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LIBRARIES IN POLAND AS OF 2015: DIVERSITY OF TYPES, POTENTIAL AND SERVICES

With the present, rapidly-changing library community, the growing demands as regards the effectiveness of library work, and the ever stiffer competition on the market of information and educational services, it is important to diagnose the condition and define the directions of development in the main areas of our activity. Research is underway on trends that are vital for libraries (on a macro and micro scale).[1] Their aim is to answer the question about the most important changes that have an impact on the functions of and demand for library services, about major achievements, weaknesses and potential niches in library activity, and also about how to respond to changes in progress.

The following text discusses the main phenomena concerning the functioning of libraries in Poland in 2015 (library networks, resources, services, facilities, users), and is therefore an attempt to join the general debate.

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1 E.g. reports of the National Library (*Public libraries in figures* for 1972–2011; B. Budyńska, M. Jezierska, *Stan bibliotek w Polsce. Raport 2012*, Warszawa 2016), Central Statistical Office (hereafter GUS) (e.g. *Kultura w 2015 r.*, Warszawa 2016), Foundation for the Development of Information Society (FRSI), Programme for the Development of Libraries (e.g. *Raport Biblioteki w Polsce* (2008) – http://programrozwojubibliotek.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Biblioteki_i_bibliotekarze.pdf [accessed 30.03.2017]; *Po co Polakom biblioteki. Raport* – http://frsi.org.pl/po-co-polakom-biblioteki-raport/ [accessed 29.03.2017]; *Co się zmieniło w bibliotekach?* (2014) – www.biblioteki.org/...Co_sie_zmienilo_w_bibliotekach_raport.pdf [accessed 27.03.2017]); K. E. Kristensen, "The Danes love their library! This is the conclusion in the most extensive Danish user and benchmark survey so far concerning the public library", *Scandinavian Library Quarterly* 2016, vol. 49, No 4 – http://slq.nu/?article=volume-49-no-4-2016-8 [accessed 30.03.2017]; S. Legault, *Le financement des bibliothèques publiques québécoises: histoire et modèles*, "Bulletin des Bibliothèques de France" 2016, No 8, pp. 62–69 – http://bbf.enssib.fr/consulter/bbf-2016-08-0062-007 [accessed 31.03.2017]; N. James, L. Shamchuk, K. Koch, "Changing Roles of Librarians and Library Technicians", *Partnership. The Canadian Journal of Library and Information Practice and Research* 2015, vol. 10, No 2 – https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/viewFile/3333/359 [accessed 31.03.2017].

Its main aim is the evaluation of the work of libraries in Poland in the year 2015, including the discussion of their basic types, definition of their development priorities and the conformity of the ongoing changes with social expectations, the indicator thereof being the users' satisfaction and the improvement of co-operation among institutions.

The diversity of research themes influenced the research methods used. The basis for obtaining empirical data was the statistical analysis of the figures connected with the work of Polish libraries provided by GUS. A uniform GUS K-03 form for basic types of libraries allowed an analysis their work and comparison of the data concerning selected fields. Complementary sources were analyses of descriptive materials about the work of state libraries provided by voivodship libraries together with source materials related to the activityt of other library networks. These material were supplemented with the knowledge obtained in field research: interviews with librarians, participant observation in diverse types of libraries and analyses of their documentation.

In an information society, the accessibility of online resources (digital libraries, traditional libraries) serves as the main criterion when dividing libraries into types. Other methods of typology use as their main criteria membership of the national library networks or basic tasks as described in legal acts,[2] though in that case a sizeable group of libraries do not fit any such classification (e.g. Church and denominational libraries, private libraries, numerous Polish libraries abroad).[3]

There are various library typologies (depending on ownership, needs of the users and nature of the collections, field of knowledge, organisational principles and membership of the supervising institution), but nowadays such strict divisions are hardly ever applied. The accepted view is that the majority of libraries have a mixed character, represent more than one type, and perform similar social, educational and cultural functions corresponding to the needs of various users.

The differences between libraries consist mainly in their organisational structure and substance, rather than the type of institution they represent (e.g. public libraries, research libraries), although they may also differ due to their place within the network (e.g. main or central libraries and their branches). A separate problem is the differing level of development, con-

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2 *Law on libraries of 27 June 1997* (and later amendments), J.L. 1997 No 85, item 539 – http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/DetailsServlet?id=WDU19970850539 [accessed 31.03.2017].

3 A. Tokarska, "Typologia i misja bibliotek w kontekście historycznym", in: *Bibliotekarstwo*, ed. A. Tokarska, Warszawa 2013, p. 66.

nected with such things as the extent to which new technologies and new forms of accessibility have been introduced (e.g. 24/7 and self-service[4]).

Changes in public communications and transformations surrounding the libraries are two dominant directions when we analyse today's libraries. The most frequent problems that reflect on the work of individual libraries, their standards and also their development include:

· the atomisation/dispersal of libraries,
· a change of the work organisation in libraries towards developing various forms of cooperation (networks, consortia).

The main ideas of present-day librarianship are: acting as a "middleman" in public communications, integration with the environment, and the library offer in the broad meaning of the word.[5]

The former main idea – that of creating collections as the basic aim – has shifted to a lower rung in the hierarchy. The role of middleman in public communications – between the supplier of writing matter (printed and electronic) and its recipient – has taken precedence in libraries of all types.[6]

In view of the changes that are taking place, libraries must put forward an offer that on the one hand makes maximum use of all their possibilities as libraries, and on the other hand takes into account various aspects associated with the reception of this offer. The libraries' offer still includes: resources (printed, electronic), information on these resources, users' education (the formation of needs for information, the development of computer and information competence), community programmes that use local public premises for integration, compensation, recreation and knowledge[7] (known as cultural space for organising meetings, exhibitions, concerts, consultation points, propagation of

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4   K. Boelt, "Open libraries in Aalborg – a great success", *Scandinavian Library Quarterly* 2015, vol. 48, No 1–2 – http://slq.nu/?article=volume-48-no-1-2-2015-19 [accessed 31.03.2017].

5   J. Wojciechowski, *O bibliotekach po mojemu*, Warszawa 2012.

6   G. Tetela, "Polityka gromadzenia i selekcja zbiorów", in: *Bibliotekarstwo...*, op. cit., pp. 131–142.

7   *Cf.* S. Aabø, R. Audunson, A. Vårheim, "How do public libraries function as meeting places?", *Library & Information Science Research* 2010, vol. 32, pp. 16–26 – https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257244609_How_do_public_libraries_function_as_meeting_places [accessed 31.03.2017]; R. Audunson, A. Vårheim, S. Aabø, E. D. Holm, "Public libraries, social capital and low intensive meeting places", *Information Research* 2007, vol. 12 No 4 – http://www.informationr.net/ir/12-4/colis20.html [accessed 31.03.2017]; *cf.* C. A. Johnson, "How do public libraries create social capital? An analysis of interactions between library staff and patrons", *Library & Information Science Research* 2012, vol. 34, pp. 52–62 –https://www.researchgate.net/publication/257244922_How_do_public_libraries_create_social_capital_An_analysis_of_interactions_between_library_staff_and_patrons [accessed 31.03.2017].

reading habits, services for national minorities, the disabled, groups threatened with social pathology etc., as well the adaptation of libraries to their needs through initiatives such as the selection of documents or the removal of barriers).

