

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2009

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General overview of recent major developments at the library.

In 2008, the National Library's management activities were focused on several issues: retroconversion of NL card catalogues and creating the Polish national bibliography; collection digitization and development of the Digital Library. One of the most important tasks of the National Library – along with the acquisition and permanent safekeeping of Poland's literary heritage – is to compile and publish the current national bibliography. In 2008 we managed to eliminate arrears in current cataloging. "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" [Bibliographic Guide] – our monthly national bibliography of monographs, registered 31,234 titles of books that had been published in Poland (in 2006 – 27,539 titles). Last year was also record-breaking in terms of retroconversion of NL card catalogues: we added to the database 184,000 bibliographical records, which is more than in 2004–2007 altogether. During 2008 the National Library organized many important cultural and promotional events. 'The Publishers' Parlour' series held numerous meetings to promote Polish publishing houses. The National Library, keeper of the Archives of Zbigniew Herbert was a coordinator of the Zbigniew Herbert's Year, declared by the Polish parliament. We organized the most important national events: the inauguration of the Year in the National Theatre, the multimedia performance that attracted more than 6 thousand viewers and the exhibition entitled "Norwid – Herbert. Mediterranean inspirations". The presentation in many countries of the multimedia exhibition Commonwealth: Poland's Heritage, turned out to be a resounding success. It is an educational exhibit which presents the history of tolerance and cohabitation of various ethnic groups within the territory of Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth through a gallery of manuscript art, old texts, antique illustrations and video presentations.

The National Library wanted to be more visible in the public realm. In order to incite public interest in the Library, five large metal sculptures representing Pegasus (a symbol often seen in the work of Zbigniew Herbert) were placed in front of the Palace of the Commonwealth—an event that was widely commented on by the Polish media.

<http://godena.blox.pl/2008/08/Wypas-pegazow-przed-Palacem.html>

2008 was the last year of the implementation of the long-term government program "Acid paper" launched in 2000 after having been approved by the

Council of Ministers in 1999. The major goals of the program, coordinated by the National Library, had been achieved. Several centers in Polish libraries and archives were equipped with modern technology for the deacidification and reinforcement of books, serials and archival matter printed on brittle, acidic paper.

Note of the reporting library's relationship to government, and citation of legislation which sets out the library's mandate, and any other legislation which directly or indirectly affects the library's operations.

On 30 July 2007, the Minister of Culture and National Heritage awarded the National Library with a new statute. In accordance with the statute the NL's organizational structure was adjusted to match the new way of processing library documents that had been adopted.

The National Library played an active role in the 'Promotion of Reading and Development of the Book Sector' (a state program for culture), by managing two of its subprograms: 1. 'Maintenance and development of library collections', and 2. 'Maintenance and development of the most important cultural periodicals'. In 2008, within the framework of these programs the National Library distributed almost PLN 28,500,000 among Polish public libraries (for new publications purchase) and transferred over PLN 2,230,000 for maintenance of cultural periodicals.

Key facts and figures (size of major collections, number of staff, total operating budget, etc).

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2008 amounted to 179,567 items (in 2007 – 185,962 items). This included 158,849 legal deposit copies, 5,388 purchased items, 7,549 items acquired through exchange programs, and as gifts – 7,781 items. Total amount of collections at the end of 2008 numbered 8,704,432 items.

At the end of 2008 the staff of the National Library consisted of 1,029 employees.

The National Library's financial condition in 2008 was stable, with the subsidy allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of over PLN 95,000,000 for statutory activities, over PLN 8,800,000 for investments and 2,700,000 for Acid Paper Program. Moreover, the National Library generated income from the provision of services and sale of publications, databases and property in amount of over 2,800,000 PLN.

New developments in providing access to collections.

The National Library presents its collections in 11 reading rooms. We notice constant decrease of number of readers. All of the National Library's reading rooms were visited in 2008 by 154,216 patrons (in 2007 – by 166,600). At the same time we register a boom increase of our websites users. In 2008 the Digital National Library Polona had 6,325,000 visitors, that is 53% more

than in 2007. According to the newest research, 78% of Polish librarians declare that the website of the National Library is the most popular librarian portal in Poland.

In order to provide an easy access to NL collections the National Library continued retroconversion of its catalogues. In 2008 we added to the database 184 607 bibliographical records, which was possible thanks to special financial support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in amount of PLN 860,000. We have continued to digitize our collections in 2008, when 347,192 scans were made (in 2007 – 148,900).

Examples of collaboration between the library and other national collecting institutions (libraries, archives and museums).

As in previous years, the National Library was an active member of many international organizations: IFLA, CENL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, IRA, the Bibliographical Society, and Bibliotheca Baltica. In 2008 the National Library became a member of International Internet Preservation Consortium and Innovative User Group. Almost 80 staff members took part in international library conferences, study tours, professional exchanges, and other important events abroad. A significant part of those trips was co-sponsored by Polish institutions (the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage).

Moreover, bilateral cooperation with the national libraries of neighbouring countries, as well as with Polish institutions abroad, remained an important issue. The main goal of said cooperation was the registration of foreign Polonica and help for Polish libraries abroad.