

**Poland**

**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW**



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

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

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## **2002-2003 Annual Report**

### **To the Conference of European National Librarians (CENL)**

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#### **MANAGEMENT OF THE LIBRARY AND STAFFING MATTERS**

In 2002 a group of the National Library staff members, upon request of the Director, prepared a report on the vision of the development of the National Library in the years to come. Individual issues included in the report shall be discussed throughout the year 2003. Upon accomplishment of these topical consultations a document outlining the directions of the future development of the National Library shall be elaborated.

During 2002/2003 several organizational changes took place, resulting from the adoption by the National Library of new tasks in the field of the collections' protection, and from the cooperation with international systems of numbering of publications. After having launched the digitalization project, a new section (Section of Digitalization) was established within the structure of the Division of Preservation and Conservation of Library Collections. From 2002 a Contact-Reference Center of the Blue Shield has been operative at the National Library, acting as an advisory point in case of all kinds of disasters endangering library collections. To support the realization of the long-term government program of a mass scale conservation of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century collections "Acid paper" the National Library established the Working Group to coordinate tasks within the Library itself, and in the other libraries and archives in Poland. A National ISMN Agency was established within the structure of the

National Library in January 2002, and in 2003 the National Library opened a new post for the officer cooperating with the Ministry of Culture to monitor and apply for external subsidies made available from the funds of special programs of the European Union.

## **FUNDING**

The basic source of finances of the National Library was the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture of 39,405,000.00 Polish zloties (ca. 9,611,000.00 Euro). The financial condition of the National Library in 2002 was difficult, requiring well-tailored planning of expenditures, and also a high budgetary discipline. The subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture for the year 2002, as compared with the previous year, was 95.21 per cent of the subsidy allocated for the year 2001. The income of the National Library derived from the provision of services, sales of publications, databases and property, lease of conference rooms, reached ca. 7 per cent of the budgetary subsidy (3,454,788 zloties, ca. 842,631.00 Euro). The financial standing in 2003 has been a little more stable, as the subsidy allocated by the government has been 101 per cent of the 2002 allocation, i.e., 40,337,000.00 zloties (ca. 9,838,000.00 Euro). Personnel costs (salaries and derivatives) in 2002 absorbed ca. 70 per cent of the subsidy, similarly to previous years. A considerable part of the National Library financial means are devoted to special tasks (Ministry of Culture and other government bodies) and those donated to the National Library by private donors and institutions to purchase valuable collections, and to support publishing, exhibitions and other cultural and research activities. In 2002 the National Library installed and made operative the audiovisual equipment of its new conference hall (Audytorium S. Dembego) thanks to the Japanese government grant allocated for the National Library in the previous year.

## **LEGISLATION**

In 2002 and 2003 the National Library participated in the preparation of the assumptions for the amendment to *Ustawa o bibliotekach* (Library Law), which were then submitted to the Ministry of Culture. Other legal documents consulted by the National Library included the law on the development of IT in public domain institutions and the program of the development of information society, focusing on the role of libraries in promoting access to electronic information.

## **BUILDINGS**

The storage magazines of the National Library in the new seat, designed 40 years ago to house 5,000,000 volumes, are almost filled to capacity, there being a small reserve for but 3 – 4 years. In 2000 the National Library launched preliminary efforts to develop a project for the new seat's extension. This work continued in 2002. By the end of that year the National Library completed the functional concept of the extension. It covers the construction of the twin magazine building to house the growing collections, to move special collections from the Palace of the Republic, and the annex to the Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory for the installation of the system for mass de-acidification of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century holdings. Several technical and geodetic surveys were carried out, as mandatory to proceed with the construction. Due to budgetary cuts in 2002, it is unlikely that this part of the extension construction project will be completed by the end of 2003. The 2003 budget of the National Library includes also a special subsidy for the investment, to be devoted for the accomplishment of the projecting tasks.

In 2002 the offices and magazines of the Department of Graphic Art Collections, located in the historic Palace of the Republic, the seat of the significant part of the National Library special collections, underwent vast renovations. The area is now equipped with specially designed shelves and drawers to accommodate a variety of graphic art collections. The renovation and the move of the collections to new magazines was completed in September 2003.

