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LIBRARIES IN POLAND AS OF 2012

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INTRODUCTION

This report aims at describing the major networks of libraries in Poland, their state and their operations in 2012. Where possible, we have presented this from the perspective of the last decade, thus reflecting the changes in individual library networks and indicating major problems they have experienced. It is the first attempt to present the operations of Polish libraries in such a scope. The report was developed in the Institute of Books and Readership of the National Library.

The following diagnosis concerns local government libraries: public, pedagogical and school libraries as well as scientific and central libraries (including libraries of public and non-public institutions of higher education), specialised libraries, fiction/specialised libraries, libraries of “inte” centres, libraries of scientific societies, libraries of uniformed services, prison libraries, and church libraries including parish ones.

The report consists of two parts:

- a descriptive one, presenting the data concerning the library networks identified below, according to a specific format;
- a quantitative one, including selected effectiveness indicators for individual library networks.

The study was developed based on the following resources:

- data collected by the Central Statistical Office of Poland for the part concerning communal libraries (public and pedagogical ones), scientific libraries (central libraries, special libraries, libraries of institutions of higher education, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, research institute libraries), specialised libraries,

fiction/specialised libraries, libraries of scientific societies and libraries of “inte” centres;

- data collected by the Educational Information System for the part concerning school libraries;
- reports, research results and information concerning: libraries of the uniformed services (military services, prison services, and others); church libraries (including parish ones); pedagogical libraries; scientific libraries; libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences and museums; and libraries of scientific societies, collected by conventional and electronic mail and by phone.

The scope of collected data includes the following issues:

- the legal basis and organisation of libraries belonging to a specific network;
- the number and profile of libraries;
- the policies, sources, and scale of financing;
- the size and structure of the collections, with particular consideration to purchasing and the use of collections out-of-the-library and in-house;
- number of readers (or users if they are registered);
- library computerization, e-services;
- library availability for special user groups;
- library staff and their educational background;
- problems indicated concerning the operations of the libraries studied.

The material used as the basis for this study is not homogenous. Not all types of libraries have data enabling a discussion of their operations, comparisons over the years, or indicator comparisons (for example: libraries of the military services do not collect data concerning the number of readers; data regarding parish libraries are available only for 2011¹; information concerning church libraries is available only in a descriptive format; school libraries are presented based on the data from the Educational Information System which are less comprehensive than in the case of libraries reported by the Central Statistical Office of Poland).

Collaboration with libraries of specific networks greatly facilitated the data collection. One may feel somewhat disappointed regarding the acquired information concerning the forecasting of operations and perspectives for growth of specific institutions and, in this context, about problems and common incidents. It is important, as the remarks concerning the operations of libraries within a given type were provided by the main or central libraries.

I. THE ORGANISATION OF LIBRARIES IN POLAND

According to the binding act, libraries may be established and maintained by: the ministers and heads of the central government offices; local government units; and individuals, legal entities and unincorporated organizational units. Libraries

1 It was in this year that the Institute of Catholic Church Statistics in cooperation with the Central Statistical Office of Poland conducted a one-time study of this library network.

may be organised as independent organisational units (e.g. public libraries)², or may be part of another organisational unit (e.g. school libraries, libraries of institutions of higher education).

A library's organisers are obligated to provide them with suitable conditions for their operations and growth, including the premises and equipment as well as the financial resources for conducting the library's operations, specifically for purchasing library materials and for the professional development of their staff.

The burden of financing libraries rests primarily on local governments, appropriate government departments and other entities. The State can support library operations through restricted subsidies.

Libraries can be categorised into groups based on various criteria, such as: the nature and needs of the environment in which they operate; thematic and formal scope of their collections; territorial coverage; formal and legal basis of library operations; sources of financing; and the approach to collection usage. Library categorisation based on the above criteria is not exclusive.

According to a hybrid criterion – based on the customers of library services and collection profiles – libraries can be categorised into: public libraries – 8,182; school libraries – 20,363³; scientific libraries – 1,087; pedagogical libraries – 318; specialised libraries – 369; fiction/specialised libraries – 65; libraries of scientific, technical and economic information (“inte”) centres – 28; libraries of scientific societies – 14; military-educational libraries – 118, prison libraries – 157, parish libraries – 1,480.

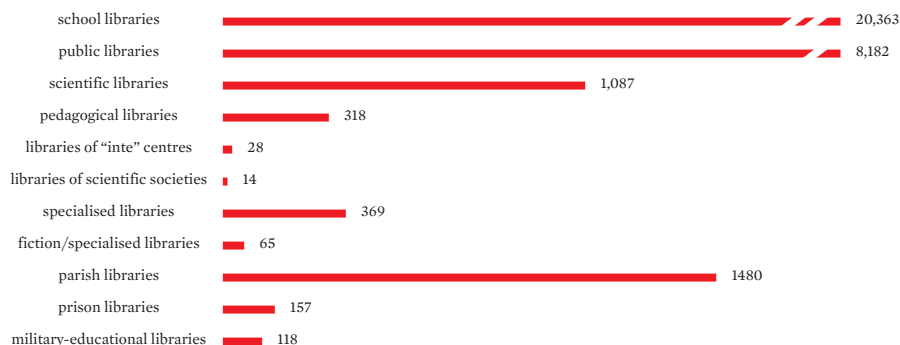


CHART 1. LIBRARIES IN POLAND IN 2012

- 2 According to the act, public libraries should be organised in the form of a cultural institution, i.e. should have a legal personality and be financially independent or should be part of another cultural institution.
- 3 This concerns the number of libraries in: schools for children and youths; schools for adults; and arts schools based on the data from the Educational Information System, as of 30 September 2012, provided by the Department of Forecasts and Analysis of the Ministry of National Education.

The material as a whole concerns 32,181⁴ libraries in Poland. The table below includes only those libraries that can be presented by province.

Province	Libraries/library branches								
	public libraries	scientific libraries	pedagogical libraries	special-ised libraries	fiction/specialised libraries	libraries of "inte" centres	libraries of scientific societies	school libraries**	parish libraries***
Poland	8,182	1,087	318	369	65	28	14	20,363	1,480
Lower Silesia	616	74	26	28	5	-	1	1,203	86
Kuyavia-Pomerania	438	41	13	16	1	-	-	1,103	68
Lublin	590	64	19	22	3	1	1	1,433	95
Lubusz	254	8	7	11	1	-	-	474	19
Łódź	549	127	21	25	3	2	1	1,306	83
Lesser Poland	744	156	22	43	4	5	2	2,107	190
Masovia	969	191	37	46	10	7	5	2,667	165
Opole	317	21	12	13	1	1	-	576	44
Subcarpathia	681	13	21	22	8	1	2	1,514	163
Podlasie	240	29	13	14	-	1	1	650	35
Pomerania	323	22	20	25	7	1	-	1,061	74
Silesia	804	170	31	37	7	4	-	2,071	235
Świętokrzyskie	275	14	13	13	2	-	-	797	36
Warmia-Masuria	305	38	22	14	7	-	-	826	38
Greater Poland	704	104	34	23	5	4	1	1,809	112
West Pomerania	373	15	7	17	1	1	-	766	37

TABLE 1. LIBRARIES IN POLAND*

* The table includes libraries included in the research of the Central Statistical Office of Poland and the Educational Information System. 13 public libraries and 1 pedagogical library with a scientific status were included both in column 1 (public libraries) and column 3 (pedagogical libraries) accordingly, and in column 2 (scientific libraries).

** According to the Educational Information System and the resources from the Ministry of National Education. The data concerns libraries in: schools for children and youths; schools for adults; and arts schools.

*** Data for 2011, according to data from the Central Statistical Office of Poland based on the Institute of Catholic Church Statistics.

- 4 13 public libraries and 1 pedagogical library with a scientific status were included both in the public or pedagogical and scientific library networks.

Libraries in Poland have a huge institutional potential. Like in other countries, they do not form a single network. The act on libraries provides an opportunity to become a part of the national library network. Currently, it consists of all public libraries and the other libraries that have joined it⁵. Other legal acts regulate the operations of specific library types. As a result, their industry-specific nature is emphasised and distinct operational guidelines are defined for them.

1. LIBRARIES AND [vs.] OTHER CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

The total number of libraries operating in Poland is 32,181, accounting for 84.9% of cultural institutions reported by the Central Statistical Office of Poland in *Kultura w 2012 r. (Culture in 2012)*⁶. Libraries should provide the users with current literature, and, in the case of specialised libraries, with focused specialised domain-related collections. These tasks should determine the scope of operations of libraries in Poland.

Participation in culture is influenced by a number of factors, from access to new technologies enabling the active reception of cultural content (offering the opportunity of a conscious selection and choice), to economic considerations such as income per capita in households, the location of a household, or the level of education, and knowledge about market processes, such as consumers' preferences for certain groups of products and services. Research on the participation of Polish people in culture, with comparisons to the situation in various European countries⁷, shows that in recent years the situation of Polish people has improved. However, it is still at a disadvantage when contrasted with other countries. In 2000-2011, the average expenditure on recreation and culture in household budgets of the Polish people increased twofold from almost 41 PLN per capita in 2000 to nearly 82 PLN per capita in 2011 (expenditure on recreation and culture accounted for 6.7% of total expenditures in 2000 and 8.1% in 2011). In the period under discussion, items that decreased in the proportion of expenditures on recreation and culture include: audio-video, photographic and IT equipment (from over 23% to 16%), as well as newspapers, books, and office stationary (from 21% to 18%). While household expenditures on participation in culture in 2011 were at the level of 3,300 EUR per capita in Norway, 2,300 EUR in Denmark, and 2,100 EUR in Switzerland, Sweden, Finland and Austria, in Poland they totalled 400 EUR (similar to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Hungary). Although from 1995-2011 the expenditures of households in Poland (as in Estonia) increased fourfold,

5 On 11 April 2014, there were 18 such libraries. Source: Book Science Documentation Institute of the National Library.

6 *Kultura w 2012 r. (Culture in 2012)*. Warsaw 2013.

7 M. Piekut. "Wydatki na zagospodarowanie czasu wolnego w gospodarstwach domowych". In: *Ekonomia i zarządzanie* 2013, No 3(5).

they are still at a substantially lower level compared to many European countries. Apparently, the Polish people participate in culture less frequently than in other European nations. The diversifying forms of participation in culture translate into individual creativity. It is expected within the next twenty years that persons passively participating in culture will be perceived as “excluded”. In order to prevent these tendencies, libraries should offer the most widespread access to cultural assets through new technologies and software taking into account the nature of the environment in which they operate and the specific needs of the users⁸.

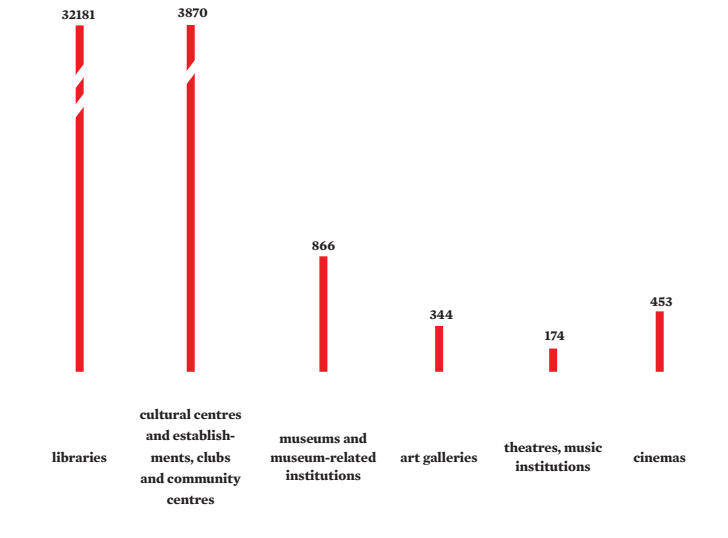


CHART 2. LIBRARIES AND CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS IN POLAND (379 THOUSAND)⁸

⁸Based on *Kultura w 2012 r. (Culture in 2012)*, Warsaw 2013.

8 The comparative data regarding expenditure on libraries were published in the report from the European survey measuring perceptions of the users of public libraries participating in library support programmes financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Taking into consideration possible differences in the approaches to calculating expenditures on libraries per capita, Poland was rated as one of the countries (with Portugal, Romania, Latvia and Lithuania) with relatively low expenditure on libraries, roughly assessed at less than 10 EUR per capita. At the other end of the scale there are countries – Finland and Denmark – with a high expenditure of more than 30 EUR per capita. Additionally, the report indicates a clear relationship between higher expenditure on libraries per capita and a more intense usage of these libraries. Quick, Prior, Toombs, Taylor, and Currenti. “Cross-European survey to measure users’ perceptions of the benefits of ICT in public libraries”. Final report, March 2013, p.15, 19.

2. LEGAL CONDITIONS

The legal status and operational guidelines for libraries in Poland are established by:

A. essential applicable regulations⁹.

*The Act of 4 September 1997, on departments of government administration*¹⁰ and the subsequent regulations¹¹,

- 9 they are elaborated by the following legal acts: The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and Art of 6 March 1997, on list of libraries entitled to receive legal deposit copies of individual publication types and the rules and the procedure of transferring thereof (Journal of Laws, No. 29, Item 161, with subsequent changes); The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 4 July 2012, on the national library resource (Journal of Laws, Item 797); The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 29 October 2008, on the procedure of library materials registration (Journal of Laws, No. 205, Item 1283); The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 5 December 2012, on qualification requirements for librarian posts in libraries and posts for specialists of other professions related to library activities (Journal of Laws, Item 1394); The Regulation of the Minister of Culture of 23 April 2004, on adaptation period and aptitude test applied during the proceedings to recognize qualifications to perform library jobs acquired in member states of the European Union (Journal of Laws, No. 101, Item 1050).
- 10 Journal of Laws 1999, No. 82, Item 928, with subsequent changes
- 11 The legal documents regulating the operations of libraries: public libraries – The Act of 25 October 1991, on organising and performing cultural activity (Journal of Laws, No. 114, Item 493, with subsequent changes); pedagogical libraries – The Act of 7 September 1991, on the system of education (Journal of Laws, No. 95, Item 425 with subsequent changes); The Regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 29 April 2003, on detailed principles of operation of the public pedagogical libraries (Journal of Laws, No. 89, Item 824); The Regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 29 April 2003, on the framework statute of a public pedagogical library (Journal of Laws, No. 89, Item 825); The Act of 26 January 1982, Teacher's Charter (Journal of Laws 2006, No. 97, Item 674, with subsequent changes); school libraries – The Act of 7 September 1991, on the system of education (Journal of Laws No. 95, Item 425, with subsequent changes); The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 21 May 2001, on framework statutes of a public playschool and a public school (Journal of Laws, No. 61, Item 624, with subsequent changes); The Act of 26 January 1982, Teacher's Charter (Journal of Laws 2006, No. 97, Item 674, with subsequent changes); scientific libraries – The Act of 30 April 2010, on the Polish Academy of Sciences (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 619); The Act of 30 April 2010, on research institutes (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 618); The Act of 27 July 2005, The Law on Higher Education (Journal of Laws, No. 164, Item 1365, with subsequent changes); The Act of 18 March 2011, on amending: the Act – The Law on Higher Education; the Act on academic degrees and academic titles and degrees and titles in the arts; and certain other acts (Journal of Laws, No. 84, Item 455); The Act of 30 April 2010, on the principles of financing science (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 615); The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 2 April 2012, on the principles and the procedure of registering libraries as scientific libraries and on the listing thereof (Journal of Laws, Item 390); The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 5 November 2010, on the criteria and the procedure for granting and the accounting of financial resources for science for the purpose of financing of the statutory activity (Journal of Laws, No. 218, Item 1438); The Act of 14 March 2003, on academic degrees and academic titles and degrees and titles in the arts (Journal of Laws, No. 65, Item 595, with subsequent changes); libraries of the military services – The Regulation of the Minister of National Defence of 5 March 2013, on the principles of organisation of the library services in organisational units of the Ministry of National Defence and the principles of public library collaboration in the performing thereof (Journal of Laws, Item 340); prison libraries – The Regulation of the Minister of Justice of 25 October 2012, on the principles of organisation of the library services in penal institutions, correctional institutions, and juvenile detention centres and the principles of public library collaboration in the performing thereof (Journal of Laws, No. 111, Item 1238); The Regulation of the Minister of National Defence of 19 December 2006, on extending the

*The Act of 27 June 1997, on libraries*¹²,
*The Act of 25 October 1991, on the organisation and operation of cultural activity*¹³;
*The Act of 7 November 1996, on legal deposit copies*¹⁴.

B. legal acts governing the social life in Poland (e.g. acts introducing administrative and local government reforms, educational system reform, or acts concerning public finance)¹⁵ and regulating specific domains thereof (e.g. the act on copyright, and the act on protection of personal data)¹⁶.

regulations of the Act on organising and performing cultural activity to cultural activity performed by organisational units subordinated to or supervised by the Minister of National Defence (Journal of Laws, No. 247, Item 1807); other libraries – The Regulation of the Minister of Health of 26 September 2000, on the principles of organisation of the library services in healthcare institutions and the principles of public library collaboration in the performing thereof (Journal of Laws, No. 91, Item 1014); The Regulation of the Minister of Labour and Social Policy of 13 November 2012, on the principles of organisation of the library services in social welfare homes and the principles of public library collaboration in the performing thereof (Journal of Laws, Item 1291); The Regulation of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration of 17 August 2012, on the principles of organisation of the library services in organisational units subordinated to the Minister of Internal Affairs and Administration and the principles of public library collaboration in the performing thereof (Journal of Laws, Item 984); church libraries – Concordat between the Holy See and the Polish Republic signed in Warsaw on 28 July 1993 (text published in Journal of Laws 1998, No. 51, Item 318); The Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Higher School of Philosophy and Education “Ignatianum” in Cracow from the State budget (Journal of Laws, No. 94, Item 650); The Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Papal Theological Faculty in Wrocław from the State budget (Journal of Laws, No. 94, Item 649); The Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Papal Theological Faculty in Warsaw from the State budget (Journal of Laws, No. 94, Item 648).

- 12 The notice of the Marshall of the Sejm of 22 May 2012 on publication of the consolidated text of the Act on libraries (Journal of Laws, Item 642).
- 13 Journal of Laws 1997, No. 110, Item 721, with subsequent changes
- 14 Journal of Laws, No. 152, Item 722.
- 15 The Act of 8 March 1990, on local government (Journal of Laws, No. 16, Item 95); The Act of 17 May 1990, on the assignment of responsibilities and competences defined in specific acts between the county-level and central government authorities and on amending certain other acts (Journal of Laws, No. 34, Item 198); The Act of 5 June 1998, on province-level government (Journal of Laws, No. 91, Item 576); The Act of 5 June 1998, on district-level government (Journal of Laws, No. 91, Item 578); The Act of 24 July 1998, on amending certain acts defining competences of the public administration authorities in connection with the political reform of the State (Journal of Laws, No. 106, Item 668); The Act of 13 October 1998, Implementing provisions to acts reforming the public administration (Journal of Laws, No. 133, Item 872); The Act of 27 August 2009, on public finance (Journal of Laws, No. 157, Item 1240; the wording binding as of 1 January 2014 – Journal of Laws 2013, Item 885); The Act of 29 July 1992, on gaming and mutual wagering (Journal of Laws 2004, No. 4, Item 27, with subsequent changes); The Act of 19 November 1999, Economic Activity Law (Journal of Laws, No. 101, Item 1178, with subsequent changes); The Act of 6 December 2006, on the principles of development policy (Journal of Laws, No. 227, Item 1658).
- 16 The Act of 4 February 1994, on copyright and associated rights (Journal of Laws No. 24, Item 83, with subsequent changes); The Act of 23 July 2003, on the protection and care of historical monuments (Journal of Laws, No. 162, Item 1568); The Act of 29 August 1997, on the protection of personal data (consolidated text: Journal of Laws 2002, No. 101, Item 926, with subsequent changes); The Act of 6 September 2001, on access to public information (Journal of Laws, No. 112, Item 1198); The Act of 27 July 2001, on the protection of data bases (Journal of Laws, No. 128, Item 1402); The Act of 29 January 2004, Public Procurement Law (Journal of Laws 2013, Item 907, consolidated text); The Act of 11 October 2002, on standardisation (Journal of Laws, No. 169, Item 1386);

The Act of 27 June 1997, on libraries defines a high-level framework for the organisation and operations of libraries in Poland (public libraries, scientific libraries, school and pedagogical libraries, specialised and company libraries, and libraries serving special groups of users) and the principles of operations of the national library network. In 2012, the act on libraries was amended in connection with the amendment of the act on the organisation and operation of cultural activity that introduced the provisions enabling mergers of public libraries with other cultural institutions¹⁷. The second act amending the situation of library staff is the act deregulating professions, including the profession of librarian in Poland¹⁸.

II. LOCAL GOVERNMENT LIBRARIES

Contemporary local government libraries play the role of:

local institutions tightly related to the environment and performing the tasks corresponding to the needs of its members which requires them to continuously monitor the demographic, social, and cultural changes occurring in the environment;

knowledge-promoting institutions having access to information and new technologies;

institutions offering charge-free services addressed to all social groups regardless of age, educational level, interests, and dysfunctions; removing barriers in knowledge and information availability.

For this purpose, contemporary local government libraries gather and lend collections (using state-of-the-art technologies) and improve their own organisation.

I. PUBLIC LIBRARIES

The network of public libraries reflects the country's administrative divisions. It consists of three levels created in the local government reform. As a result of the changes in administrative divisions the local government network of public libraries became internally differentiated. The number of provincial libraries decreased from 49 to 18 (as their geographic area of influence increased) while the

The Act of 11 March 2004, on goods and services tax (Journal of Laws, No. 54, Item 535); The Act of 14 July 1983, on national archive resources and archives (Journal of Laws 2006, No. 97, Item 673, consolidated text); The Act of 7 October 1999, on the Polish language (Journal of Laws, No. 90, Item 999, with subsequent changes; Journal of Laws 2011, No. 43, Item 224); The Act of 29 June 1995, on public statistics (Journal of Laws, No. 88, Item 439, with subsequent changes); The Act of 24 April 2003, on public benefit activity and volunteerism (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 873).

17 The Act of 31 August 2011, on amending the Act on organising and performing cultural activity (Journal of Laws, No. 207, Item 1230). The provisions are binding as of 1 October 2012.

18 The Act of 13 June 2013, on amending acts regulating the performance of certain professions (Journal of Laws, Item 829; Article 7).

district libraries (an intermediate level in the library network structure) were re-activated. The communal libraries (both urban and rural) became intensively differentiated (in terms of such factors as the size and quality of collections or access to new technologies). Though there are no organisational relationships between public libraries constituting the national network, they maintain functional connections. According to the Act on libraries, the National Library (discussed in the “Scientific libraries” section) is also a public library.

The characteristics that differentiate public libraries from other library types include:

- universality of operations – they are available to anyone regardless of age, educational level, material status and place of residence;
- openness – in the figurative (ideological) sense, openness to new media, and in the literal sense as convenience in terms of working hours or lack of architectural barriers on library premises;
- universality of collections, both in terms of content and form – libraries develop their collections taking into consideration various media, they acquire both the traditional collections of books and the electronic or multimedia publications and Internet resources;
- charge-free operations – the basic scope of services offered by public libraries is free of charge; they operate as non-profit institutions, and any charges function to cover the cost of additional services;
- wide and close collaboration with the local and sub-local environment.

THE NETWORK

Number of libraries and library branches in 2012: 8,182 (in 2011: 8,290; a decrease of 108 libraries or 1.3% of the network).

Number of library service points in 2012: 1,280 (in 2011: 1,369; a decrease of 89 or 6.5%).

Number of persons per library institution in 2012: 4,710 (in 2011: 4,649; an increase of 61).

In 2012, the network of public libraries consisted of 8,182 library institutions (including 2,610 main libraries and 5,572 library branches). It was supplemented by 1,280 library service points, which currently play a marginal role in servicing the readers due to the number and location thereof. In comparison with 2011, the network in urban areas decreased by 1.3% while in rural areas by 1.6%. Library institutions are mainly concentrated in rural and small-town areas, with 65.9% of libraries and branches and 62.7% of library service points. A systematic reduction of the network (mainly the branches) does not significantly decrease the quality of library services or the availability of their resources (new publications, computerisation, digitalisation)¹⁹.

19 The report on the European survey measuring perceptions of users of public libraries participa-

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Total number of libraries and branches:	8,915	8,783	8,653	8,542	8,420	8,342	8,182
in rural areas (%)	5,874 65.9	5,839 66.5	5,744 66.4	5,658 66.2	5,526 65.6	5,512 66.1	5,391 65.9
Total number of library service points	2,457	1,973	1,811	1,670	1,555	1,437	1,280
in rural areas (%)	1,717 69.9	1,370 69.4	1,209 66.8	1,100 65.9	1,014 65.2	922 64.2	802 62.7

TABLE 2. THE NETWORK OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2000–2012

FINANCING STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Income (in PLN) of libraries per 100 persons in 2012: 3,207.28 PLN (in 2011: 3,162.44 PLN).

Total expenditure on library materials in 2012 (purchases + subscriptions + licences): 87,666,909 PLN (in 2011: 79,912,385 PLN; an increase of 7,754,524 PLN or 9.7%).

Expenditure on library collections (in PLN) per 100 persons in 2012: 227.51 PLN (in 2011: 207.36 PLN; an increase of 20.15 PLN or 9.7%).

The base of library budgets is a subsidy from the organiser; the support from other entities is minor. Subsidies from the Ministry of Culture and from other public entities are of a restricted nature and complement (support) the organiser's subsidy.

According to data collected in 2012 by the Central Statistical Office of Poland, the financing structure of public libraries did not change substantially in comparison with the previous year.

ting in library support programmes financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation estimates the number of public libraries in the whole European Union at a level of over 65 thousand. In 17 countries participating in the research, the highest density of library network per 10,000 population was in the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Latvia (more than 4 libraries). Poland, with almost 3 libraries per 10,000 population, is in second place. The largest number of countries, or 7 (including France, Italy, Germany, Finland, and Belgium) has almost 2 libraries per 10,000 population. Countries such as UK, Denmark, Portugal, Spain, the Netherlands have less than 1 library per 10,000 population. Quick, Prior, Toombs, Taylor, and Currenti. "Cross-European survey to measure users' perceptions of the benefits of ICT in public libraries". Final report, March 2013, p.12.

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	91.64
Subsidies from other sources	4.45
Earnings	2.34
Other	1.57

TABLE 3. FINANCING STRUCTURE IN 2012

Financial resources expended in 2012 on library materials (including purchases of books, subscriptions of periodicals, and licence fees) accounted for 6.9% of library budgets (income).

COLLECTIONS AND PURCHASES OF NEW PUBLICATIONS

Collections

Total collection in 2012: 131,616,458 stock units (in 2011: 132,534,240 stock units; a decrease of 917,782 stock units or 0.7%).

Other non-electronic collections in 2012: 4,917,805 stock units (in 2011: 4,789,483).

Electronic collections (on physical media) in 2012: 182,015 stock units (in 2011: 248,214).

Licensed collections in 2012: 11,304 titles (in 2011: 14,937).

Volumes per 100 persons in 2012: 342 volumes (in 2011: 344).

In 2012 the collections of public libraries accounted for 131.6 million volumes of books and bound periodicals and 5.1 million stock units in special collections (i.e. other non-electronic collections and electronic collections on physical media).

The average size of a collection per library or branch in 2012 was 16,086 volumes. In urban libraries it was 28,245 volumes, while in rural libraries 9,791 volumes.

Despite the increase in expenditure on book purchases, the number of volumes in collections slightly decreased, mainly in rural libraries. Considering the increase of collection sizes in urban libraries, this does not help to eliminate the disproportion in the availability of knowledge and information between readers from both environments. On the other hand, while developing collections in rural libraries (increasing their selection with an influx of new publications at an adequate level), it is also essential to update them and eliminate old, worn out and outdated volumes.

The size of special collections grows mainly in urban areas where documents in electronic format constitute a marginal part of the collections. Thus the special collections become increasingly more diverse and their acquisition is consistent with the users' needs.

The growth of purchases by public libraries impacts the attractiveness of their collections. At the same time, it enables a systematic selection without damaging the collections.

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Total collections	139,798.2	138,659.3	138,772.4	139,965.4	139,956.6	138,072.0	136,716.3
in rural areas	56,419.2	56,231.2	55,619.4	55,780.4	55,018.7	54,077.6	52,894.3
%	40.4	40.6	40.1	39.9	39.3	39.2	38.7
Total books	135,764.9	134,627.4	134,455.4	135,498.9	135,262.6	133,248.6	131,616.5
in rural areas	56,352.3	56,166.2	55,558.0	55,710.5	54,943.3	53,994.7	52,785.1
(%)	41.5	41.7	41.3	41.1	40.6	40.5	40.1
Total volumes per 100 population	351	352	352	355	355	349	342
in rural areas	382	383	378	378	370	362	347
Total special collections	4,033.3	4,031.9	4,317.0	4,466.5	4,694.0	4,823.4	5,099.8
in rural areas	67.0	64.9	61.5	69.9	75.4	82.9	109.2
(%)	1.7	1.6	1.4	1.6	1.6	1.7	2.1

TABLE 4. COLLECTIONS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS AND IN %) IN 2000–2012; VOLUMES PER 100 POPULATION*

These collections were supplemented with more than 11 thousand titles of licenced e-books, e-periodicals and databases as well as 479,359 stock items of materials digitised by the libraries.

