

# POLAND

## THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND

DR TOMASZ MAKOWSKI – DIRECTOR

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2007

In 2006-2007 the National Library's management activities were focused on several issues: retroconversion of NL card catalogues and Polish national bibliography, the National Library seat's extension, modernisation of computer system, collection digitalisation and creation of Digital Library, introducing the technology of mass de-acidification of books. Moreover, the National Library plays an active role in "Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector" national program for culture by managing two of its subprograms:

- 1 "Improvement of the quality of library collections and increasing public accessibility of books"; and
- 2 "Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals".

In 2007 there were some changes in the National Library management - a new director of the National Library of Poland was appointed - Dr Tomasz Makowski. There are also two deputy directors: Mrs Elżbieta Stefańczyk (Director for Collections Processing) and Mrs Ewa Potrzebicka (Director for Collections Preservation and Access) who also act as Director for Administrative and Technical Affairs. She took that function after Director Edward Krasowski.

Continuation and coordination of the long-term government program "Acid Paper". In 2006 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage has assigned 6,000,000 Polish zlotys (ca. 1,500,000 Euro) for accomplishment of the long-term government program "Acid Paper".

In 2006 the "Bookkeeper" technology for mass de-acidification of books was purchased and activated.

In 2006 some of digitisation tasks were accomplished within the framework of TEL-ME-MOR Project. Adaptive works aimed at connecting the INNOPAC/Millennium System with the European Library (TEL) were conducted. New technological equipment for employees (over 260 computers) was modernised or purchased. For European Library cooperation purposes, all data on the National Library's computer catalogue have been coded in Unicode standards since 2006.

In October 2006 the National Digital Library "Polona" ([www.polona.pl](http://www.polona.pl)) was launched for users in order to present in digital form selected collections of research and literary works.

The National Library continued retroconversion of its catalogues and Polish national bibliography.

The growth of the collections in 2006 - by 172,369 units included 134,711 legal deposit copies, 8,247 purchased items, 5,971 units acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts - 23,440 units. By the end of 2006 the NL's collections (except for duplicates) included in total 6,973,614 units.

During 2006-2007 the National Library organised many important cultural and promotional events. "The Publisher's Parlor" series prepared numerous meetings to promote Polish publishing houses. In 2006 "The Writer's Parlor" series organised discussions with 27 Polish writers.

Many exhibitions were accompanied by scientific sessions, concerts and promotional meetings. In 2006 the National Library has inaugurated a new series of presentations: "The Treasure Display". The first event of that cycle was the exhibition of the famous Sankt Florian Psalter.

Alike the past years, the National Library has published numerous works - the effects of its research and bibliographic activities.

Several National Library publications are available online in PDF format via the website <http://www.bn.org.pl>.

Since mid 2005 the National Library has been co-operating within the NUKAT union catalog. The NUKAT shared cataloging system, launched in 2002, groups over 50 most important research libraries in Poland. Within a single database, participating libraries create bibliographic and authority records of names, titles and subjects (including enhanced subject headings).

Many conferences and meetings on current issues of Polish and international librarianship were organised. One of them was an international conference concerning the problems of conservation: "Saving the Past for the Future: Modern Technologies in Conservation of Library Collections".

Also the international activity of the NL has been developing. Since 2006 NL together with the University of Warsaw Library have been working at the organisation of Annual LIBER Conference which will take place in July 2007.

The NL has also organised the Regional Workshops for TEL-ME-MOR project participants (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, and Poland) and guests from other countries belonging to the Council of Europe (Russia, Ukraine and Georgia). The Workshops were aiming to disseminate knowledge about the concept and principles of the EU digital project - The European Library (TEL).

In 2006 the NL was an active member of many international organisations: IFLA, CENL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, IRA, the Bibliographical Society, and Bibliotheca Baltica. Almost 100 staff members took part in international library conferences, study tours, exchange of professionals, and other important events abroad.

Also the bilateral cooperation with the national libraries of the neighbouring countries as well as Polish institutions abroad was an important issue. Its main goal was to register foreign Polonica and help Polish libraries abroad.

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