

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND

ANNUAL REPORT TO CDNL 2011

Name of country: POLAND

Name of library: Biblioteka Narodowa (National Library)

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1. General overview of recent major developments

In 2010 the National Library continued to enhance its digital library cBN *Polona*, using its own resources and funds from numerous national and international projects. The National Library also performed the role of national Competence Centre for the digitisation of library materials by organizing trainings, practices and consultations for librarians. In November 2010 the first Polish handbook for the digitisation of the cultural heritage was published by the National Library.

In January 2010 the National Library launched the implementation of the project *ACADEMICA - Digital Library of Scientific Publications* carried out in cooperation with the Scientific and Academic Network, which in 2009 was awarded a grant of 34,000,000 PLN by the EU's Operational Programme – Innovative Economy. Thanks to the funds from *ACADEMICA* the National Library was able to buy three automatic book scanners and now has the best-equipped digitisation studio in Poland.

In April 2010 the National Library ceased the publication of nine cultural periodicals published under the patronage of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (the periodicals were taken over by the Book Institute) and closed down its unprofitable in-house print shop.

In 2010 the National Library organized numerous cultural events. The most noteworthy of these was the exhibition *Chopin's Visiting Card* which displayed the world's largest collection of Chopin's musical manuscripts. The exhibition became an important event marking the Frédéric-Chopin Year established by the Polish Parliament.

Another notable public event was the congress entitled "Republic of Book" put on by the National Library with the collaboration of the Ministries for Culture and Education and the office of the Prime Minister as well as numerous media and private and public institutions. The congress proclaimed a coalition for reading and libraries, acting with the motto "Reading includes..." The coalition will support the cultural competence of people and their skills for active participation in the development of their social environment.

2. The National Library's relationship to government

The National Library acts as the central library of the state and is one of the most important cultural institutions in Poland. Its mission is to protect the national heritage preserved in the form of handwritten, printed, electronic, recorded sound and audiovisual documents.

Following this fundamental function, the National Library is also responsible for a number of tasks that are of crucial importance to Polish culture. Serving as the chief archive of Polish literary output, the National Library is also a national bibliographic agency, a large research library focusing on the humanities, as well as a recognized centre of preservation and conservation. It also fulfills a significant role in research, documentation and methodological activity in bibliography, library science and reading, and related areas connected with the social circulation of books.

The National Library is authorised by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage to keep a register of scientific libraries in Poland (in 2010 there were 1,381) and of libraries belonging to the Polish Library Network (3,923 libraries in 2010). Since 2003 the National Library has run a Centre for the Protection of Cultural Assets, which examines and approves applications for taking library materials abroad that originated before 1949. In 2002, the Chief Executive of the National Library became entitled to render an expert opinion as to whether library materials represent a cultural asset and to decide which state institution they should be allotted to. By order of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage the National Library runs the offices of the National Library Council and the Council for National Library Resources and since 2008 it has been entitled to confirm the vocational qualifications for librarians gained abroad.

Since 2010 the former state programme Purchase of New Books for Public Libraries has been carried out by the National Library, which transfers to the public libraries in the country 10,000,000 PLN for the purchase of new publications.

3. Key facts and figures

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2010 amounted to 172,206 items, including 155,580 legal deposit copies. The whole collection numbered a total of 9,141,374 items at the end of 2010.

At the end of 2010 the staff of the National Library consisted of 891 employees.

The subsidy for statutory activities, allocated by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, amounted in 2010 to 65,311,899 PLN.

4. New developments in creating and building collections

The growth of the National Library's collections in 2010 amounted to 172,206 items. This included 155,580 legal deposit copies, 1,924 purchased items, 6,811 items acquired through exchange programs, and 7,891 items received as gifts.

In 2010 the National Library received a donation of several heritage collections, including the inheritance of Leszek Kołakowski.

5. New developments in providing access to collections

In 2010 the National Library continued to enhance its digital library cBN *Polona*, which at the end of the year 2010 contained 27,677 digitised items. According to statistics provided by the program *Verbalizer* cBN *Polona* had 749,581 visitors in 2010.

The Website of the National Library (www.bn.org.pl) registered at the same time 1,639,986 visitors.

The number of readers using our reading rooms has decreased constantly and fell in 2010 to 136,061 visitors.

Our main database INNOPAC/MILLENNIUM grew in 2010 by 398,354 records of different types and contained 5,333,118 records as of 31 December 2010. The National Library also continued the retro-conversion of its card catalogues.

6. Collaboration between the National Library and other national and international institutions

As in previous years, the National Library was an active member of many international organizations: IFLA, CENL, CDNL, CERL, ASLIB, IAML, IASA, LIBER, AIB, ISSN, ISBN, ISMN, the Bibliographical Society and Bibliotheca Baltica. Since 2008 the National Library has been a member of the International Internet Preservation Consortium and Innovative User Group. In 2009 the Chief Executive of National Library Tomasz Makowski was appointed for the term of three years to the management board of The European Library Management Committee.

In 2010 the National Library took part in the international projects *Europeana Travel* and *REDISCOVER* and was involved in numerous national projects such as: *EAZPP – Electronic Archive of the Monuments of Polish Literature*, *ACADEMICA - Digital Library of Scientific Publications*, and *SYNAT – System of Science and Technique*.

In 2010 the National Library continued to support Polish libraries abroad, providing assistance by cataloguing, scientific revision, preservation and restoration of their collections and hosting a meeting of the Standing Conference of Polish Museums, Archives and Libraries in the West, which for the first time was held in Poland.

An important issue in 2010 remained the bilateral cooperation with national libraries of neighbouring

countries and the exchange of publication with libraries and institutions worldwide.