Licenced electronic collections with paid access in 2012* (in thousands of titles)	11.3
in rural areas	0.3
(%)	2.6

TABLE 5.

PURCHASES

Number of books purchased in 2012: 2,996,206 volumes (in 2011: 2,780,333 volumes; an increase of 215,873 volumes or 7.8%).

Number of other collections purchased in 2012: 127,282 stock units (in 2011: 128,249 stock units).

Total expenditure on library materials in 2012 (purchases + subscriptions + licences): 87,666,909 PLN (in 2011: 79,912,385 PLN; an increase of 7,754,524 PLN or 9.7%).

Expenditure on library collection (in PLN) per 100 persons in 2012: 227.51 PLN (in 2011:

207.36 PLN; an increase of 20.15 PLN).

Expenditure on collections per reader in 2012: 13.55 PLN (in 2011: 12.35 PLN).

Book purchases in volumes per 100 persons in 2012: 7.8 volumes (in 2011: 7.2 volumes; an increase of 0.6).

Expenditure on books in 2012: 73,253,893 PLN (in 2011: 64,622,016 PLN; an increase of 8,631,877 PLN or 13.4%).

Expenditure on book purchases per reader in 2012: 11.32 PLN (in 2011: 9.99 PLN).

In 2003, purchases by public libraries dropped to the lowest level recorded by the Central Statistical Office of Poland – 5.1 volumes per 100 persons. In 2004, this value improved to 6.6 volumes per 100 persons; in 2005 it grew to 9 volumes, and in 2008 to 9.6 volumes. Purchases went down in 2010 (7.1 volumes per 100 persons), and grew back in 2012 to 7.8 volumes.

Excluding purchases from bidding procedures in 2014 will enable better purchase planning throughout the year and a more efficient use of resources, and will allow for making purchases with funds that remain in local government budgets at the end of the year.

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Number of books purchased	2,116.2	1,991.7	2,522.4	3,499.4	3,674.7	2,711.3	2,996.2
in rural areas	774.2	727.2	919.0	1,365.2	1,440.0	1,057.9	1,235.1
Book purchase indicator in volumes per 100 population	5.5	5.2	6.6	9.2	9.6	7.1	7.8
in rural areas	5.2	5.0	6.3	9.3	9.7	7.1	8.1
Number of special collections purchased	71.6	67.4	68.7	82.3	99.2	111.7	116.0
in rural areas	1.6	1.1	4.3	2.3	3.3	5.0	9.8

TABLE 6. COLLECTION PURCHASES (IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) AND THE PURCHASING INDICATOR IN VOLUMES PER 100 PERSONS IN 2000–2012

EXPENDITURE ON COLLECTIONS

In 2000–2012, expenditure on collections increased by more than 36 million PLN (36,019,190 PLN) or by 88.9%. Expenditure in 2012 in comparison with 2011 grew by 8,290.6 thousand PLN (or by 12.1%). A similar increase occurred in expenditure on books (88.3%), while in the case of special collections the increase was more than twofold (103.5%).

For years, the structure of expenditure on purchases has remained similar, with 95.7% of expenditure on book purchases (99.3% in rural areas). Special collections are purchased only occasionally. In 2012, they accounted for 4.3% of total expenditure (in rural libraries 0.7%).

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Total	40,528,914	41,618,815	54,357,204	72,455,176	79,630,248	62,833,182	76,548,104
in rural areas	11,805,446	13,053,577	17,403,368	24,840,689	27,105,085	21,456,984	30,624,519
Books	38,909,060	39,926,760	52,203,164	69,724,382	75,925,326	59,179,588	73,253,893
in rural areas	11,736,602	12,987,493	17,307,304	24,747,831	27,002,526	21,304,814	30,405,135
Special collections	1,619,854	1,692,055	2,154,040	2,730,794	3,704,922	3,653,594	3,294,211
in rural areas	68,844	66,084	96,064	92,858	102,559	152,170	219,384

TABLE 7. EXPENDITURE (IN PLN) ON COLLECTION PURCHASES (BOOKS AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS) IN 2000–2012

The structure of resources assigned for book purchases illustrates the principle that the organiser dominates in contributing to this task. The Ministry of Culture supplements the resources with a restricted subsidy. The indicators for individual years show another dependence – the size of the subsidy from the Ministry impacts the organiser's subsidy.

Year	Sources for book and special collection purchases			
	Organiser		Ministry of Culture and National Heritage	
	In PLN	in %	In PLN	in %
	2004	44,357,204	81.6	10,000,000
2006	43,955,176	60.7	28,500,000	39.3
2008	51,130,248	64.2	28,500,000	35.8
2010	52,833,182	84.1	10,000,000	15.9
2012	56,548,104	73.9	20,000,000	26.1

TABLE 8. SOURCES FOR PURCHASES IN 2004–2012

Apart from the scale of expenditure for purchases, the factor that hinders the growth of library collections is book price. In the analysed period, both expendi-

ture on book purchases per capita and expenditure per reader increased, which could indicate acquiring more resources by libraries. However, the increase in book price of 33% that occurred in the analysed period appeared to be a barrier to an increase in the number of purchases.

Year	Expenditure on book purchases per capita in PLN	Expenditure on book purchases per reader	Average amount spent by libraries on purchasing one book
2000	1.00 PLN	5.26 PLN	18.39 PLN
2002	1.04 PLN	5.31 PLN	20.04 PLN
2004	1.37 PLN	6.95 PLN	20.70 PLN
2006	1.83 PLN	9.93 PLN	19.92 PLN
2008	1.99 PLN	11.63 PLN	20.66 PLN
2010	1.55 PLN	9.10 PLN	21.83 PLN
	urban areas – 1.63 PLN rural areas – 1.43 PLN	urban areas – 7.82 PLN rural areas – 12.85 PLN	urban areas – 22.91 PLN rural areas – 20.14 PLN
2012	1.90 PLN	11.32 PLN	24.45 PLN
	urban areas – 1.84 PLN rural areas – 2.00 PLN	urban areas – 8.86 PLN rural areas – 18.61 PLN	urban areas – 24.33 PLN rural areas – 24.62 PLN

TABLE 9. EXPENDITURE ON BOOK PURCHASES IN 2000–2012

Apart from book and special collection purchases, the analysis of new publication purchases also considers subscriptions to periodicals. The value of periodical subscriptions at public libraries grew up to 2010 to decrease in the next analysed period. It is interesting that despite the increase in purchase value, the number of purchased periodicals was dropping, which may prove that as in the case of books, price is a hindering factor.

Specification	2000	2002	2004	2006	2008	2010	2012
Expenditure on periodical subscriptions (in thousands)	8,914.6	11,405.3	10,742.6	9,935.5	10,668.5	11,195.0	10,207.5
in rural areas	2,394.6	3,262.8	3,066.6	2,723.4	2,830.1	3,367.5	3,083.3

TABLE 10. VALUE OF PERIODICAL SUBSCRIPTIONS (IN THOUSANDS PLN) IN 2000–2012

Since 2011, the statistics of the Central Statistical Office of Poland concerning purchases of public libraries have included items in library resources that have become increasingly important, such as databases and licences. Without them libraries are not fully capable of performing many IT services. Yet in 2012, their value was 911,280 PLN out of a total expenditure on library materials of 87,667,000 PLN (1%).

Specification	2012
Total	911,280
in rural areas	49,871

TABLE 11. EXPENDITURE ON LICENCES (IN PLN)

READERS

Number of registered readers in 2012: 6,469,653 (in 2011: 6,468,123; an increase of 1,530 persons).

Readers per 100 persons in 2012: 16.8 (no change in comparison with 2011).

In 2012 almost every sixth statistical Pole was making use of public library services (16.8%).

Years	Number of readers			Readers per 100 population		
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
2000	7,391,555	5,478,827	1,912,728	19.1	22.9	13.0
2002	7,508,579	5,573,761	1,934,818	19.6	23.6	13.2
2004	7,508,511	5,582,170	1,926,341	19.7	23.8	13.1
2006	7,023,259	5,187,835	1,835,424	18.4	22.2	12.4
2008	6,529,954	4,822,816	1,707,138	17.1	20.7	11.5
2010	6,501,933	4,843,948	1,657,985	17.0	20.8	11.1
2012	6,469,653	4,835,792	1,633,861	16.8	20.7	10.8

TABLE 12. READERS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2000–2012; IN URBAN VS. RURAL AREAS PERSONS IN 2000–2012

The user structure in public libraries is changing. In 2012, the percentage of young readers continued to decrease. Readers up to 24 years in age accounted for

50.9% of total readers, while in 2000 they accounted for more than 70%, and in 2002, 68.1%. In contrast, the percentage of older readers increased. In 2012 readers older than 24 years accounted for 49.1%. The largest increases were in the groups 25–44 years (in 2002: 19%, in 2012: 26.7%) and above 60 years (4.3% and 8.6% respectively).

Readers in % of the total		
Years	Up to 24 years	More than 24 years
2000	70.3	29.7
2007	60.4	39.5
2008	58.7	41.3
2009	56.9	43.1
2010	54.9	45.1
2011	52.9	47.1
2012	50.9	49.1

TABLE 13. STRUCTURE OF READERS BY AGE

In the group of the youngest public library readers of up to 15 years, the dominant group is children of 6 to 12 years (13.5%). The group of 13 to 15 years accounts for 8.9%, and the youngest – up to 5 years – for 2.4%.

Total number of readers in 2012	Structure of readers of up to 15 years		
	Up to 5 years	6–12 years	13–15 years
6,469,653	156,408	875,806	577,972
%	2.4%	13.5%	8.9%

TABLE 14. STRUCTURE OF READERS OF UP TO 15 YEARS

The detailed data concerning readers among the youngest users of public libraries (in groups of up to 5 years, 6–12, and 13–15 years), collected for the first time in 2012, illustrate an interesting fact. Despite an observed decrease in the use of public libraries by children and young people of up to 15 years, a wider impact becomes noticeable. If we compare the number of readers in the three youngest age categories with the total population of Poland in these

age groups we would see that 48.9% of young people of 13–15 years, 34.2% of 6–12 years, and 6.4% of up to 5 years use public libraries. While the youngest use public libraries only occasionally, the primary school students are frequent users (every third student), and the secondary school students are even more frequent (every second student). Not only does the level of public library usage by the youngest change, but also their expectations, because young readers use Internet resources more and more often. Though the indicators may not be fully satisfactory, one should remember that children and young people of this age are primarily users of school libraries.

The continuing upward trend in the share of readers of more than 24 years in the total number of readers results primarily from demographic changes in Polish society. It is aided by a sustained demographic decline and a natural process of society ageing (according to the Central Statistical Office of Poland, 17.8% of the Polish population in 2012 were people of 60 years or more²⁰). The number of people 45–60 years and above 60 years in comparison with the total population of Poland has increased (in 2002: 21.2% and 16.2%; in 2012: 22.3% and 19.4% respectively).

An important role driving the population of public library readers is also played by the growing educational aspirations of the society and a noticeable shift of the learning period to older ages (as a result of increasing learning opportunities), as well as the necessity of repeated retraining during professional careers. These processes impact the number of public library users of 25–44 years (with an increase from 13.3% in 2002 to 14.7% in 2012).

However, none of the discussed factors have an impact on the fact that almost 3/4 of public library readers are residents of urban areas (in 1999: 73.3%, and in 2012: 74%).

COMPUTERISATION OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Percentage of libraries using computers in 2012: 90.2% (in 2011: 88.1%).

Percentage of libraries offering computers with Internet access to readers in 2012: 82.1% (in 2011: 79.4%).

Number of computers per library in 2012: 5 (in 2011: 4.7).

Status and equipment

At the end of 2012, 7,384 out of 8,182 public libraries and branches were equipped with computers (90.2%)²¹. In urban areas computers were in use in

20 "Population in Poland. Size and Structure by Territorial Division. As of June 30, 2012". [document in electronic format]. http://stat.gov.pl/cps/rde/xbcr/gus/L_ludnosc_stan_struktura_30062012.pdf [accessed: 2 July 2014].

21 Since 2004, when the Central Statistical Office of Poland began a systematic monitoring of library computerisation, there was a jump in implementing information technologies (in this period the percentage of libraries equipped with computers increased from 34.5% to 90.2%).

94.9% of libraries (an increase of more than twofold in comparison with 2004). In rural areas the increase was more than threefold (from 26.6% to 87.8%). Computers are owned and used primarily by the main libraries, i.e. 2,586 out of 2,610 libraries operating in 2012 (99.1%). Library branches are far less computerised (4,798 out of 5,572) – only at a level of 86.1%. In 2004 it was only 1/5 of the operating branches.

Years	Percentage of libraries and branches equipped with computers				
	Total	Urban vs. rural areas		Libraries vs. branches	
		Urban areas	Rural areas	Library	Branches
	2004	34.5	50.0	26.6	68.4
2008	67.2	81.5	59.7	94.9	54.7
2010	83.3	91.6	79.0	98.6	76.3
2011	88.1	93.5	85.3	99.0	83.1
2012	90.2	94.9	87.8	99.1	86.1

TABLE 15. PERCENTAGE AND SIZE OF LIBRARIES AND BRANCHES EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTERS

In the past year, equipment was installed mainly in rural libraries and library branches that are still limited in terms of equipment resources. One can presume that non-computerised libraries are the weakest links in the public library network that failed to make the effort of modernisation due to financial, staff-related or attitudinal reasons.

Years	Number of computers per library				
	Total	Urban vs. rural areas		Libraries vs. branches	
		Urban areas	Rural areas	Library	Branches
	2004	1.5	3.1	0.7	3.8
2008	3.5	6.4	1.9	7.7	1.6
2010	4.2	7.6	2.5	8.7	2.1
2011	4.7	8.3	2.9	9.5	2.5
2012	5.0	8.7	3.1	9.9	2.7

TABLE 16. NUMBER OF COMPUTERS PER LIBRARY

Access to the Internet

For the majority of users, computers in libraries serve as network access terminals, which is validated by the reports created for the Library Development Programme²². For them, access to the Internet is an alternative to a traditional book collection (factors that drive its attractiveness include: relevance of the sources, speed, ease of searching), but also to behaviours associated with social, professional or personal activity. It is used for communication (electronic mail; communicators such as GG, Skype; social media such as Facebook, Twitter), education and learning (access to information; e-learning) as well as entertainment and leisure (computer games), developing hobbies, and participating in culture²³. Libraries should be obvious places for a common and free-of-charge access to Internet.

Percentage of libraries and branches with Internet access					
Years	Urban vs. rural areas		Libraries vs. branches		
	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas	Library	Branches
		2004	NA*	NA	NA
2008	59.8	75.8	51.3	92.1	45.2
2010	79.0	89.4	73.6	97.2	70.7
2011	85.9	92.3	82.6	98.5	80.1
2012	88.3	NA	NA	98.4	83.5

* For 2004 we have information regarding the number of computers with Internet access (72.4% of the total)

TABLE 17. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND BRANCHES WITH INTERNET ACCESS

- 22 “Co robimy na komputerach w bibliotece i co z tego mamy?” [access mode]: http://www.biblioteki.org/repository/PLIKI/DOKUMENTY/RAPORTY/09_co_robimy_na_komputerach_w_bibliotece_raport_PRB.pdf; “Po co Polakom biblioteki? Raport po trzech latach działania Programu Rozwoju Bibliotek” [access mode]: http://www.biblioteki.org/repository/PLIKI/DOKUMENTY/RAPORTY/RAPORT_PO_CO_POLAKOM_BIBLIOTEKI_www.pdf.
- 23 According to the report from the European survey measuring the perceptions of users of public libraries participating in library support programmes financed by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Poland (with Portugal and Bulgaria) was included in one of five groups of public library users whose perception of Internet-related services was exceptionally high, despite a low usage of Internet in libraries. Asked for the most important reasons for using computers and Internet in libraries, the Library Development Programme public library users of computers and Internet who participated in the 2012 survey named the following (in order of significance): free-of-charge access, lack of an alternative access to computers, faster Internet access than at home or at work, opportunity to work or socialise with friends or other people, assistance from library staff, and better equipment and software than at home or at work. Quick, Prior, Toombs, Taylor, and Currenti. “Cross-European survey to measure users’ perceptions of the benefits of ICT in public libraries”. Final report, March 2013.

* For 2004 we have information regarding the number of computers with Internet access (72.4% of the total).

In 2012, 7,223 libraries and branches had Internet access (88.3% of all libraries). 6,715 (82.1%) of libraries offered readers the use of computers connected to Internet. In 2012, access to the Internet was available primarily in main libraries – 2,569 (98.4%), with 2,461 libraries offering it to readers (94.3%). The situation was less optimistic in library branches, of which 4,654 (83.5%) had Internet connections and 4,254 (76.3%) had computers connected to the Internet and available to readers.

Percentage of libraries and branches with Internet access available to readers						
Years	Urban vs. rural areas		Libraries vs. branches			
	Total			Library		Branches
		Urban areas	Rural areas			
2004	NA*	NA	NA	NA	NA	
2008	54.5	68.8	47.1	87.9	39.6	
2010	72.7	82.4	67.7	93.2	63.4	
2011	79.4	84.8	76.6	94.1	72.7	
2012	82.1	NA	NA	94.3	76.3	

* For 2004 we have information regarding the number of computers with Internet access (52.4% available to readers).

TABLE 18. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND BRANCHES WITH INTERNET ACCESS AVAILABLE TO READERS

* For 2004 we have information regarding the number of computers with Internet access (52.4% available to readers).

In 2012, 46.3% of public libraries used a fast Internet connection. In urban areas, broadband Internet access was offered by 61.9% of libraries, while in rural areas by 38.2%. The use of broadband Internet access resulted from programmes supporting the internetisation of public libraries, e.g. Orange (TP SA). The use of wireless Internet and access to Internet socket was available to public library users at a similar level both in urban and rural areas.

Specification	Percentage of libraries providing:			
	Connection for user's own computer	Access to Internet socket	Use of wireless Internet	Use of broadband Internet
Total	41.8	22.4	38.7	46.3
Urban areas	47.5	18.3	34.0	61.9
Rural areas	38.9	24.4	41.0	38.2

TABLE 19. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES PROVIDING ACCESS TO WIRELESS INTERNET AND INTERNET SOCKET – 2012

Automation of library processes

The automation of library processes is connected with the implementation of library computer software enabling the development of electronic services, i.e. introducing on-line catalogues, remote account management by library users (including checking account status, placing orders, reserving library materials for loans, etc.). In 2004, 1/3 of libraries and branches were using some library software, while in 2012 it was 57.8% of all libraries or 64% of libraries equipped with computers. In urban areas, this indicator was at a level of 79.8% (84% of libraries equipped with computers), while in rural areas, 46.4% (52.8% of libraries equipped with computers).

Public libraries primarily use SOWA and MAK computer software.

Years	Percentage of libraries and branches using computer software				
	Total	Urban vs. rural areas		Libraries vs. branches	
		Urban areas	Rural areas	Library	Branches
2004	34.5	50.0	26.6	NA	NA
2008	39.8	62.8	27.7	NA	NA
2010	47.7	72.7	35.0	NA	NA
2011	52.9	76.2	41.0	74.8	42.9
2012	57.8	79.8	46.4	77.5	48.5

TABLE 20. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND BRANCHES USING COMPUTER SOFTWARE

Data from the Central Statistical Office of Poland regarding the scope of e-services introduced by public libraries reflect a low level of implementation of individual library computer software modules. Out of 8,182 libraries and branches

registered in 2012, 4,060 (49.6%) calculated the percentage of computerisation of their collections, and 1,621 of them (19.8%) estimated it at a level of 76–100%. On-line catalogues were used by 36.5% of public libraries, including 68.2% of libraries and branches in urban areas and 20.1% in rural areas. Libraries offering the remote reservation of library materials accounted for 15.9% of the total (in urban areas, 33.3%; in rural areas, 6.8%). Availability of services such as ordering books and other collections or extending the return dates on-line was at a similar level.

Percentage of libraries and library branches offering			
Specification	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
On-line catalogue	36.5	68.2	20.1
Remote ordering of library materials	15.4	30.0	7.8
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	15.9	33.3	6.8
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	14.0	28.5	6.5
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	16.8	35.2	7.2

TABLE 21. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY BRANCHES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Of the remaining e-services, only interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms) and social media profiles were available in approximately 15–20% of libraries. Other services were only introduced.

Percentage of libraries and library branches offering			
Specification	Total	Urban areas	Rural areas
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	7.7	14.8	4.0
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	15.3	16.6	14.7
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	11.2	15.4	9.0

Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	10.8	19.6	6.2
Librarian inquiry forms	8.4	16.8	4.0
Discussion forums, guest books	5.0	8.2	3.3
Social media profiles	18.5	27.7	13.7

TABLE 22. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY BRANCHES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Public libraries play an increasingly large role in creating (or co-creating) digital libraries and databases; however, this is the domain of provincial libraries and cooperating district libraries. In 2012, they introduced to normal library use 136,463 digitalised documents.

Libraries participating in creating (or co-creating):		
percentage of the total number of main librar-ies	databases	46.6
	digital libraries	3.5
number of	databases	393,998
	objects included in a given year (for digital libraries)	136,463

TABLE 23. LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN CREATING (OR CO-CREATING) DIGITAL LIBRARIES – 2012

The titles digitised and lent through digital libraries by public libraries are mainly regional titles, which are often the only copies in domestic collections. They include leaflets, periodicals and regional newspapers, old prints, archival materials, maps, chronicles, graphics, photograms, photographs, postcards, documents concerning music, teaching and educational materials, doctoral dissertations concerning a given region, etc. The majority of digital libraries created by public libraries have only begun the development of their digital collections.

In 2012, almost half of main libraries (46.6%) created databases and 3.5% of libraries created or co-created a digital library. Since creating digital platforms usually exceeds the financial, organisational and technical capabilities of a single institution, the majority of digital libraries are endeavours undertaken by numerous libraries of various networks, museums and institutions joined in consortia. The

central digital library in the country is CBN Polona, a portal that lends collections of the National Library through the Internet, opens the treasury and stocks of the National Library to readers universally, and presents collections of other cultural institutions. A substantial portion of libraries in Poland collaborate in creating the “Digital Libraries Federation”, one virtual (distributed) library drawing together both institutional and provincial digital libraries. Currently, almost every province in the country has its digital library equivalent. Among the first initiatives were Wielkopolska (Greater Poland) Digital Library operating since 2002, as well as Kujawsko-Pomorska (Kuyavian-Pomeranian) Digital Library and Digital Library of Zielona Góra operating since 2005. In the following years, the next digital libraries that were established included: Małopolska (Lesser Poland) Digital Library, Podlaska Digital Library, Śląska (Silesian) Digital Library, Mazowiecka (Mazovian) Digital Library, Świętokrzyska Digital Library, Digital Library of the Province of Łódź, Podkarpacka (Subcarpathian) Digital Library, Bałtycka (Baltic) Digital Library, Zachodniopomorska (West Pomeranian) Digital Library “Pomerania”, Digital Library of Opole, and Digital Lower Silesia. There are also independent projects of public network libraries, often financed from external sources (such as the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage), and their collections are of a local nature. They include: Digital Library of Biała Podlaska, Digital Library of Książnica Stargardzka, Digital Library of Kolbuszowa, Digital Library of Nowa Huta, Digital Library of Sanok, Digital Library of Elbląg, Digital Library of Radom, Digital Library of the Land of Sieradz, Digital Library of Chełm, Digital Library of Iława, Digital Library of Inowrocław, Digital Library of Kędzierzyn-Koźle, Digital Library of Krosno, Digital Library of Płock, Digital Library of Tarnobrzeg, Digital Library of Tarnów, Digital Library of Gdańsk, and Digital Library of the Provincial Public Library in Lublin.

Since 2011, as part of these activities, public libraries have undertaken such projects as Digital Archives of Local Tradition²⁴, aimed at saving historical resources and establishing archives of local history. This requires dealing with acquisition, collection, and digitalisation of source materials (daily newspapers, memoirs, letters, chronicles, photographs, personal documents, recordings of history witnesses) and lending them in libraries. To date, 60 libraries have participated in the project, resulting in more than 6 thousand digitised and published archival materials. In 2012, an additional 50 libraries joined the programme²⁵.

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARIES AND THEIR SERVICES

Every year, around 1% of libraries are prevented from providing services to users, thus decreasing the availability of library services. The reasons are different, including refurbishments, or problems with property or staff. When the problems

24 Undertaken by the KARTA Centre Foundation as part of the Library Development Programme.

25 http://www.archiwa.org/as_aktualnosci.php?aktualnosc=3.

are resolved, the majority of libraries return to the network, though there are cases where libraries are closed down or are inactive for several years. In 2012, there were 100 of such libraries (1.2% of the total).

More than half of public libraries and their branches in 2012 were open for 5 days a week (55.6%), almost 15% (14.6%) for 6 days, and for one out of every five (17.4%) a working week was three days or less (including 1.3% of libraries operating for one day a week). Almost 1/4 of libraries operate on Saturdays (23.8% or 1,926) and 0.6% on Sundays (47).

In 2012, public libraries were available to readers for 4.6 days on average during a normal working week, and the average number of opening hours was 32 hours a week, including 6 hours after 4 pm. The largest number of libraries (38.1%) were open from 31 to 40 hours a week, 25.8% operated for up to 20 hours a week (including 3% for up to 10 hours), and 2.3% were open for more than 60 hours a week.

Specification	Libraries and branches – total, active	Weekly number of open hours						
		1-10 hours	11-20 hours	21-30 hours	31-40 hours	41-50 hours	51-60 hours	more than 60 hours
Total %	8,082	245 3.0%	1,839 22.8%	1,328 16.4%	3,079 38.1%	1,043 12.9%	363 4.5%	185 2.3%
Urban areas %	2,766	13 0.5%	160 5.8%	472 17.1%	1,151 41.6%	664 24.0%	225 8.1%	81 2.9%
Rural areas %	5,316	232 4.4%	1,679 31.6%	856 16.1%	1,928 36.3%	379 7.1%	138 2.6%	104 2.0%

TABLE 24. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OPENING HOURS OF PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2012

The availability of libraries to persons with mobility dysfunction substantially increased. In 2012, more than 1/3 of library premises (33.1%; in urban areas, 43.8%; in rural areas, 27.6%) were adapted to the special needs of users. 31.6% of libraries had access ramps for persons using wheelchairs (in urban areas, 41.9%; in rural areas, 26.3%). 17.2% of libraries had special arrangements inside a building (in urban areas almost 1/4 or 24.5%; in rural areas, 13.4%).

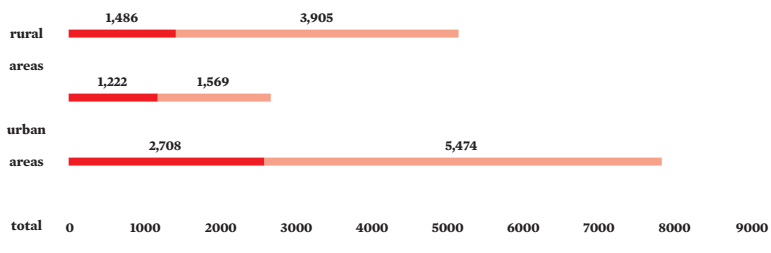


CHART 3. LIBRARY FACILITIES/PREMISES ADAPTED TO THE NEEDS OF DISABLED PERSONS

■ adapted ■ non adapted

Special facilities for the blind and for partially blind persons were available in 2.3% of libraries operating in 2012.

LIBRARY STAFF

Core professional staff in 2012: 17,964 persons (in 2011: 18,158 persons – a decrease of 194).

Percentage of core professional staff with library background in 2012: 71.5% (in 2011: 71.1%).

Percentage of core professional staff with higher library education in 2012: 41.9% (in 2011: 40.8%).

In 2012, public libraries employed 23,348 persons, including almost 18 thousand core professional staff and more than 5 thousand administrative, technical and maintenance staff. 1/3 of the staff was employed in rural libraries (32.6% of the total and 35.2% of the core professional staff).

76.3% of the core professional staff was employed on a full-time basis, including almost 90% (89.9%) in urban areas and only half (51.2%) in rural areas. Communal libraries are often run by one person and their branches employ staff on a part-time basis.

The average staffing level in a public library in Poland was 2.2 core professional staff (in urban areas it was 4.2, while in rural areas it was 1.2).

At the beginning of 1990s, public library staff with a library background accounted for less than half of the total (47%). In 2012, the percentage thereof exceeded 2/3 of the total (71.5%), including 41.9% of librarians with a higher professional education (including bachelor's degree). However, the significant improvement in professional competencies was mainly driven by urban libraries (76.3%). In rural libraries, staff with a library education accounted for 62.9% of the total. 29.2%

of them had a higher library education, while 33.7% had a secondary professional background. It is worth mentioning that almost 28.5% of librarians still have no professional education (23.7% in urban areas and 37.1% in rural areas).

Specification	Core professional staff							
	at librarian positions							
	with library education							
	higher							
	total	total	total	total	including a bachelor's degree	secondary	other positions	Administrative, technical, and maintenance staff
Total	23,348	17,964	16,160	7,528	1,110	5,324	1,804	5,384
Urban areas	15,741	11,634	10,500	5,681	664	3,190	1,134	4,107
Rural areas	7,607	6,330	5,660	1,847	446	2,134	670	1,277

TABLE 25. STAFF EMPLOYED IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2012

In 2012, public library staff (regardless of their position) participated in professional development activities 31,255 times (devoting 366,036 hours to these activities). Throughout the year, the average public library employee took part in more than one (1.3) professional development activity and devoted 15.7 hours to that activity.

LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE

**Usable floor space in 2012: 1,014,603 m² (in 2011: 1,097,444 m²) – a decrease of 82,841 m².
Seats for readers in 2012: 113,706 (in 2011: 113,124 – an increase of 582).**

The vast majority of libraries in Poland (88.8%) conduct their business in premises located in buildings shared with other institutions. The remaining 11.2% operate in independent facilities. In 2012, public libraries had 1,014,603 m² of floor space. On average, a library had approximately 124 m² (in urban areas 233.2 m²; in rural areas more than three times less, 67.5 m²).

Public libraries in 2012 had 113,706 seats for readers (56,994 in urban areas and 56,712 in rural areas). Less than 2% (1.7) of them were adapted for the needs of disabled users (2.1% in urban areas and 1.3% in rural areas).

2010				2012			
Usable floor space (in m2)		Seats for using collections		Usable floor space (in m2)		Seats for using collections	
Total	Rural areas	Total	Rural areas	Total	Rural areas	Total	Rural areas
987,928	356,077	110,416	56083	1,014,603	363,765	113,706	56,712

TABLE 26. USABLE FLOOR SPACE AND SEATS FOR USING COLLECTIONS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2010 AND 2012

COLLECTION USAGE

Out-of-library loans (of book and special collections): 125,721,945 stock units (an increase of 1,663,647); out-of-library loans per 100 persons in 2012: 326 stock units (in 2011: 322 stock units).

In-house loans: 24,760,003 stock units (a decrease of 1,376,495); in-house loans per 100 persons in 2012: 64 stock units (in 2011: 68 stock units).

A primary form of usage in public libraries is out-of-library loans. In 2012, they accounted for more than 83.5% of the total collection usage (82.6% in 2011), while in-house loans accounted for only for 16.5% (17.4% in 2011). (In recent years, the number of the latter has substantially decreased).

Public library users look mainly for printed books – 86.5% of total loans, i.e. both out-of-library and in-house (85.9% in 2011) – and periodicals (10.6%; in 2011, 11.3%). The remaining 2.9% of loans concerned other collections (and at the same level in 2011), including audio-video materials (2.3%; in 2011, 2.1%); and electronic documents (0.3%, with no change in comparison to 2011).

Total collection usage in 2012 increased slightly in comparison with the previous year. Almost 150.5 million stock units (287,152 stock units more than in the previous year, or 0.2%) of book and special collections were lent (both out-of-library and in-house).

Collection usage in 2012	Out-of-library loans total (stock units) and in %	In-house loans total (stock units) and in %
Total	125,721,945	24,760,003

Books	117,918,374	12,189,847
%	93.8	49.2
Periodicals	4,093,242	11,926,718
%	3.3	48.2
Other non-electronic collections	3,450,015	420,654
%	2.7	1.7
Electronic collections on physical media	260,314	222,784
%	0.2	0.9

TABLE 27. COLLECTION USAGE IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN 2012

Books accounted for almost 94% of all out-of-library loans, while periodicals and other non-electronic collections made up 3% each. In 2012, public libraries lent 125.7 million stock units of collections (124.1 million stock units in 2011, an increase of 1,663,647 stock units or 1.3%).

In the case of in-house loans, library collections – specifically books and periodicals – were used at a similar level (49.2% and 48.2% respectively). The remaining collections accounted for less than 3% of total in-house loans. In 2012, public libraries lent 24.8 million stock units in-house (26.1 million stock units in 2011 – a decrease of 1,376,495 stock units or 5.3%).

PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY

Public libraries conduct extensive promotional activity aimed at promoting reading and books as well as other sources of information, and at propagating knowledge, in particular associated with a given region. They organise various literary meetings, educational activities, exhibitions, etc. In 2012, they prepared more than 396.6 thousand events for almost 6.8 million participants. Half were of an educational nature (49%), 1/5 were literary meetings, and more than one in every ten were exhibitions.

An important part of public library operations are training courses for their users (such as library lessons). In 2012, more than 825.6 library users participated in 53.7 thousand training courses. There were more than 4 thousand training courses for 23 thousand library science students and librarians from other libraries.

Public libraries also organised 800 conferences and seminars for 32.7 thousand librarians.

In 2012, public libraries published 826 titles, including 610 monographic publications and 216 serial publications (178 of them are electronic publications). The majority of public library publications are associated with a given region.

SUMMARY

After years of obvious decline in public library operations, resulting from factors such as: changes in the social, cultural and technological environment of the libraries; transformations in network structures; a new approach to library management and financing; new principles of cooperation within the network (independence at individual levels), public libraries have experienced some positive changes in their operations concerning:

the condition of libraries

book collections have been reconstructed: during the last two years book purchases (in volumes) increased by 7.8%, and the value of purchases increased by 13.4%;

after a nine-year decrease, out-of-library loans increased by more than 1% (by 1,609,632 volumes), and taking all types of collections into consideration, out-of-library loans increased by 1.3%;

after a nine-year systematic decrease of the reach of institutional reading the negative trend has ended; in 2012 one in every six Polish citizens (16.8%) is a public library user;

public libraries have become modern institutions: their level of computerisation has reached 100%;

public libraries have responded to the needs of increasingly large number of users: 1/3 of the premises are accessible (adapted) to persons with mobility dysfunctions;

the modernisation of libraries has been furthered by their staff, 2/3 of whom have professional qualifications.

the activity and cooperation of libraries within their environment

A new stage in library development is associated with contributions from many entities. Libraries can participate in numerous projects including:

– **Culture+ Multiannual Programme** – the goal of this programme is to modernise and develop library infrastructures and to digitalise the resources of Polish museums, libraries and archives following two priorities:

– “Library+. Library infrastructure”, managed by the Book Institute (aimed at supporting refurbishing, rebuilding, extending and constructing library premises);

– “Digitisation”, managed by the National Audio-visual Institute (aimed at extending and simplifying access to digital resources of the Polish cultural heritage through digitisation of the collections and expansion of digitisation laboratories).

The efforts towards development of MAK+ central computer system are continuing. This enables managing library collections, sharing information on collections and loans between libraries, and remote access to information through the Internet. Other activities are continuing include providing support to library computerisation and internetisation, and developing new competencies of librarians (activities undertaken by the Book Institute).

– **Purchasing new books for libraries** – this programme, conducted by the National Library since 2005, is aimed at all public libraries;

– **Library Development Programme of the Information Society Development Foundation**, aiming at increasing the capabilities of public libraries in rural areas and small towns (with populations of up to 20 thousand) through facilitating access to computers, the Internet, and acquiring new competencies (in the form of widely available training courses). The programme was started in 2009. To date, 3333 libraries have participated in two editions of the programme.

An example of the collaboration of government institutions, NGOs and the private sector supporting public libraries is the programme called “**Libraries with TP Internet**”, aiming at internetisation and the development of e-society in Poland. The agreement results from the activities for library internetisation conducted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Book Institute – a contractor for the multi-year government programme Biblioteka+ (“Library+”) – and the Information Society Development Foundation, which conducts the Library Development Programme. According to the agreement, Orange (formerly TP SA) provides the connection of communal public libraries to broadband Internet without charging the installation, activation and rental fees during the period of the agreement.

Since 2014, support from the government has become more systematic through various library-dedicated projects within the National Programme for Readership Development 2014–2020, with a budget of 1 billion PLN (including 650 million PLN from the State budget and 350 million PLN from local governments).

The improvement in library usage after nine years of decline was also driven by media activities targeted at various groups of readers and non-readers. Popular newspapers, weekly magazines, TV and radio stations introduced book-related topics, and the problems of readership and libraries became a subject of public debate.

PROBLEMS:

– **sharing on-line catalogues** – library computerisation is a fait accompli: however, this solves only the technical aspect of the problem. Libraries do not implement library software, thus inhibiting the introduction of new technologies and Internet-based services such as a basic access to on-line catalogues. One of the reasons for this situation is that library support programmes target equipment acquisition while neglecting the implementation of new technologies by libraries (such as library software) and the organisation of training for librarians aiming at the development of their digital competencies;

– the lack of a universal implementation of new technologies inhibits the col-

laboration of libraries within provinces or districts, for example in the form of consortia for the interlibrary loans of e-books (fiction, popular science literature, scientific books, computer game guides) and periodicals based on discount licensing. In three provinces, public library consortia were not established due to the low level of library computerisation and excessively high licence fees for the other libraries that were in an obvious minority. This system of library collaboration has developed in the other provinces, though at various levels of involvement. Due to increasingly high fees for licenced resources, such an approach is the only proven solution, for example, in the case of scientific libraries. There are other associated problems that need to be resolved: the licence is valid only for a one-year period, some mobile devices are incompatible, reader login systems are complicated, publishers fail to provide competitive offers (it being a small market), etc.;

- **collections** – the offering of books for special groups of readers shrinks. To date, the most popular series has been “Large Letters”. Another issue is the relatively limited range of titles and subjects of the publications, usually they are classic titles;

- **periodicals** – the decrease in purchases of periodicals by public libraries is intensifying. This is detrimental both in terms of developing the cultural competencies of the Polish people and the presentation of the periodicals market to potential readers. It results from the lack of programmes supporting such purchases, and the inability to purchase on-line access due to ITC limitations in libraries;

- **premises** – libraries included in infrastructural modernisation programmes do change; however, this group is too small. Libraries operating in small communities have comprehensive responsibilities associated with their community role, which requires appropriate and attractive premises. Yet, the majority of small libraries cannot take advantage of financing because they fail to provide an adequate contribution of their own to the programme. Librarians are making an appeal for aligning their own contribution to projects with the size and capabilities of a given community;

- **professional development system** – the professional development of librarians should be organised as a system enabling the continuous improvement of knowledge and qualifications, closely connected with promotions. It is a serious problem considering the deregulation of the librarian profession;

- **collaboration and professional support within the network** – the decentralisation of libraries has resulted in loosened relationships between libraries of different levels, with a failure to meet objectives at the district level. The issue of libraries that can be incorporated into the structures of other cultural institutions as a result of the amended act on the organisation and operation of cultural activity has not been resolved. Other unresolved issues include a content-related supervision by the provincial and district public libraries over community centres, and monitoring activities for readership development of an incorporated library.

Budget per reader	191.03 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	11.32 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	20.3 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.5 volumes
Number of readers per employee	360
Library floor space per reader	0.2 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	23.3 stock units
Visits per user	9.6
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	8,376.9 stock units
Collection per library	16,086 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	32 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	6 hours
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	52%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	36.5%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	15.4%
Number of computers per library	5.0

TABLE 28. INDICATORS – PUBLIC LIBRARIES – 8,182

2. SCHOOL LIBRARIES

GOALS AND TASKS

Apart from the traditional tasks performed by libraries, school libraries' specific tasks defined in the policies of the Ministry of National Education include:

- stimulating an interest in reading and information in students;
- preparing students for self-learning; activities prepare training students on how to use various information sources and other libraries;
- developing their reading culture and fulfilling their cultural needs;
- additionally:
 - the new curriculum of general education assumes that a well-equipped school library with an updated collection will support all the goals identified in the curriculum, which means that:
 - a school library, as an integral part thereof, complements its teaching and educational process. All activities undertaken in a school should be reflected in its library collections and should be supported by a teacher-librarian.

REPORT CONTENT

This report was prepared based on data from the Educational Information System as of 30 September 2012²⁶ and presents:

- the number of school libraries and the internal structure thereof;
- the number of library rooms and their floor space;
- the size of collections, with a limited category of special collections (audio-books and other teaching materials recorded on audio/video cassettes and electronic media) and the number of daily newspaper and magazine subscriptions;
- the number of school library computers available to students (with Internet access and with broadband access);
- the number of teacher-librarians.

The description of school libraries (in schools for children and youths, schools for adults, and schools for the arts) will contain only basic, high-level data.

ALL DETAILED ANALYSIS CONCERNS SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN
SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS.

The following report is the first attempt in many years to describe the available data concerning school libraries²⁷.

- The report specifies data concerning the number of school libraries:
 - for schools with their own library (this is the actual number of school libraries);
 - for schools where students have access to a library;
 - in the case of joint schools with one school library, the Educational Information System classifies only one of the schools as a school with its own library and the remaining schools as schools with library access. The choice of the school designated as a school with its own library is made by the director of a given institution.

Information about school libraries is combined with data on the number of schools and students in Poland.

26 Data used to prepare this report are from the current Educational Information System that does not include: number of school library users (students, teachers, etc.); number of loans (interlibrary and in-house); collection structure (with categories such as: Polish literature; required readings; popular science literature; textbooks); level of new book purchases and sources of financing thereof (educational subsidy; donations); size and structure of losses; school library working hours; number of seats in reading rooms; number of Internet Multimedia Information Centres located in school libraries. Availability of such data will change upon completion of efforts on the new version of the Educational Information System (from 2017). It is planned that the new system will provide such statistics as: users classified into age groups, and comprehensive collection structure. The other data concerning school libraries (apart from stock data) are included in school library statistics and are sent to the governing authorities thereof. Thus, they do not need to be generated. However, they are not collected nationwide for analytical purposes.

27 The three previous reports are: Raport o stanie bibliotek resortu Oświaty i Wychowania. Ministry of Education, Department for Organisation of Educational Research and Forecasts, Library and Information Board. 1977/78; Stan bibliotek resortu Oświaty i Wychowania w 1986 r. i ich zadania na lata 1987-1990. Ministry of Education, Department for Organisation of Pedagogical Research and Information, Warsaw, March 1987; E. Piotrowska, S. Rosiek (ed.) Raport o sytuacji książki w Gdańsku. Biblioteki i czytelnictwo 2010-2011. Fundacja Terytoria Książki, electronic document: www.gdansk.pl_46247.pdf (fragments regarding school libraries).

Occasionally, teacher-librarians automatically report the number of students in a school as the number of the school library users. They explain that even if a student does not borrow books for home use, he or she has an opportunity to use the library during breaks or classes conducted therein. The guidelines for effective operations of school libraries clearly emphasise the need to achieve their 100-percent coverage among students. However, at least one loan in a semester should decide if a student is a school library reader²⁸.

The legal status of school libraries and teacher-librarians is governed by education and library regulations²⁹ (see page 8 of the Report). The other regulations include:

1. *The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 21 May 2001, on framework statutes of a public playschool and a public school.* Paragraph 10 of the Appendices No. 2, 3, 4, 5, 5a and 5b to this Regulation includes provisions regarding a detailed definition of a school library organisation and responsibilities of a teacher-librarian in a school statute, in accordance with the needs of a given school.

2. *The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 28 February 2013 on detailed guidelines for public pedagogical library operations* introduced a provision defining the responsibilities of the pedagogical libraries “to include the organisation of school libraries and providing support thereto including the organisation and management of a school library”.

STATE AND AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN POLAND – AGGREGATED DATA

- total number of school libraries: 20,363 in schools for children and youths, schools for adults, and schools for the arts;
- number of schools: 34,27030;
- number of books in school libraries: 153,138,659 volumes;
- number of students in schools with their own library and schools with library access: 4,689,182;
- number of acting teacher-librarians: 22,397;
- average number of books per school library: 7,520.4 volumes;
- average number of students per school library: 230.3;
- average number of rooms per library: 1.3;
- average floor space per library: 51 m²;
- average number of daily newspaper and magazine subscriptions per library: 4.5;

28 B. Staniów. *Biblioteka szkolna dzisiaj*, SBP, Warsaw 2012, p. 209.

29 Podstawy funkcjonowania bibliotek szkolnych Ministry of National Education, Department of General Education and Learning, 18 March 2012, unpublished material.

30 Excluding schools in health care institutions.

- average number of computers used by students per library: 2.9;
- average number of computers with Internet access per library: 2.8;
- average number of computers with broadband Internet access per library: 1.9.

In the 2012/2013 school year in Poland, there were 34,270 schools including 20,363 schools with their own library (59.4%), 7,975 schools with library access (23.3%), and 5,932 schools without their own library and without library access (17.3%).

Schools by student categories	Total number of schools	Schools with own library/library access				Schools without their own library or library access		
		Total (sum of columns 3 and 5)	Number of school libraries (or schools with their own library)		Only with library access		number	%
			number	%	number	%		
Total*	34,270	28,338	20,363	59.4	7,975	23.3	5,932	17.3
Schools for children and youths	28,107	26,057	19,713	70.1	6,344	22.6	2,050	7.3
Schools for adults	6,042	2,175	594	9.8	1,581	26.2	3,867	64.0
General education schools for the arts	121	106	56	46.3	50	41.3	15	12.4

Source of data: Ministry of National Education, Department for Forecasts and Analysis.

* excluding schools in health care institutions

TABLE 29. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS: WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN: SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS; SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS; AND SCHOOLS FOR THE ARTS

The lack of a school library or library access concerns mainly schools for adults (3,867 or 64%) and thus hinders access to books to a group of 412,867 students thereof (73.5%).

In schools for children and youths, the lack of a school library or library access affects 2,050 schools (7.3% of the total) and 153,325 students (3.3% of the total). In all school categories, the problem of a hindered contact with books and other sources of information due to the lack of a school library affects 566,659 students (10.8% of the total number of students), which is shown in the following table.

Schools by student categories	Total number of schools	Total (sum of columns 3 and 5)	Schools with own library/library access				Students in schools without a library or library access	
			Students in schools with libraries (or schools with their own library)		Students in schools with only library access		number	%
			number	%	number	%		
Total*	5,255,841	4,689,182	3,981,606	75.7	707,576	13.5	566,659	10.8
Schools for children and youths	4,681,003	4,527,678	3,912,959	83.6	614,719	13.1	153,325	3.3
Schools for adults	562,072	149,205	61,127	10.9	88,078	15.7	412,867	73.5
General education schools for the arts	12,766	12,299	7,520	58.9	4,779	37.4	467	3.7

Source of data: Ministry of National Education, Department for Forecasts and Analysis.

* excluding schools in health care institutions

TABLE 30. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS: WITH OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN: SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH; SCHOOLS FOR ADULTS; AND ARTISTIC SCHOOLS

LIBRARIES IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS

A. SCHOOL LIBRARIES AND THEIR ORGANISERS

School governing authorities demonstrate varying levels of care about the presence of libraries in schools and access of students to school libraries. In a vast majority, the governing authorities for all types of schools are local government units financing the educational activities from a State budget subsidy. However, in recent years the responsibilities associated with managing schools have been taken over by social organisations, associations and religious organisations. According to “Raport o stanie edukacji 2012” (“Report on the State of Education in 2012”³¹), since 2000 the percentage of school governing entities other than local and central government units increased almost threefold. The largest group among such schools are schools governed by social organisations and associations. In 2012 they governed 1,762 schools for children and youths of all types, which accounts for 6.3% of the total number of schools. It is important to the extent that these authorities have more flexibility in modelling the scale and structure of extracurricular activities and the expenditure on these (including expenditure on staffing and equipment). Potentially, it may also concern the organisation of work and

31 “Raport o stanie edukacji 2012. Liczą się efekty”. IBE, Warsaw 2013, p. 20. An abbreviated version of the report in English: “Outcomes matter. Report on the State of Education in 2012. Information booklet”.

resources of school libraries. However, as seen in the table presenting schools by governing authority, as many as 28.8% of schools governed by social organisations and associations do not have their own library and do not provide library access. This creates a handicap for 25% of students in schools governed by these authorities, i.e. for 24,629 persons. Religious organisations as school organisers fail to provide their students with access to books and information in a school library in almost 18% of their schools. Other organisers (private persons, limited companies) have the same problem. As many as 34,054 students in their schools (almost 40%) do not have access to a school library.

In 2012/2013, a total of 4.4% of schools in Poland were governed by other organisers (1,237 schools for children and youths). Almost half of these schools (48.3%) did not have their own library.

Governing authority	Total number of schools	Schools with their own library/library access			Schools without their own library or library access	
		Total (sum of columns 3 and 4)	Number of school libraries (or schools with their own library)	With library access only	number	%
Total	28,107	26,057	19,713	6,344	2,050	7.3
Central government bodies	193	190	105	85	3	1.6
Local government units	24,572	23,724	17,715	6,009	848	3.5
Social organisations and associations	1,762	1,254	1,131	123	508	28.8
Religious organisations	343	249	187	62	94	27.4
Other organisers	1,237	640	575	65	597	48.3

Source of data: Ministry of National Education

TABLE 31. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: WITH A LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, BY GOVERNING AUTHORITY

Governing authority	Total number of students	Students in schools with their own library/library access			Students in schools without a library or library access	
		Total	Students in schools with their own library	Students in schools with library access only	number	%
		(sum of columns 3 and 4)				
Total	4,681,003	4,527,678	3,912,959	614,719	153,325	3.3
Central government bodies	18,094	17,752	14,129	3,623	342	1.9
Local government units	4,438,507	4,351,118	3,757,834	593,284	87,389	2.0
Social organisations and associations	98,320	73,691	67,511	6,180	24,629	25.0
Religious organisations	40,203	33,292	26,170	7,122	6,911	17.2
Other organisers	85,879	51,825	47,315	4,510	34,054	39.7

Source of data: Ministry of National Education

TABLE 32. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS: WITH A LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, BY GOVERNING AUTHORITY

The following table with percentages enables a comparison of these figures.

School type	Schools with their own library/library access		Schools with their own library		Schools with library access only		Schools without a library or library access	
	Percentage of schools (sum of columns 3 and 5)	Percentage of students (sum of columns 4 and 6)	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students
	Total	92.7	96.7	70.1	83.6	22.6	13.1	7.3
Central government bodies	98.4	98.1	54.4	78.1	44.0	20.0	1.6	1.9
Local government units	96.5	98.0	72.1	84.7	24.5	13.3	3.5	2.0
Social organisations and associations	71.2	75.0	64.2	68.7	7.0	6.3	28.8	25.0
Religious organisations	72.6	82.8	54.5	65.1	18.1	17.7	27.4	17.2
Other organisers	51.7	60.3	46.5	55.0	5.3	5.3	48.3	39.7

TABLE 33. THE PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS: WITH A LIBRARY/LIBRARY ACCESS; WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS ONLY; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS, BY GOVERNING AUTHORITY

The above table confirms that both the central and local government units fulfil their legal obligation to provide children and youths access to a school library (in 98.4% and 96.5% of cases accordingly). However, 851 schools with 87,731 students experience the problem of a lack of a library or library access.

The other three groups of governing authorities have a much wider gap to close.

B. AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Various types of schools for children and youths experience the lack of their own library or library access to a varying degree.

Type of school for children and youths	Number of schools	Schools with their own library/library access					Schools without their own library or library access	
		Total (sum of columns 3 and 5)	Number of school libraries (or schools with their own library)		With library access only		number	%
			number	%	number	%		
Total	28,107	26,057	19,713	70.1	6,344	22.6	2,050	7.3
Primary schools	13,451	12,754	12,012	89.3	742	5.5	697	5.2
Lower secondary schools	7,285	6,572	4,276	58.7	2,296	31.5	713	9.8
Special schools preparing for future work	461	398	29	6.3	369	80.0	63	13.7
Basic vocational schools	1,757	1,641	347	19.7	1,294	73.6	116	6.7
General education higher secondary schools	2,335	2,127	1,526	65.4	601	25.7	208	8.9
Supplementary general education higher secondary schools	78	77	3	3.8	74	94.9	1	1.3
Specialised higher secondary schools	288	271	36	12.5	235	81.6	17	5.9
Technical secondary schools	2,007	1,916	1,326	66.1	590	29.4	91	4.5
Supplementary technical secondary schools	75	73	3	4.0	70	93.3	2	2.7
Post-secondary schools	370	228	155	41.9	73	19.7	142	38.4

Source of data: Ministry of National Education

TABLE 34. NUMBER OF SCHOOLS: WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, BY SCHOOL TYPE

Undoubtedly, post-secondary schools, schools preparing for future work and – to a lesser degree – lower secondary schools and general education higher secondary schools have a worse situation in terms of access to books and other information in school libraries.

The following table presents the situation in relation to the number of students.

School type	Number of students	Students in schools with their own library/library access			Students in schools without their own library or library access	
		Total (sum of columns 3 and 4)	Students in schools with their own library	Students with library access only	number	%
Total	4,681,003	4,527,678	3,912,959	614,719	153,325	3.3
Primary schools	2,160,647	2,103,099	2,028,284	74,815	57,548	2.7
Lower secondary schools	1,160,957	1,104,614	873,870	230,744	56,343	4.9
Special schools preparing for future work	10,723	9,639	807	8,832	1,084	10.1
Basic vocational schools	197,184	189,338	58,835	130,503	7,846	4.0
General education higher secondary schools	578,474	566,082	496,919	69,163	12,392	2.1
Supplementary general education higher secondary schools	1,116	1,091	36	1,055	25	2.2
Specialised higher secondary schools	14,747	14,248	2,290	11,958	499	3.4
Technical secondary schools	520,769	513,374	430,147	83,227	7,395	1.4
Supplementary technical secondary schools	1,745	1,717	74	1,643	28	1.6
Post-secondary schools	34,641	24,476	21,697	2,779	10,165	29.3

Source of data: Ministry of National Education

TABLE 35. NUMBER OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS: WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS WITHIN A JOINT STRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS, BY SCHOOL TYPE

The percentage of both lower and higher secondary schools students without the opportunity to use school libraries proves that these schools are relatively smaller in terms of number of students. The following table presents a summary of percentages of schools and students in terms of access to school libraries in all types of schools.

School type	Schools with their own library/library access		Schools with their own library		Schools with library access only		Schools without their own library or library access	
	Percentage of schools (sum of columns 3 and 5)	Percentage of students (sum of columns 4 and 6)	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students
Total	92.7	96.7	70.1	83.6	22.6	13.1	7.3	3.3
Primary schools	94.8	97.3	89.3	93.8	5.5	3.5	5.2	2.7
Lower secondary schools	90.2	95.1	58.7	75.3	31.5	19.8	9.8	4.9
Special schools preparing for future work	86.3	89.9	6.3	7.5	80.0	82.4	13.7	10.1
Basic vocational schools	93.3	96.0	19.7	29.8	73.6	66.2	6.7	4.0
General education higher secondary schools	91.1	97.9	65.4	85.9	25.7	12.0	8.9	2.1
Supplementary general education higher secondary schools	98.7	97.8	3.8	3.2	94.9	94.6	1.3	2.2
Specialised higher secondary schools	94.1	96.6	12.5	15.5	81.6	81.1	5.9	3.4
Technical secondary schools	95.5	98.6	66.1	82.6	29.4	16.0	4.5	1.4
Supplementary technical secondary schools	97.3	98.4	4.0	4.2	93.3	94.2	2.7	1.6
Post-secondary schools	61.6	70.7	41.9	62.7	19.7	8.0	38.4	29.3

TABLE 36. PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS AND PERCENTAGE OF STUDENTS IN SCHOOLS: WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY/LIBRARY ACCESS; WITH THEIR OWN LIBRARY; WITH LIBRARY ACCESS ONLY; AND WITHOUT THEIR OWN LIBRARY OR LIBRARY ACCESS, BY SCHOOL TYPE

It should be noted that in all types of schools for children and youths (apart from the special schools preparing for future work and post-secondary schools) both the percentage of schools and their students provided with access to books and other sources of information in school libraries, is above 90%.

However, almost every tenth lower secondary school and every ninth higher secondary school in Poland lacks a library or library access.

In the case of lower secondary schools the problem affects 56,343 students (4.9% of the total number of lower secondary school students in Poland), while in the case of higher secondary schools, 12,392 students (2.1% of the total number of higher secondary school students). The total number of 153,325 students in Polish schools without access to books in a school library includes by 57,548 primary school students, 7,846 basic vocational students, 7,395 technical secondary school students and 10,165 post-secondary school students. The remaining group of 1,636 students are young people from: specialised secondary schools, supplementary general education and technical secondary schools, and special schools preparing for future work.

The table illustrating the availability of school libraries in percentages of schools and students emphasises another important fact considering operations of school libraries and the quality of services they provide to specific groups of students. It is the scale of the situation where schools have only access to a library. In general, in Poland it concerns 6,344 schools (22.6%) and a group of 614,719 students (13.1% of all persons studying in schools for children and youths). The largest percentage in this group are basic vocational schools (73.6% of these have only library access) and lower secondary schools, of which as many as 31.5% have only access to a school library (2,296 schools with 230,744 students)³².

Considering data showing that one in every ten lower secondary school lacks a school library, it has to be emphasised that the schools of this type in Poland are in a particularly adverse situation in terms of access to books and other sources of information and documents in school libraries.

The students from small towns are in relatively good situation with regard to access to school libraries. By contrast, students in rural areas and larger towns have a more difficult time accessing books in school libraries.

32 The case of a library access is recorded in joint schools. In 2012, there were 6,944 such institutions in Poland. They consist of various school types. In terms of the development of reading interests in lower secondary school students it is more beneficial, when they have access to school libraries of a higher level of educational system rather than to primary school libraries. At this stage, there is insufficient numerical data to illustrate the situation, so it requires a further investigation.