Consequences for the work of libraries

Though the names of the tasks performed by libraries remain generally the same as earlier, they function in different circumstances and in more complex ways. The libraries:

- · gather collections – the mass of written/electronic documents calls for cooperation in the selection, supplementation and creation of the resources;[8] as far as the circulation of electronic material is concerned, more and more often we have to do with licensing;
- · index/catalogue and provide information on the contents – with the vast growth of supply, libraries have to work on new principles of cataloguing, modifying and improving the formula of metadata; the development and improvement of the central electronic catalogue of books and periodicals, and of library electronic information, is also indispensable in this field;
- · make accessible – apart from direct lending of ordered material, the libraries should develop their mobile services (library users are both in the inter-library space and on the web); therefore direct communication is essential between the users and the libraries by way of a computerised lending system and personalised library services;
- · provide information – owing to the multitude of information, forwarded changes in transmission are essential, as is the growth of flow in remote information, including automatic, permanently accessible information. This is just as important for users as the criterion of information reliability. Libraries should aim to provide their own information, which would complement the accessible ready information from other sources. In this context, counselling on transmission, availability and information takes on a different dimension: this must be expert counselling based on inter-library cooperation and specialised librarianship.[9] Counselling is associated

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8   L. Swindler, "New Consortial Model for E-Books Acquisitions", *College & Research Libraries* 2016, vol. 77, No 3, pp. 269–285 – http://crl.acrl.org/content/77/3/269.full.pdf [accessed 31.03.2017].

9   M. Bródka, "Kompetencje przedmiotowe w bibliotece naukowej. Kontekst zagadnienia, funkcjonowanie i rola", *Bibliotekarz* 2017, No 4, pp. 10–13.

with library-provided educational activity – not only in the sense of teaching how to use library facilities and how to seek information, but also in the sense of organising various courses and advanced seminars.

The preparation of a modern offer and the implementation of tasks generated by this offer makes it necessary to acquire certain tools:

- · means that allow day-to-day functioning, innovations and development (the creation of the system of financing supported by subsidies, programmes or grants);
- · technology, resources and bases, dependent on financial means, in other words, premises, equipment, collection and technological infrastructure;
- · personnel – a professional with an up-to-date, vast knowledge in various fields: library librarians, information librarians, engineer librarians, organisers of library structures, librarians representing various fields of knowledge.[10]

The reformed offer and the enlarged register of tasks call for the organisational restructuring of libraries. There is a tendency to form large combined structures – mega-libraries.[11] For small libraries, the precondition of survival and development is joining an integrated network and sharing some services within that network, as well as centralising the majority of "backstage" processes.

All forms of library cooperation are gaining essential significance.[12] Inter-library cooperation in the field of accumulation, choice and the presentation of resources, as well as in services, is becoming a fact and taking the form of voluntary associations of consortia. The norm should also be external cooperation with partners other than libraries, primarily educational and similar institutions, such as archives or museums.

The condition of libraries and their organisation

Poland has close to 32,000 libraries of various kinds. A review of the condition and potential of public, research, pedagogical, trade, trade and

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10 Z. Gębołyś, "Kształcenie bibliotekarzy i pracowników informacji w Polsce. Krajobraz po 'deregulacji'", *Bibliotekarz* 2017, No 4, pp. 4–9.

11 *Megabiblioteki. Wybrane tendencje w bibliotekarstwie publicznym*, ed. D. Pietrzykiewicz, E.B. Zybert, Warszawa 2015.

12 T. Moseid, *Norweskie doświadczenie w tworzeniu i wdrażaniu strategii. Reforma bibliotek 2014*; A. Tyws, "Instytucja kultury w sieciach i partnerstwach", in: *Strategie dla kultury. Kultura dla rozwoju. Zarządzanie strategiczne instytucją kultury*, ed. M. Śliwa, Kraków 2011.

fiction libraries, centres of scientific, technological and economic information (hereafter INTE centres) and scientific associations is prepared annually by the Central Statistical Office (hereafter GUS). According to its analysis, in 2015 there were 9,710 libraries (8,050 public libraries, 1,001 research libraries, 272 pedagogical libraries, 315 trade libraries, 52 trade and fiction libraries, 21 INTE centres, and 13 libraries of scientific societies[13]). Information on other types of library, collected irregularly and according to various methodological principles, comes from various sources.[14] The data for 2012 indicate that there were additionally ca. 20,400 school libraries,[15] 118 military-educational, 157 prison libraries, and 1,480 parish libraries.[16]

Libraries account for 84% of all cultural institutions.[17] They represent a large institutional potential, boast valuable and varied resources, and serve nearly 11 million users. As is the case in other countries, they do not form one network, a cohesive system based on uniform legal principles, but instead constitute a collection of various types. Their legal status and principles of operation are laid down in the *Law on libraries of 27 June 1997*. Under this legal act, which provides the general frameworks for the organisation and operation of libraries in Poland, the main burden of their upkeep rests on local government bodies, ministries and other subjects. Local government bodies are responsible for public, school and pedagogical libraries. The State provides funds for the operation of the National Library and, through respective ministries, of research or research libraries (including central, specialist and state university libraries, libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences and those of research institutes), army and prison libraries, as well as libraries of other uniformed services. Various bodies are responsible for the financing of church libraries, libraries of non-state higher education institutions and associations. In addition to the Law on Libraries, separate legal acts regulate the activity of different types of libraries and formulate their principles of activity, for example in

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13   Thirteen public libraries and one pedagogical library play the role at the same time as research libraries and are listed among the latter.

14   Due to the lack of current figures on the functioning of libraries not mentioned in the Central Statistical Office publications, these will not be discussed in detail in the further part of this article.

15   Source: System of Educational Information of the Ministry of National Education, on the basis of 2012 analyses.

16   Source: B. Budyńska, M. Jezierska, G. Lewandowicz-Nosal, G. Walczewska-Klimczak, *Biblioteki w Polsce w 2012 r.*, Warszawa 2016, http://ksiegarnia.bn.org.pl/396/Biblioteki-w-Polsce--w-2012-roku.html [accessed 29.03.2017].

17   *Kultura w 2015 r.*, GUS, Warszawa 2016.

the case of school libraries, the law on the educational system also applies, and in the case of higher education institutions the *Law on Higher Education*. As for other research libraries, their status is regulated, for example, by the law on the Polish Academy of Sciences and research institutes, while public libraries are also subject to the *Law on the Organisation and Conduct of Cultural Activity*.

School and public libraries form the most numerous groups of libraries. Public libraries are open, in that anyone can use their facilities free of charge; they address their services to all social groups and they carry out their tasks through their vast network. They can operate as autonomous cultural institutions or as a part of other cultural institutions. Unlike with public libraries, the other types of libraries direct their offer to certain definite groups of users, and as such they are capable of providing specialised library services. School libraries are firmly rooted in the educational system: they act as interdisciplinary workshops, information centres for school children, teachers and parents, places where pupils gain reading and information knowledge.[18]

A specific feature of the Polish library system is the existence of pedagogical libraries as separate institutions, unknown in this form anywhere else. Such libraries mainly serve the teaching community, although in recent years many of them also declare their readiness to cooperate generally with anyone interested in pedagogy, psychology and education; they also undertake various activities aimed at disseminating knowledge and reading habits among children and young adults. In addition, the remaining types of libraries address their offer to strictly defined users. An important group among them are church libraries, which in a literal sense are the property of the Catholic church and of other Christian denominations,[19] and in a broader sense are institutions maintained by the State, or else by social associations for clerical education and for improving religious culture in society. These include such places as papal, cathedral, chapter, collegiate, monastery, seminary, deanery and parish libraries, libraries of monastic colleges and academies, of Catholic universities and institutes, and of Catholic higher academic institutions.[20] There

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18 J. Andrzejewska, *Bibliotekarstwo szkolne. Teoria i praktyka*, Warszawa 1996, vol. 1, p. 44. Other definitions describe the role and tasks of school libraries in a similar fashion (M. Drzewiecki, B. Staniów, J. Wojciechowski).

