiedztwo* [Our Baltic Neighborhood]; and *Afisz Zydowski w II Rzeczypospolitej* [Jewish Posters in the Second Republic of Poland, 1918-1939], and in 2002 - *Słowacja znana czy nieznana* [Slovak Republic known, or unknown], organized within the series "Our Neighbors - New Outlook".

In 2001 the National Library published 25 titles of serials, including six titles sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, 25 titles of monographic publications, as well as over 120 various leaflets, including calendars, season's greetings cards, informative ephemera for exhibits, and promotional events organized by the National Library (posters, folded leaflets, invitations).

LIBRARY COOPERATION

Many of the functions essential for the development of librarianship within Poland and the advancement of international contacts are assigned to the central state library. As such, the National Library's activity in 2001 focused on keeping official national publishing statistics and monitoring the state of public librarianship in Poland; assigning international standard numbers to books and serials; forwarding Polish publishing data to international information systems; cooperating with other libraries in library and bibliographic standardization; maintaining of union catalogs that register foreign books and foreign and Polish serials held by Polish libraries. The National Library is the seat of the Secretariat of the National Library Council [Krajowa Rada Biblioteczna], and of the Council for the Affairs of the National Reserve of Library Collections [Rada do Spraw Narodowego Zasobu Bibliotecznego]. Both Councils worked out the amendments to a Library Law, and transferred them for further legislative elaboration.

From 1992 the National Library has participated in the Polish-German project of microfilming of early printed books and serials from Polish-German cultural borderlands, and of Jewish serials published until 1935, preserved in the collections of Polish libraries, financed by the Foundation for the Polish-German Cooperation and Robert Bosch Stiftung. In June 2002 Polish-German Seminary was held at the National Library, summing up the achievements of the Project, with a small accompanying it exhibition presenting microfilmed collections, organized by the National Library and Robert Bosch Stiftung.

Other international projects are close to the completion, among them the cooperative program of registering the history of Polish historical collections in Uppsala University Library, Ukrainian National Library in Kiev, and Russian National Library in Sankt Petersburg.

In 2001 the National Library was a member of many international organizations: the IFLA, CENL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, IRA.

In 2001 62 staff members (in 2000 - 88) took part in international library conferences, study tours, exchange of professionals, and other important events abroad.

Warsaw, August 23rd, 2002.

[ORGANIZATION CHART](#)