School type	Towns with populations less than 5 thousand		Towns with populations more than 5 thousand		Rural areas		Total	
	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students	Percentage of schools	Percentage of students
Primary schools	3.4	1.7	6.6	1.8	4.6	4.0	5.2	2.7
Lower secondary schools	6.8	4.5	11.3	3.8	8.6	6.7	9.8	4.6
General education higher secondary schools	6.3	2.8	9.7	2.1	3.1	3.4	8.9	2.1
Basic vocational schools	8.0	9.4	5.9	3.3	10.0	10.4	6.6	4.0
Special schools preparing for future work	6.7	6.3	10.6	8.0	25.8	22.6	13.7	10.1

TABLE 37. LACK OF A LIBRARY/LIBRARY ACCESS IN SELECTED TYPES OF SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS VS. ENVIRONMENT (IN %)

C. AVAILABILITY OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES VS. SCHOOL TYPE AND ENVIRONMENT

Number of school libraries in schools for children and youths: 19,713; average floor space per library: 51.6 m²; average collection size per library: 7,634.3 volumes; average number of books per student: 33.3 volumes³³; average number of daily newspaper and magazine subscriptions: 4.6; average number of computers with Internet access available for students per library: 2.9.

By comparison with the 2010/2011 school year, when the number of school libraries was 19,822, in 2012 it decreased by 109.

A ranking of school libraries by school types reflects directly the number of individual types of schools in Poland in 2012.

33 Calculated for students in schools with their own library or library access.

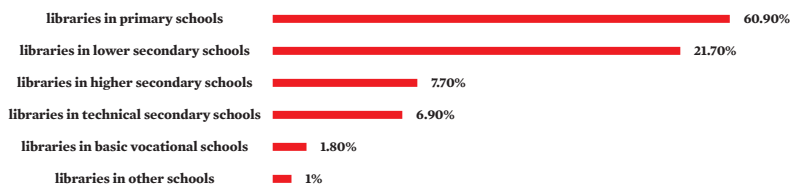


CHART 4. NUMBER OF SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN PERCENTAGES

In 2012, schools for children and youths in Poland had a total of 19,713³⁴ school libraries, including 12,012 libraries in primary schools, 4,276 libraries in lower secondary schools, 1,526 libraries in higher secondary schools and 1,326 libraries in technical secondary schools.

School type	School libraries					
	total		urban areas		rural areas	
	libraries	students	libraries	students	libraries	students
Total	19,713	3,912,959	9,394	2,813,344	10,319	1,099,615
%	100	100	47.7	71.9	52.3	28.1
Primary schools	12,012	2,028,284	3,938	1,245,463	8,074	782,821
%	100	100	32.8	61.4	67.2	38.6
Lower secondary schools	4,276	873,870	2,373	605,860	1,903	268,010
%	100	100	55.5	69.3	44.5	30.7
Basic vocational schools	347	58,835	319	56,411	28	2,424
%	100	100	91.9	95.9	8.1	4.1
General education higher secondary schools	1,526	496,919	1,432	486,357	94	10,562
%	100	100	93.8	97.9	6.2	2.1
Specialised higher secondary schools	36	2,290	35	2,262	1	28
%	100	100	97.2	98.8	2.8	1.2
Technical secondary schools	1,326	430,147	1,120	394,916	206	35,231
%	100	100	84.5	91.8	15.5	8.2

34 Including joint public/school libraries not shown separately in the Educational Information System statistics. In 2012, there were 167 such libraries (source: Biblioteki w Liczbach 2012 r. typescript, The National Library).

Supplementary technical secondary schools	3	74	3	74	0	0
%	100	100	100	100		
Supplementary general education higher secondary schools	3	36	2	30	1	6
%	100	100	66.7	83.3	33.3	16.7
Post-secondary schools	155	21,697	152	21,345	3	352
%	100	100	98.1	98.4	1.9	1.6
Special schools preparing for future work	29	807	20	626	9	181
%	100	100	69.0	77.6	31.0	22.4

TABLE 38. SCHOOL LIBRARIES (NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE) AND SCHOOL TYPE – URBAN VS. RURAL AREAS

It should be noted that the larger number of school libraries in rural areas is generally related to the larger number of primary schools there, often with small numbers of students (in 2012 these numbers were: 8,904 primary schools in rural areas and 4,547 primary schools in urban areas). Therefore, primary school libraries in rural areas account for 67% of the total number of these libraries in Poland.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PREMISES

The analysis of the number of rooms and floor space in the total of 19,713 school libraries in 2012 shows that on average there are 1.3 rooms per school library (showing no change in comparison with 2010). The average floor space per library in schools for children and youths throughout the whole of Poland was 51.6 m² (a decrease of 1.5 m² in comparison with 2010). During these two years, the premises of school libraries have deteriorated slightly. School library floor space varies depending on the school type and the environs in which the school operates.

School type	School libraries					
	total number of schools for children and youths		urban areas		rural areas	
	rooms	floor space in m ²	rooms	floor space in m ²	rooms	floor space in m ²
total	1.3	51.6	1.5	69.3	1.1	35.5

primary schools	1.2	44.1	1.5	65.5	1.1	33.7
lower secondary schools	1.1	51.6	1.4	62.3	.9	38.2
basic vocational schools	1.3	54.4	1.3	56.5	1.1	30.6
general education higher secondary schools	1.8	81.7	1.8	83.4	1.3	56.5
specialised higher secondary schools	1.2	42.2	1.2	42.7	1.0	25.0
technical secondary schools	1.8	86.5	1.8	89.1	1.7	72.0
supplementary technical secondary schools	0.7	27.7	0.7	27.7	-	-
supplementary general education higher secondary schools	0.7	23.3	0.5	20.0	1.0	30.0
post-secondary schools	1.2	42.5	1.2	42.2	2.0	52.3
special schools preparing for future work	0.6	14.9	0.6	15.8	0.7	12.9

TABLE 39. AVERAGE SIZE AND NUMBER OF ROOMS PER SCHOOL LIBRARY AND A SCHOOL TYPE – URBAN VS. RURAL AREAS

Libraries in Polish schools are too small considering the variety and scope of their responsibilities, as also defined by the curriculum. If possible, teacher-librarians attempt to split and maintain a division between reading room and lending room. The conditions in rural school libraries are considerably worse. In almost all school types in rural areas the average number of rooms and the average floor space is below the school library average for the whole of Poland. Rural higher general education and technical secondary schools are exceptions to this rule; however, they also have worse premises than their urban equivalents.

Additionally, there is a clear general tendency towards poorer premises in primary and lower secondary school libraries. Higher general education and technical secondary schools have significantly better facilities with which to fulfil the responsibilities of a school library.

SCHOOL LIBRARY COLLECTIONS

On 30 September 2012, the total size of school library collections in schools for children and youths included: 150,494,840 books, 90,574 daily newspaper and magazine titles with subscriptions, and a total of 2,496,123 stock units of other collections on various media. The average book collection size per library in Poland

is 7,634.3 books. In urban areas the average school library has 10,516.7 books, while in rural areas the average is 5,010.2 books.

The following table presents the average size of school library collections.

School type	School libraries								
	total in schools for children and youths			urban areas			rural areas		
	books in volumes	other collections on other media	daily newspaper and magazine titles	books in volumes	other collections on other media	daily newspaper and magazine titles	books in volumes	other collections on other media	daily newspaper and magazine titles
total	7,634.3	126.6	4.6	10,516.7	188.7	6.4	5,010.2	70.1	2.9
primary schools	6,932.3	97.1	3.6	19,390.7	168.0	5.6	5,245.5	62.6	2.6
lower secondary schools	5,235.3	133.0	4.9	6,852.8	169.8	5.9	3,218.6	87.0	3.7
basic vocational schools	8,306.1	145.3	4.2	8,710.4	147.7	4.3	3,699.2	118.5	2.5
general education higher secondary schools	13,975.2	249.0	8.8	14,299.1	255.9	9.0	9,041.0	137.7	5.7
specialised higher secondary schools	6,740.7	131.0	4.1	6,913.2	131.4	4.1	703.0	112.0	2.0
technical secondary schools	14,567.5	230.0	8.1	15,255.7	241.2	8.2	10,825.0	160.8	7.4
supplementary technical secondary schools	2,750.3	51.7	1.0	2,750.3	51.7	1.0	0	0	0
supplementary general education higher secondary schools	2,287.7	110.7	0	2,329.0	143.5	0	2,205.0	45.0	0
post-secondary schools	6,626.6	122.0	5.2	6,253.3	121.1	5.2	6,939.0	165.3	6.3
special schools preparing for future work	2,869.5	51.0	0.7	3,354.6	52.1	0.5	1,791.6	48.3	1.0

TABLE 39. AVERAGE SIZE AND NUMBER OF ROOMS PER SCHOOL LIBRARY AND A SCHOOL TYPE – URBAN VS. RURAL AREAS

According to data from the Educational Information System, collections of books and periodicals as well as other collections are smaller in rural areas than in urban areas in lower secondary school libraries, primary school libraries and basic vocational school libraries. This is also the case for specialised higher secondary schools, supplementary general education secondary schools and special schools: however, in rural areas these account only for a total of eleven. Generally, the observation that the schools above a lower secondary school level are better equipped in urban areas (in particular in smaller towns) is reinforced here.

School library collections nationwide show a systematic increase. However, one should be careful when estimating the quality of collections owned by libraries in Polish schools. Teacher-librarians emphasise that an overly large size of collection often results from a lack of systematic selection. Moreover, this is not driven by an aversion to the related effort: The motivation is above all pragmatic. The Order of the Minister of National Education of 4 June 1997, with provisions concerning the number of students entitling to a teacher-librarian full-time equivalent, was repealed from 1 January 1999. As it was not replaced with a new Order, to define the criteria for the employment of a teacher-librarian, school organisers often refer to collection size. In these circumstances, both school directors and teacher-librarians themselves are not interested in reducing collection sizes. There are no replacements for book losses due to insufficient sums assigned to new book purchases (which are not included in the Educational Information System statistics despite calls by school librarians).

It should also be mentioned that to date there has been no nationwide programme supporting new book purchases for school libraries.

As of 30 September 2010, the Educational Information System recorded 150,390,441 books in 19,832 school libraries, or an average of 7,583.2 volumes per library. When compared with the stock as of 30 September 2012, when 19,713 school libraries had 150,494,840 books, or 7,634.3 volumes per library, one can notice that during two years the average collection size increased by 51.1 books per school library.

school year	school libraries		books		audiobooks on cassettes		video-recorded materials		materials on electronic media	
	number	change	number	change	number	change	number	change	number	change
30 Sept. 2010	19,832	-	150,390,441	-	522,688	-	860,986	-	963,987	-
30 Sept. 2012	19,713	-119	150,494,840	+104,399	440,128	-82,560	860,001	-985	1,195,994	+232,007

TABLE 40. SCHOOL LIBRARY STOCKS IN 2010–2012

Library materials recorded on electronic media have also increased. In 2010, they amounted to 48.6 stock units per library, while in 2012 they reached 60.7 stock units per library (an increase of 12.1 stock units per school library). This means that teacher-librarians have attempted to adapt their collections to the changing needs of the generation of “digital natives”. Whether the progress is satisfactory is another story.

Quantitative data on collections indicate a decreasing importance of audiobooks recorded on audio cassettes and educational materials recorded on videotapes, which is also a sign of the times demonstrating a change in the Polish school approach to a literary text and educational materials.

SCHOOL LIBRARY STRUCTURE BY COLLECTION SIZE

In order to present the structure of school libraries by the size of their collections, we applied the standard ranges used in Poland by the Central Statistical Office of Poland.

Specification	Collection in volumes								total
	2,000 and less	2,001 – 5,000	5,001 – 10,000	10,001 – 15,000	15,001 – 20,000	20,001 – 30,000	30,001 – 50,000	50,000 and more	
total	3,077	5,890	5,387	2,923	1,403	748	176	31	19,635
%	15.7	30.0	27.4	14.9	7.1	3.8	0.9	0.2	100
Urban areas	1,015	1,494	2,483	2,217	1,241	708	165	26	9,349
Rural areas	2,062	4,396	2,904	706	162	40	11	5	10,286

TABLE 41. SCHOOL LIBRARIES BY COLLECTION SIZE

30% of libraries in Polish schools have collections of 2 to 5 thousand volumes, with 3/4 of libraries in this group located in rural schools. The second largest group of 27.4% libraries have collections from 5 to 10 thousand volumes. Again, rural school libraries dominate in this group. The following two groups are almost equal. Libraries with the smallest collections account for 15.7% of the total (there are twice as many rural school libraries in this group too) while almost 15% of libraries have collections from 10,001 to 15,000. The remaining libraries with larger collections are mainly located in urban schools.

COMPUTERS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

In 2012, school libraries had 58,179 computers available to students, i.e. 3 computers per school library. Following clearly stated goals that defined a school library as a specialised laboratory capable of supporting students, teachers and members of a local environment in gathering knowledge and information³⁵ at the pace of a rapidly changing reality, in 2004–2006 the Ministry of National Education implemented the project named “Internet Multimedia Information Centres in school and pedagogical libraries” in Poland. The aim of this project was to increase teaching quality by introducing state-of-the-art technologies in education. As part of the project, around 15 thousand school libraries were equipped with computers³⁶. Currently there is no progress being shown in school library computerisation in comparison with 2010.

School year	School libraries		Number of computers in libraries available to students					
			total		with Internet access		with broadband access	
	number	change	number	change	number	change	number	change
30 Sept. 2010	19,832	-	63,449	-	60,704	-	40,734	-
30 Sept. 2012	19,713	-119	58,179	-5,270	56,475	-4,229	38,393	-2,341

TABLE 42. EMPLOYMENT IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES

As shown in the table, the level of school library computerisation has slightly decreased. In 2010, there were 3.2 computers available to students per library, including 3.1 computers with Internet access and 2.1 computers with a broadband connection. In 2012, these indicators were 3, 2.9, and 1.9 respectively. It can be concluded that access to state-of-the-art technologies in school libraries deteriorated in the two years. However, it does not necessarily mean that the overall level of Polish school computerisation decreased. Computers are being installed in computer rooms and other workshops or laboratories³⁷. Yet it is the school library where a student has an opportunity to access a computer outside of school hours, when most well equipped laboratories are locked.

35 Tove Pemmer Saetre and Glenys Willars, *The IFLA/UNESCO School Library Guidelines*. International Federation of Library Associations, The Hague 2002.

36 A. Tokarska (ed.). *Bibliotekarstwo*. Wyd. SBP, Warsaw 2013, p. 78.

37 “Digital School” – a pilot programme implemented by the Ministry of National Education in 2012/2013.

Moreover, in 2012 there is a less favourable trend noticeable regarding the poorer resources of rural school libraries in comparison with urban school libraries. This also concerns computerisation. While in urban areas, school libraries had 3.9 computers available to students per library, in rural areas it was 2.1 computers. Every urban school library computer had Internet access, while in rural school libraries it was only in 2 computers. Broadband Internet access in urban areas was in 3.8 computers, while in rural areas such connections were only in 1.1 computers.

TEACHER-LIBRARIANS

The teacher-librarian status in Polish schools is a complex issue. A teacher-librarian's basis of employment is determined on a case-by-case basis by the school governing authority, depending on various aspects of school operations (school size, number of students, schools vs. joint schools, school working hours, collection size, number of rooms, etc.). The Educational Information System takes into consideration and registers the statistics of all specific, unique solutions implemented in teacher-librarians' work organisation.

School libraries employ two groups of teachers:

- teacher-librarians, or teachers employed in librarian positions where their librarian responsibilities are the primary duties;
 - teachers for whom library work is not the primary responsibility, but who have at least one hour a week of obligatory work in a school library.
- As of 30 September 2012, the headcount in libraries in schools for children and youths was as follows:
- the number of teachers acting as librarians (in individual persons) was 22,284;
 - the number of teachers acting as librarians (in full-time equivalents) was 14,831.95;
 - the number including teachers employed in a librarian position (in individual persons) was 17,014;
 - the number of teacher-librarian full-time equivalents (including overtime) was 16,091.5;
 - the number including teacher-librarian full-time equivalents (serving solely as librarians) was 12,228.42.

Specification	School library employees	
	number	FTE
Total	22,284	14,831.95
teacher-librarians	17,014	12,228.42
teachers with assigned librarian responsibilities	5,270	2,603.53

TABLE 43. COMPUTERS IN SCHOOL LIBRARIES IN 2010–2012

The above table shows that in 2012, each of 19,713 school libraries in schools for children and youths had an average of 1.1 teachers acting as a librarian, employed on a 0.75 FTE basis. This may be a proof of the limited availability of school libraries in comparison with school working hours.

Moreover in 2012, according to the Educational Information System data, 22,284 teachers acting as librarians could serve as many as 4,527,678 students (this is the number of students learning in schools with own library and in schools providing access to a school library). This means that there were 203.2 students per teacher acting as a librarian. At the same time, there were 305.3 students per FTE of a teacher acting as librarian.

Conclusions:

1. Knowledge about school libraries in Poland is insufficient. The acquired data (in comparison with the other library types) makes conducting of a full diagnosis of their condition unfeasible. The approach to gathering information about school libraries planned in the so-called New Educational Information System will improve the situation only partially. Surely, it will not be satisfactory considering the current needs regarding a comprehensive knowledge about the interest of Polish society in books. The new scope of information regarding school libraries (apart from data included in this report) will primarily concern: the size of a collection (a structure of eight categories of library collections); number of school library registered users and readers by four age categories; and comprehensive data about teacher-librarians (a number of details such as: length of employment, educational background, pedagogical and other qualifications, type and dimension of responsibilities). Failure to record data on the scale of loans, influx (new book purchases, donations), library working hours, the number of seats in reading rooms, the number of losses in collections, or forms of activity will not facilitate a full and systematic observation of school libraries. Thus, it will be necessary to search for other ways (than through the Educational Information System) of acquiring data on school libraries that already exist in school statistics. It could be an Internet questionnaire approved by the Ministry of National Education and in-

volving provincial education authorities and conducted regularly at agreed upon time periods (e.g. every three years). Initiating such a research procedure would enable collecting comparative data on school libraries, thus creating the basis for making important decisions about the necessary programmes supporting their operations.

2. The lack of a complete network of libraries in schools for children and youths is a serious weakness of the education and curriculum implementation process.

3. School communities without libraries and unable to establish them due to various reasons should be obligated to collaborate closely with public libraries in order to advance book purchases and the provision of library services. An initiative aiming at expanding the government programme of new book purchases would be an opportunity to achieve success in this collaboration. According to research on a library service model³⁸ conducted by the Institute of Books and Readership of the National Library, in many communities collaboration of school and public libraries is non-existing or unsatisfactory. It may have a negative influence on the quality of performance related to supporting and developing readership interests in the students of Polish schools.

- The situation of libraries in Polish schools varies in terms of numerous factors including:

- access of various types of students to school libraries – one in every ten lower secondary schools and one in every eight higher secondary schools have neither a school library nor library access;

- working conditions of rural and urban school libraries – the situation is substantially worse in the case of the former group;

- school library resources – libraries in primary schools and lower secondary schools are in a worse condition;

- computerisation – rural school libraries are less computerised.

4. There is no clear progress in terms of school library resources in comparison with 2010.

SCHOOL LIBRARY PROBLEMS ACCORDING TO TEACHER-LIBRARIANS³⁹

Those within the professional milieu of teacher-librarians have enunciated demands concerning the improvement of school library conditions. Above all they emphasise:

- the need to develop a school library model based on the standards defining the most important areas of their operations, taking into consideration reliable

38 The National Library research conducted in 2012. Conclusions in progress.

39 See: Sytuacja bibliotek szkolnych, The Association of Polish Schools' Teacher-Librarians, unpublished document, February 2014.

qualitative research of library operations concerning levels of financing, loans, access to new technologies, and staff employment;

- the need to involve the Ministry of National Education in the initiative concerning the modernisation of school libraries in accordance with changing trends (such as: access to e-collections; enhancing IT competencies; the decreasing interest of digital generations in books and printed publications);

- the necessity to improve school library availability by limiting additional responsibilities assigned to teacher-librarians (substitution classes; duties during breaks);

- inclusion of teacher-librarians in the process of developing IT competencies in students according to the curriculum;

- the need to conduct a nationwide diagnosis of changing reader needs of students from all school types.

Budget per student (reader)	
Book purchase expenditure per student (reader)	X
Number of book and periodical volumes per student (reader)	X
Book purchases per reader (student)	33.3 volumes
Number of students (readers) per employee (teacher acting as a librarian)	X
Number of students (readers) per employee FTE (teacher acting as a librarian)	203
	305
Library floor space per student (reader)	0.2 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans (total) per student (reader)	X
Visits per student (reader)	X
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee (teacher-librarian)	X
Collection per library	7634.3 volumes
Number of computers per library	3.0

TABLE 44. INDICATORS – SCHOOL LIBRARIES (IN SCHOOLS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTHS) – 19,713

3. PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES

Pedagogical libraries⁴⁰ conduct operations responding in particular to the needs of education and teaching, including training and advancing teachers, students preparing for the teaching profession and students of teachers' development cen-

40 Materiały do raportu o bibliotekach, unpublished document, Warmian-Masurian Pedagogical Library in Olsztyn, February 2014.

tres. Pedagogical libraries carry out these responsibilities through service and library activities, providing assistance and subject matter training to school libraries, and collaborating in the area of teachers' development with higher education institutions and other libraries, as well as with education and training institutions for teachers.

Libraries may also conduct publishing operations, organise and conduct educational and cultural activities, in particular public classes, library lessons and meet-the-author sessions.

LEGAL BASIS AND ORGANISATION OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES

Apart from the regulations governing the operations of libraries (see footnotes on page 8) the following should be mentioned:

- *The Regulation of the Minister of National Education of 29 April 2003 on detailed guidelines for public pedagogical library operations*⁴¹.
- *The Regulation of the Minister of National Education and Sport of 29 April 2003 on the framework statute of a public pedagogical library.*

ORGANISATION OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES:

1. Libraries at the provincial level (capitals of provinces and former provinces) – independent or joint (with a teachers' development institution);
2. Branches of provincial libraries in capitals of districts; these are not independent, rather, they are an integral part of a provincial library and are included in the budget thereof.

Pedagogical libraries do not operate in a homogenous network. Instead, they operate in a number of independent, smaller “networks”, i.e. joint institutions with a diverse structure, or are fully independent. “Networks” of pedagogical libraries cooperate with the teachers' development system. There are various forms of this cooperation, ranging from a collaboration of independent institutions (a library and a development centre), to forming a team, to incorporating a library into the internal structure of a development institution.

GUIDELINES, SOURCES AND SCALE OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARY FINANCING

Pedagogical libraries are budgetary units governed by a provincial government (the province's own task). They are financed from an educational subsidy transferred by the Ministry of National Education to provincial governments for “provincial extracurricular tasks”: The subsidy is calculated based on the indicators defined by the Ministry of National Education.

41 In 2013 it was replaced with a new Regulation.

Usually, the subsidy does not cover all the financial needs of the libraries, so they receive additional financing from the provincial budget. For example, in the Warmian-Masurian province, the subsidy from the Ministry of National Education accounts for ca. 65% of the financing for pedagogical libraries, and the remaining 35% is from the provincial budget.

The branches manage to acquire ad hoc aid from local governments for collection purchases. As educational institutions, pedagogical libraries are non-profit institutions. However, they have the opportunity to earn their own income, so to speak, from fines and reminders, library material photocopying, fees for IT services, or room rentals. This income is usually used to finance ongoing operations, mainly for acquisitions. These are not large funds.

STATE

In 2012, there was a total of **318 pedagogical libraries**. In comparison with the previous year, their number decreased by 9 libraries (2.8%), but during the past decade the decrease has been 26 libraries or 7.6%.

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	344	346	344	338	331	327	318

TABLE 45. PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES IN 2001-20012*

* Until 2011 research was conducted every two years.

In 2012, the collections of pedagogical libraries included more than 14.3 million volumes of books and bound periodicals and more than 353 thousand stock units of special collections, making a total of almost 14.7 million. During the analysed period the stock was not steady. While during the whole decade the stock decreased by 1.1%, and by 2.2% in the last two years, in 2001-2007 it increased substantially (by 3.4%).

Book collections dominate the stock of pedagogical libraries (97.6%), while special collections account for 2.4%. Registered electronic collections (38,417 stock units) supplement the basic resources, as do licenced collections with paid access (5,239 titles), including 5,132 book titles, 94 periodical titles, and 11 databases.

In 2012, the majority of the 318 pedagogical libraries (257 libraries or 80.8%) had book collections of 10,001 to 50,000 volumes (the average collection size was 44,950 volumes, including 42,550 volumes of books, 2,400 volumes of periodicals, and 1,113 stock units of special collections). Thus, libraries with medium-size

collections dominate. 58 libraries (18,2%) had large collections of more than 50 thousand volumes. Three pedagogical libraries (or 0.9%) had collections of less than 10 thousand volumes.

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	14,806.4	15,266.1	15,348.6	15,315.0	15,172.8	14,983.7	14,647.9
Books	13,797.1	14,187.2	14,243.6	14,187.2	14,040.8	13,865.6	13,530.9
Bound periodicals	712.2	765.8	763.4	764.7	764.3	764.2	763.1
Special collections	297.1	313.1	341.6	363.1	367.7	353.9	353.9

* Data concerning special collections for 2001-2009 includes electronic documents; for 2011-2012 excluding electronic documents.

TABLE 46. THE STOCK OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001–2012

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARIES

The structure of additions to libraries is consistent with the stock structure: in 92% of cases they are books, while 8% are periodicals. These have been supplemented by the other non-electronic collections – 17,524 stock units and registered electronic collections – 2,454 stock units.

54.3% of all additions of library materials were purchases, the rest were from other sources (legal deposit copies, gifts, exchanges). Book purchases are at a similar level (49.9%).

FINANCING

The source of almost all income of pedagogical libraries is the organiser (97.3%); only 2.4% are earned funds. Revenues and donations from other sources are completely marginal (0.2%).

Financing structure	Percentage
Organiser's subsidy	97.3
Donations from other sources	0.2
Earned funds	2.4
Other income	0.01

TABLE 47. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES IN 2012

Expenditure on library materials consumed a small part (7.4%) of the income of pedagogical libraries in 2012. Most of the funds were spent on book purchases (57.5%), subscriptions of periodicals (33.1%), recorded electronic collections (7.4%), other non-electronic collections (1.6%) and licenced electronic collections (0.5%). The expenditure of pedagogical libraries on library materials shows a preference for purchases of printed collections, with a predominance of books, thus supplementing and expanding a dominating book collection.

Total expenditure on library materials in PLN and in %	2012
Total	8,299,120
Books	4,769,466
%	57.5
Other non-electronic collections	133,812
%	1.6
Electronic collections on physical media	617,214
%	7.4
Subscriptions to periodicals	2,735,824
%	33.0
Licenced electronic collections	42,804
%	0.5

TABLE 48. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS IN PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES IN 2012

READERS, VISITS, PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

The readers of pedagogical libraries include: teachers and tutors from schools and educational institutions; school administration staff; researchers and academic teachers; students of higher education institutions, postgraduate schools, and secondary schools. Many pedagogical libraries declare that the library materials are available in the reading rooms to “all who are interested”, regardless of their place of residence or education.

Year	2011	2012
Readers	399.4	390.1

TABLE 49. READERS IN PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES
(IN THOUSANDS) IN 2011–2012*

* From 2011 readers have been separated out from the total of users.

In 2012, the collections of pedagogical libraries were used by 390,100 readers: in comparison with the previous year, this was less by 2.3%. Users of pedagogical libraries represent a larger group (in comparison with the number of readers presented in the table above) of 909,740 registered individuals, who visited libraries 3,507,089 times. Therefore, on average every user visited a library almost four times a year. An important element of the operations of pedagogical libraries is training and educational activity, conducting training courses for users, students of library science and librarians from other libraries. A total of 9,259 events of this type were conducted, with 88.5% being training courses for users, and the rest for students and librarians. A dominant part of the events for users (10,061) were educational activities (42.9%) involving more than 96 thousand participants. The remaining ones included visual (42.5% being exhibitions) and literary activities (6.9%) with more than 27 thousand participants.

AVAILABILITY

On average, a pedagogical library was open 5.5 days a week, for 42 hours. For library operations it had on average 303.1 m² of floor space, with 0.2 m² of floor space per reader.

The largest group of libraries (45.3%) operated from 41 to 50 hours a week; the second largest group (38.4%) from 31 to 40 hours; 4.7% operated less than 30 hours a week (including 0.3% – from 11 to 20 hours); and 1.3% of libraries were open more than 60 hours.

Specification	Libraries – total, active	Weekly number of opening hours						
		1–10 hours	11–20 hours	21–30 hours	31–40 hours	41–50 hours	51–60 hours	more than 60 hours
Total	318	0 0%	1 .3%	14 4.4%	122 38.4%	144 45.3%	33 10.4%	4 1.3%

TABLE 50. WEEKLY WORKING HOURS OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES

141 out of 318 pedagogical libraries (44.3%) were adapted for special groups of users. 132 libraries have entrances adapted for persons using wheelchairs, 93 libraries have various facilities inside the building, 13 libraries are adapted to the needs of blind and partially blind persons. 78 out of 6,161 seats for readers (i.e. 1.3%) were adapted to serve disabled persons.

COLLECTION USAGE IN PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES

In 2012, pedagogical libraries lent (out-of-library and in-house) a total of more than 7,675 thousand stock units, including 37.7% of them in the reading rooms. On average, the reader of a pedagogical library used 19.7 stock units, including 12.3 stock units a year in the form of out-of-library loans.