19 E.g. of the Polish Autocephalous Orthodox Church (Orthodox Church) and the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession, Pentecostal Church.

20 W. Nowodworski, *Biblioteki kościelne*, in: *Encyklopedia współczesnego bibliotekarstwa polskiego*, eds. K. Głombiowski, B. Świderski, H. Więckowska [e*t al*.], Wrocław 1976, p. 61.

is also a numerous group of army libraries (governed by a directive of the Ministry of National Defence on the establishment of the military network of libraries) and libraries of the other uniformed services subordinate to various ministries (e.g. the police, fire service, prison system). Since one of their tasks is gathering, preserving, registering and making available confidential, restricted and otherwise classified materials, their specific feature is strict observance of regulations on the protection of sensitive information. Among the libraries in this category there are institutions that have a more open character, such as army educational libraries, libraries of military colleges and the Central Military Library, which has an academic status.

TABLE 1. LIBRARIES IN POLAND IN 2015 (ONLY THOSE COVERED BY GUS STUDY)

Voivodship	Total*	Libraries						
		public	research	peda-gogical	trade	trade and fiction	INTE centres	scientific societies
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Poland	9,710	8,050	1,001	272	315	52	21	13
dolnośląskie	719	599	68	25	23	4	–	1
kujawsko-pomorskie	481	421	35	13	14	–	–	–
lubelskie	672	583	56	10	20	3	–	1
lubuskie	276	253	6	10	7	1	–	–
łódzkie	673	530	95	21	22	3	2	1
małopolskie	943	725	151	22	39	2	4	2
mazowieckie	1,247	961	192	32	47	7	5	4
opolskie	353	315	23	5	10	–	1	–
podkarpackie	738	679	12	21	16	7	1	2
podlaskie	283	238	26	3	15	–	1	1
pomorskie	391	324	23	19	20	4	1	–
śląskie	1,007	791	155	26	27	7	2	–
świętokrzyskie	310	270	14	13	11	2	–	–
warmińsko-mazurskie	372	304	34	14	13	7	–	–
wielkopolskie	837	689	95	31	15	4	3	1
zachodniopomorskie	408	368	16	7	16	1	1	–

* Column 1 is not the sum total of columns 2–8, 13 public libraries (col. 2) and 1 pedagogical library (col. 4) at the same time perform the role of research libraries and are included in column 3.

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Since 1989, when the social and political system in Poland changed, the number of functioning libraries has dropped. This applies to all types of libraries, in particular those that were originally organised by work places or which served such work places (in the period 1989–2015, the number of INTE centres went down by 98.5%, that of trade libraries by 87.1%, and that of trade and fiction libraries in work places by 95%).[21] As for other types of libraries, the scale of the decrease was not so dramatic (it was the largest in the case of pedagogical libraries – 25,5%, and public libraries – 22%, followed by research libraries – 16.7%). However, this process is continuing. Since 2014, 102 libraries have been closed down (i.e. 1%), while compared with 2012[22] the figures were 339 libraries and 3.4% respectively. This applies above all to trade libraries, trade and fiction libraries, libraries of scientific societies and INTE centres; for example, since 2012 the number of libraries attached to INTE centres has gone down by a quarter, while the number of trade and fiction libraries decreased by a fifth.

The changes in the number of libraries of individual networks that have taken place in recent decades, are connected with, among other things:

· the changed model of a network and the turn from its extensive development towards a more rational organisation, e.g. in public libraries;

· the introduction of new technologies and the combination of tasks carried out, for example, by main libraries and their branches, or else entrusting such tasks to technologically better equipped libraries (e.g. in research and public libraries);

· the introduction of the principles of organising and operating libraries in agreement with the functioning of local government bodies, which is connected with the idea of local library networks (e.g. in public and pedagogical libraries);

· the insufficient demand for library and information services, e.g. in the case of INTE libraries.

At present, saturation with libraries of various types depends on many factors, including the level of urbanisation in the area they are to be found, the existence of other cultural, academic and educational institutions,

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21 In 1989 there were 10,313 public libraries, 1,202 research libraries, 365 pedagogical libraries, 2,433 trade libraries, 1,379 INTE libraries. Data for trade and fiction libraries, of which there were 1,034, come from 1991. On the basis of: *Kultura 1992*, GUS, Warszawa 1992.

22 As of 2012, GUS uses a general form K-03 for all basic types of libraries in Poland.

and the location of supervising bodies (e.g. of central libraries in large urban agglomerations).

In this respect, strictly defined principles apply to public libraries whose network is adapted to the country's administrative division (three-tiered: district or *powiat*, commune or *gmina,* voivodship). What characterises public libraries is the deepening centralisation (monopolisation) of library services,[23] i.e. the concentration of services (the number of libraries), the variety and quality of the offer in large urban centres, as well as the emergence of multifunctional local cultural institutions, part of which are libraries (more or less a fifth of libraries function within such larger structures). The number of public libraries (as is the case with other types of library) has been slowly dwindling – especially the number of library branches,[24] although all of them still form a vast and internally coherent network. The structure of the library network is similar to those in other Central European countries, where they are as numerous and where their distribution reflects the administrative divisions, built up in the past decades according to the idea of extensive development.[25]

CHART 1. PUBLIC LIBRARIES AND THEIR BRANCHES IN THE YEARS 1989, 2004–2015
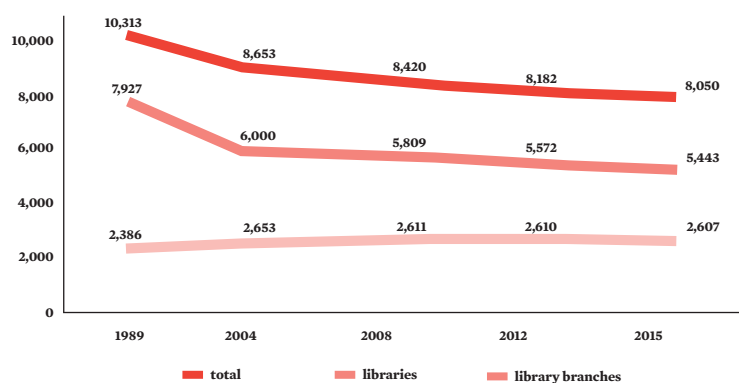
Source: own study based on GUS data for the years 1989–2015.

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23 This has an impact on the growth index of the region a library serves; the number of inhabitants per one library was 4,775 in 2015 (the figures for 2014 were 4,754 and 0.5% respectively).

24 The number of libraries and their branches in 2015 was 8,050. This applies also to book lending point (of which there were 1,295 in 2015), which complement the activity of larger units.

25 The structure of the network in Poland is similar to that in the other Central European countries, where they are equally numerous and based on the administrative division built in the past decades of extensive development. D. Grygrowski, *Megabiblioteki czy sieć małych placówek*, in: *Megabiblioteki*, op. cit.

Pedagogical libraries – a typically Polish type of library – operate either independently or within larger institutions. Their number has recently (2012–2014) decreased by some 15%, which is connected with attempts to reform their organisation (by incorporating them into educational institutions or – as branches – into public libraries, and entrusting to them the tasks of public libraries at the district level).

