



# BIBLIOTEKA NARODOWA

## National Library of Poland Annual Report 2025

**Institution:** National Library of Poland – NLP (Biblioteka Narodowa – BN)

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### The National Library of Poland during Poland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union

In the first half of 2025, the Palace of the Commonwealth served as an official cultural venue of Poland's Presidency of the European Union. During this period, it hosted nearly 3,000 distinguished guests from across the EU, including ministers, secretaries of state, secretaries general, directors, and heads of central offices and institutions.



A total of 32 events were held in the Baroque interiors of the Palace, including official dinners, working lunches, administrative meetings, and bilateral talks. As part of the Presidency, 32 delegations visited the Palace, representing ministries responsible for social policy, climate, health, education, finance, tourism, transport, regional development, European affairs, telecommunications, research, and innovation.

Among the distinguished guests were also EU secretaries of state, secretaries general of ministries of foreign affairs, as well as directors and presidents of major European institutions

and organisations, including central banks, medical product registration authorities, Aqua Publica Europea, the European Archives Group, and Europol.

A regular element of these meetings was a guided tour of the Palace and the exhibition of the National Library of Poland's treasures. Library staff presented the most valuable and significant items of Polish and global written heritage, including Chopin manuscripts, the first edition of Copernicus, the Holy Cross Sermons, the Old Świętokrzyski Annals, the Suprasl Codex, a collection of Renaissance maps by Ptolemy, and many others.

### **European Authors Day – Read for Real!**

The National Library of Poland, together with the Universal Reading Foundation and five European partners—CICLIC (France), Stiftung Lesen (Germany), Chetene Foundation (Bulgaria), the Federation of European Publishers, and EURead—won a Creative Europe programme competition to organise the European Authors Day celebrations for 2025–2028.

As a result, the project READ FOR REAL! / #ReadForReal was launched, aiming to enhance reading competencies and promote European literature. In 2025, a total of 6,573 events were organised across 34 Creative Europe countries.

Between 11 November and 12 December, the initiative attracted over 300,000 participants, confirming the growing role of reading as a foundation of culture, education, and democratic life in Europe. Participants included libraries, schools, kindergartens, bookshops, publishers, cultural institutions, local authorities, NGOs, as well as authors, illustrators, and translators from across Europe.



All events were organised under the common slogan #ReadForReal, emphasising the importance of reading “live and for real” as an experience that builds social bonds, creativity, innovation, and intercultural dialogue.

### **Cooperation with Norway, Iceland, and Ukraine**

From 1 January to 30 April 2025, the National Library of Poland implemented the project “Training for Librarians,” funded under the Bilateral Cooperation Fund within the EEA Financial Mechanism and the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2014–2021 (Culture Programme).



The project included cooperation, study visits, and knowledge exchange among librarians from the National Library of Poland, the National Library of Norway, the National and University Library of Iceland, and various Polish libraries, as well as activities addressed to Ukrainian librarians.



Experts from Norway and Iceland visited the Palace of the Commonwealth and NLP reading rooms and met staff from various departments. NLP specialists visited the National Library of Norway in Mo i Rana, where they learned about digitisation and long-term preservation policies.

Librarians from nine Polish libraries visited the National Library of Norway in Oslo and the Deichman Bjørvika Public Library.

As part of cooperation with Ukrainian librarians, the National Library of Poland produced and published six training videos on its website, covering MARC 21 cataloguing, building shared cataloguing environments, the use of BN descriptors, the Official Register of Publications, and the role and functions of the NLP.

## Activity in international organisations

On 5 June 2025, directors of national libraries worldwide elected Dr. Tomasz Makowski as Chair of the Conference of Directors of National Libraries (CDNL). This marked the first time in CDNL history that a National Library of Poland director assumed this role. The official handover took place on 16 November in Warsaw. The event was accompanied by an exceptional concert by the world famous Polish countertenor Jakub Józef Orliński and pianist and composer Aleksander Dębicz.



Julia Konopka-Żołnierczuk, Deputy Director of the National Library, was elected to the Governing Board of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Her term began on 21 August 2025.

## International visits to the National Library of Poland

The National Library of Poland hosted numerous foreign delegations. Guests visited the Palace of the Commonwealth and its exhibitions, as well as the library's main building and reading rooms. Notable visitors included:

- Crown Prince Haakon of Norway,
- The President of Bulgaria,
- The Minister of Education, Culture and Sports of Armenia,
- Representatives of the National Library of Cuba,
- The Director of the National Library of Morocco.



## **National activities**

The National Library of Poland is the national central research institution in the fields of librarianship, bibliography, book studies, and reading research. All incoming materials are continuously registered in the integrated Alma library system. Legal deposit publications are catalogued within 24 hours of delivery. In 2025, the NLP acquired 126,371 items (through legal deposit, purchases, and donations).

Digitisation remains a key priority. In 2025, 3,708,085 scans were produced and deposited in the repository, and 46,650 objects were made available on NLP digital library polona.pl. The platform provided access to 3,732,261 objects and recorded 2,639,960 sessions.

In 2025, the NLP reading rooms were visited by 87,763 users. They remained open Monday to Saturday from 8:30 to 20:30. The Palace of the Commonwealth attracted 83,989 visitors. Since September 2024, an Educational Visiting Programme has been offered in the form of free museum lessons aligned with school curricula; 6,457 participants took part during the reporting period.

The NLP continued to develop the national library network, including a shared catalogue. In 2025, five additional libraries joined the co-cataloguing system. This marked the completion of a programme launched in 2021 with government funding, creating a unified system with a shared database enabling standardised services and consistent access to materials. The system now includes 153 libraries (827 including branches). The Union Catalogue was accessed nearly one billion times in 2025 alone.

The NLP continued to ensure proper preservation conditions. In 2025:

- 501,370 sheets (A4 equivalent) were deacidified using the C-900 system,
- 28,216 volumes were deacidified using the Bookkeeper system,
- 476 items underwent traditional conservation.

The National Library of Poland is responsible for assigning ISBN, ISSN, and ISMN identifiers. In 2025 the NLP assigned:

- 5,283 ISBN blocks,
- 7 ISMN blocks,
- 534 ISSN numbers.

Publishers self-registered 87,525 titles via the e-ISBN system.

On 21 June 2025, the 13th Literary Picnic “Kochanowski’s Name Day” took place. The event honoured Maria Pawlikowska-Jasnorzewska, one of the most prominent Polish poets of the early 20th century. The programme focused on her life and work, as well as themes

relevant to contemporary audiences, including love, the body, emotions, poetry, and self-care. It also included discussions on literary life today, including debates on the future of literature in the age of artificial intelligence. The programme featured concerts, performances, quizzes, a poetry slam, and an evening dance. As always, the event included a book fair with dozens of publishers and a full-day programme for children. Approximately 5,000 people attended the event.



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