Library collection usage in 2012	Out-of-library loans total (stock units) and in %	In-house loans total (stock units) and in %
Total	4,783,167	2,892,374
Books	4,386,402	1,400,450
%	91.7	48.4
Periodicals	95,704	1,477,455
%	2.0	51.1
Other non-electronic collections	260,295	11,617
%	5.4	0.4
Electronic collections on physical media	40,766	2,852
%	0.9	0.1

TABLE 51. LIBRARY COLLECTION USAGE IN 2012

Out-of-library loans were predominantly books (91.7%) and other non-electronic collections (5.4%). Periodicals and electronic documents on physical media accounted for the remaining part of loans (2% and 0.9% respectively).

In-house loans in pedagogical libraries were divided into two almost equal parts. The readers mostly used periodicals (51.1%) and slightly less frequently books (48.4%). The percentage of the other collections is marginal.

In 2012, pedagogical libraries received 8.4 thousand interlibrary orders. They lent more than 8 thousand collections and 231 copies of original materials to other libraries. At the same time, 7.3 thousand orders were sent to other libraries, resulting in borrowing 6.9 thousand collections and more than 200 copies of original materials.

STAFF

In 2012, pedagogical libraries employed a total of 2,289 persons, including **1,593** in the professional core (1,533 of them in librarian positions). Every third employee is a member of administration and maintenance staff (30.4%). On average, a pedagogical library employed a total of 6.5 FTE, including 4.8 FTE in the professional core (4.7 FTE in librarian positions). The majority of staff members in pedagogical libraries are highly qualified. In 2012, according to the data from the Central Statistical Office of Poland, **1,499** employees in librarian positions (i.e. 97.8%) had a higher education in library science.

In 2012, employees of pedagogical libraries (regardless of their position) participated 5,882 times in professional development activities (55,630 hours). On average, an employee of a pedagogical library participated 2.6 times per year in a professional development activity and spent 24.3 hours there.

COMPUTERISATION

Pedagogic libraries are computerised and provide Internet access at almost 100% (99.7%). Slightly fewer libraries (311 or 97.8%) offer computer access to users, including 307 libraries (98.7%) having computers with Internet connections. Libraries use a total of almost 3,930 computers, including 3,600 computers with Internet connections (91.6%). 1,946 computers were available to users (49.5%), including 1,700 computers with Internet connections (47.2% of all computers connected to the Internet). On average, a pedagogical library had 12.4 computers. Pedagogical libraries have substantially automated the library processes. 91.8% or 292 pedagogical libraries use library computer software, 88.4% or 281 of them share their catalogue on-line, 63.5% enable the remote ordering of library materials, 52.5% provide for a remote extension of return dates, and 62.6% notify electronically about return dates.

Specification	Total	%
On-line catalogue	281	88.4
Remote ordering of library materials	202	63.5
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	195	61.3
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	167	52.5
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	199	62.6

TABLE 52. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Other electronic services, such as interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms) and social media profiles, are also available in many pedagogical libraries.

Specification	Total	%
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	77	24.2
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	76	23.9
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	19	6.0
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	77	24.2
Librarian inquiry forms	104	32.7
Discussion forums, guest books	32	10.1
Social media profiles	123	38.7

TABLE 53. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Pedagogical libraries also participate in creating (or co-creating) digital libraries, databases and repositories.

a database	142
a digital library	18
a repository	11

TABLE 54. NUMBER OF PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN CREATING (CO-CREATING)

Problems:

For about four years, the **restructuring** processes of this library network have become increasingly more advanced. They consist of:

- liquidating library branches and transferring their resources (collections, equipment) to local public/school libraries or converting them to district public libraries;
- transferring the governance of library branches to local governments – districts or counties – and thus establishing district or communal pedagogical libraries;

ies; usually, these are not independent institutions, instead they form joint institutions with local development centres, joint schools or counselling offices.

A precursor of such a model was the Lower Silesian province, where, since 2002, all branches were systematically converted into district structures.

The scale of these restructuring processes is being researched through the survey “The status of pedagogical libraries in Poland” developed by the Conference of Pedagogical Library Directors.

Budget per reader	286.39 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	12.23 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	36.6 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.2 volumes
Number of readers per employee	245
Library floor space per reader	0.2 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	19.7 stock units
Visits per user	3.9
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	4,818.3 stock units
Collection per library	44,950 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	42 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	6 hours
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	95%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	88.4%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	63.5%
Number of computers per library	12.4

TABLE 55. INDICATORS – PEDAGOGICAL LIBRARIES – 318

III. SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

Scientific libraries (central libraries, domain-specific libraries, special libraries, libraries of higher education institutions) create an internally diverse group of institutions⁴² and do not form a homogenous network. They are governed by regulations issued by various authorities. Apart from the basic regulations (see

42 The sources of information used to prepare this material include: President of the Executive Council of the Conference of Directors of Academic Libraries, the Central Military Library, the Central Agricultural Library, the Central Statistical Library, the Library of the National Museum in Cracow, the Library of the National Museum in Warsaw, the Central NBP Library, the Central Medical Library, the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock, the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of Sciences and materials acquired from the Polish Academy of Sciences; the National Library Reports for 2012.

footnotes on page 8) the most important ones include: *The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 2 April 2012, on the principles and the procedure of registering libraries as scientific libraries and on the listing thereof*, *The Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of 5 November 2010, on the criteria and the procedure for granting and accounting of the financial resources for science for the purpose of financing of the statutory activity*. Despite its diversity, this group of libraries in Poland is very well described. A comprehensive literature concerning it, as well as the reports and accounts developed by libraries themselves, enable their thorough presentation. On the one hand, it is driven by the level of maturity of scientific libraries, and on the other hand by activities undertaken specifically to improve the services offered (such as effectiveness research).

Scientific libraries (central libraries, domain-specific libraries, special libraries, libraries of higher education institutions) perform various functions in terms of:

- developing collections: ensuring the completeness of collections reflecting core areas of interest as well as the most important peripheral publications of an interdisciplinary nature. These collections often form an essential body of scientific research, and at the same time are the outcome of it. They serve as a source of information about a scientific discipline, its history, growth, and achievements;
- providing services to a wide group of users: most frequently they are researchers, individuals responsible for implementing scientific achievements, and students;
- maintaining standards associated with the competencies of staff members: they employ researchers and certified librarians and scientific documentation and information specialists;
- conducting scientific and research activities in library science and related domains, as well as the scientific domains served by them.

The level of their scientific activities varies. Some of them, apart from providing services and supporting education, conduct their own research activities, while others only deliver services for the sciences, provide access to materials and information resources essential for conducting research activities and presenting the results of such researches. Their common responsibility is information service and the organisation of a modern information base.

According to the Act on libraries, the scientific libraries include:

- The National Library;
- libraries organised by higher education institutions;
- libraries organised by the Polish Academy of Sciences;
- libraries organised by research and development units;
- other libraries.

Their responsibilities are defined in article 21.

Other libraries listed in the act gain this status based on the regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage⁴³, according to which a library can be considered a scientific library if: (1) it has a specialised library collection in at least one scientific or artistic discipline, that is employed to conduct scientific and research efforts and contains results of researches; (2) it employs at least one licenced librarian or employee with a scientific degree in bibliology and informatology or in one of the scientific or artistic disciplines included in the scientific domain handled by the library, who conducts scientific activity or science promotion activity; (3) it has a technical and ICT infrastructure providing access to an electronic database of scientific periodicals and other electronic databases used to conduct scientific activities.

Gaining a scientific library status means gaining opportunities to benefit from preferences in allocation of financial resources for development of research and publishing activity, preparation of the staff, subsidies for science promotion activities (e.g. for digitalisation of collections). The regulation provides for the possibility of depriving a library of these rights in cases when it fails to perform the responsibilities defined for scientific libraries. Some of the scientific libraries are entitled to receive legal deposit copies⁴⁴, and collections of two of them are considered the national library resource⁴⁵.

The National Library – as the central library of the State and the library with the collection of national writing it performs functions of a nationwide significance. While serving as a scientific library specialising in the humanities, it remains a main archive of the national writing and the nationwide centre of bibliographic information about books. It is a central domain library in library science and bibliology, scientific information and archive science. It maintains central catalogues, and is responsible for the statistics of publishing houses and public libraries. It plays an important role in nationwide bibliographic standardisation. It is also the methodological centre for other libraries in Poland. It conducts training

43 Currently The Regulation of the Minister of Culture and National Heritage of 2 April 2012, on the principles and the procedure of registering libraries as scientific libraries and on the listing thereof (Journal of Laws, Item 390). Until 1989 it was within the authority of the Council of Ministers.

44 Nationwide legal deposit copies: 2 copies: the National Library, the Jagiellonian Library; 1 copy: the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University Main Library, the Library of the University of Łódź, the University Library in Toruń, the Poznań University Library, the University of Warsaw Library, the Wrocław University Library, the Silesian Library in Katowice, the Public Library of the Capital City of Warsaw-Main Library of Masovian Province, the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin, the Library of the University of Gdańsk, the University Library of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL), the Main Library of Opole University, the “Książnica Podlaska” library. Regional legal deposit copy: the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Bydgoszcz, the Provincial Public Library in Gdańsk, the Provincial Public Library in Kielce, the Provincial Public Library in Lublin, the Provincial Public Library in Olsztyn, the Provincial Public Library and Centre of Culture Animation in Poznań, the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Zielona Góra.

45 The National Library in Warsaw and the Jagiellonian Library in Cracow.

activities associated with the professional development of librarians and information science staff⁴⁶.

Central special libraries are institutions acquiring the most complete possible collection of writing in a specific scientific domain, of a specific type or with a specific reading usage. Central libraries are both scientific and special libraries, performing the functions of a central library for a given domain or several related domains and a main centre of scientific information in a specific specialisation. Central libraries include the University of Warsaw Library and the Jagiellonian Library, which collect writing in the social sciences, the Central Medical Library as the centre of medical scientific information, the Central Agricultural Library in the area of agriculture, forestry and food economy, the Sejm Library as the central legislative library, the Central Statistical Library as the main library in the country in the area of theory and practice concerning statistics, demography, statistical techniques and related disciplines.

This is a group of scientific libraries diverse in terms of their organisational and legal status:

- The National Library – the central library in the country, a cultural institution, governed by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage;
- Independent organisational units, cultural institutions within the meaning of the Act of 25 October 1991 on the organisation and operation of cultural activity, having legal personality, e.g. the Central Medical Library (governed by the Ministry of Health), the Central Military Library (by the Ministry of National Defence), the Central Agricultural Library (by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development);
- Independent organisational units that conduct financial management based on specific regulations on public finance for budgetary units; their budgets are excluded from the unit they serve, e.g. the Central Statistical Library is part of and financed by the Central Statistical Office of Poland;
- Other libraries, without organisational independence, where issues associated with organisation and operations are governed by the internal regulations of the institution in which they operate and by which they are financed, e.g. The Central NBP Library, The Main Library of Transport (Ministry of Infrastructure and Development).

Libraries of research institutes (until 2010 libraries of research and development units)⁴⁷ belong to the group of special libraries having collections of

⁴⁶ The National Library Report for 2012. Warsaw 2013, p. 71.

⁴⁷ They were established by: The Act of 25 July 1985, on research and development units with subsequent changes (Journal of Laws, No. 36, Item 170 – consolidated text); The Act of 5 July 2007, on amending the act on research and development units (Journal of Laws, No. 134, Item 934); The Act of 30 April 2010, on research institutes (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 618); The Act of 30 April 2010, Provisions introducing the acts reforming the system of science (Journal of Laws, No. 96, Item 620).

documents acquired to serve the needs of the special institutes (governed by the ministries, and various central institutions) within which they exist (being part thereof), and are tightly connected with the scope of their scientific and development research. Libraries of research institutes are financed by parent institutions, which in turn are financed from the part of State budget disbursed by the ministry competent in that area of science – pursuant to the Act of 30 April 2010 on principles of science financing. They acquire library materials, such as standards and patents, to serve the needs reflecting the specialisation of their parent institutions. Specialised collections of these libraries often have unique value for specific, very narrow disciplines of science.

Libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences are libraries of the scientific institutions (research institutes) and institutions supporting the operations thereof, managed and governed by the Polish Academy of Sciences. Libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences receive funding from their organisers (institutes), to which they are subordinate. In other words, these are budgetary funds (units of the Polish Academy of Sciences may also participate in EU programmes or acquire external funds from other institutions). They acquire collections for the needs of the researchers of the Polish Academy of Sciences, conduct abstracting and information activity, and perform their own researches. The network of libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences consists of the following independent units: The Kórnik Library, the Gdańsk Library, the Scientific Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and several dozen libraries of various units of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The majority of them are institutes (such as the Institute of Literary Research, the Institute of Art, the Institute of Physics) and the libraries are integral parts thereof.

Libraries of scientific societies cooperate with libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, acquire collections in many scientific disciplines and publications on topics associated with the region. Apart from two libraries, they are parts of organisational structures of their parent societies. The independent and the largest of them are: the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock and the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences, classified as scientific libraries. The other libraries of scientific societies are discussed in a following part of the report.

Libraries of higher education institutions (public and non-public) are discrete organisational units within higher education institutions. Acquisitions and approach to cataloguing depend on the needs of their main users: students, teachers and researchers. They operate on the basis of the Act *Law on Higher Education*, which indicates that in a higher education institution “there is a library and information system, with a library as a basis”. Organisation of this system in higher education institutions is not homogenous. Within the limits set by law, they can freely shape alternative approaches to the system. In general, there are three such alternatives:

– an institution-wide library (referred to as “main library”, operating in fact as an independent extra-faculty unit) and libraries of individual faculties, institutes, departments, etc.: Formal relationships between these units are rather limited, the institution-wide library governs them only in terms of a “subject-matter governance”; decisions on funds, employment, acquisition policy, etc. are made by managers of the units to which individual libraries are formally assigned, e.g. deans, directors of institutes, etc.;

– a main library and libraries of individual units of an institution making up one organization: The role of the unit libraries is limited to lending, and other library procedures are within the authority of the main library;

– a mixed approach, based on various combinations of the previous two alternatives: Some of the unit libraries operate independently from the main library (e.g. libraries of departments or institutes), the others are branches of the main library.

Currently, all academic schools have a main library and a larger or smaller network of libraries of faculties, institutes, units, department complexes, etc.; in smaller schools, such as private higher education institutions, the main library is often the only element of the library and information system of a school.

Main libraries collect writing in all knowledge domains represented in a school (of a general nature), libraries of faculties, institutes, etc. are specialised libraries with a narrower scope of collections.

The operations of academic libraries are defined by library rules, usually approved by the school senate. Library rules are often attached as an appendix to the school’s statutes. According to the provisions of the Act *Law on Higher Education*, schools often establish library councils, acting as a consultative body of the vice-chancellor. The nature of their activities is defined by school statutes, which leads to a substantial diversity in the way they operate. There are examples where a library council only sets strategic directions for a library, whereas in other cases it actually manages a library, formally substituting for its director.

Libraries of higher education institutions are financed by their parent schools. Again, the situation is very diverse: the majority of main libraries have their dedicated budgets, including either all expenditures, or without personnel costs or maintenance (administration) costs. However, there are academic libraries without their own dedicated budget. Another option is budgeting driven by internal school solutions (e.g. surcharges), as an element of the school budget.

Libraries get a dedicated part of the school budget to cover the basic cost items; faculties participate in purchasing foreign periodicals and databases; additionally, the school may grant a restricted subsidy to purchase various information media. Since 2010, academic libraries can apply for subsidies to finance science promotion activities⁴⁸, e.g. for maintenance and expansion of library collections,

48 Science promotion activity – undertaking activities supporting the advance of the Polish sciences through the propagation, promotion and popularisation of science, excluding scientific research or development efforts.

publishing, cataloguing of scientific library collections and library information. The most important external sources are grants from the European Union available through operational programmes announced by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage (in this case the funds are mainly allocated to creating digital resources) and by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Libraries can apply for co-financing within projects, programmes, or grants, primarily for digitalisation or maintenance, and less frequently for other tasks.

A distinct group of scientific libraries (not mentioned above) comprises municipal public libraries of local governments, such as the Raczyński Library in Poznań and the “Książnica Cieszyńska” Library in Cieszyn – cultural institutions maintained by the city of Poznań and the county of Cieszyn – the Provincial Pedagogical Library in Cracow (a budgetary unit of Lesser Poland province), public libraries with provincial status, and libraries of museums.

Scientific libraries (in particular central libraries, libraries of higher education institutions) undertake numerous activities, such as establishing consortia, foundations or other agreements⁴⁹, aiming at increasing the availability of library services and scientific information. Important drivers of these activities are both content-related and economic considerations⁵⁰. These activities include:

- The catalogue of the National Library⁵¹;
- Central catalogues (nationwide and local ones, e.g. catalogues managed by the National Library, NUKAT, KaRo)⁵², databases (such as BazTech⁵³, SIBROL⁵⁴,

49 For example Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL), in which the National Library is the Polish leader; Consortium of Libraries of Łódź; Upper-Silesian Scientific Libraries Consortium; Poznań Library Foundation, Consortium of Scientific Libraries of Kuyavian-Pomeranian Region, Consortium of Economic Libraries, etc.

50 For example, purchasing of worldwide electronic databases is completed in a system of consortia with 50% co-financing by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The organisation of these consortia is handled by ICM (Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling), the authorised agency of Warsaw University. Part of the databases are available as domestic licenses paid by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

51 Cataloguing occurs within 24 hours, and includes full formal and content descriptions of all publications, which then form the basis of the official listing of Polish publications and publishing statistics.

52 Examples of central catalogues (NUKAT, centralised) – since 2002, 124 collaborating libraries; KARO (dispersed) – since 2001, more than 100 libraries; Rokabi – central catalogue of libraries in Szczecin and West Pomerania creating West Pomeranian Library Agreement; Łódź – central catalogue of the Consortium of Libraries of Łódź; FIDES/FIDKAR – multi-browser of the Federation of the Polish Church Libraries enabling catalogue and bibliographic searches simultaneously in many computer databases. Digital Library Federation (FBC), which integrates dispersed digital libraries and repositories organised by scientific and research institutions, archives, museums, libraries and NGOs.

53 Database with content of Polish technical periodicals and (selected) exact sciences and environment protection. It is one of the resources of the Virtual Library of Science.

54 A system of information on agricultural researches managed by Central Agricultural Library.

SYMPONET⁵⁵, eIFL-EBSCO project⁵⁶);

- Licences for access to worldwide databases of scientific writing (e.g. through ICM UW, currently Virtual Library of Science⁵⁷);
- Digital libraries (for example projects such as: Digital Library of Scientific Publications **ACADEMICA**⁵⁸, CBN Polona⁵⁹, Digital Libraries Federation);
- Repositories (e.g. Digital Repository of Scientific Institutes⁶⁰), knowledge bases (e.g. SYNAT⁶¹).

Scientific libraries conduct evaluations of their operations – the AFBN Project (Performance Analysis for Polish Research Libraries) – initiated in 2001 by the Team on Standards for Scientific Libraries. Its efforts were included in the tasks of the Conference of Polish Academic Library Directors. The objective of the project is to develop standards for Polish scientific libraries and to conduct comparative research with indicators and performance standards of foreign scientific libraries. Participation in the programme is voluntarily; currently ca. 100 academic libraries (public and non-public) are registered in the programme.

-
- 55 This database records materials from domestic and foreign conferences, conventions, congresses, symposia and other scientific meetings, organised after 1980. It is administered by the Main Library of the Warsaw University of Technology.
- 56 Project enabling the use of full-text databases provided by EBSCO, developed and implemented within eIFL Direct in cooperation with OSI Budapest. Approximately 100 scientific libraries in Poland use EBSCO databases.
- 57 Virtual Library of Science is a programme conducted by CeON and financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, providing Polish academic and scientific institutions with access to worldwide knowledge resources and enabling a domestic archiving of these resources.
- 58 ACADEMICA project was an initiative of the Foundation for Polish Science. It is conducted from January 2010 by the consortium created by the National Library and Research and Academic Computer Network. The project will come to an end in 2014. Digital Library of Scientific Publications ACADEMICA is an innovative project of creating a digital database of scientific books and periodicals, and providing access to these databases through implementation of a system of interlibrary electronic file loans. The scope of the project includes scanning and providing access to 170 thousand of the most important scientific publications through the network of scientific and academic libraries.
- 59 This state-of-the-art portal created by the National Library is a tool that universally opens the treasury and stocks of the National Library to readers; and presents collections of other cultural institutions. In May 2014, POLONA exceeded a quarter of a million publications.
- 60 The main objective of the project is to create a transregional and multidisciplinary Digital Repository consisting of digitalised archival materials, scientific publications, research documentations and written cultural heritage selected from collections of 16 Polish scientific institutes and their libraries forming the Consortium for the Digital Repository of Scientific Institutes; project conducted in 2010–2014.
- 61 Science and Technology System, conducted in 2010–2013 by the scientific network connecting 16 domestic institutions including the National Library. The objective of the project was to develop the concept and to implement a hosting and communication network platform for digitalised knowledge used by researchers, scientific units, students, etc. The project was conducted within the Strategic Programme of the National Centre for Research and Development. B. Stępnik. “Informacja o nauce w Polsce”. Bibliotekarz 2014. No. 3, p. 13–17.

SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES (CENTRAL LIBRARIES, LIBRARIES OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, SPECIAL LIBRARIES) ACCORDING TO THE CENTRAL STATISTICAL OFFICE OF POLAND

STATE

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	1,225	1,276	1,219	1,203	1,056	1,121	1,087

TABLE 56. SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES IN 2001–2012*

* Until 2011 the research was conducted every two years.

According to the Central Statistical Office of Poland, at the end of 2012, there were 1,087 scientific libraries in Poland (compared with 2011 the number decreased slightly by more than 3%):

– the largest group among scientific libraries are **libraries of higher education institutions (871)**, mainly universities (375) and technical schools (203) as well as medical schools (41), schools of physical education (8), theological schools (6), schools of the arts (24), pedagogical schools (21), economic schools (18), agricultural schools (12), schools of the Ministry of National Defence (4), schools of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration (2), naval schools (2) and other higher education institutions (155);

– the second largest group are **research institute libraries (105)**;

– **libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (68)**;

– **Public libraries (13** – including 12 provincial libraries in Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Katowice, Cracow, Lublin, Opole, Szczecin, Toruń, Łódź, Warsaw, Wrocław, Zielona Góra, and one municipal library – the Raczyński Library in Poznań);

– **29 other large specialized libraries**: the Central Medical Library with 14 branches, the Central Agricultural Library with one branch, the Central Military Library, the Central Statistical Library, the Central NBP Library, the Central Library of Labour and Social Security, the Main Library of Transport, the Sejm Library, the Provincial Pedagogical Library in Cracow, the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences, the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock, the Library of the National Museum in Cracow, the Library of the National Museum in Warsaw, the “Książnica Cieszyńska” Library in Cieszyn;

– **The National Library.**

STOCK

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	99,470.3	99,796.6	107,480.8	109,367.9	105,071.6	108,332.8	110,464.8
Books	57,545.7	59,670.2	65,193.4	65,881.3	66,560.9	68,643.1	69,464.3
Periodicals	15,957.3	16,491.2	17,744.7	17,237.2	17,797.6	18,585.9	20,044.7
Special collections	25,967.3	23,635.3	24,542.7	26,249.5	20,713.2	21,103.7	20,955.8

TABLE 57. THE STOCK OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001–2012

In 2012, the book collections of scientific libraries included 89,509,043 volumes; special collections, currently referred to as other non-electronic collections (such as manuscripts, microforms, audio-visual materials) included 20,559,592 stock units; and electronic collections (on physical media) included 396,206 stock units.

The largest group of scientific libraries (36.8%) had book collections of 10 to 50 thousand volumes; the second largest group were libraries with book collections of more than 50 thousand volumes (23.9%). Book collections of up to 2 thousand volumes were in 13.5% of scientific libraries; 2 to 5 thousand volumes were in 11.7% of scientific libraries; and 5 to 10 thousand volumes in 14.1% of scientific libraries.

In the last decade, the total collections of scientific libraries increased by more than 11%, including an almost 2% growth in 2011–2012. This increase occurred in both books (20.7% and 1.2% respectively) and periodicals (25.6% and 7.8% respectively). On the contrary, so-called special collections (currently referred to as other non-electronic collections and electronic collections on physical media) are less stable. This is proven by data from the last decade, including the last two analysed years (showing a decrease of 0.7%).

Scientific libraries	Other non-electronic collections									
	Total	including								
		manuscripts	old prints	microforms	music prints	cartographic documents	graphic documents	standards, patents	audio-visual materials	other collections
Total	20,559,592	921,266	1,224,238	2,092,214	1,167,705	1,040,490	1,368,489	4,374,896	1,045,279	7,325,015
%	100	4.5	5.9	10.2	5.7	5.1	6.7	21.3	5.1	35.6

TABLE 58. OTHER NON-ELECTRONIC COLLECTIONS IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

In “other non-electronic collections”, standards and patents account for 21.3%. Another significant category is microforms (10.2%). The remaining categories (manuscripts, old prints, music prints, cartographic documents, audio-visual materials) are from 4.5% to 6.7%.

Licenced electronic collections with paid access (titles)	Including				
	Total	Electronic books	Electronic periodicals	Databases	Other electronic materials
	22,162,222	16,916,619	1,425,604	4,867	3,815,132
%		76.3	6.4	0.02	17.2

TABLE 59. LICENCED COLLECTIONS IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

An important part of the offering of scientific libraries are electronic collections with paid access (ca. 22.2 million titles). It accounts for 99.4% of all collections of this type available in Polish libraries included in the statistics of the Central Statistical Office of Poland.

This service is particularly important in libraries of higher education institutions, where 75.8% of all collections of this type available in scientific libraries were located. These libraries have also carried out digitisation on their own.

ADDITIONS TO LIBRARIES

In 2012, scientific libraries grew by 2.6 million stock units (including almost 2.2 million volumes of books, 371.4 thousand stock units of other non-electronic collections and almost 64 thousand stock units of electronic collections on physical media). They subscribed to 344,658 titles of current periodicals.

More than 37% of additions were from purchases (974,680 stock units). The sources of the rest included legal deposit copies, gifts, and exchanges. Scientific libraries purchased more than 693 thousand books, 186.3 thousand periodicals, 85.5 thousand other non-electronic collections and 9.8 thousand electronic collections on physical media.

FINANCING

In 2012, organisers of scientific libraries financed their on-going operations at 82%. Libraries have also acquired 9.5% of their finances from other public sources, such as: government organisations and institutions, ministries, foundations, associations, foreign sources (e.g. structural funds). The funds were in various forms, including: grants, restricted subsidies, and co-financing. Earned funds accounted for 3.2% and other income (e.g. sponsoring) for 5.3% of total financing.

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	82.0
Subsidies from other sources	9.5
Earnings	3.2
Other	5.3

TABLE 60. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES IN 2012

Expenditure on library materials accounted for 37.3% of the budgets of scientific libraries.

EXPENDITURE ON PURCHASES OF LIBRARY MATERIALS

Total expenditure on library materials in PLN and in %		2012
Total		200,081,883
Books		79,944,494
%		40.0
Other non-electronic collections		9,814,992
%		4.9
Electronic collections on physical media		1,245,015
%		0.6
Subscription of periodicals		47,103,192
%		23.5
Licensed electronic collections		61,974,190
%		31.0

TABLE 61. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

The largest portion of expenditures on library materials in scientific libraries were book purchases (40%). Access to licensed electronic collections accounted for almost 1/3 of total expenditures. Subscription to periodicals also made up an important part (more than 23%). The remaining 5.5% was spent on other non-electronic collections and electronic collections on physical media.

READERS, USERS, VISITS AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Readers of scientific libraries constitute a strictly defined group. In 2012, the total number of these was 1.7 million persons, which means that in comparison with the previous year the group had decreased by 1.7%, and in comparison with 2001 it had decreased by 18.7%.

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Re- aders	2,102.5	2,363.2	2,444.5	2,400.9	2,152.6	1,738.7	1,709.9

TABLE 62. READERS IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS) IN 2001–2012

As with other types of libraries, scientific libraries recorded a decrease in the number of registered readers. Although they were increasing in the first years of 21st century (up to 2005), they declined in the following years. During the whole decade the number of registered readers of scientific libraries decreased by 18.7%, and in 2011–2012 by 1.7%.

In 2012, readers accounted for half (49.3%) of the users of scientific libraries. the population of registered users in 2012 almost reached 3.5 million persons. They visited scientific libraries more than 20.2 million times. In other words, an average user visited these libraries almost 6 (5.8) times a year.

An important part of the operations of scientific libraries consists of training and educational activities, including: training courses (traineeships) for library science students and librarians from other libraries (in 2012, almost 2 thousand of these were conducted for 12.4 thousand participants); library training courses for users (more than 23 thousand for 351.6 thousand participants); and conferences and seminars, with 388 for 28.5 thousand participants. Additionally, scientific libraries organise various literary and educational events, exhibitions, etc. (more than 6.6 thousand events for nearly 412 thousand participants).

In 2012, scientific libraries published 12,290 titles of monographic publications (including 67 in electronic version) and 708 titles of serial publications (including 99 in electronic format).

COMPUTERISATION OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

The majority of scientific libraries are well equipped both with computer equipment and library software. In 2012, 83.3% of scientific libraries were equipped with computers. With few exceptions they were connected to the Internet. 2/3 of scientific libraries offered their users computers connected to the Internet. Almost 67% of them used library computer software.