TABLE 2. LIBRARIES IN POLAND IN 2015 ACCORDING TO GUS – INSTITUTIONAL POTENTIAL

Number	Total*	Libraries							
		public	research	pedago-gical	trade	trade and fiction	INTE centres	scientific societies
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Libraries	9,710	8,050	1,001	272	315	52	21	13
of which with entrances adapted for wheelchairs	4,065	3,081	695	125	143	24	6	4
Collections (in inv. units)	264,237,269	135,095,597	115,282,764	13,311,967	10,331,226	567,832	596,351	264,180
of which books (No of vols.)	209,727,902	128,061,354	72,000,981	12,235,727	4,138,143	563,207	320,136	137,246
Floor surface (in m²)	1,944,453	1,080,540	812,481	90,915	34,484	3,798	3,325	1,823
Seating for readers	175,538	118,922	51,077	5,731	2,239	275	233	142
Staff – total (persons)	34,980	23,594	10,538	2,025	469	75	35	11
of which employed on basic positions	28,087	18,278	9,112	1,395	423	75	35	9
Libraries equipped with computers	8,930	7,538	843	272	238	26	19	8
Computers available in library institutions	72,159	47,526	22,538	3,913	658	72	51	18
of which available to readers with internet access	37,752	26,239	9,972	1,748	287	21	24	11

*   Column 1 is not sum total of columns 2–8, 13 public libraries (column 2) and 1 pedagogical library (column 4) perform additionally the function of research libraries and are listed in column 3.

Source: Own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Research libraries form an extremely varied group as regards their organisation and potential. They include both large, independent institutions (central, concerned with one field of knowledge, attached to universities), and small centres, employing one person, for example libraries of research institutes. Among the research libraries there are: the National Library and 30 large specialised libraries (e.g. the Seym Library, the Central Military Library, the Central Agricultural Library, the Central Statistical Library and

the Main Medical Library), 781 libraries of higher education institutions, mostly universities (322, including the Jagiellonian Library), technical colleges (199) and others (e.g. medical, economic, pedagogical and agricultural academies), 110 libraries of research institutes, 66 libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences and 13 public libraries. The number of research libraries has admittedly dropped in recent years, but compared to the other libraries the situation is fairly stable, as in the case of public libraries. There is a tendency to centralise the services (e.g. to merge institute libraries together or to incorporate them into other units of higher education institutions,[26] to form multifunctional conference-library-information centres either within one institution or on an inter-university scale[27] etc.).

Infrastructure, resources, accessibility

Digital information recording and modern information technologies, which rapidly developed in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, had an impact on many aspects of library work, consequently bringing about changes in the organisation of access to information and the servicing of users, in the expansion and nature of library collections, in the form of functioning of libraries, and also in the methods of communication with users and between libraries.

For Polish libraries, the past decade was favourable in this respect: libraries gained support from many programmes that made possible the restoration or construction of new library facilities, the introduction of new technologies and the expansion of both printed and digital resources. Thanks to this, the majority of Polish libraries use automatic systems, have up-to-date equipment and offer their users access to state-of-the-art hardware. However, not all types of library benefited from such changes equally. The most thorough transformation took place in research libraries (in particular those in higher education institutions) and public libraries, less so in pedagogical libraries, while such changes were slowest in school, trade and trade and fiction libraries, INTE centres and libraries of scientific societies.

26　R. Malesa, "Zawód bibliotekarza. Między przeszłością a przyszłością", *Folia Bibliollogica* 2006/2007, vol. 48/49, p. 76, http://yadda.icm.edu.pl/yadda/element/bwmeta1.element. desklight-321086fe-207f-4fab-9f3a-cdc63355203b [accessed 31.03.2017].

27　Large research libraries are merged with other units of a given university, e.g. the Academic Library of the Navy in Gdynia operates within the framework of the Auditorium-Information Centre; the Library of the Białystok Technical University has been merged with the Centre for Modern Education (Centre for Distance Education and Foreign Language School); the Library of the Poznań Technical University forms part of the Technical Library and Lecture-Conference Centre.

TABLE 3. SELECTED INDICES – POTENTIAL (2015)

Libraries	Selected indices – potential				
	Collections per one library (in inv. units)	Number of computers with internet access available to library users	Library staff (in persons)	Floor area (in m²)	Seating for readers
	per one library institution				
0	1	2	3	4	5
total	27,213	3.9	2.9	200	18
public	16,782	3.3	2.3	134	15
research	115,168	10.0	9.1	812	51
pedagogical	48,941	6.4	5.1	334	21
trade	32,798	0.9	1.3	109	7
trade and fiction	10,920	0.4	1.4	73	5
INTE centres	28,398	1.1	1.7	158	11
scientific societies	20,322	0.8	0.7	140	11

Source: own calculations based on GUS data for 2015.

The most expansive infrastructure is at the disposal of public libraries. As compared with the total floor space of Polish libraries,[28] which amounts to 1,944.5 thou. m², they have 1,080.5 thou. m², and are followed by scientific libraries with 812.5 thou. m², and pedagogical libraries with 90.9 thou. m².

The level and quality of infrastructure have an impact on other elements of the libraries' institutional potential: public libraries boast the largest number of seats in their reading rooms – 118.9 thou., while research libraries have 51.1 thou., pedagogical libraries – 5.7 thou., and the remaining have a total of 2.9 thou. seats. Evidence of library potential is also its staff – almost 35 thousand strong, of whom 28,000 (80.3%) are employed in strictly librarian positions (25 thousand in positions of librarians). Public libraries employ 23,594 individuals, 18,278 of them as librarians. The figures for research libraries are 10,538 and 9,112 respectively, and for pedagogical libraries – 2,025 and 1,395 respectively. The chief asset of the library staff is the high level of professional training – 78.6% of those employed as librarians have diplomas as librarians. Close to a hundred per cent of employees of pedagogical libraries are qualified librarians, and the figures are 77.8% for public libraries, 77.6% for research libraries, 70.4% for INTE centres and 66.9% for trade libraries. In trade and fiction libraries and in libraries of scientific societies, less than half the staff are qualified librarians.[29]

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28 Due to the dual function they perform, the data on 13 public libraries and one pedagogical library are also included in the data concerning research libraries.

29 Respectively 47.2% and 42.9%.

State of resources and their replenishment

As with other areas of library activity, the building up of library resources is influenced by global phenomena, e.g. the emergence of new technologies, changes on the publishing market, the appearance of a new type of user representing the digital, network generation.

In the majority of libraries, irrespective of their type, the collections are gradually taking on a hybrid form, comprising both analogue resources (printed, microform, audio-visual) and digital resources. Libraries are organising access to both global and local resources, establishing digital repositories, and creating (or co-creating) digital libraries. The model of expanding resources tends towards the utilisation of the latest technologies and aims to provide users with access to publications they seek. Libraries that adhere to this model apply methods of "expanding the collection" through "the management of resources." This process takes place in various types of libraries, though with varying degrees of intensity. The hybrid method is used in the majority of research libraries.[30] As for the network of public libraries, it is the largest of them – regional (voivodship) and the main municipal libraries – that offer electronic resources as well as traditional collections. However, their offer is not as varied and extensive as that provided by libraries of higher education institutions. In university libraries, access to electronic periodicals and data bases plays a major role, while in public libraries the leader is most frequently the e-book.

Due to the steady growth in the number of publications appearing on the market – both scientific and technical literature, as well as fiction, how-to books, literature for children and young adults – the libraries are incapable of amassing and maintaining complete collections. In order to improve the situation, the libraries, especially university libraries, cooperate with one another in the field of inter-library lending (e.g. within one university, but also on a national or international scale) and work towards the formation of consortia and organised network access to data bases, electronic periodicals and other information resources. Some of them, eager to provide complex services for the academic milieu, form library centres that combine the resources of several university libraries. A good example of this is the foundation of the Scientific Information Centre and

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30 G. Piotrowicz, *Model hybrydowy współczesnej polskiej biblioteki akademickiej. Konferencja "Polskie biblioteki akademickie w Unii Europejskiej", Łódź, 23–25 June 2004*, in: *BGPŁ Materiały Konferencyjne* [on-line], Łódź 2004, http://bg.p.lodz.pl/konferencja2004/pelne_teksty/piotrowicz.pdf [accessed 31.03.2017].

