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INFORMATION ON LIBRARIES AND LIBRARY SERVICE IN POLAND

SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

Zycie Szkoły Wyzszej
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Krystyna Remerowa

The university libraries were representative of Polish scientific libraries before World War II. Of the approximately 8 million volumes in scientific libraries in prewar Poland, university libraries had about 2,796,028, plus about 200,000 items in special collections. No uniform plan was followed to meet the general needs of Polish science; each university had its special plans and ambitions.

During the last 10 years, the number of scientific libraries has grown and their stocks have multiplied. In 1939, the Maly Rocznik Statystyczny (Small Statistical Yearbook) listed 28 institutions of higher learning, only 22 of which had scientific libraries, containing a total of 2,941,000 volumes. In 1954, there were 31 school libraries under the Ministry of Higher Education with a total of 6,925,335 volumes and 404,000 items in special collections.

The following table shows the number of volumes in libraries of higher schools.

Main Libraries				Laboratory Libraries			
<u>Libraries</u>	<u>No of Libraries</u>	<u>Basic Collections (1,000 volumes)</u>	<u>Special Collections (1,000 volumes)</u>	<u>No of Libraries</u>	<u>Basic Collections (1,000 volumes)</u>	<u>Special Collections (1,000 volumes)</u>	
University	7	5,614.8	314.4	462	1,693.0	150.0	
Higher schools							
Economic	10	679.2	1.6	102	78.1		
Technical	10	435.8	84.6	490	330.4	21.0	
Agricultural	4	195.6	3.7	157	228.7	19.4	
Artistic	10	69.1	43.7				
Pedagogical	6	77.2					
Medical academies	10	270.1		302	236.5		
Other higher schools	8	242.9	2.3	25	93.0		
Total	65	7,584.7	450.3	1,538	2,659.3 [sic]	190.4	



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Some centralization in the supply of books to libraries has been made in the network of libraries of the Chief Technical Organization, the Ministry of Communication, and the Ministry of Health.

The problem of supplying the libraries with books and periodicals by the commercial distribution apparatus has still not been fully resolved. Despite improvements in this field, Dom Ksiazki [publishing house] still has not developed a system to assure the libraries a steady supply of items currently published in Poland. An especially serious defect is the inefficiency of Ruch [distribution agency] in supplying the libraries with foreign periodicals.

There has been a great increase in the international exchange of publications. The Office for the International Exchange of Publications of the National Library (Biuro Miedzynarodowej Wymiany Wydawnictw przy Bibliotece Narodowej) has made considerable increases each year in the number of domestic and international addresses on its mailing list. In 1952, there was an increase of 1,354 and in 1953, an increase of 644 new international addresses to the 4,125 on the mailing list in 1951. There was also an increase of 50 in 1952 and 37 in 1953 to the 1,400 domestic addresses on the list in 1951.

The networks of libraries of the various economic sectors, especially their technical libraries have been especially active in the growth of new special libraries and in planned supply of domestic and international publications. The legal regulations of 1953 on the organization of vocational libraries constitute a significant accomplishment. There are now about 50 special scientific and technical libraries in the large network of vocational libraries in the country.

Poland now has 427 special scientific libraries with a total of 6,235,000 volumes.

Cataloguing in many libraries is neither complete nor uniform, although great improvements have been made. Most of the more important libraries in Poland have at least the greater portion of their collections catalogued.

Publication of bibliographic information has been systematized under a network of organizations coordinated by a center in the National Library. The center publishes and distributes bibliographic information on materials in various libraries.

The Central Institute of Scientific and Technical Documentation (Centralny Instytut Dokumentacji Naukowo-technicznej), using funds granted for the purpose, has developed a bibliographic information apparatus which is important for the field of technical studies. Recently, the Polish Academy of Sciences started a further expansion of the Center for Bibliography and Documentation (Orodek Bibliografii i Dokumentacji), especially in the fields of general scientific knowledge and the exact sciences.

A great need which has not been fully realized is that of central cataloguing. Furthermore, there are still many private collections which do not appear in any bibliographies.

A beginning toward central cataloguing for all of Poland has been made in practically all libraries of the main higher schools, which are incorporating collections of individual school divisions into a central school catalogue. In over 1,500 such divisions, there is a total of 2.5 million volumes, cataloguing of which is to be concentrated in 65 centers to make them more readily available to scientific workers.