Scientific libraries	Equipped with computers	Equipped with computers connected to the Internet	Equipped with computers available to readers	Equipped with computers connected to the Internet and available to readers
Total	905	889	776	730
%	83.3	81.8	71.4	67.2

TABLE 63. NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES EQUIPPED WITH COMPUTERS

On average, a scientific library had more than 20 computers. Half of the 21,963 computers operating in scientific libraries were available to readers, and 39.8% were available to readers and had Internet access. Every tenth computer served as a catalogue terminal.

Percentage of libraries providing:	
Connection for user's own computer	72.0
Access to Internet socket	46.1
Use of wireless Internet	56.5
Use of broadband Internet	49.2

TABLE 64. PERCENTAGE OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES PROVIDING ACCESS TO WIRELESS INTERNET AND INTERNET SOCKET

More than 2/3 of scientific libraries offer a different range of electronic services (70.2%). They include mainly on-line access to catalogue (61.9%), databases (34.9%), remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network (41%), digitised materials primarily shared through digital library resources (13.5%), and reader's account management (more than 1/3 of libraries).

Percentage of libraries and library branches offering	
Specification	%
On-line catalogue	61.9
Remote ordering of library materials	39.6
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	32.2
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	34.5
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	37.4

Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	41.0
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	12.9
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	14.3
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	15.4
Librarian inquiry forms	19.9
Discussion forums, guest books	5.4
Social media profiles	11.5

TABLE 65. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY BRANCHES OFFERING E-SERVICES

In 2012, 379 scientific libraries created their own databases, offering 22,755 titles.

Number of libraries participating in creating (or co-creating):		
		%
databases	379	34.9
digital library	147	13.5
repository	95	8.7
	databases	22,755
number of	objects included in a given year (concerns digital libraries)	344,741

TABLE 66. SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN CREATING (OR CO-CREATING) A DIGITAL LIBRARY - 2012

AVAILABILITY OF LIBRARIES AND THEIR SERVICES

In 2012, 34 out of 1,087 scientific libraries (more than 3% of the total number) stopped their operations. On average, during a “normal” working week, a scientific library was open to readers for 5.2 days, or 36.6 hours, including 4.7 hours after 4 pm. Almost half of these (46%) were available on Saturdays, and one out of every eight on Sundays as well (13.5%).

The largest group of libraries (28.6%) were open for 31 to 40 hours a week, 27.7% were open for less than 30 hours a week (including 4% for less than 10 hours), and 10.9% for more than 60 hours a week.

Specification	Libraries – total, active	Weekly number of opening hours						
		1-10 hours	11-20 hours	21-30 hours	31-40 hours	41-50 hours	51-60 hours	more than 60 hours
Total	1,053	42	115	135	301	187	158	115
%		4.0%	10.9%	12.8%	28.6%	17.8%	15.0%	10.9%

TABLE 67. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OPENING HOURS OF SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

More than half of scientific libraries (50.3%) were open to readers for 5 days a week, more than 1/3 of them (37.7%) for 6 and/or 7 days; in the case of on in every ten libraries (12%), a working week was up to 4 days (including 3.3% of libraries with a working week of up to 2 days).

65% of scientific library premises were adapted to the needs of disabled persons. Most of them had entrances adapted for persons using wheelchairs, but half of them had also other arrangements inside a building. Only 1/5 of scientific library premises had special facilities for blind and partially blind persons.

STAFF

In 2012, scientific libraries employed more than 11 thousand persons, including more than 86% in professional positions. They employed almost 10 thousand core professional staff (9,595 persons on 9,235.85 FTE). On average, a library employed a total of 10.2 persons (9.8 FTE), including 8.8 persons (8.5 FTE) in core professional positions. There were 4,310 stock units of out-of-library and in-house loans per core professional staff member.

An important attribute of this group is the fact that they are employed on a full-time basis (92% of core professional staff) and are well prepared for working in a library (58% of scientific library staff had a higher library science education, including only less than 5% at the bachelor's degree level). It is typical that scientific libraries employ experts in the area of knowledge on which the collection of a given library is focused.

In 2012, 12,346 persons participated in professional development activities. In other words, an average staff member (regardless of their position) could take

part at least once a year (1.1) in any form of training (workshops, conferences, seminars, etc.) and spent 17.9 hours there.

LIBRARY INFRASTRUCTURE

In comparison with other library types in Poland, it seems that infrastructure in this group of libraries (in particular in libraries of higher education institutions) has been substantially developed, and in some cases spectacular state-of-the-art facilities have been constructed. An example of such a situation is the joint central library of two higher education schools in Katowice (University of Economics and University of Silesia), the Information Science Centre and Academic Library in Katowice (opened in October 2012). Apart from its library function, it will also serve as a venue for exhibitions, cultural events, scientific conferences and entertainment, available to all the public of the region. Still, a large group of scientific libraries emphasise the problem of lacking space for expanding library collections.

The total floor space of scientific libraries in 2012 was 837,338 m². On average, it was 770 m² per library. The libraries had a total of 52,307 seats for readers (including 5.6% of seats adapted to the needs of disabled persons).

COLLECTION USAGE

In 2012, scientific libraries lent (out-of-library and in-house) a total of ca. 41.4 million stock units, including 62% in the reading rooms.

On average, a reader at a scientific library used 24.2 stock units a year, including almost 9 (8.7) volumes of books in the form of an out-of-library loan.

Library collection usage in 2012	Out-of-library loans total (stock units) and in %	In-house loans total (stock units) and in %
Total	15,664,372	25,692,145
Books %	14,932,894 95.3	17,259,915 67.2
Periodicals %	334,709 2.1	7,619,442 29.7
Other non-electronic collections %	378,215 2.4	787,991 3.1
Electronic collections on physical media %	18,554 0.1	24,797 0.1

TABLE 68. COLLECTION USAGE IN SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES IN 2012

Out-of-library loans are predominantly books, accounting for 95.3% of all out-of-library loans. The percentages of periodicals and other non-electronic collections were at similar levels (approximately 2% each).

In the case of in-house loans, almost 2/3 were books, with almost 30% being periodicals, and 3% other non-electronic collections. On average there were 491 in-house loans a year per library seat.

Scientific libraries also share their collections on an interlibrary basis (to both domestic and foreign libraries). In 2012, they received 124,231 orders. They lent almost 63 thousand collections and 56 thousand copies of original materials to other libraries. At the same time, more than 89 thousand orders were sent to other libraries, resulting in borrowing 33.3 thousand collections and 47.3 thousand copies of original materials.

SUMMARY

Scientific libraries are the most diverse group of libraries in Poland, both in terms of the responsibilities assigned to them by institutions (establishing entities), and the requirements of their users. They are libraries with great institutional and organisational capabilities in terms of collections, equipment, technological advances, and staff qualifications. It is at the same time the group of libraries with the fastest rate of growth, implementing new services and technologies. However, libraries in this category experience this growth to an unequal degree.

The diversity of scientific libraries means that it is difficult to create a definitive list of problems concerning all these libraries equally. The majority struggle with financial problems (depending on the financial health of the organiser), staffing constraints that prevent them from undertaking new tasks (such as digitisation and related retrospective cataloguing), or poor infrastructure (e.g. insufficiently adapted to disabled persons). Issues important for the optimised performance of libraries of higher education institutions⁶² include:

- **Cost of acquisition of scientific literature.** The increasing costs of access to electronic sources, and the demands of users (students, researchers) to provide the most updated foreign literature (e.g. periodicals), often exceeds the financial capabilities of libraries (this problem is particularly evident in libraries acquiring materials on exact, technical sciences).
- **Shrinking reserves of storage capacity.** This hinders or even makes impossible the creation of modern librarianship, where the development of acquisition policy should be determined by the needs of the scientific community and not by the lack of space for new collections.

62 Based on the materials of Marek Górski, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Conference of Polish Academic Library Directors.

- **Copyright law, primarily provisions on fair use, raise many doubts.** Publishers often take the view that ensuring that fair use regulations are observed should be the responsibility of libraries. However, this is in conflict with the primary function of libraries, which is to provide as wide as possible – yet legal – access to their collections.

- **A difficult cooperation between the community of libraries of higher education institutions and developers of higher education information system in the area of Polish Scholarly Bibliography.** The essence of this problem is the lack of willingness to collaborate with and to take into consideration the opinion of the academic library community.

Other scientific libraries (e.g. libraries of scientific societies, libraries of museums, special libraries) most frequently point out financial instability and other constraints that impact their core functions such as:

- Lack of funds for purchasing decent, advanced library computer systems, which would enable them to automate all library processes.

- A substantial increase of digital collections and problems associated with the management of these, including rapidly shrinking space on local discs and servers, and increasing costs of access to electronic sources.

- Exhaustion of storage capacity and problems with storage rooms that do not meet conservation requirements, such as humidity and temperature parameters.

- Decreasing number of users, e.g. a decrease of reading room users – a trend particularly visible in the most recent years. It seems that it is a consequence of growing digital resources available on the Internet (proven by the fact that the largest decrease of the number of lent original copies concerns newspapers and magazines, which are the essential part of digitisation programmes in libraries). It also indicates deeper transformations of library usage models, or even more widely, participation in culture.

- Problems with digitisation of their own publications (copyrights protection).

- Lack of guidelines concerning the development of a uniform professional group of librarians. Newly implemented solutions do not motivate staff members to focus on development. It is difficult to use them as a basis to build a professional career path meeting the requirements of a learning institution and causes a lack of staff member interest in acquiring a licenced librarian status, which may be connected with the loss of scientific library status.

Budget per reader	313.54 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	46.75 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	52.3 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.4 volumes
Number of readers per employee	178
Library floor space per reader	0.5 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	24.2 stock units
Visits per user	5.8
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	4,310.2 stock units
Collection per library	82,345 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	37 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	5 hours
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	70.2%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	61.9%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	39.6%
Number of computers per library	20.2

TABLE 69. INDICATORS – SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES – 1,087

IV. LIBRARIES WITHOUT A UNIFORM LIBRARY NETWORK

This category includes: specialised libraries (of institutions, offices, companies, service providers, museums, theatres, etc.); libraries of scientific, technical and economic information centres (information/library institutions being part of a scientific, technical and economic information (“inte”) network); and libraries of scientific societies.

Up through 2010, data regarding specialised libraries, fiction/specialised libraries, libraries of “inte” centres, and libraries of scientific societies were gathered by the Central Statistical Office of Poland every two years. Since 2011 they have been collected on annual basis.

1. LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

The smallest group of libraries included in the research of the Central Statistical Office of Poland are libraries of scientific societies. In 2014, there were 14 such libraries (mainly in the Masovian province, with 5). There are two types of such libraries: general ones, acquiring collections concerning various scientific disciplines, and specialised ones, acquiring collections concerning a single discipline,

complemented with literature on related sciences and regional publications. Libraries with focused collections dominate. They have a high scientific value as collections of literature regarding a specialised subject. The quantitative data concerning libraries of scientific societies with scientific status (the Library of the Scientific Society in Płock and the Library of the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences) were included in the section concerning scientific libraries. However, the conditions of their operations and problems that are common to this group of libraries will be dealt with in this section.

Libraries of scientific societies are not organisationally independent. Instead, they are established and maintained by scientific societies and associations, i.e. non-profit organisations. These institutions conduct their core business operations without regular budgetary financing. They operate mainly on the basis of acquired restricted subsidies and in the case of libraries with scientific status based on funds from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (granted on an annual basis as part of science promotion to institutions that are not organisational units of the Polish Academy of Sciences or higher education institutions).

STATE

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	25	21	21	21	14	16	14

TABLE 70. LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN 2001–2012*

* Until 2011 the research was conducted every two years.

In the last decade, the number of libraries of scientific societies decreased by 44%. A comparison with 2011 also shows a tendency towards decline. Similarly, the basic indicators concerning the operations of these institutions show a decrease. Data from the last three analysed periods are difficult to interpret due to various fluctuations. They are associated with differences in the number of libraries (in 2009 and 2012 – 14, in 2011 – 16), and large contrasts in total collections, numbers of books, periodicals, special collections and readers.

STOCK

The collections of individual libraries of scientific societies are very diverse, from small reference book collections to collections of several hundred thousand volumes.

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	593.7	586.9	491.3	517.8	215.1	602.3	305.2
Books	186.4	177.7	178.3	190.5	130.2	387.0	176.7
Periodicals	240.4	242.1	146.8	160.8	70.8	188.7	96.9
Special collections	166.8	167.0	166.3	166.5	14.1	26.6	31.5

Source: Culture, issues for the period 2001-2012

**TABLE 71. THE STOCK OF LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES
(IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001-2012**

In 2012, libraries of scientific societies had collections totalling more than 305 thousand stock units. The largest portion of these collections were books (58% of total collections). Three of the libraries had book collections of less than 5 thousand volumes, two libraries had 5 to 10 thousand volumes, and nine libraries had 10 to 50 thousand volumes. Over the decade their collections decreased by almost half, and so-called special collections by more than 80%.

One fifth of the special collections are cartographic documents, and the next largest portion, 17%, are microforms. These libraries do not have licenced electronic collections, and electronic collections on physical media consist of only 302 items.

In 2012, the collections of libraries of scientific societies increased by 9.6 thousand stock units, including 925 stock units from purchases (9.6%).

Expenditure on library materials was ca. 67,100 PLN. The funds were mainly used for book purchases (55,800 PLN or 83.2%), and subscription of periodicals (10,800 PLN or 16.1%).

SOURCES OF FINANCING

Libraries of scientific societies are entitled to grants from local governments, from the budget of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, funds of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education or private sponsors.

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	0
Subsidies from other sources	94.5
Earnings	0.2
Other	5.3

TABLE 72. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN 2012

The basis for operation and maintenance of libraries of scientific societies, as well as the societies themselves, are funds acquired from various public sources in such forms as: grants, restricted subsidies, or co-financing. According to the Central Statistical Office of Poland, in 2012, libraries of scientific societies did not report funds for operations and maintenance from their organiser's budgets, but only funds from external sources (94.5%). The remaining sources of financing such as donations and sponsoring are just above 5%.

READERS, USERS, VISITS

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Re- aders	5,827	5,261	5,412	5,081	3,324	16,158	1,755

TABLE 73. READERS IN LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES IN 2001–2012

As already mentioned, data regarding libraries of scientific societies are difficult to interpret due to their fluctuations. This is also true in the case of the population of users of these institutions. According to the Central Statistical Office of Poland, in 2012, the number of readers in these libraries was 1,755 persons. However, the number reported in 2011 was 16,158 readers, though in previous years (2001–2007) the readers in libraries of scientific societies were at the level of just above 5 thousand and in 2009 more than 3 thousand persons.

The same situation occurs with library users, or persons benefiting from services other than usage of the collection (in 2011 – 31,264; in 2012 – 4,471).

Users of libraries of scientific societies visited them almost 12.4 thousand times in a year. The average user visited a library almost three times (2.8).

COLLECTION USAGE

In 2012, libraries of scientific societies lent (out-of-library and in-house) a total of ca. 20 thousand stock units, including 2/3 of them lent in the reading rooms.

93% of out-of-library loans (more than 6 thousand volumes) concerned books.

In-house loans (almost 14 thousand) are in fact associated in equal part with books and periodicals (there were slightly more books involved). The use of other collections is marginal.

In 2012, libraries of scientific societies received 4 thousand orders from other libraries. All of them were completed.

STAFF

Libraries of scientific societies employed 17 persons (12.85 FTE), including 14 in core professional positions (10.35 FTE), with 9 in librarian positions (6.75 FTE). On average, there were 1.2 employees per library (0.9 FTE), including 1 employee in core professional positions (0.7 FTE). Six librarians had a higher professional education, while the others had no professional background.

Several libraries have no staff employed.

In 2012, three employees of libraries of scientific societies participated in professional development activities (105 hours).

AVAILABILITY

On average, a library of a scientific society operated 4.8 days per week and was available to readers for 30.8 hours per week, including 5.4 hours per week after 4 pm. Three libraries were operating on Saturdays and one of them on Sundays.

The situation of these libraries in terms of hours of availability seems to be good. Only three of them were available to readers for less than 21 hours per week, another two were available for 20 to 30 hours per week, five for 31 to 40 hours, and three for more than 50 hours per week.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Libraries of scientific societies are in a good situation in terms of the floor space of their premises. They occupied of 2,057 m² of space, which means that on average a library has a premises of ca. 147 m².

Only three libraries were adapted to the needs of persons using wheelchairs.

The libraries had 206 seats for readers (but only three of them were adapted to the needs of disabled persons).

TRAINING AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITY

For libraries of scientific societies, training activity is a marginal part of operations. In 2012, they organised 10 training courses for users. They also organised 42 events (including literary, exhibition and educational ones) for 980 users as well as six conferences and seminars for 150 participants.

In 2012, these libraries published 57 titles (including 53 monographic publications).

COMPUTERISATION

10 out of 14 libraries of scientific societies had computers. Eight of them used library computer software. Most of the 23 workstations owned by libraries had access to the Internet, and 12 were used by readers. They offer various ranges of electronic services. Most of them (8) provide access to an on-line catalogue.

Type of e-services available in libraries of scientific societies	
Specification	Number of libraries
On-line catalogue	8
Remote ordering of library materials	5
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	5
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	4
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	5
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	2
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	3
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	3
Librarian inquiry forms	3
Discussion forums, guest books	1
Social media profiles	3

TABLE 74. ELECTRONIC SERVICES

Five libraries created their own databases (12 titles), three created or co-created a digital library (in 2012 they uploaded 137 objects) and a repository.

Problems for libraries of scientific societies:
 – financial problems: insufficient funds possessed by the organisers of libraries of scientific societies to maintain these libraries, lack of a regular budgetary financing, operation primarily on the basis of acquired grants which results in limitations concerning:

- current purchases of periodicals and books;
- staffing;
- working hours, adapting to the needs of disabled persons;
- planning multiyear efforts;

– content-related problems: lack of subject matter expertise associated with the area of interest of a given library.

The above problems limit the growth of these institutions, which is reflected by the quantitative data from the last decade (a decline of collections, number of readers, collection usage). Sadly, there is no evidence indicating an improvement in this situation in the long-term perspective.

Budget per reader	171.87 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	31.81 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	155.9 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.5 volumes
Number of readers per employee	125
Library floor space per reader	1.2 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	11.4 stock units
Visits per user	2.8
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	1,429.4 stock units
Collection per library	19,546 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	31 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	5 hours
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	71.4%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	57.1%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	35.7%
Number of computers per library	1.6

TABLE 75. INDICATORS – LIBRARIES OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES – 14

2. LIBRARIES OF “INTE” (SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC INFORMATION) CENTRES

Libraries of “inte” centres – information institutions that remain a segment of information networks (of an industry, government department, or company information centres), were collecting documents and, after cataloguing them, handing them over for summarization or for development of content-related analysis (abstracts)⁶³. They formed the basis for developing information about the content of acquired documents for the users of a given centre (subject bibliographies, express information services, acquisition bulletins). “Inte” centres were established in 1950s and reached the peak of their development in 1970s. They made choices regarding purchases of foreign scientific literature and foreign periodicals, and developed information bulletins using information about foreign bibliographies, compilations, and abstracts. In the period without universal access to information, libraries of “inte” centres” played an extremely important role for industry-specific institutions and research institutes. With technological advance they became less significant and useful. Currently, “inte” structures are dispersed organisationally and have deteriorated. The largest network consists of „inte” centres within the organisational structure of PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe SA (PKP Polish Railway Lines). They form a nationwide network of institutions located in strategic railway districts with seats in 15 towns throughout Poland⁶⁴. Based on SOWA2 software, libraries of “inte” centres create the Integrated Library Information System containing a centralised catalogue of collections and information bases and a shared collection of library accounts. Collections of libraries of “inte” centres are widely available to employees of PKP Polskie Linie Kolejowe SA, users from the whole railway community, and students or other individuals interested in railway issues.

Apart from the abovementioned, libraries of the „inte” centres – information-library institutions – are mainly managed by industrial institutes (such as the Metal Forming Institute or the Institute of Applied Optics), research institutes (such as the Road and Bridge Research Institute), and study and design offices⁶⁵.

Libraries of “inte” centres do not have legal personality. Instead, they operate within the structures of organisationally independent institutions or companies.

63 B. Sordyłowa. *Informacja naukowa w Polsce. Problemy teoretyczne, źródła, informacja*. Warszawa 1987, p.140

64 In Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Cracow, Lublin, Łódź, Nowy Sącz, Opole, Poznań, Rzeszów, Sosnowiec, Szczecin, Tarnowskie Góry, Warsaw and Wrocław.

65 Libraries of “inte” centres reported by the Central Statistical Office of Poland are located in 11 provinces: Lublin province – 1; Łódź province – 2; Lesser Poland province – 5; Masovian province – 7; Opole province – 1; Subcarpathian province – 1; Podlasie province – 1; Pomeranian province – 1; Silesian province – 4; Greater Poland province – 4; West Pomeranian province – 1.

STATE

In 2012, the Central Statistical Office of Poland reported 28 libraries of “inte” centres (27 of them were active). During the last decade, their number decreased rapidly (by 82.3% in the period 2001–2012, and by 28.2% in 2011–2012). Substantial decreases within the libraries of “inte” centres weakened their capabilities. Between 2001 and 2012, their total stock decreased by 77.5%, and in the last two years by 29.1%. In the last two analysed years, book collections decreased by 25.6%, and periodicals by 49.6%. A similar declining trend was observed in the case of special collections. During the last decade, they decreased by 76.2%, and in the last two years by 26.3%. These losses do not in fact impact the stock structure of libraries of „inte” centres. In 2001, books accounted for 40.8% of the total, periodicals for 10.5%, and special collections 48.7%. Ten years later these figures were 39.1%, 9.3%, and 51.6% respectively. The figures concerning special collections indicate a slight increase in their total stock, while the other two categories declined. The stock of libraries of “inte” centres in 2012 should also include licensed electronic collections, with 94,000 titles, and registered electronic collections, with 1,787 stock units.

Libraries of “inte” centres have also experienced an increasingly smaller number of readers (in the last decade they decreased by 93.9%, and in the last two years by 9.5%).

The essential data concerning the number of libraries of “inte” centres, their stock and readers indicate a definite decline in their operations.

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	158	113	93	84	62	39	28

TABLE 76. LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES IN 2001–2012*

* In 2001–2009 special collections including electronic documents; in 2011–2012 excluding electronic documents.

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	3,871.1	2,896.3	2,715.3	2,415.8	1,995.4	1,226.9	869.7
Books	1,577.9	1,217.0	1,101.3	964.6	764.4	457.0	339.6
Periodicals	407.3	353.0	358.3	332.8	378.5	160.7	81.1
Special collections	1,885.9	1,326.3	1,255.7	1,118.4	852.5	609.2	449.0

**TABLE 77. THE STOCK OF LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES
(IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001-2012**

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Readers	40,934	26,920	22,131	19,097	8,829	2,752	2,491

TABLE 78. READERS IN LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES IN 2001-2012

AVAILABILITY

Readers were able to benefit from services offered by 27 active libraries of “inte” centres. On average, a library operated 4.9 days per week and for 33.7 hours. Libraries had premises of varying floor space. On average, the floor space was 190 m² per library.

Not all libraries of “inte” centres are adapted to serve special groups of users. 12 out of 27 libraries have various facilities, 10 libraries have entrances adapted to the needs of persons using wheelchairs, and 8 libraries have various arrangements inside their building.

COLLECTION USAGE IN LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES

Libraries of “inte” centres primarily lend printed collections. More than 56% of total loans are books, 31.6% are periodicals, and 11.9% are other non-electronic collections. Loans of electronic documents on physical media are marginal (63 out of 18,688). The structure of in-house collection usage emphasises the specific nature of these collections. Although in-house loans of books and periodicals accounted for substantial percentages of the total (23% and 36.4% accordingly), in-house loans of copies of original industry-specific materials were at a similar level, 30.7%.

STAFF

Libraries of “inte” centres employ 47 persons, in librarian positions only. 25 of these have professional backgrounds, including 12 persons with a higher education. Such an employment structure results from the specific nature of these libraries. Rather than operating independently, they are incorporated into structures of a larger institution that provides them with administrative and organisational assistance. On average, a library employs 1.7 core professional employees at 1.6 FTE.

COMPUTERISATION

Libraries equipped with computers account for the majority in this category (24 out of 28). Libraries located in 8 provinces are fully computerised, in the Silesian province computers are in every second library, and in the Greater Poland province in 75% of libraries. Libraries with computers have Internet access, but only in 11 libraries (out of 24 computerised ones) is access to a computer and the Internet available to readers. On average, a library of an “inte” centre is equipped with 2.5 computers. 15 out of 24 libraries with computers offer electronic services.

Specification	Total
On-line catalogue	7
Remote ordering of library materials	6
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	5
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	5
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	10

TABLE 79. NUMBER OF LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Few libraries offer other electronic services such as interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms) and social media profiles.

Specification	Total
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	4
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	1
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	1
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	1
Librarian inquiry forms	1
Discussion forums, guest books	0
Social media profiles	0

TABLE 80. NUMBER OF LIBRARIES OF "INTE" CENTRES OFFERING E-SERVICES - 2012

To a small degree, libraries of "inte" centres participate in creating (or co-creating) digital libraries and databases. The following table illustrates the scale of this involvement.

databases	14
digital library	3
repository	5

TABLE 81. NUMBER OF LIBRARIES OF "INTE" CENTRES PARTICIPATING IN CREATING (OR CO-CREATING) DIGITAL LIBRARIES - 2012

FINANCING

The organisational model of libraries of "inte" centres (dependent institutions within a larger organisation) and the instability of their situation impacts their financing. The income of libraries of "inte" centres is a sum of two almost equal parts: the organiser's subsidy, at 50.2%, and subsidies from other sources, at 49.8%. These libraries do not earn their own funds, and other income sources are completely marginal (a reported 422 PLN in the total subsidy of 1,196,627 PLN).

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	50.2
Subsidies from other sources	49.8
Earnings	0
Other	0.04

TABLE 82. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF LIBRARIES OF "INTE" CENTRES IN 2012

The expenditure structure reflects the stock of libraries of "inte" centres. Despite a decrease in the number of periodicals recorded in the last two analysed years (2011/2012), expenditure in this category increased. Expenditure on subscriptions consumes 63.3% of the total expenditure on library materials. The second largest expenditure in libraries of "inte" centres goes toward licenced electronic collections (17.5%), followed by books (12.1%) and other non-electronic collections (7%). Expenditure of libraries of "inte" centres on library materials indicate a preference for purchases of materials on new media or available only in such form. In printed documents, periodicals definitely dominate over books.

Total expenditure on library materials in PLN and in %	2012
Total	1,244,237
Books	150,027
%	12.1
Other non-electronic collections	86,879
%	7.0
Electronic collections on physical media	2,725
%	0.2
Subscription of periodicals	787,428
%	63.3
Licenced electronic collections	217,178
%	17.5

TABLE 83. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS IN LIBRARIES OF "INTE" CENTRES IN 2012

Budget per reader	480.38 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	60.23 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	168.9 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.3 volumes
Number of readers per employee	53
Library floor space per reader	2.1 m2
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	270 stock units
Visits per user	6.3
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	1,433.2 stock units
Collection per library	15,025 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	34 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	0.1 hours
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	53.6%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	25%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	21.4%
Number of computers per library	2.5

TABLE 84. INDICATORS – LIBRARIES OF “INTE” CENTRES – 28

3. SPECIALISED LIBRARIES

According to *Encyklopedia współczesnego bibliotekarstwa polskiego* (“Encyclopaedia of Contemporary Polish Library Science”),⁶⁶ specialised libraries are associated with companies, industries or government departments. Specialised libraries acquire literature required to perform the tasks of a given enterprise, and serve all groups of employees. To a larger degree than other libraries, they add to serial publication and special collections such as technical standards, patent descriptions, company literature, pre- and post-conference materials, and unpublished research works. Specialised libraries have been developing rapidly from the second half of 20th century, and numerous regulations normalised their operations thus emphasising their importance. In 1971, there were 5,648 specialised libraries with 15.6 thousand volumes. With the social and economic transformation the role of specialised libraries began to deteriorate rapidly.

Currently, specialised libraries associated with specific enterprises and the experts employed by these enterprises have special requirements for librarians and experts alike, who must establish contact and provide necessary information to users, with a perfect knowledge of the issues associated with the profile and spe-

66 *Encyklopedia współczesnego bibliotekarstwa polskiego*. Warsaw 1976, p. 59.

ciality of the enterprise⁶⁷. In some sectors of the economy, where the current professional and industry-related information is of particular importance to a company and its business, specialised libraries gain more importance. For instance, there are very active legal libraries located in law firms⁶⁸. They are specialised libraries of an enterprise, available only to company employees and associates. The collections are developed in accordance with the profile of the law firm, for example literature on commercial law, company law, securities law, intellectual property law, tax law or customs law.

Currently, the largest number of specialised libraries operate in regional prosecutor's offices, regional and district courts, museums, theatres, archives, branches of statistical offices, patent offices, agricultural advisory centres, local government offices, exploration industry companies (such as mines), hospitals and health care institutions, heavy industry companies, and pharmaceutical industry companies.

Specialised libraries do not have legal personality. Instead, they are part of larger organisations that determine their organisation, financing and management.