Academic Library in Katowice (CINiBA).[31] Collections of documents of various types, including electronic (e-resources, e-books and e-serials) are combined into one network in accordance with the developed principles of cooperation.[32]

The libraries that operate as consortia have a chance of considerably expanding their information resources, of reducing the attendant costs and of creating conditions for making them conveniently available. In recent years, public libraries have also begun using this method to expand their offer and have created regional consortia (usually within one region, with the main role played by the voivodship library). Such consortia already function in the Dolnośląskie, Opolskie, Warmińsko-Mazurskie, and Mazowieckie regions). Not all libraries within one region can join such projects, the reason being their worse financial position, problems with paying licence fees, a shortage of hardware or a low level of interest in such services among their readership.

These changes notwithstanding, Polish libraries continue to be primarily traditional book collections, although in research and trade libraries, as well as in INTE centres we are observing increasing significance of non-traditional types of publication. As calculated by GUS, in 2015 Polish libraries had a total of 264 million inventory units, including 234 million volumes (210 million books and 24 million volumes of periodicals). Their collections comprised also non-electronic resources (microforms, cartographic documents, graphic prints, patent norms and descriptions) which formed 26 million inventory units, 3.8 million inventory units of audio-visual matter (including audio-books), and close to 900 thousand inventory units of electronic documents on physical carriers. The remaining part of their resources were digital collections (34 million), increluding almost 30 million titles of licensed resources (e-books, e-journals, data bases and other electronic documents) and over 4 million materials digitalised by the libraries (available in the libraries' own digital library, or else in cooperation with another regional or specialised digital library).

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31 CINiBA is a joint library of two higher education institutions in Katowice: Economic University and Silesian University; it was opened in 2012. In addition to the typically library activity, it is a venue for exhibitions, cultural events, academic conferences and recreation, open to the general public.

32 J. Wojciechowski, *Biblioteczna wartość naddana*, Kraków 2006, pp. 49–50.

CHART 2. STRUCTURE OF LIBRARY RESOURCES IN POLAND IN 2015
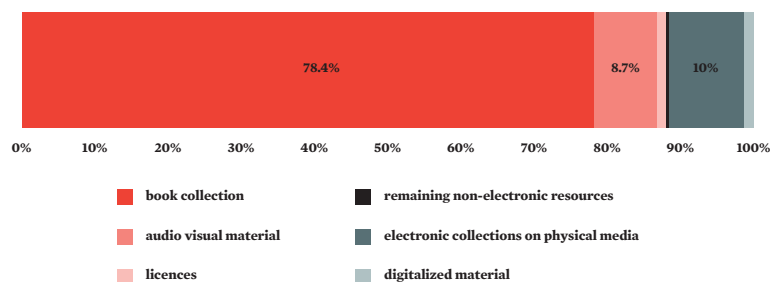
Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Of the total library book collection, the largest part was in the posses-sion of public libraries – 128 million, research libraries – 72 million, peda-gogical libraries – over 12 million, and trade libraries – 4 million; the re-maining one million could be found in trade and fiction libraries, INTE centres and libraries of scientific societies. The modernisation of collec-tions through purchasing licences and giving users access to licensed ti-tles changes the offer of the libraries that have the most extensive re-sources in this respect. Of the almost 30 million titles to which libraries acquired access, over 26 million belonged to research libraries (88.6% of the total), and 3.3 million to public libraries (11.2%). Pedagogical and trade libraries, INTE centres and scientific societies purchased access to a total of 107 thousand such documents (0.3%).

CHART 3. LIBRARIES THAT ACQUIRED ACCESS TO LICENCES IN 2015
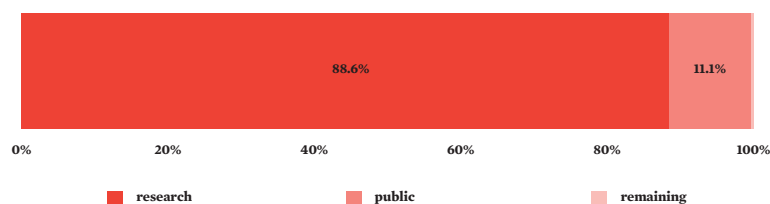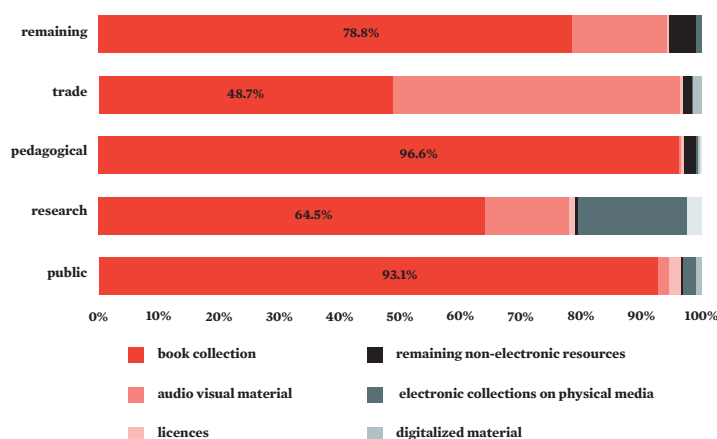

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

In public libraries, where book collections definitely predominate (93.1% of all resources), audio-visual matter (including audio-books) has an important role to play, as do licensed resources (IBUK Libra, Legimi,

World e-Book Library, NASBI[33]). During the last decade, we observed a decline in the size of book collections in public libraries (129,904.4 thou. volumes in 2015, a 0.6% drop on the 2014 figure), which reflects the size of the collection calculated per 100 inhabitants (338 volumes in 2015). This process is associated, among other factors, with updating the public library resources – the removal of superfluous or obsolete publications and of damaged copies – and should be accompanied by the introduction of newly published titles.

CHART 4. STRUCTURE OF RESOURCES ACCORDING TO THE TYPE OF LIBRARY IN 2015

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

In 2015, public libraries acquired 3.4 million inventory units of library matter, meaning 4.2% more than in the previous year, a result of the continuation of the long-term "National Programme for the Development of Readership" for the years 2014–2020,[34] which subsidises the purchase of new publications, and the amount of funds offered by both the "National Programme" and the organisers. The "National Programme" has consolidated the system of financing new purchases, in operation since 2005; one of the elements of this system is the principle of a growth in contribu-

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33   NASBI (Naukowa Akademicka Sieciowa Biblioteka Internetowa – Scientific Academic Web Internet Library) – an internet lending library of specialist e-books. Its users include public libraries (e.g. WBP in Olsztyn, WiMBP in Bydgoszcz).

34   Earlier we had the National Culture Programme "Promoting Readership and Developing the Book Sector" (2004–2013). As of 2016, it is the long-term programme "National Programme for the Development of Readership". Its priority 1 is: "The purchase of new publications for public libraries").

tions by local governments, organisers of the libraries (in 2015, this contribution amounted to 30% of the total cost involved, although many local governments contribute more than is required[35]).

Changes have been noted in the structure of purchases for public libraries, collections are being adapted to the changing market offer open to new trends in the technique of recording. For example, talking books on cassettes are on the way out, and their place is taken by books in audio formats – on CDs or mp3. This applies also to electronic resources (a switch from physical carriers to net remote resources). In 2015, traditional books still predominated among purchases. As to the remaining resources, audio-books were most frequently bought.