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND NETWORKS**

In 2002 National Library users could freely access INNOPAC catalog database on site from 45 computers (in 2001 – 44). The availability of catalog and bibliographic databases on the Internet did not diminish their distribution on CD-ROM and diskettes. The computer program MAK, developed by the National Library and designed for small and medium-size libraries, was very popular. In 2002 it was used by 1,247 clients, with 163 new licenses since 2002.

By the end of 2002, National Library employees and readers had 551 PCs at their disposal (in 2002 80 new computers were purchased).

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. In order to make our Web services more attractive for users, in 2002 the National Library decided to redesign its Web Site thoroughly. This task shall be launched by the end of 2003.

In 2002 and 2003 the National Library carried on vast technical and substantial preparations to join the project of the national union catalog of research libraries in Poland – NUKAT – created with a method of shared cataloging in a single database. The NUKAT project, launched in 2002, is maintained by the Warsaw University Library.

## THE DIGITAL LIBRARY

The National Library introduced in 2002 the program of the digitalization of its collections, including the establishment of the Section of the Digitalization within the structure of the Division of Preservation and Conservation of Library Collections. The staff underwent the preliminary training and the National Library launched the cooperation with private firms, and with the Warsaw University Library. Within the frames of the cooperation the scheduled digitalization of Polish serials began, i.e., scanning of microfilm copies of these titles. The project encompasses also the digitalization of the other types of documents, including the most precious artifacts from the National Library collections. At the same time the National Library intensified its efforts to equip the office of the Section of Digitalization with state-of the arts, high-quality scanners. The acceleration of the digitalization of Polish holdings of the National Library constitutes one of our top priority tasks.

In 2002 the National Library participated also in the creation of the concept of the Polish Internet Library. The official opening of the Polish Internet Library took place at the National Library on 21<sup>st</sup> December 2002, with the participation of the Prime Minister of the Polish Republic.

## ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTIONS

The growth of the collections of the National Library in 2002 by 141,279 units (in 2001 – by 129,193 units) included 117,482 legal deposit copies, 8,023 purchased items, 5,512 units acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 10,262 units. Among legal deposit copies were 44,874 volumes of monographic publications, 7,470 annual volumes of serials, 57,092 units of documents of social life, 3,499 sound recordings and audio-visual documents, 2,584 maps and atlases, 660 items of sheet music, 990 electronic documents.

In 2002 the National Library spent 1,801,557.36 Polish zloties (ca. 439,404.00 Euro) from its budget for the purchase of items added to the collection. Also 466,417.86 Polish zlotys, acquired by the National Library from external sources, e.g., the State Committee for Scientific Research (257,300.00 zloties, i.e., ca. 62,756.00 Euro) and private sponsors, were spent for additions to the collections.

By the end of 2002 the National Library's collections (excluding duplicates) included:

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|---|-------------------|
| • monographs published after 1800                           | 2,183,073 volumes |
| • serials published after 1800                              | 755,689 volumes   |
| • documents of social life published after 1800             | 1,895,998 volumes |
| • library and information science special collection (items |                   |

**published after 1800)  
volumes**

**179,033**

- |                                  |                 |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| • manuscripts                    | 25,792 units    |
| • early printed books (pre-1801) | 161,120 volumes |

• printed music	110,582 units
• sound recordings	72,371 units
• graphics and engravings	387,418 units
• cartographic documents (maps, atlases and globes)	85,624 units
• electronic documents	2,376 units
• microforms	223,710 units
• negatives of graphics and engravings	93,565 units
<b>In total</b>	<b>6,176,315 units</b>

## **PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION**

In 2002 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 2002 the program included training sessions, and led to the opening at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow of a laboratory designed to carry out research in the field of paper durability and aging. The National Library completed the works focused on collection examination with the use of the Stanford method, and prepared the report of the results. Similar studies have been launched at the Jagiellonian Library and the archives.