STATE

Figures related to specialised libraries show tendencies towards decline, though they are not as large as in the case of the previously discussed libraries of "inte" centres. In 2012, the Central Statistical Office of Poland reported 369 specialised libraries. Although their number decreased during the decade by almost 54%, in the last two analysed years the decrease was 4.7%. The total collection size decreased during the decade by 43.4%, and in the last two years by 31.8%. In 2011–2012, the book collections in specialised libraries increased by 13.6% (but during the decade they decreased by 21.3%); periodicals increased by 24% (remaining unchanged during the last ten years); and special collections decreased by almost a half (49.7%, and in the last decade by 55.5%). Despite such a decline, special collections were an important part of specialised libraries' stock. In 2012, they were larger (7,252,254 stock units) than book collection (6,350,609 volumes) and in more than 80% of cases consisted of standards and patent descriptions. The other collections of specialised libraries were not important in supplementing book collection and other non-electronic collections. More than 253 thousand are registered electronic collections, while licenced collections with paid access were at the level of almost 28 thousand. The usage of specialised libraries shows trends similar to other library types. During the decade, the number of readers decreased by 61.8%, and in the last two years by 2.1%.

67 Z. Żmigrodzki. *Bibliotekarstwo*. Warsaw 1998, p. 217.

68 E. Gryguc. *Biblioteka kancelarii prawniczej Sołtysiński, Kawecki, Szlezak. Doradcy prawni w Warszawie*. EBIB, http://www.oss.wroc.pl/biuletyn/ebib11/e_gryguc.htm

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	798	657	567	521	444	387	369

TABLE 85. SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2001–20012

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	24,050.9	23,544.8	22,538.2	22,498.7	21,137.6	19,940.3	13,602.9
Books	6,623.4	6,132.0	5,907.9	6,198.1	5,401.5	4,591.4	5,214.2
Bound periodicals	1,141.0	1,242.2	1,226.6	1,265.5	1,114.6	916.8	1,136.4
Special collections	16,286.5	16,170.6	15,403.7	15,035.1	14,621.5	14,432.1	7,252.3

**TABLE 86. THE STOCK OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES
(IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001–2012***

* In 2001–2009 special collections including electronic documents; in 2011–2012 excluding electronic documents.

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Readers	206.5	139.4	141.7	132.0	107.8	80.5	78.8

TABLE 87. READERS IN SPECIALISED LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS) IN 2001–2012*

* Users were taken into consideration due to a lack of comparability with the previous years.

AVAILABILITY

In 2012, 357 active specialised libraries offered their services to readers. On average, a specialised library was open 4.7 days, and for 30 hours.

More than a half of specialised libraries (52.9%) were open for 31 to 40 hours per week; 29.4% of them for less than 30 hours per week (including 3.1% for less than 10 hours); and 7.8% for more than 60 hours.

Specification	Libraries – total, active	Weekly number of opening hours						
		1–10 hours	11–20 hours	21–30 hours	31–40 hours	41–50 hours	51–60 hours	more than 60 hours
Tota	357	11	36	58	189	30	5	28
%		3.1%	10.1%	16.2%	52.9%	8.4%	1.4%	7.8%

TABLE 88. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OPENING HOURS OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES

The average library had premises with a floor space of 115 m². Almost every other specialised library (43.9%) is adapted to serve special users. 95.7% of these have entrances adapted for persons using wheelchairs, 69.8% have facilities inside their buildings for this user group, 3.5% have equipment for reading or listening to texts for blind and partially blind persons.

COLLECTION USAGE IN SPECIALISED LIBRARIES

Specialised libraries mainly lend printed collections (94.1% of total loans). Books account for 78% and periodicals for 22% of these. Out-of-library loans of special collections were 5.4% of the total, and electronic documents only a marginal part (610 out of 200,820). The structure of in-house loans was similar, though the percentages of individual collection types were slightly different. In-house loans of printed collections accounted for 86.8%, including 69.6% for books and 30.4% for periodicals; other non-electronic collections for 10.7%; electronic collections on physical media for 0.6%; copies of original materials for 1.9%. Collection usage structures in specialised libraries impacts the structure of purchases. Printed collections account for more than 90% (90.4%, including 73.2% for books and 26.8% for periodicals); other non-electronic collections for 5.6%; and registered electronic collections for 4%.

In 2012, specialised libraries received more than 2 thousand interlibrary orders. They lent 1.8 thousand collections and 256 copies of original materials to other libraries. At the same time, more than 1 thousand orders were sent to other libraries, resulting in borrowing 900 collections and more than 150 copies of original materials.

STAFF

Employees of specialised libraries constitute a group of 1,010 persons, including 896 core professional employees (88.7%), with 418 in librarian positions (46.7%) and 478 in other positions (53.3%), and an administration staff of 114 (11.3%). The average library employs 2.7 employees at 2.5 FTE. This includes 2.4 employees at 2.2 FTE in core professional positions.

Specialised library employees participated 105 times in professional development activities. An average employee spent 1.6 hours there.

COMPUTERISATION

Almost 75% of specialised libraries (74.3%) are equipped with computers. 92% of these have Internet access and 26.2% are available to readers, with 74.7% of these having access to Internet. On average, a library has almost 3 computers (2.9), including 0.8 computers available to users.

Every third specialised library (or 112 out of 369) offers electronic services.

Specification	Total
On-line catalogue	79
Remote ordering of library materials	45
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	40
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	29
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	38

TABLE 89. NUMBER OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Few libraries offer some of the other electronic services, such as interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.) or social media profiles.

Specification	Total
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	13
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	6
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	1
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	10
Librarian inquiry forms	11
Discussion forums, guest books	2
Social media profiles	9

TABLE 90. NUMBER OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

To a small extent, specialised libraries participate in creating (or co-creating) digital libraries and databases.

databases	89
digital library	18
repository	12

TABLE 91. NUMBER OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN

FINANCING

The organisational nature of specialised libraries (as dependent institutions being a part of a larger organisation) impacts their income. The largest part, i.e. almost 75% of total income, is the organiser's subsidy. Subsidies from other sources are at a relatively high level. The remaining two budget items are of a similar size: 4.7% are earned funds, while 5.6% are funds from other sources.

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	74.6
Subsidies from other sources	15.1
Earnings	4.7
Other	5.6

TABLE 92. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2012

The structure of expenditure on library materials does not reflect the level of purchases for libraries (in volumes and stock units), and indicates the costs incurred by libraries for licenced electronic collections with paid access. Books, being the largest part of purchases to specialised libraries, consume 12.8% of the total expenditure on library materials. Periodicals cost twice as much (23.8%) and licenced electronic collections almost five times as much (59.1%).

Total expenditure on library materials in PLN and in %	2012
Total	46,649,057
Books	5,986,001
%	12.8
Other non-electronic collections	516,037
%	1.1
Electronic collections on physical media	1,500,104
%	3.2
Subscription of periodicals	11,090,021
%	23.8
Licensed electronic collections	27,556,894
%	59.1

TABLE 93. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS IN SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2012

Budget per reader	834.41 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	200.16 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	212.4 volumes
Book purchases per reader	1.0 volumes
Number of readers per employee	30
Library floor space per reader	1.4 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	21.0 stock units
Visits per user	2.9
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	700.7 stock units
Collection per library	17,210 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	30 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	1 hour
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	30.4%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	21.4%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	12.2%
Number of computers per library	2.9

TABLE 94. INDICATORS - SPECIALISED LIBRARIES - 369

4. FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES

Fiction/specialised libraries combine collections for professions and fiction literature. Usually they operate in institutions where they serve both the employees and persons staying there. The majority of fiction/specialised libraries operate in the health services. They serve the staff and patients in hospitals, sanatoria, health-resorts, and health care institutions. A great number of libraries in this category operate in custody suites and prisons. In workplaces, fiction/specialised libraries may also serve as employee libraries, e.g. in cooperatives employing blind persons, in associations, and in large institutions such as the Ministry of Finance or AGH University of Science and Technology.

Fiction/specialised libraries do not have legal personality. They are parts of larger institutions.

STATE

In 2012, the Central Statistical Office of Poland reported 65 fiction/specialised libraries in 15 provinces (Podlasie province was the exception). The largest number of such libraries operate in the Masovian province with 10, the Subcarpathian province with 8, and the Silesian, Pomeranian and Warmian-Masurian provinces with 7 each. Four provinces have only one library of this type, and seven provinces have from two to five libraries. In the last decade the number of fiction/specialised libraries decreased by 60.8%, and in 2011–2012 by 9.7%.

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total number of libraries	166	143	116	104	79	72	65

TABLE 95. FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2001–2012

Changes in the number of libraries caused a decline of their potential. In the last ten years total collections decreased by 41.8%, and in 2011–2012 they increased by 0.4%, while book collections decreased by 43.2% and 7.4% respectively. By contrast, bound periodicals and special collections increased in the last two years (by 254% and 347% respectively). The stock of fiction/specialised libraries is not very diverse in terms of type and media. In 2012, the dominant part were printed collections available in all fiction/specialised libraries, accounting for 92.6% of total collections (95.9% of these being books and 4.1% periodicals). The other groups included: special collections, accounting for 6.2% and available in 37 libraries of five provinces; registered electronic collections for 0.8%, available in four libraries of one province; and digitalised materials for 0.4%, available in libraries of two

provinces. None of fiction/specialised libraries offered licenced collections. In 2012, the libraries purchased books accounting for 78.8% of total purchases; periodicals for 20.8%; and other non-electronic collections for 0.4%.

Fiction/specialised libraries were visited often by readers, though their number decreased during the decade by 17.5%, and in the last two analysed years by 4.7%. The decrease in readers in this library category is substantially lower than in the library types discussed earlier.

Specification	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Total collections	1,835.4	1,612.4	1,341.1	1,230.8	1,053.4	921.2	925.3
including books	1,465.0	1,530.1	1,287.2	1,196.9	1,016.0	898.2	831.9
including bound periodicals	26.4	40.4	21.8	19.7	20.6	9.97	35.3
including special collections	344.9	41.9	32.1	14.2	16.8	13.0	58.1

TABLE 96. STOCK OF FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS OF STOCK UNITS) IN 2001–2012

Year	2001	2003	2005	2007	2009	2011	2012
Readers	58.7	77.1	58.7	49.7	42.1	50.8	48.4

TABLE 97. READERS IN FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES (IN THOUSANDS) IN 2001–2012*

* Users were taken into consideration due to a lack of comparability with the previous years.

AVAILABILITY

The average fiction/specialised library is open for 4.6 days per week and for 26 hours.

Almost half of fiction/specialised libraries (43.5%) were open for 31 to 40 hours per week, 38.7% of them for less than 30 hours per week (including 6.5% open for less than 10 hours), and 6.5% were open for more than 60 hours.

Specification	Libraries – total, active	Weekly number of opening hours						
		1-10 hours	11-20 hours	21-30 hours	31-40 hours	41-50 hours	51-60 hours	more than 60 hours
Total	62	4	10	10	27	7	0	4
%		6.5%	16.1%	16.1%	43.5%	11.3%	-	6.5%

TABLE 98. WEEKLY NUMBER OF OPENING HOURS OF SPECIALISED LIBRARIES

The average library from this category occupies premises of 196.8 m², and almost every other one, i.e. 30 out of 65 libraries (46.2%) is adapted to serve the needs of special user groups. All libraries in this category have building entrances adapted for persons using wheelchairs; 25 of them have special arrangements inside the building; and 7 have text reading equipment for blind and partially blind persons.

LOANS

Almost 97.8% of out-of-library loans are books, and 2% are periodicals. In-house loans include a wider range of collections. Books dominate at 69.1%, while electronic collections on physical media account for 19.2%, and periodicals for 11.5%.

STAFF

In 2012 fiction/specialised libraries employed 129 persons with 85% of them (85.3%) in core positions (including 70.9% in librarian positions). The remaining are administration and maintenance staff. The average library in this category employed 2 persons, with 1.7 persons in core professional positions, including 1.2 in librarian positions.

Fiction/specialised libraries did not have large teams in terms of full-time positions. The average library had a total of 1.6 FTE, with 1.3 FTE in core professional positions, and 1.3 FTE in librarian positions. Administration and maintenance staff members were employed in the average library on the basis of 0.23 FTE.

COMPUTERISATION

Fiction/specialised libraries are not modernised. In 2012, 46.2% of them (or 30 out of 65) were equipped with computers. In two provinces (Kuyavian-Pomeranian province and Opole province) libraries were fully computerised, while in three provinces (Świętokrzyskie province, Greater Poland province, and West Pomerania province) libraries were partially computerised.

nian province) no actions were taken in this respect. Most of the libraries had computers with the Internet access (17 out of 30), but only a part of them were available to readers (10 out of 30).

Only 8 out of 65 fiction/specialised libraries in six provinces offer electronic services.

Specification	Total
On-line catalogue	5
Remote ordering of library materials	7
Remote reservation of library materials for loan	6
Remote extension of return dates of library materials	4
Electronic notification (e-mail/text message) about return dates of library materials	3

TABLE 99. NUMBER OF FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

Few libraries offer other electronic services such as interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.) and social media profiles.

Specification	Total
Remote access to licenced electronic resources from outside of the institution's network	1
Interactive information services (communicators, chat rooms, etc.)	2
Electronic courses, library training (e-learning)	1
Library blogs, RSS channel (news, ads, library events)	2
Librarian inquiry forms	2
Discussion forums, guest books	1
Social media profiles	1

TABLE 100. NUMBER OF FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES OFFERING E-SERVICES – 2012

To a slight degree, fiction/specialised libraries are engaged in creating (or co-creating) digital libraries and databases.

databases	10
digital library	2
repository	2

TABLE 101. NUMBER OF LIBRARIES PARTICIPATING IN CREATING (OR CO-CREATING)

FINANCING

Fiction/specialised libraries are mainly financed by organisers. In 2012, organisers' subsidies accounted for 92.1% of the total income. Subsidies from other sources and other sources of income were only a supplement to the organiser's subsidy (2.9% and 5% accordingly).

Financing structure	in %
Organiser's subsidy	92.1
Subsidies from other sources	2.9
Earnings	0
Other	5.0

TABLE 102. FINANCING STRUCTURE OF FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2012

The expenditure structure does not reflect the structure of purchases. Books, which constitute the largest part of purchases in fiction/specialised libraries, consume 30.9% of the total expenditure on library materials. Periodicals cost twice as much (67.9%), and other non-electronic collections are only 1.2% of total expenditure.

Total expenditure on library materials in PLN and in %	2012
Total	1,017,963
Books	314,485
%	30.9
Other non-electronic collections	12,312
%	1.2
Electronic collections on physical media	0
%	
Subscription to periodicals	691,166
%	67.9
Licensed electronic collections	0
%	

TABLE 103. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIALS IN FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES IN 2012

SUMMARY

Libraries outside of a network constitute a diverse, yet small group. Their problems include:

- their library organisation model, as well as a lack of organisational and financial independence, limit their opportunities and portends badly for the future;
- social transformations and technological advances are limiting the need for libraries of “inte” centres as well as specialised and fiction/specialised libraries in their current form; without a system subsidising their operations, libraries of scientific societies have no chance of surviving;
- operations of libraries of “inte” centres are drawing to a close – there is no justification for the format of libraries of “inte” centres that was the basis for their origin;
- there is interest in developing narrowly specialised libraries by such entities as law, advisory, or consulting firms. Their problem is a lack of: regulations regarding the establishment of specialised libraries; internal regulations; professional partners for collaboration in the areas associated with collection development, distribution of related information, access to collections (e.g. in the form of a digital library). Specialised libraries in a new form, predominantly financed from non-public funds, may regain their position as company or institution libraries (focused in terms of the area of interest and advanced in terms of the equipment and collections).

Budget per reader	67.67 PLN
Book purchase expenditure per reader	8.84 PLN
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	24.4 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.2 volumes
Number of readers per employee	324
Library floor space per reader	0.4 m ²
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	15.9 stock units
Visits per user	4.6
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	5,131.7 stock units
Collection per library	13,342 volumes
Number of opening hours in a week per library	26 hours
Number of opening hours after 4 pm in a week per library	1 hour
Percentage of libraries offering electronic services	12.3%
Percentage of libraries offering on-line catalogue	7.7%
Percentage of libraries offering remote ordering of library materials	10.8%
Number of computers per library	1.7

TABLE 104. INDICATORS – FICTION/SPECIALISED LIBRARIES – 65

V. CHURCH LIBRARIES

1. LIBRARIES OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

According to *Encyklopedia katolicka*⁶⁹ (“Catholic Encyclopaedia”), church libraries are institutions owned by the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations. In a broader sense, they are libraries maintained by the State, social associations or institutions for the purpose of clergy education and of strengthening religious culture in society. The Reverend Waldemar W. Żurek categorises church libraries based on their owner, e.g. diocesan and monastic libraries, and based on their type, e.g. libraries of higher education institutions (universities) and faculties of theology, libraries of theological institutes, libraries of diocesan and monastic seminaries, school libraries, monastic libraries, diocesan libraries and parish libraries.

The basis for defining “church libraries” is generally their sources of financing. Therefore, they are libraries established by an ecclesiastical legal entity. According to the Statutes of the Federation of the Polish Church Libraries (FIDES), a Catholic church library is “a library located in Poland and belonging to an ecclesi-

69 Encyklopedia Katolicka. Vol. 2. Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski, Towarzystwo Naukowe Katolickiego Uniwersytetu Lubelskiego, Lublin, 1976, p. 497–510.

astical legal entity, and an academic library, or any other department's or institution's library remaining entirely or partially under the authority of the Catholic Church"⁷⁰. There are also church libraries with legal personality (e.g. diocesan or capitular libraries): however, their superior organiser is always some ecclesiastical legal entity⁷¹.

This definition emphasises four basic groups of church libraries:

1. independent church libraries;
2. libraries of ecclesiastical legal entities;
3. libraries of institutions entirely governed by the Church;
4. libraries of institutions partially governed by the Church (such as the library of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, where only the theological faculties are under the formal governance of the Catholic Church)⁷².

Due to their function and the nature of their collections and users, the majority of church libraries can be classified as scientific libraries.

The typology and number of church libraries determined after the survey developed by the Centre of Archives, Libraries and Museums of the Catholic University in Lublin lists a total of 168 libraries:

5 university libraries (data recorded by the Central Statistical Office of Poland); 2 libraries of the papal higher education institutions (data recorded by the Central Statistical Office of Poland); 3 libraries of the papal theological faculties (data recorded by the Central Statistical Office of Poland); 7 libraries of theological faculties in public universities (data recorded by the Central Statistical Office of Poland); 42 libraries of higher diocesan seminaries; 29 libraries of higher monastic seminaries; 24 libraries of male religious orders and congregations; 40 libraries of female religious orders and congregations; 6 diocesan libraries; 13 parish libraries; 33 school libraries (data recorded by the Educational Information System)⁷³.

70 Art. 8 Section 2 of the Statutes of the Federation of the Church Libraries "FIDES".

71 Developed based on: Żurek, Waldemar Witold, *Rev. Biblioteki Kościoła katolickiego w Polsce*. Informator. Kielce 2005, p. 335; Bała, Maciej and Stanisław Dziekański (ed.), *Strategia i metoda digitalizacji i udostępniania zbiorów kościelnych*. Wydawnictwo UKSW, Warsaw 2012, p. 134; Witczak, Jerzy, *Rev. "Stan i perspektywy digitalizacji w bibliotekach kościelnych w Polsce"*. In: Bała, Maciej and Stanisław Dziekański (ed.), *Strategia i metoda digitalizacji i udostępniania zbiorów kościelnych*. Wydawnictwo UKSW, Warsaw 2012, p. 105–134; Olszar, Henryk, *Rev. and Bogumiła Warzachowska (ed.)*, *Biblioteki kościelne i klasztorne w Polsce. Historia i współczesność*. Księgarnia św. Jacka, Katowice 2009, p. 183; Adameczyk, Jerzy, *Rev. "Biblioteki kościelne w aspekcie kanonicznym"*. *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne*, 2013 No 100, p. 17–33; Witczak, Jerzy, *Rev. "Ankieta BETH (Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie) wśród bibliotek federacji FIDES"*. *FIDES. Biuletyn Bibliotek Kościelnych*, 2011 No 1/2 (32/33), p. 5–24.

72 Typology after: *Vademecum Bibliotekarza*, Warsaw 2006, Part 5, Chapter 6, Section 1, Page 2.

73 We do not know the exact number of libraries belonging to the church library network. The number of academic libraries (mainly monastic and diocesan ones) in Poland is estimated at ca. 120. Source: *Vademecum bibliotekarza*, Warsaw 2006, Part 5, Chapter 6, Section 1, Page 3. This number would reflect the findings of the Centre of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) taking

As can be seen, it is not a homogenous category, since church libraries include academic libraries, monastic libraries, parish libraries – libraries of various types and sizes.

Vademecum bibliotekarza (“Librarian’s Handbook”) lists the following types of church libraries:

- academic libraries (university libraries, libraries of the papal theological faculties, libraries of theological seminaries, libraries of institutes and other higher education institutions belonging to or associated with the Church);
- diocesan and capitular libraries;
- monastic libraries (central libraries and libraries of specific homes/monasteries/convents);
- libraries of schools managed by and/or belonging to churches;
- parish libraries;
- libraries of religious movements (such as “Light-Life”; “Neocatechumenal Way”; “Catholic Charismatic Renewal”, etc.);
- libraries of retreat houses;
- libraries of church associations and organisations;
- libraries of church archives and museums;
- libraries of church periodicals or publishers⁷⁴.

It should not be forgotten that the private book collections of many clergymen often augmented other collections or became a basis for non-church owned public collections due to the lack of inheritors. An example of such a situation is the library of the Załuski bishops, which became the first Polish National Library.

LAW AND FINANCE

The activities of the Pontifical Commission of the Church’s Cultural Property focus on church archives, libraries and museums. Documents emphasising the role of culture, including church libraries, in the activities of the Church are the circular letter of 19 March 1994 “Church libraries in the mission of the Church” and the circular letter of 8 December 1999 “The need of stocktaking and cataloguing of the Church cultural property”. In Poland, issues associated with church libraries are governed by the concordat⁷⁵ and acts of 2006⁷⁶.

into consideration a deduction of school and parish libraries.

74 *Vademecum bibliotekarza*. Warsaw 2006, Part 5, Chapter 6, Section 1, Page 3.

75 Concordat between the Holy See and the Polish Republic signed in Warsaw on 28 July 1993 (text published in *Journal of Laws* 1998, No. 51, Item 318).

76 Article 15 Section 3, provides for financing of John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) and the Papal Theological Academy in Cracow from the State budget. The Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Higher School of Philosophy and Education “Ignatianum” in Cracow from the State budget (*Journal of Laws*, No. 94, Item 650); The Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Papal Theological Faculty in Wrocław from the State budget (*Journal of Laws*, No. 94, Item 649); The

Generally, church libraries are fully financed from church funds, either diocesan or monastic ones. In other words, the source of these funds are donations and collections from the congregation. The exception to this principle is the library of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, which is fully financed from the State budget. Additionally, the libraries of 6 theological faculties of public universities are partially financed from university funds, coming from the State budget. The specific nature of these libraries results from the fact that they originated from former libraries of higher theological seminaries, and so the essential parts of their book collections are owned by the Church, which also covers the costs of collection storage and maintenance/expansion of the library premises.

Under the concordat and acts of 2006, the following church schools (and thus the libraries thereof) are co-financed from the State budget: John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (KUL); the Papal University of John Paul II in Cracow; Papal Theological Faculties in Wrocław and Warsaw; and “Ignatianum” Academy in Cracow.

The other libraries do not receive – directly or indirectly – any funds from the State budget for their ongoing operations. They may apply for the co-financing of individual projects (primarily for collection maintenance or digitisation) to such authorities as the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage or the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. However, the main barrier remains the requirement to make their own contribution.

COLLECTIONS

The collections of church libraries contain religious and theological works, as well as works on other subjects such as philosophy, history, law, and philology. Older libraries (monastic and capitular libraries or libraries of theological seminaries) have precious collections of manuscripts, incunabula and old prints, as well as valuable collections of periodicals.

STAFF

The directors or managers of church libraries are usually clergymen nominated by the originating authority or institution. The core responsibilities are taken care of by lay staff members, including many individuals with library science backgrounds. The libraries also employ volunteers and pensioners. Most of the libraries have one or two staff members. A slightly larger number of people are employed by the largest libraries associated with theological faculties⁷⁷.

Act of 5 April 2006, on financing of the Papal Theological Faculty in Warsaw from the State budget (Journal of Laws, No. 94, Item 648).

77 Information from Rev. Jerzy Witczak, the president of the Federation of the Polish Church Libraries (FIDES).

1.1. LIBRARIES GATHERED IN THE FIDES FEDERATION

The Federation of the Polish Church Libraries (FIDES), operating since 1991, was founded by the Conference of the Polish Episcopate in 1995. It aims at the standardisation and streamlining of the operations of church libraries in Poland, as well as a continuation of their computerisation. In 2013, the Federation grouped together 84 libraries, primarily libraries associated with theological faculties of universities, libraries of higher seminaries, and monastic libraries. Participation in the activities of the Federation is voluntary, thus it gathers a representative group of these libraries. The Federation publishes a semi-annual “*Biuletyn FIDES*” (“*FIDES Bulletin*”), has maintained the EBNT database (Electronic Bibliography of Theological Sciences) since April 2011, and is a member of the BETH association (*Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie*).

In 2010, a survey of libraries gathered in FIDES was conducted. 54 libraries responded to this survey⁷⁸. The figures concerned: size of collections, percentage of computerisation thereof, and budgets allocated for acquisitions. Data that is missing concerns the number of readers and loans as well as information regarding library staff.

COLLECTIONS

The largest book collections in the libraries participating in the survey were in the “*Ignatianum*” Library in Cracow (400 thousand volumes), the Library of the Papal University of John Paul II in Cracow (300 thousand volumes), and the libraries of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, “*Hosianum*” in Olsztyn, and “*Bobolanum*” in Warsaw (with ca. 250 thousand volumes each). Together these 54 libraries had a total of 4,650,000 volumes.

An extremely important part of the church library collections are special collections, primarily including manuscripts, incunabula and old prints. According to the survey, 38 libraries had such collections. However, often they are not reported out of concern for their safety. The largest collections of this type are held by the library of the Metropolitan High Theological Seminary in Warsaw (58 thousand old prints), and the Library of the Jesuit Priests in Cracow (ca. 30 thousand). The library of the Higher Theological Seminary in Włocławek has precious collections of incunabula (376 stock units). Total collections of incunabula include approximately 5 thousand stock units and 400 to 500 thousand old prints. The collections are not always catalogued in computers, and information on them is dispersed and incomplete. It is a huge area of common concern (including by the state authorities) regarding Polish cultural heritage.

78 Witzczak, J. Rev. “Ankieta BETH (*Bibliothèques Européennes de Théologie*)...”, *op. cit.*

Size of monographic publication collections	Number of libraries
More than 100,000	17
50,000–100,000	13
25,000–50,000	15
Less than 25,000	9

TABLE 105. SIZE OF MONOGRAPHIC PUBLICATION COLLECTIONS

Collection size in volumes	Number of libraries
More than 10,000	9
1,000–10,000	12
100–1,000	9
1–100	8

TABLE 107. OLD PRINTS, INCUNABULA AND MANUSCRIPTS

COMPUTERISATION

Libraries gathered in FIDES were using MAK software. One of them used the ALEPH system. 17 libraries were fully computerised.

There are also Church Digital Libraries – the oldest of them being Virtual Book Collection of “FIDES” Federation (operating since 2006), followed by Digital Diocesan Library in Sandomierz (since 2010), and Armarium Dominican Digital Library (2011). Church libraries also participate in regional digital library consortia, e.g. in Białystok.

Catalogue computerisation (in %)	Number of libraries
100	17
90–99	4
80–89	3
70–79	8
60–69	4
50–59	8
Less than 50	10
Data not available	1

TABLE 108. COMPUTERISATION OF LIBRARY CATALOGUES

BUDGET FOR ACQUISITIONS

Budgetary figures are of a “sensitive” nature. In the case of three libraries they are classified. In most of the other libraries, the available funds were at the level of 10,000 to 20,000 PLN per annum on new book purchases. Nine libraries had less than 10,000 PLN, while four large academic libraries had more than 100,000 PLN (for example Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw). Underfunding of libraries is reflected in the small scale of their involvement in projects co-financed from the state budget.

Funds for acquisitions in 2009 (in PLN)	Number of libraries
0	3
Less than 10,000	9
10,000–19,999	17
20,000–29,999	7
30,000–39,999	4
40,000–49,999	3
50,000–99,999	4
More than 100,000	4
Data not available	3

TABLE 109. FUNDS ALLOCATED FOR LIBRARY COLLECTION ACQUISITION*

1.2. PARISH LIBRARIES

1. Sources of information

The data was acquired from the Institute of Catholic Church Statistics, based on one-off research conducted for the Central Statistical Office of Poland (2011). The goal of the research was to analyse the parish libraries.

2. Organisation and financing of parish libraries

The research conducted by the Institute of Catholic Church Statistics shows that these libraries are associated with parishes in a strict sense. They are part of the activities of the parish that organises and finances them. Libraries are primarily maintained by volunteers who were or are otherwise involved in the parish activities. These libraries do not form a network. Their origin and decline depends largely from the willingness of the organiser (a parish priest) and laypersons engaged in the creation and maintenance of a library. If a parish priest changes or the persons who maintain a library leaves, it is often closed down or liquidated.