**CHART 5. PURCHASE OF BOOKS FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES PER 100 INHABITANTS IN THE YEARS 2004–2015 (IN VOL.)**
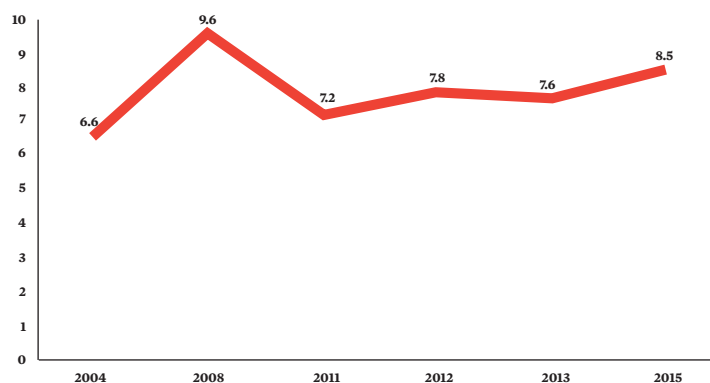
Source: own study based on GUS data for 2004–2015.

In research libraries, the structure of resources is varied. Though a third (or 93.5 million volumes) of their collection are books, licensed collections (electronic books and periodicals) also form an important part – over 18% of the total offer (26.4 million titles). The remaining non-electronic collections are varied and rich, e.g. patent norms and descriptions, microforms, old prints, music scores, cartographic documentation, prints, etc. – constitute nearly 14% of the resources, namely 21.3 million inventory units. On the whole, research libraries have a total collection of 88.6% of all licensed resources available in Polish libraries, and over 79% of digitalised material.

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35 According to *Sprawozdanie z realizacji Programu Biblioteki Narodowej "Zakup nowości wydawniczych do bibliotek" w roku 2015* (typescript) it was circa 65%.

Pedagogical and trade and fiction libraries and libraries of scientific societies are decidedly traditional book collections (with a negligible presence of other types of resources). In trade libraries and INTE centres, an important group is formed by patent norms and descriptions – 42% and 18% respectively of the entire collection. In 2015, pedagogical libraries had over 12.9 million volumes of books and bound periodicals, as well as over 388.8 thou. units of special collections and 15.8 thou. titles of licensed literature. In 2015, the collections of trade and fiction libraries amount to over 565 thou. volumes of books and journals, while the remaining resources were of minor importance – 2.7 thou. inventory units of other non-electronic resources, and no electronic resources. The collections of scientific societies boasted almost 235 thou. volumes, with the remaining non-electronic resources amounting to over 29 thou., whereas electronic resources were of marginal significance (88 inventory units of electronic documentation and 300 licensed titles to which the libraries purchased access).

CHART 6. STRUCTURE OF LICENSED TITLES AVAILABLE ACCORDING TO TYPE OF LIBRARY IN 2015
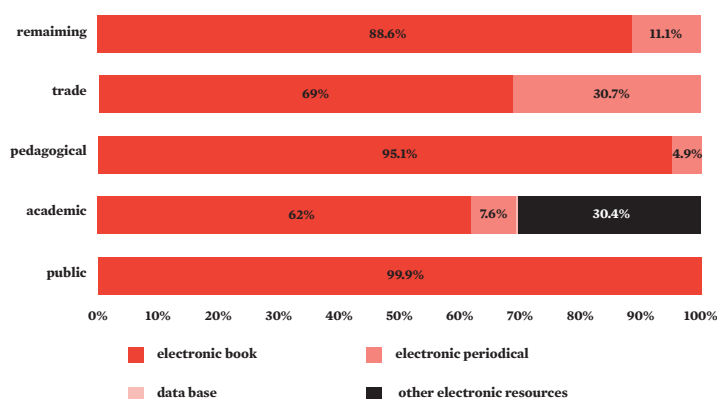
Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Trade libraries have more diversified resources: the size of the book collection (over 5 million volumes) was more or less at the same level as the size of the remaining non-electronic resources. Electronic resources on physical carriers amounted to 159 thou. inventory units plus 24 thou. titles for which access licences were obtained.

INTE centres have hybrid collections: over 385 thou. volumes of books, 208 thou. inventory units of the remaining non-electronic resources as

well as over 2.5 thou. inventory units of electronic documentation and nearly 66.5 thou. licensed titles.

Digital technologies and e-services

The scope of e-services and the level of their usage are different depending on the type of library, which is a result of the various rates at which these institutions have been computerised and computer library systems and other digital technologies introduced,[36] and also a result of the availability or lack of suitable hardware.

The main types of libraries are equipped with computers and offer their users internet access. This applies above all to pedagogical libraries (the figures being 100% and 97.4%), followed closely after by public libraries (93.6% and 88.1% respectively),[37] research libraries (84.2% and 74.1%), INTE centres (90.5% and 61.9%). With the remaining types of libraries the situation differs, depending on their organisational and financial status – 75.6% of trade libraries have computer, 42.9% make them available to the users together with an internet connection. The figures for trade and fiction libraries are 50% and 15.4% respectively, and for libraries of scientific societies – 61.5% and 46.2 respectively.

Generally speaking, Polish libraries are present on www pages, the leaders in this respect being: research and pedagogical libraries, as well as libraries of scientific societies and INTE centres – over 90%;[38] the figures for the rest of them are 81.6% for trade libraries, 71.3% for public libraries, and 67.3% for trade and fiction libraries. On www pages, libraries inform the users about their activity, encourage them to present their expectations on special forms, ensure access to interactive information services

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36   The percentage of libraries using computer library programmes is as follows: pedagogical libraries (95.6%), public libraries (71.3%), research libraries (70.3%), trade libraries (45.7%), trade and fiction libraries (26.9%), INTE centres (61.9%), libraries of scientific societies (53.9%).

37   The process of equipping public libraries with computers and internet access accelerated thanks to, among other factors, the programme (2009–2015) of the Information Society Development Foundation, created by the Polish-American Freedom Foundation, in partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The programme involved 3,808 public libraries in 1,256 districts – http://frsi.org.pl/projekt/program-rozwoju-bibliotek/ [accessed 23.03.2017]; and as of 2009 the programme "Internetization of libraries" (under an arrangement of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration, the Information Society Development Foundation, and Orange Polska (the last mentioned declared free internet access for all district public libraries); 3,200 libraries took advantage of this offer – http://www.instytutksiazki.pl/programy,o-nas,31529,internetyzacja-bibliotek.html [accessed 23.03.2017].

38   93.7% of research libraries, 92.3% of libraries of scientific societies, 90.5% of INTE centres, 90.5% of pedagogical libraries.

(e.g. communicators, chat rooms) and make accessible RSS channels.[39] In all, their pages had over 195 million visitors in 2015, the leaders among them being public libraries (103.1 million), followed by research libraries (57.7 million), trade libraries (27.2 million), and pedagogical libraries (5.9 million).