## **SERVICES TO READERS**

In 2002 the National Library provided its 195,452 users in its new seat’s major reading rooms with 637,699 titles of monographs and serials, in 774,534 volumes. Among readers using the National Library’s 19th and 21st century collections in its reading rooms 69 per cent were students and pupils, 6.3 per cent - scholars, 2.0 per cent - teachers, 2.9 per cent - literati (writers, journalists, and artists), 19.3 per cent – other professional groups. Whereas among users of the special collections 60.2 per cent were scholars, 12.3 per cent were literati.

## **CULTURAL EVENTS, EXHIBITIONS AND PUBLISHING**

In 2002 the National Library organized 11 exhibitions, a few of which were of an international character. Among them the most significant ones were: *Slowacja znana czy nieznana* [Slovakia, the Neighbor we Know or we Do Not Know], *Lubie Chili, a wzdycham do Polski...* [I Like Chili, but Long for Poland...], *Japonia-Polska coraz bliżej siebie* [Japan and Poland Drawing Ever Closer Together], *Autografy Karola Szymanowskiego* [Autographs by Karol Szymanowski], *Wydania faksymilowe Fryderyka Chopina* [Frederic Chopin’s Facsimile Editions].

Our cultural, research and publishing activities in 2003 were organized in token of the 75th Anniversary of the National Library’s establishment, celebrated under the honorary sponsorship of the President of the Polish Republic. The National Library Birthday Celebration was held on February 24th, with the participation of the President of the Polish Republic Aleksander Kwasniewski, the Prime Minister Leszek Miller, and the Minister of Culture Waldemar Dabrowski.

In 2003 the Library opened an exhibition “With the Library to the European Union”, depicting the history of the European unification, and in April – “Donation to the Nation. Treasures of the Wilanow Library” - commemorating the 70th anniversary of the donation of the valuable collection of Potocki Library for the Polish State. Other exhibitions worth mentioning were: “Phonographic Century has been launched! The 125th Anniversary of Edison Invention”, “Vivid Bonds. The 100th Anniversary of Igor Newerly’s Birth”, “Norwidiana from Special Collections of the National Library”, and “Zakopane and Tatra Mountains in Polish Literary Works on the Turn of Centuries”.

In January 2003 the National Library, together with the Polish Television, launched a series Educational Movies’ Matinee, addressed to the teenage audience, showing leading documentary movies devoted to writers and artists. During the first half of 2003 six such séances were organized.

Our cultural and promotional activity, as compared with the previous years, is growing thus making the National Library more vividly present on the cultural scene.

Similarly to previous years, the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events within the series of "The Publisher's Parlor", promoting Polish publishing houses; and within the series of "The Writer's Parlor" .

## **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 2002 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.

In 2002 the National Library organized, together with the Robert Bosch Stiftung, first public presentation of the results of the Polish-German program of microfilming collections originating from the Polish-German borderlands, preserved in Polish libraries. This event included a small exhibition and the scientific conference presenting new research perspectives resulting from having processed and provided access to not commonly known early printed books and Jewish serials, originally created within the territory of Poland before 1939. On this occasion the National Library hosted many outstanding scholars, men of culture, politicians and representatives of mass media from Germany and Poland.

In 2003 the National Library organized several conferences, research seminars and promotional events noteworthy for the development of the librarianship. In March we hosted Jens Thorhauge, the Director of the Danish National Library Board at the seminary "Local governments and Libraries". The National Library organized also three research seminars promoting its scientific and documentary share in research activity: devoted to reading habits, to discopaedia of Polonica, and to the reception of the Polish book in the world. It is also worth mentioning that in June 2003 the National Library hosted the 5<sup>th</sup> National Conference of Bibliographers, and in April - the 32<sup>nd</sup> National Musicological Conference "Beyond the Frontiers of Nations and Religions", under the sponsorship of the Minister of Culture.

In 2002 and 2003 the National Library was a member of many international organizations: the IFLA, CENL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, IRA, and the Bibliographical Society. In 2002 68 staff members (in 2001 – 62) 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).

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Warsaw, September 17th, 2003.

**ORGANIZATION CHART**