3. Capabilities of parish libraries

In 2011, there were a total of 1,480 parish libraries (out of 10,150 parishes). The largest number of these libraries were operating in the Silesian province (235) and the Lesser Poland province (190). These accounted for almost 1/3 of all libraries. There were 596 libraries in urban parishes, 541 in rural parishes, and 343 in urban/rural parishes.

The total book collections accounted for more than 4 million volumes (4,732,329 volumes). The purchases totalled to 60,525 volumes; however, in most cases these libraries receive books as gifts from parishioners.

Parish libraries were used by 128,839 readers who borrowed 286,305 volumes. They had 660 active computers. There were 1,938 persons working in parish libraries (an average 1.3 persons per library).

Total number of libraries	1,480
Total number of books in volumes	4,732,329
Number of purchased volumes in 2011	60,525
Readers per year	128,839
Number of loans per year	286,305
Number of employees	1,938

TABLE 110. PARISH LIBRARIES IN POLAND IN 2011

ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROBLEMS

The Catholic Church has no centralised structure that would be responsible for the libraries, which are not governed by individual dioceses, religious orders, schools and other legal entities (e.g. secular institutes). Library financing is a problem, especially in terms of purchasing new books, employing librarians on a permanent basis and developing their competencies. Book collections are rarely kept in appropriate premises, which impacts the condition and cataloguing of invaluable historical collections.

Undoubtedly, the biggest achievement has been launching the collaboration between church libraries within the “FIDES” Federation, operating from 1991.

Since the 1990s, church libraries, just like libraries of other networks, may apply for support from the State funds, primarily from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education. Above all, the funds are used for the maintenance and cataloguing of old collections and for computerisation.

Budget per reader	X
Book purchase expenditure per reader	X
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	36.7 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.5 volumes
Number of readers per employee	66
Library floor space per reader	X
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	2.2 volumes
Visits per user	X
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	147.7 volumes
Collection per library	3,197 volumes

TABLE 111. INDICATORS – PARISH LIBRARIES – 1,480

2. LIBRARIES OF THE OTHER CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

2.1. POLISH AUTOCEPHALOUS ORTHODOX CHURCH

The Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church is the second largest church in Poland in terms of the number of faithful. Organisationally, it is divided into 7 dioceses, 236 parishes and 11 monasteries (6 male monasteries and 5 female monasteries). The relationship between the State and the Polish Autocephalous Or-

thodox Church is regulated by the *Act of 4 July 1991 on the relationship between the State and Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church*⁷⁹. The Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church manages two higher theological schools – the Higher Orthodox Theological Seminary in Warsaw (financed from the donations of the congregation) and the Orthodox Section of the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw (a public school). Both have their own libraries. Additionally, the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church maintains the Postsecondary Iconographic College in Bielsk Podlaski, the Orthodox Cantor’s College in Hajnówka. Since 1999, the Department of Orthodox Theology operates at the University of Białystok. Since 2008, the “Supraśl Academy” conference and science centre operates in the Monastery of the Annunciation of the Virgin in Supraśl. The creators of the centre are the Orthodox Diocese of Białystok and Gdańsk, the monastery in Supraśl and OIKONOMOS Foundation. It is financed from the donations of the congregation. In February 2014, the Academy launched a part of its programme including a library, which is still in the organisation phase. Currently, its collections amount to ca. 1,200 volumes, including 300 volumes in foreign languages. The library is open to all guests and participants of conferences, training courses and meetings⁸⁰.

Orthodox dioceses and religious congregations have their libraries too. Since 2012, the St. Cyril and Methody Orthodox Cultural Centre has been operating in Warsaw. The structure of the Centre includes a library, created for the convenience of students living in the Metropolitan Students’ House. Its primary goal is to increase the knowledge of readers with no limitation to Orthodox theology. The library is in its organisational phase. Currently, it has more than a thousand books on dogmatic theology, pastoral theology, liturgics, general and Church history, fiction, and medicine, in Polish, German, Greek, Serbian and Russian. It has a collection of contemporary and old Orthodox and other periodicals, mainly in Polish, Greek and Russian. The most valuable part of the library collections are more than 150 liturgical books. The oldest of them is dated to the beginning of the 17th century. A similar library is run by the Centre of Orthodox Culture in Białystok and the Saint Nicholas Parish of Białystok.

2.2. THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

The Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession is the largest of the protestant churches in Poland. Organisationally it is divided into 6 dioceses and 134 parishes, gathering more than 71 thousand faithful. The activities of the Church are governed by the *Act of 13 May 1994 on the relationship between the State and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Poland*⁸¹. Within the Church, a social and cultural Polish Evangelical Society publishes a quarterly *Słowo i Myśl*

79 Journal of Laws 1991, No. 66 Item 287.

80 Information from Father J. Józwiak, chancellor of the Supraśl Academy.

81 Journal of Laws 1994, No. 73, Item 323.

(“Word and Thought”). Additionally, the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession runs the Centre for Mission and Evangelisation in Dziegiełków (Silesian province). Parts of the centre are a biblical school with a library (operating from 1997) and WARTO publishing house (from 2004). Another library operates in the Evangelical Parish Centre “Słoneczna Kraina” (“The Sunny Land”) in Katowice. Its collections are oriented toward children (with a large collection of required school readings, fiction and games).

The dioceses and parishes also have their own libraries. For example, in 2006 Krystyna Gross initiated the creation of the Christian library “For everyone” in the Evangelical parish of Rawa Mazowiecka. The library founded its premises in a former presbytery, refurbished especially for that purpose. The collection was catalogued and expanded with new Evangelical publications. One of the ways of augmenting the collection are gifts from other parishes (e.g. the parish of Tomaszów Mazowiecki donated books from the “Zwiastun” and “Augustan” publishing houses). The library is open two Sundays a month for one hour. Its readers are primarily parishioners. Parish libraries are widely available. They have collections ranging from 200–300 to several thousand volumes. The basis for acquisitions are gifts. They are financed from donations of the faithful and/or parish budgets and business operations⁸².

One special institution is the B.R. Tschammer Library and Archive, in the largest Evangelical parish of Cieszyn⁸³. Its goal is to collect, protect, catalogue and popularise the heritage associated with a wide range of activities of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Cieszyn Silesia and outside its borders. The roots of the library go back to 1938, when the tutelary committee for the library was created. The library, archive and museum collections owned by the Lutheran parish of Cieszyn are managed within its structure as two discrete institutions with their own statutes, financed from the parish funds: the B.R. Tschammer Library and Archive of the Lutheran Parish of Cieszyn and the Museum of Protestantism of the Lutheran Parish of Cieszyn. In 2007–2009, the institutions participated in the project “Protection and maintenance of the writing heritage in Cieszyn”, co-financed from the funds of the EEA Financial Mechanism, with the collaboration of the Lutheran parish of Cieszyn, the “Książnica Cieszyńska” library, the State Archive in Cieszyn, the Museum of Cieszyn Silesia, and the Convention of Brothers Hospitallers of St. John of God. It is difficult to estimate precisely the size of the library’s collections, as there are no professional library inventories. During efforts preceding a disinfection of the collections in 2007, more than 23 thousand volumes were found, including almost 5 thousand old prints with five incunabula, more than 17 thousand of book and periodicals from 19th

82 Information from Rev. W. Pracki – the press spokesman of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession.

83 The parish of Cieszyn gathers 10% of all Evangelicals in Poland. It is the largest parish of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession.

and 20th centuries, and 322 library manuscripts.

As regards the old prints, the dominant group is Protestant theological literature. There are also works in philosophy, law, history, geography and the classical literature. The largest group of books are in German and Latin; there are fewer prints in Czech and Polish. Undoubtedly, the most valuable part of the library collections are incunabula. The library has a rich collection of religious songbooks and books about Cieszyn Silesia.

2.3. THE PENTECOSTAL CHURCH

The Pentecostal Church, the second largest protestant church in Poland, is divided into 7 districts and 217 congregations (parishes). Its activities are governed by the *Act of 20 February 1997 on the relationships between the State and the Pentecostal Church in Poland*⁸⁴. Since 2012, the Church runs the Theological and Social Higher School, following the traditions of the Biblical School created in 1968, and then the Warsaw Theological Seminary. Currently, it is a private vocational school primarily financed from the donations of the church congregation. It provides an education at the bachelor's degree level, and the students may continue their education at higher levels in any higher educational institutions (usually they choose the Christian Theological Academy). The school has its own library with a predominant percentage of religious works. The library has a book collection of 12,150 volumes, serves 191 readers, and in the last year had ca. 800 in-house loans and 3,000 out-of-library loans. In 2013, the collection was expanded by 259 items (including a purchase for 3,229 PLN from the sponsors; and donations of 4,005 PLN). The library employs one person on a permanent basis and a student (volunteering for 2 hours per week). Books are organised based on UCD with free access to shelves, a card catalogue is organised by authors. Other institutions include the Theological Seminary of the Pentecostal Church in Ustroń; the Biblical Seminary of Cracow; and the "Berea" Biblical Institute in Katowice. Individual congregations (e.g. in Warsaw) have their own libraries.

2.4. THE LIBRARY OF THE CHRISTIAN THEOLOGICAL ACADEMY

The Library of the Christian Theological Academy is a public higher education institution (like the UKSW), financed by the State and reporting to the Central Statistical Office of Poland. The acquired collections focus on publications on theology (Evangelical theology, Orthodox theology, Old Catholic theology), hymnology and iconography and comparative theology – ecumenical dialogue and education. The library collections also include old prints. The core of the library-information system at the Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw is the Main Library, which provides complete and continual access to library collections and

84 Journal of Laws 1997, No. 41, Item 254.

current scientific information on the basis of the Act of 27 July 2005 *The Law on Higher Education* and the Statutes. The Main Library is a school-wide organisational unit of the Academy, consisting of a lending department, reading room, interlibrary lending department and archives. Subject-matter governance over the library-information system is exercised by the library director in cooperation with the library council acting as a consultative body of the vice-chancellor. The library of the Christian Theological Academy is widely available to public.

The library of the Christian Theological Academy (according to figures based on K-03 for 2013) is open for 6 days a week, and for 58 hours, including 10 hours after 4 pm. It is located in a historic building adapted to the needs of disabled persons (using wheelchairs). It occupies the floor space of 172 m², and has 24 seats for readers. It has 11 computers, including 10 computers with Internet access, and 6 available to readers. The library has an on-line catalogue and enables the remote ordering of library materials. It employs 5 persons, all in core professional positions. The collections include 36,911 volumes of books. In 2013, the library purchased 255 volumes. It is fully financed by the organiser with the amount of 23,914 PLN (11,392 PLN for book purchases, 12,522 PLN for subscription of periodicals). In 2013, the library had 683 users, including 289 actively borrowing readers. The number of visits was 6,283. Out-of-library loans are at the level of 2,111 while in-house loans are at 3,984, including 2,762 books.

Conclusions

Church libraries include very diverse units and institutions, from large academic and scientific libraries to small parish libraries. Information concerning church libraries of individual Christian churches and denominations is very dispersed, difficult to access and incomplete. The churches themselves are not interested in collecting this type of data, as it goes beyond Church missions.

VI. LIBRARIES OF THE UNIFORMED SERVICES

6.1. LIBRARIES OF THE MILITARY SERVICES

1. Sources of information

Information concerning military libraries was prepared based on the following documents and available sources:

1. "Centralna Biblioteka Wojskowa im. Marszałka Józefa Piłsudskiego w Warszawie w 2012 r. Raport" ("Marshal Józef Piłsudski Central Military Library in Warsaw in 2012. Report"). Warsaw 2014, p.14 of the typescript.

2. "Raport ze sprawozdań rocznych wojskowych bibliotek naukowych, fachowych i ośrodków naukowej informacji wojskowej za rok 2012" ("Summary report of annual reports of military scientific libraries, specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres for 2012"). Warsaw 2013, p. 23 of the typescript.

3. Data acquired from the Departmental Library Network of Military Services in Poland (RSB).

4. Information acquired from the Education and Promotion of Defence Department of the Ministry of National Defence (data concerning military educational libraries)

The Report on Central Military Library operations discusses such issues as: the legal basis for library operations; rules, sources and size of library financing; size and structure of collections; computerisation status; e-services; employment structure; and number of visits and loans (there is no information on the number of readers, unless the number of visits can be considered as the number of readers).

The Summary report of annual reports of military scientific libraries, specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres is developed based on a survey sent by the Central Military Library to military libraries⁸⁵. Since the completion of this survey is voluntary, some libraries fail to respond. In 2012 responses were sent by 29 libraries (an increase of 5 libraries in comparison with 2011), including 9 scientific libraries, 16 specialised libraries and 4 libraries of military information research centres. The scope of the report includes such issues as: number and structure of employees; funds assigned for purchase of library materials (not only books); collections; number of loans; and information-library systems. The survey did not gather data on numbers of readers.

The Departmental Network of Military Services Libraries in Poland records a total of 110 such libraries⁸⁶. This number changes following changes in military structures. They included: 7 libraries of different types of military services; 5 libraries of divisions/flotillas; 22 libraries of brigades/wings; 21 libraries of regiments/bases; 37 libraries of batteries/squadrons; 11 libraries of training centres; and 7 other libraries (such as GROM military unit). All these educational libraries are governed by the Culture and Education Section of the Education and Promotion of Defence Department of the Ministry of National Defence to which they report. According to data acquired from this department, in 2012 there were 118 military educational libraries.

“Military educational libraries are organisational units of cultural centres, army units, schools and academies, and the superior (head, commandant, director) is responsible for their maintenance and development or providing an organisational, financial and material basis”⁸⁷.

85 Some of the libraries are included in the sections concerning scientific libraries or specialised libraries (e.g. Central Military Library, libraries of higher education institutions).

86 Data published on www.cbw.pl.

87 Source: *Vademecum bibliotekarza*. Warsaw 2006, Part 5, Chapter 4, Section 1.2 Page 3.

2. Legal basis

1. The Central Military Library and other libraries operate on the basis of the general legal regulations regarding libraries and the following departmental provisions:

Regulations:

- on the principles of the organisation of library services in organisational units of the Ministry of National Defence and the principles of public library collaboration in the performance thereof (Minister of National Defence)

- on the extension of the provisions of the Act on the organisation and operation of cultural activity to include cultural activities undertaken by organisational units subordinate to or governed by the Minister of National Defence (Minister of National Defence)

Orders:

- on special approaches to the organisation and operation of covert offices and organisational units responsible for processing non-public information other than a covert office; the method and mode of processing of non-public information; and the selection and usage of physical security measures (Minister of National Defence).

2. For three years, the Central Military Library has provided methodological and subject-matter assistance (such as training courses for military libraries) for the Departmental Library Network, based on the Decision of the Ministry of National Defence of 28 June 2011. Therefore, one can say that libraries of the military services constitute a library network.

3. Finance

Libraries of the military services are financed from the budget of the Ministry of National Defence, according to the approved annual budget. In the case of the Central Military Library it is at the level of 5.5 million PLN per year.

4. Capabilities of libraries

a. Collections

As of 31 December 2012, the collections of the Central Military Library were at the level of 690,776 stock units (main collections contained 476,570 stock units, while special collections contained 168,613 stock units). In 2012, they increased by 14,555 units through purchases, gifts, domestic and international exchanges as well as military legal deposit copies as established by the Decision of the Minister of National Defence of 30 July 2007.

The remaining scientific libraries, specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres had collections ranging from 841,771 stock units in the National Defence University to a mere 154 stock units in the library of the Headquarters of the Air Force. Acquisitions of new materials (excluding the Central Military Library) ranged from 9,269 stock units in the Polish Air Force Academy to only 12 stock units in the Military Institute of Armament Technology.

The largest amounts for purchases of library materials were spent by the libraries of: the Military University of Technology (744,802 PLN), the Polish Air Force Academy (315,982 PLN) and the Central Military Library (429,613 PLN), while the smallest were spent by the Headquarters of Special Forces (250 PLN) and the Joint Operational Headquarters (750 PLN). One of the characteristics noticeable in acquisitions concerns a group of libraries where expenditure on purchases of databases is higher than expenditure on books and periodicals (the Military University of Technology, the Military Institute of Medicine, the Air Force Institute of Technology, the National Defence University), while another concerns a group of libraries that put the primary emphasis on purchases of military periodicals (e.g. the Air Force Institute of Technology, the Military Institute of Technical Engineering, the Naval Academy, the Military Communication Institute).

In 2012, the collections of military educational libraries numbered 2,685,958 volumes. These libraries purchased 32,335 volumes of books for a total amount of 1,033,283 PLN.

It appears from the analysis that the largest collections are in the library of the National Defence University, the Central Military Library and the library of the Military University of Technology. Libraries of institutes have smaller collections. These differences result from the nature of individual libraries, such as the number and profile of users, subject-related focus of a book collection, or sources of financing. Libraries of military academies and the Central Military Library, as widely available institutions, meet the informational needs of a large group of users: professional staff, army employees, students of various educational levels, and civilians. The collections are multi-domain and multi-subject. Specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres, usually not available to external users, are targeted to meet the needs of a narrow group of users, with precisely defined interests. They have specialised book collections, acquired primarily with professional staff and army employees in mind.

b. Computerisation

The Central Military Library uses PROLIB M21 software. It launched an online catalogue (OPAC-CBW) and in 2012, the Departmental Library Network portal. Since March 2012, the ZBROJOWNIA ("ARMOURY") Digital Military Library is available to users. There are also commercial and bibliographic databases and the National Centre for Distribution of NATO Science and Technology Organisation Publications.

Other scientific libraries, specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres use primarily the SOWA system. Five of them have no information-library system, three specialised libraries have no Internet access.

The acquisition of modern information-library systems for military libraries remains a problem both in a procedural and financial sense.

c. Readers and loans

In 2012, the Central Military Library was visited by a total of 22,835 persons and the number of loans reached 72,325 volumes. The Central Military Library provides services to both military and civilian persons and institutions. It does not collect readers' statistics in terms of their age, education, employment, etc.

The Report on military scientific libraries, specialised libraries and libraries of military information research centres does not include information on the number of readers (until last year such data were not collected, however this will change from 2014). Lending in individual libraries ranged from 77,710 stock units in the Military University of Technology to 35 stock units in the Military Institute of Chemistry and Radiometry.

In 2012, military educational libraries registered 38,341 readers, including 28.8% not related with military services, who borrowed a total of 721,247 volumes.

d. Staff

According to data included in the Reports, in 2012 the Central Military Library employed 89 staff members, including 85 on a full-time basis and 4 on a part-time basis (1/2 FTE). 76% of them had a higher educational background. All libraries of the military services included in the Report (including the Central Military Library) employed 248 staff members altogether, including 62% in librarian positions. 102 employees (41%) had a higher education in library science and scientific information science.

Military educational libraries employed 198 persons.

PROBLEMS

1. a lack of infrastructure adapted for disabled persons (Central Military Library)

2. a lack of an information-library system that would enable bibliographic description sharing and as a result show library resources in a multi-browser maintained by the Central Military Library in the common Internet platform of the Departmental Library Network.

CONCLUSIONS

The situation of military libraries is very diverse both in terms of technological and technical advancement of libraries (there are still libraries without computer databases and Internet access). The best conditions can be seen in academic libraries and libraries of some research institutes. An improvement of library infrastructure is among the positives: construction of the Main Library of the Naval Academy; major renovation of the Main Library of the Military University of Technology; and the launch of renovation and modernisation of the Central Military Library.

The network of military libraries is diverse and dispersed. It includes institutions of varying status (scientific, academic, specialised, and educational ones), with different approaches to collection cataloguing, and diverse user groups. There are both libraries open and partially open to a wide audience (such as the Central Military Library, or academic libraries), and classified libraries with classified collections, available only for military staff and institutions (such as the Specialised Library of the Headquarters of the Air Force, the Classified Library and Reprographics Centre of the Headquarters of Special Forces, the Classified Library of the 3rd Security Battalion of the Headquarters of Ground Forces).

Budget per reader	X
Book purchase expenditure per reader	X
Number of book and periodical volumes per reader	70.0 volumes
Book purchases per reader	0.8 volumes
Number of readers per employee	202
Library floor space per reader	X
Out-of-library and in-house loans per reader	18.8 volumes
Visits per user	X
Out-of-library and in-house loans per employee	3,816 volumes
Collection per library	22,762 volumes

TABLE 112. INDICATORS – EDUCATIONAL LIBRARIES OF THE MILITARY SERVICES – 118

6.2. PRISON LIBRARIES

CENTRAL LIBRARY OF THE PRISON SYSTEM IN KALISZ

1. Sources of information

Information about prison libraries in Poland was prepared based on data acquired from the Central Library of the Prison System in Kalisz.

The network of prison libraries consists of the library mentioned above and libraries operating in prisons and custody suites in Poland (156 libraries).

2. Legal basis and library organisation

Central Library of the Prison System was established within the organisational structure of the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service. It operates based on the Statutes of the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service in Kalisz (Or-

der No. 15/2012 of the General Director of the Prison Service of 21 February 2012) and Order No. 22/2012 of the Commander of the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service in Kalisz on granting of the rules for the Central Library of the Prison System in the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service in Kalisz.

The Central Library of the Prison System does not govern prison libraries organised in penitentiary units for convicts and pre-trial detainees. The organisation of library services in penal institutions is defined by the Regulation of the Minister of Justice of 25 October 2012. Therefore, it is a dispersed network.

The Central Library of the Prison System collaborates with libraries of the other uniformed services such as: the Central Military Library, the Main Library of the National Defence University, the Library of the Police Academy in Szczytno and the Main Library of the Main School of Fire Service.

The representatives of the library are invited to participate in consecutive sessions of the Forum of Military Libraries, aiming at the exchange of experiences and subject-matter information.

3. Guidelines, sources and size of financing

The Central Library of the Prison System is part of the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service in Kalisz, which is a budgetary unit financed from the State budget (the Ministry of Justice). All expenditures are covered by the budget and all income is transferred to the budget.

4. Library capabilities

Collections

As the only such library in Poland, it specialises in acquiring publications associated with broadly defined issues of executing a custodial sentence, penitentiary science and public security. Acquisitions include publications on penology, law, criminology, forensic medicine, psychology, psychiatry, social rehabilitation and social sciences, as well as periodicals on penitentiary and social rehabilitation subjects. The responsibility of the library is to acquire and propagate the history, tradition and scientific achievements of the prison system. In 2012, the library collections included 47,281 volumes of books. The library subscribed to 28 periodicals for a total amount of 17,309.96 PLN. It purchased 657 volumes of books for 17,753.08 PLN.

Computerisation of the library

All collections are computerised using the SOWA system. An on-line catalogue is available only in an internal WAN network of the prison service. The library digitalised 152 issues of penitentiary magazines.

Readers and loans

The library is used by the participants of training courses and professional development organised in the Central Training Centre of the Prison Service, active

prison service officers, active officers of other uniformed services, and other individuals with written consent to use the library collections (students of undergraduate and graduate studies). The number of registered users in 2012 was 2,084 persons, and the number of loans was 7,764 volumes.

Staff

The library employed 4 persons on a full-time basis. All of them had a higher library science education.

LIBRARIES IN PRISONS AND CUSTODY SUITES

1. Legal basis and library organisation

Prison libraries operate on the basis of:

- The Regulation of the Minister of Justice of 25 October 2012, on the principles of organisation of the library services in penal institutions, correctional institutions, and juvenile detention centres and the principles of public library collaboration in the performance thereof.

- The Order No. 2/2004 of the General Director of the Prison Service of 24 February 2004 on detailed rules on conducting and organising the penitentiary work and scopes of responsibilities of the officers and employees of penitentiary and therapeutic units.

2. Organisation and availability of prison libraries

A prison library operates in every penitentiary unit. The number of prisons and custody suites in Poland, and thus the number of libraries, is 156.

A library in a penitentiary unit is organised by the director of the institution, who provides appropriate conditions to deliver library services and funds to provide library equipment and conduct library operations. Additionally, he or she signs off on the library rules. The rules define:

- who has the right to use the library and at what times,
- what are the rights and obligations of a reader,
- what are the sanctions in the event of non-compliance with the rules.

A prison library should have premises with appropriate protection and library equipment as well as an on-site bookbinding workshop.

A library consists of the following book collections:

- 1) a general collection for all readers;
- 2) a collection for the sole use of convicts staying in isolation wards of prison hospitals (fixed, nonexchangeable, wrapped up in plastic, disinfected);
- 3) a reference collection – available in a reading room;
- 4) a specialised collection, only for the use of Prison Service officers and employees.

Depending on individual needs, libraries create collections of audio-visual and multimedia aids authorised for public performance.

In penitentiary units with schools, libraries create collections of school textbooks and required readings with analytical surveys thereof. The selection of books is conducted jointly by a prison library tutor and teachers nominated by the director of the prison school.

The book collections and other documents should contain publications in foreign languages for foreigners serving prison sentences in Poland.

If possible, libraries maintain library service points located in housing units, hospitals, diagnostic units, and therapeutic units. Apart from library equipment, book collection, periodicals and rules, a library service point has an alphabetical booklet catalogue. The number of books in a service point depends on the number of readers (inmates).

If library service points are not created, the director of a prison introduces a system of indirect book exchange. Books are delivered based on orders placed from a shared booklet catalogue. Depending on the type of a prison, the loans are completed in various ways. For instance, in a closed prison with a separated custody suite for adult males serving their first sentences, loans are completed indirectly, i.e. through a warden (tutor) handling a library and a selected convict assisting.

The lending procedure is as follows: readers (inmates) receive updated lists of literature available for lending and place written orders based on these lists. Orders may concern specific book titles, as well as information on a subject of interest of a given reader. In the case of readers with various addictions or aggression and violence problem, the literature on these topics is also being recommended. Books are delivered directly to cells of inmates placing orders for specific literature. Returns are handled in a similar way. Books are delivered three times a week, one day per each prison unit. A librarian has also a reading room supplied with a reference collection, encyclopaedic and reference publications and periodicals. Inmates use a reading room collection based on earlier enrolment with a culture and education tutor with a specification of requested literature.

3. Number of collections and loans

As of 31 December 2013, prison libraries had acquired 1,594,385 volumes (or 10,220.4 volumes per library). The number of books lent was 1,009,600 volumes.

6.3. LIBRARIES OF THE OTHER UNIFORMED SERVICES

Police forces (1)

State Fire Service (3)

Polish Border Guard (3)

CENTRAL LIBRARY OF THE POLICE

The Central Library of the Police operates since 1990 as part of the structure of the Police Training Centre in Legionowo. The library has a branch in the Depart-

ment of Police Cynology in Sulkowice. It is governed by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Its collections include works on: maintaining public order and security; organisation and operations of police forces in Poland and worldwide; criminalistics; criminology; law; forensic medicine; social, economic, and political sciences. At the end of 2012, the book collection included 288,804 volumes. The library has a valuable collection of periodicals containing 72,028 issues (629 titles).

Library computerisation – the PROLIB system enables comprehensive management of the library and full automation of library processes (acquisition, cataloguing and lending of library materials). The Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC) is available.

The library plays a community function for inhabitants of Legionowo. A great number of higher education students use its resources. It collaborates with all police libraries and in particular with libraries of police schools. These include: the Library of the Police Academy in Szczytno and e-libraries of police schools in Piła, Katowice and Słupsk.

LIBRARY OF THE MAIN SCHOOL OF FIRE SERVICE

The most important library of the State Fire Service of Poland is the library of the Main School of Fire Service in Warsaw.

The library acquires collections on: fire protection; rescue; protection and defence of civilian populations; risk management; natural and civilisation threats. Its collections include approximately 40,000 volumes, and subscriptions to periodicals include 56 Polish and 20 foreign titles.

The other two libraries are the Library of the Central School of the State Fire Service in Częstochowa and the Library of the Fire Service College in Cracow. They are typical academic libraries providing services for specifically defined environments.

LIBRARY OF THE BORDER GUARD TRAINING CENTRE IN KĘTRZYN

The main libraries of this type of uniformed services are the Library of the Border Guard Training Centre in Kętrzyn and libraries in training centres for border guard staff in Koszalin – the Main Border Guard Training Centre – and in the Specialist Training Centre for Border Guards in Lubań.

Abstract:

The report includes a discussion of the major networks / types of libraries in Poland, their status and activities in 2012. Where it was possible the analysis includes data on the operation of libraries in the perspective of the last decade, which captures the changes taking place within them, and an indication of the main problems with which they are dealing. The analysis covered the local libraries: public, pedagogical and school as well as academic libraries (including universities public and private libraries), specialized libraries, fiction/specialized

libraries, libraries of “inte” centres, libraries of scientific societies, prison libraries, and church libraries including parish ones.

The report consists of two parts: a descriptive part containing data according to a specific layout for individual networks of libraries, and a quantitative part consisting of selected effectiveness indicators for these libraries.

The study used data collected by the Central Statistical Office of Poland for the part concerning communal libraries (public and pedagogical), scientific libraries, specialized libraries, fiction/specialized libraries, scientific societies and libraries of “inte” centers, and that collected by the Educational Information System in the section pertaining to school libraries. The situation of the other types of libraries is presented on the basis of reports and research results.

The scope of the collected data includes the following issues: the legal basis and organization of libraries belonging to a specific network, the number and profile of libraries, the policies, sources and scale of financing. The size and structure of the collections, their use outside versus the use inside of the library, number of readers (or users if they are registered), library computerization, e-services, library availability for special user groups, library staff and their educational background.

This report is a first attempt of this scale to present libraries in Poland in every aspect of their activities.