As much as 98.5% of pedagogical libraries offer electronic services – this high result has a lot to do with the more centralised organisation of such libraries, and also with their location in major regional and district capitals. As to the networks of public libraries (with many local branches in small townships and villages) and of research libraries (which has many small libraries attached to research institutes and university departments), e-services are provided by 69.7% and 74.3% of them respectively.[40]

The main e-services provided are on-line catalogues, though the differences in this respect are considerable. Almost all pedagogical libraries (93%) inform users about their collections on their web pages, as do a third of research libraries and libraries of scientific societies, and 60% of public libraries.[41] The respective figure for INTE centres is 42.9%, for trade libraries 23.5%, and for trade and fiction libraries only 3.9%. The scope of the presentation of resources depends on the level reached by any given library in the programme of resource computerisation. Three-quarters of pedagogical libraries have computerised their catalogues to the level of 76 – 100%, though the results are much lower for public libraries (48%) and research libraries (42.3%). In the remaining types of library, the figure is 1/5 of their resources (trade libraries – 14.9%, INTE centres – 9.6%, trade and fiction libraries – 7,7%). Public libraries have intensified their efforts towards developing e-services, nevertheless many of them, though they have on-line catalogues, still do not use their full potential, such as the possibility of placing on-line orders or bookings, while the users' demand for such services has notably grown. Librarians are increasingly aware that such processes should be accelerated if librar-

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39 For example, 36.8% of pedagogical libraries, 24.3% of research libraries, and 10.2% of public libraries have question forms for librarians.

40 In the remaining types of libraries the situation differs: INTE centres (71.4%), scientific societies (61.5%), trade libraries (32.7%), trade and fiction libraries (9.6%).

41 As of 2010, the Book Institute has created and developed the MAK+ system (electronic library system). It comprises modules and functions that make possible complex servicing of all processes connected with books and readers in the library (the following modules are available: collection, catalogue, storing, lending library, reading room, reports, inventory, recovery).

ies are to be an attractive proposition, especially for young people.[42] The intensification of work in this field is associated, among other things, with the participation of public libraries in programmes subsidised by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, such as "Library infrastructure"[43] and "Kraszewski. Computers for libraries",[44] which emphasise the matter of accessibility of resources through electronic catalogues.

An important role in this field is performed by the National Library, which registers all incoming documents systematically (within 24 hours) and creates a basis for Central Catalogues and Bibliography.[45] In 2015, the National Library data base had a total of 9.8 million records of all sorts, while data from the National Library Computer catalogue are drawn by Polish libraries.[46] A new opening for full, up-to-date on-line information and access to all types of publications available in Poland is going to be the "E-usługa OMNIS" project, started by the National Library in 2016. Its main objective is to create new systems of public e-services, based on the potential of digital technologies, and to improve the operation of the old e-services. The idea is to provide more user-friendly access to the Polish resources in the National Library and libraries in all of Poland, to information on forthcoming publications, and to the results of academic works.[47]

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42   This trend is confirmed by the position of those libraries that have on-line catalogues in operations and remote access to resources, and where the interest in such services is growing, especially among young users. On the basis of: *Sprawozdania z działalności bibliotek publicznych województwa warmińsko-mazurskiego za rok 2016* (typescript).

43   Government programmes that make it possible to obtain funds for the building, expansion, modernisation and refitting of library premises included in 2009–2010 the project "Library infrastructure", and in 2011–2015 the project "Long-term programme Culture+" (priority: "Library+. Library infrastructure"). At present, we have the long-term "National programme for the development of readership 2016–2020" (Priority 2).
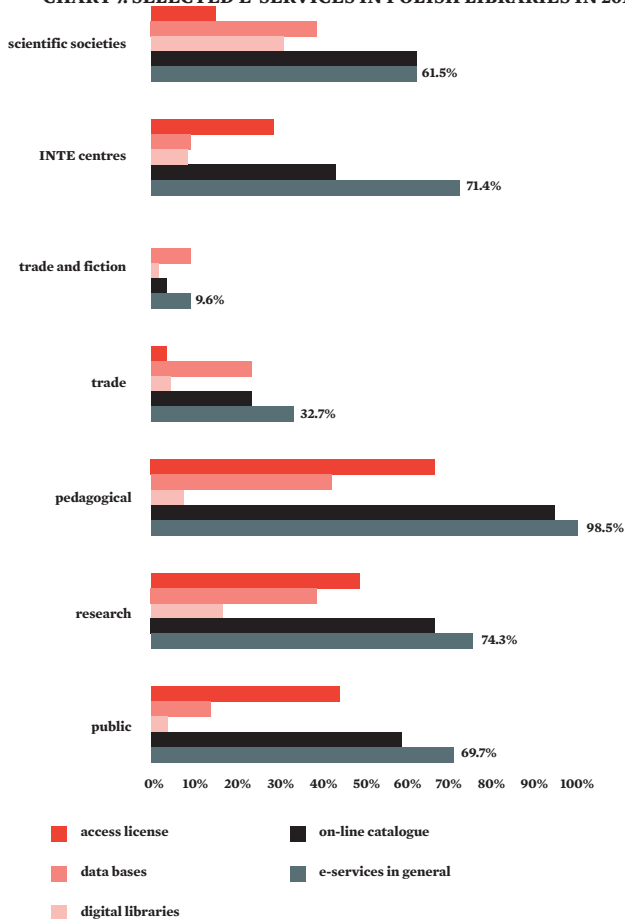
44   The programme has been ongoing since 2012 (three editions) by the Book Institute. Its aim is to raise the standard of public libraries through equipping them with modern computers that would give the users internet access and enable libraries to run on-line catalogues. In 2015, funds for this purpose went to 135 libraries. The programme provides for the possibility of complementing and changing the hardware. It also supports all activity associated with the computerisation of resources, creating on-line catalogues and the introduction of e-services.

45   Data are collected in three ways: directly from the catalogue base, from OPAC internet catalogues and from the ENCORE search machine, as well as through the special data downloading service that has been put into operation.

46   National Library descriptions are also transmitted to international projects: OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) (bibliographic records), VIAF (Virtual International Authority File) (authority records), CERL (The Consortium of European Research Libraries) (old prints records), and EUROPEANA (bibliographic records).

47   http://www.bn.org.pl/omnis/o-projekcie/ [accessed 29.03.2017].

CHART 7. SELECTED E-SERVICES IN POLISH LIBRARIES IN 2015

scientific societies — 61.5%

INTE centres — 71.4%

trade and fiction — 9.6%

trade — 32.7%

pedagogical — 98.5%

research — 74.3%

public — 69.7%

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%

- access license
- data bases
- digital libraries
- on-line catalogue
- e-services in general

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

The Polish libraries' electronic resources in digital libraries keep grow-ing. They are national, regional or local in scope, some are attached to an individual institution, some deal with one field of knowledge.[48] In 2015,

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48 One of the first initiatives based on library resources was the project "Electronic archiving of course books of the Mining and Metallurgy Academy (1999), the first regional digital li-

17% of research libraries, 7.7% of pedagogical libraries and less than 5% of (main) public libraries operated or co-operated digital libraries. The size and scope of the available digital resources differ – some are universal collections, some are dedicated to one field of knowledge or one theme. A characteristic feature of all the projects connected with establishing digital platforms is their dispersal. The main problem is constituted by financial, organisational and technical possibilities of individual libraries, therefore the majority of digital platforms are joint ventures of libraries of various kinds, or other institutions that all combine their efforts and form consortia. Such activity has been promoted by government programmes, e.g. the "Long-term Programme Culture+" (priority: "Digitalization") in the years 2011–215. An important role is also played by the National Library, which holds the position of a "Competence Centre" for the digitalisation of library resources, in accordance with the provisions of the "Programme for digitalising cultural assets and for collecting, storing and making available digital resources in Poland in 2009–2020", announced by the minister of culture and national heritage in 2009. The tasks of the Competence Centre include introducing technological changes and storing digital resources, as well as coordinating activities concerning their collection and storage.[49]

