

**THE NATIONAL LIBRARY IN WARSAW**

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**2003-2004 Annual Report for 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 were discussed throughout the year 2003. Upon accomplishment of these debates several organizational changes were introduced, and also new tasks of the National Library were outlined, among them: the acceleration of the retrospective conversion of card catalogs and bibliographies, the digitalization of the collections, and the cooperation with the nation-wide union catalog of Polish research libraries - NUKAT.

**FUNDING**

The financial condition of the National Library in 2003 was stable. It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Culture allocated an investment subsidy to be spent on the construction of the annex to the National Library, for the purchase of special utilities for mass deacidification of the collections (in 2004), and also for the digitalization of the collections (in 2003). The National Library's success in 2003 was the increase of the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture for personnel costs (salaries and derivatives of librarians and specialists), similarly to the other national institutions of culture, resulting from the many-years lasting endeavors of the NL management. The direct result of the allocation was the increase of the average salary in this group of the staff by ca 35-60 per cent.

**LEGISLATION**

In 2003 the National Library continued to participate in the preparation the amendment to *Ustawa o bibliotekach* (Library Law), and of the other regulations governing the functioning and performance of libraries. An important event was also the allocation of a special fund, being derived from the sweepstake (Lotto), at the disposal of the Minister of Culture. Thanks to this extra budget cultural institutions, including the National Library, can be provided with additional funds for special tasks and investments.

## **BUILDINGS**

The National Library collections expand by over 100,000 units a year, as the direct result of our primary mission to acquire, store and permanently archive all of Poland's publications. 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 concept for the new seat's extension. This work continued in 2003. By the end of that year the National Library completed the functional concept and preliminary projects of the extension, including the evaluation of several technical and geodetic surveys that were carried on in 2002. In 2003 the National Library proceeded with works on the extension of its new seat, to house its growing collections, to make room for special collections and new offices, plus the construction of the annex to the Chemical and Microbiological Laboratory for the installation of the system for mass deacidification of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century holdings.

The National Library main concern upon accomplishment of all project works and technical documentation, is to get additional funds in order to launch the construction of the NL annex itself in 2004 (or in 2005 et the latest).

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, NETWORKS AND DIGITAL LIBRARY**

The National Library continued in 2003 tasks of the digitalization of the National Library holdings that had been launched in 2002. On January 8, 2003 the National Library signed the agreement with the University Library of Warsaw on the cooperation in the field of the digitalization of Polish newspapers and scientific journals. This agreement aims at the provision of public access to the most important titles of newspapers and scientific journals by transferring them from print or microfilm to digital media, and to make them available over the Internet. Five new posts were established in the Division of Conservation of Library Collections to take digital pictures and color scans of the original copies and to scan microfilms. By the end of 2003 the National Library purchased high quality scanners to digitize microfilms and the most precious treasures from its collections.

Also in 2003 the purchase of the new server to house and maintain of the NL main database, the modernization of the local area network, and the migration of the Innopac ILS to the latest version Millennium Silver were very important events.

## **ACQUISITIONS & COLLECTIONS**

The growth of the collections of the National Library in 2003 by 161,606 units (in 2002 – by 141,279 units) included 117,300 legal deposit copies, 9,751 purchased items, 5,701 units acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 28,854 units.

By the end of 2003 the National Library's collections (excluding duplicates) included:

monographs published after 1800	2,238,474 volumes
serials published after 1800	772,379 volumes
documents of social life published after 1800	1,955,547 volumes
library and information science special collection (items published after 1800)	183,635 volumes
manuscripts	26,093 units
early printed books (pre-1801)	161,264 volumes
printed music	112,395 units
sound recordings	77,552 units
graphics and engravings	401,442 units
cartographic documents (maps, atlases and globes)	97,208 units
electronic documents	4,632 units
microforms	229,778 units
negatives of graphics and engravings	94,621 units
<b>In total</b>	<b>6,355,020 units</b>

## **PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION**

In 2003 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 January 2003 the National Library was charged with a task to manage the accomplishment of the research project – as the result of the open bid – entitled *The Evaluation of the State of Preservation and the Complete Definition of Threats to 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Collections in Polish Libraries*.

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

Similarly to previous years, the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events.

In 2003 the National Library organized significant exhibitions, a few of which were of an international character. Among them worth mentioning were: *Z Biblioteką do Unii Europejskiej* [Together with the Library to the European Union], *Dar dla Narodu. Skarby Biblioteki Wilanowskiej* [The Donation to the Nation. Treasures of the Wilanów Library], *Między odrzuceniem a fascynacją, Polska-Rosja: Z dziejów kontaktów kulturalnych* [Between Rejection and Fascination, Poland - Russia: A History of Cultural Contacts], *Zaczęła się era fonograficzna! W 125. rocznicę wynalazku Edisona* [The Phonographic Era Has Just Begun! On the Occasion of the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Edison's Invention].

In the first half of 2004 the National Library prepared also several exhibitions, among them worth mentioning are the following: *Stefan Mrozewski – czarodziej rylca* [Stefan Mrozewski – the Wizard of the Stylus] (January); *Eugeniusz Romer – geograf i kartograf trzech epok* [Eugeniusz Romer – geographer and cartographer of three epochs] (April); *Heinrich Boell – życie i twórczość* [Heinrich Boell – life and literary output] (April); *Skarby Biblioteki Narodowej. Pokaz ze zbiorów specjalnych* [The Treasures of the National Library. The presentation of special collections], accompanying event of the Easter Beethoven Festival (April).

## **LIBRARY COOPERATION**

In 2003 and 2004 the National Library acted as an important research and cultural center. Several meetings and conferences were organized here, some of them of international character. Among them one can name the most important ones: *5th Nation-wide Conference of Bibliographers* organized to commemorate 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation of the Bibliographical Institute of the National Library, entitled *Bibliography – A reference Service and the Historical Obligation*; *Nation-wide conference; A Child and a Book*; *Library standards – Examples and Experiences of Libraries in the European Union*; *Eugeniusz Romer – Geographer and Cartographer of Three Epochs*.

The National Library hosted also many international events, to name only a few: *National Libraries of the Russian Federation and Poland – Tradition and the Present Day*; (Polish-Russian conference); *Public Libraries and the Strategy of their Development After the Enlargement of the European Union* (Polish-Danish); *Heinrich Boell – Bard of the Tolerance* (Polish-German conference).

In 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.

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Warsaw, September 12th, 2004.

**[ORGANIZATION CHART](http://www.bn.org.pl/NL_org03.jpg)** ([http://www.bn.org.pl/NL\\_org03.jpg](http://www.bn.org.pl/NL_org03.jpg))