

## Werk

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# **The National Library of Poland**

## **Annual Report 1995-1996**

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### **Collections**

In 1995 the National Library added to its collections 112,592 new documents. In December 1995 the collections of the National Library totalled 6,841,866 units, including, among others 1,839,375 newer books, 159,381 old prints, 102,800 units of music collections, 71,635 units of cartographic collections, 14,852 sets of manuscripts.

### **Automation**

In 1995 a momentous decision was made for the future of automation of the National Library. The National Library bought the integrated library system INNOPAC of Innovative Interfaces, USA, which will be installed at the National Library in 1996 and 1997. The purchase of the system was possible thanks to the grant of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, USA, received in 1994. A tender was held for the installation of a computer network in the new building of the National Library. The major investment related to the network will be made in 1996 and financed from the

budget and the Andrew W. Mellon grant. The new building of the National Library will receive a fibreoptic connection.

Thanks to these investments it will be possible to speed up automation of catalogue and library services produced by the National Library and provide access to them over the network to remote users.

### **Databases**

In January 1995 the first CD-ROM was published containing the current national bibliography "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" database 1986-1994 (98,000 records), bought already by 150 libraries and institutions at home and abroad.

In 1995 the work was in progress on automating catalogues of books and periodicals of the National Library, databases of individual parts of the national bibliography, catalogues of special collections and union catalogues. In general the National Library possesses over 500,000 descriptions in electronic format.

For several years now other libraries have been using the National Library databases. The "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny" (weekly national bibliography) is currently subscribed to by 300 Polish libraries. Only in 1995 70 new libraries subscribed to "Przewodnik Bibliograficzny". Thanks to the offer of the National Library small and medium-size libraries could begin automation of their own catalogues.

Also worthy of mention is the preparation of the database and publication "Bibliography of Serials - New, Ceased and Changed Titles 1985-1994" (to be published in the first half of 1996) and the "Bibliography of Underground Monographs 1976-1994" (work begun in 1993). Also preparations were completed for automation of the "Index to Periodicals", which starting from 1996 will be compiled and available as a database, and also - as heretofore - in hard copy.

**Construction of the new National Library building - access to the collections**

In 1995 the construction of the new National Library building was continued. The major event was the opening in December 1995 of the new general reading room (296 seats). This gave momentum to further growth of the circulation of the collections. The growth of the use of the National Library collections is characterized by the following figures:

compared to 1994 the number of visits in the reading rooms grew by 66.0% (96,624 visits in 1995), circulation of books and periodicals by 60.0% (373,548 volumes), xerocopying services by 51.2% (257,519 copies). The construction of the new building has not been completed yet. The completion of the final part of the building that will house exhibition halls and conservation workshops is planned for 1996-1997.

**Preservation and conservation**

In 1995 the National Library organized a conference "Saving and preserving library collections". The conference was preceded by a questionnaire sent to all major Polish libraries, the results of which served as a basis for the preparation of a study depicting the state of preservation of library collections in Poland.

In 1995 the National Library received a grant from the Foundation of Polish-German Cooperation for financing the project of microfilming old prints and periodicals of Polish-German cultural borderland. The grant will serve to provide modern equipment for the Microfilming Unit, and within 5 years a significant part of the collection will be microfilmed. The German partner of the project is the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich.

November 1995 was marked by the official registration of the Association for the Preservation and Conservation of Archival

and Library Collections. Its members include outstanding personalities of Polish science and culture. The idea to establish the Association originated from and developed at the National Library which intends in the coming years to intensify its activities serving preservation of library collections in Poland.

### **Library legislation**

The work was continued, began in the previous years, on the change of library legislation. In 1995 the draft acts on libraries and supply of legal deposit copies were passed to the Parliament and sent for debate and consultation to the appropriate parliamentary committees. The new Act on Libraries will include provisions on the National Library.