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Great progress is being made in microfilming the more valuable works. The center of this operation is in the National Library and, in addition, libraries and archives such as the Ossolineum, the university libraries in Wroclaw and Poznan, the Scientific Society of Torun, and the archives in Warsaw and Poznan do microfilm work. Microfilming on an interlibrary basis is done by the Microfilm Station (Stacja Mikrofilmowa) of the National Library, which also publishes a catalog of microfilm materials.

Expansion of old and construction of new libraries is progressing slowly but continually.

The Institute of Library Knowledge (Instytut Bibliotekoznawstwa) is now being organized in the National Library. The institute will have, as its four basic library functions, the organizations of a scientific workshop (bibliographies, general and special catalogues, card files, etc.), the popularization of knowledge, the study of reading habits, and the exchange of library experiences and technology. It will be the first center of organized scientific work on library science. Heretofore, only the Commission for Bibliography and Library Knowledge (Komisja Bibliografii i Bibliotekoznawstwa), organized in 1953 by the Wroclaw Scientific Society, did organized work on library science. The commission works closely with Wroclaw University Library.

The scientific libraries' organ, Przegląd Biblioteczny, is published by the Association of Polish Librarians (Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich). Another publication of this association is Bibliotekarz, which serves various other library networks.

Problems on bibliographic theory are covered in the Biuletyn Instytutu Bibliograficznego Biblioteki Narodowej (Bulletin of the Bibliographical Institute of the National Library). Many libraries are publishing acquisition lists; the Biuletyn Informacyjny Ośrodka Bibliografii i Dokumentacji PAN (Information Bulletin of the Bibliography and Documentation Center of the Polish Academy of Sciences) is the most recent publication of this type to appear.

Various programs and courses have been started for training librarians. The problem of training staffs for scientific libraries is a key problem. Its solution depends on whether libraries receive the residue of other professions or whether they receive fully qualified and well-trained professional librarians.

REVIEW OF BOOK ON SCIENTIFIC LIBRARIES

Zycie Szkoły Wyzszej
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Piotr Kaltenberg

The recent work, Wykaz Polskich Bibliotek Naukowych Według Specjalizacji (A List of Polish Scientific Libraries According to Subject), is listed in Biuletyn Instytutu Bibliograficznego (Bulletin of the Bibliographic Institute), Vol IV, No 3, second edition, National Library, Warsaw, 1953, page 156. The work contains a listing of 749 libraries (mostly scientific), with a total of 20 million volumes. The book does not cover vocational libraries (mostly technical), since these are the concern of the Central Institute of Scientific and Technical Documentation.

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LIBRARIES IN THE SERVICE OF COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

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Helena Drzazdrzynska

The SGPiS [Szkoła Główna Planowania i Statystyki, Main School of Planning and Statistics] library offers a typical example of library service available to colleges and universities. It now has 220,000 catalogued volumes, which include material in the fields of history, economic thought, political economy, specific economics, history of the worker movement, economic history, and economic geography. It also has a textbook collection of 37,000 volumes. This textbook collection includes classic works on Marxism-Leninism, literature required and recommended by the school faculties, various publications in related subjects, and other works.

To meet the specific needs of students and of scientific workers, the library has two reading rooms. The scientific reading room is served by the library's main collection, which is alphabetically and systematically catalogued and is available only in the company of a library worker. The room also has special subject card files. At present, the library serves the scientific worker by offering bibliographic advice and bibliographic research of a scientific character.

A select catalogue of 20,000 items serves the students in the general reading room. A greater portion of this catalogue includes required and recommended reading for the students in higher economic schools, the more outstanding popular-science works, works of a journalistic character (especially on political and social problems), and documentary materials on public life, such as instructions, statutes, and regulations.

Besides the select catalogue for the use of the general reading room, special subject card files have been made available. These include literature on special and important problem topics.

The bibliographic information service was organized at the library in 1949. Besides its information service, it is now engaged in compiling a bibliography on the development of planning in Poland over the last 10 years.

Other informational services, such as exhibits and special staffs to aid readers in all branches of the library, are also available. However, the library does not compile bibliographies for dissertations.

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