At present, Poland's most modern portal, giving access to resources on the net, is the Digital Library POLONA of the National Library, established in 2006. POLONA resources (1.7 million items[50]) are accessible individually, but, thanks to the introduced descriptions, are divided on formal lines and by theme. This makes it possible to present the resources in the form of collections, accompanied by materials published on blog.polona.pl. The materials accessible in the digital library include old prints, 19th and 20th century books, etchings, ephemeral publications, sheet music and manuscripts. Its resources are presented in the European Library, co-

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brary of the Poznań academic milieu, Wielkopolska BC (2002) and the government project of a Polish Internet Library (2002–2008). At present, almost every region has its own digital library, such as Kujawsko-Pomorska BC and Zielonogórska BC in operations since 2005, or, founded in the following years, Małopolska BC, Podlaska BC, Śląska BC, Mazowiecka BC, Świętokrzyska BC, Biblioteka Cyfrowa – Regionalia Ziemi Łódzkiej, Podkarpacka BC, Bałtycka BC, Zachodniopomorska BC "Pomerania", Opolska BC, Cyfrowy Dolny Śląsk. There are also independent projects of the public library network that have a local character. These include, for example, Bialska BC, BC Książnicy Stargardzkiej, Kolbuszowska BC, Nowohucka BC, Sanocka BC, Elbląska BC, Radomska BC, CB Ziemi Sieradzkiej, Chełmska BC, Iławska BC, Inowrocławska BC, Kędzierzyńsko-Kozielska BC, Krośnieńska BC, Płocka BC, Tarnobrzeska BC, Tarnowska BC, Gdańska BC, BC WBP in Lublin.

49   http://www.bn.org.pl/programy-i-uslugi/centrum-kompetencji [accessed 29.03.2017].

50   February 2017.

created by national libraries. In 2008, the European Library became the foundation of Europeana (the European Digital Library to which Poland has also contributed), a platform of common access to libraries, archives and museums in all of Europe.[51] A significant number of Polish libraries cooperate with each other within the Federation of Digital Libraries, which is a single virtual (dispersed) library associating both institutional and regional digital libraries. At present, the Federation has 131 members – libraries and other institutions. Another example of cooperation is the FIDES Virtual Book Collection of the Federation of Church Libraries, active since 2006.

Public libraries digitalise and make available in digital libraries mainly titles of regional significance, which are often unique copies in national collections. These are documents of social life, regional periodicals and newspapers, old prints, archive material, maps, chronicles, ephemeral publications, prints, photograms, photographs, postcards, music, didactic and educational material, PhD dissertations concerned with the given region, etc. As part of this activity, as of 2011, public libraries have been engaged in the project "Digital Archives of Local Tradition" (CATL),[52] the aim of which is the documentation of historic records and the creation of archives of local history. This, in turn, means the acquisition, collection and digitalisation of source materials (memoirs, diaries, letters, chronicles, photographs, personal documents, recordings of interviews with witnesses of local historic events), and making them accessible on the libraries' internet pages. The most valuable materials from the libraries associated in the CATL are presented in the Library of Digital Archives of Local Tradition.[53]

One of the main areas of activity for cooperating libraries is the establishment, or joint creation, of data bases and central catalogues, and the organisation of access to their own information resources and those of other institutions (licences, repositories). The aim of such cooperation is to integrate sources of information and to allow access to them. Such activity includes, for example, the creation of central catalogues (national,

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51 The National Library is also involved in the projects "Europeana v-2.0" (the aims of which include the expansion of the services for users, suppliers and cultural and educational institutions) and "EuropeanaNewspapers" (access to early 20th century European daily press, in particular dating from the period of World War I, and making the portal www.europeana.eu more functional through the application of tools that serve the searching and presentation of the digitalised press).

52 Operated by the Foundation of the KARTA Centre as part of the Programme of Library Development.

53 http://archiwa.org/index_catl.php [accessed 29.03.2017].

for academic and research libraries NUKAT, KaRo Distributed Catalogue of Polish Libraries; and local, e.g. Łódź Academic Library Network, FID-KAR of Małopolska), data bases[54] (e.g. BazTech,[55] BazHum[56]) and repositories (e.g. Digital Repository of Scientific Institutes), and, through licences, offering access to world data bases of scientific literature (e.g. ICM UW Warsaw University Virtual Library of Science, project "eIFL – EBSCO").

Among such activities, it is also worth mentioning the project ACADEMICA Digital Library of Academic Publications, carried out in 2010–2014 by the consortium formed by the National Library and the Scientific and Academic Computer Network (NASK) – its aim being a digital base of academic books and periodicals, and to make this accessible through a system of inter-library lending of electronic files. As part of the project, 170 thou. of the most important academic publications were scanned and made accessible to researchers. Since the end of 2014, the ACADEMICA Digital Lending Library of Scientific Publications[57] has been in operation. Thanks to EU funds in 2015, the National Library carried out project "Merkuriusz", Integrated Platform of Polish Academic Journals.[58]

Another project is "Patrimonium" of the National Library (2016), the aim of which is to digitalise over a million copies of library titles on Polish national heritage, books coming from the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library collections, and to make them available to academics, teachers, school pupils and other interested parties.[59]

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54 One of the first initiatives in this field were the STMPOnet data base of pre-conference, conference and post-conference materials, administered by the Library of the Warsaw Technical University, and SIBROL and SIGŻ projects of the Central Agricultural Library.

55 Journals on technological subjects – project implemented within a consortium, originally coordinated by the Library of the Academy of Technology and Agriculture in Bydgoszcz, at present by the Kraków Technical University.

56 Journals on history and related fields (Interdisciplinary Centre of Mathematical and Computer Modelling of Warsaw University, Warsaw libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Department of History of Warsaw University, and the Museum of Polish History.

57 The ACADEMICA system offers access first of all to publications from the years 1990–2014 – academic textbooks, scientific dissertations, chosen journals representing all fields. The base has close to 1.8 million digitalised books and articles (state in February 2017).

58 Thanks to EU funds, coming from the European Regional Development Fund within the Operational Programme Innovative Economy – http://www.bn.org.pl/programy-i-uslugi/merkuriusz/ [accessed 29.03.2017].

59 Part of the programme "Digital access to cultural resources" – https://cppc.gov.pl/publiczna-prezentacja-zalozen-projektu-patrimonium-cyfrowe-udostepnienie-zasobow-biblioteki-narodowej-i-biblioteki-jagiellonskiej/ [accessed 29.03.2017].

**TABLE 4. USE OF ELECTRONIC RESOURCES IN LOCAL NETWORKS
AND REMOTELY (IN THOU.) IN 2015**

Libraries	No. of sessions	No. of documents downloaded	No. of viewings of publications from own digital library
0	1	2	3
public	26,247.0	16,053.3	31,640.4
research	46,263.4	39,426.9	69,669.3
pedagogical	447.6	1,183.3	391.2
trade	2,064.0	1,655.6	902.6
trade and fiction	n/a	n/a	n/a
INTE centres	6.0	4.4	0.3
scientific societies	3.5	0.5	0.6

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

The level of utilisation of electronic resources in local and remote networks was nearly 74 million sessions in 2015, of which 46 million applied to research libraries, 26 million – to public libraries, and 447.6 thousand – to pedagogical libraries. Of the remaining kinds, special attention is due to trade libraries, which noted 2 million sessions. Of the total figure of over 57 million downloaded documents, 39 million came from research libraries, 16 million from public libraries, less than 2 million from trade libraries, and over 1 million from pedagogical libraries. The situation is similar when we consider the number of viewings from digital libraries: of the total of almost 93 million viewings, research libraries accounted for almost 70 million, public libraries for nearly 32 million, trade libraries for 902.6 thousand, and pedagogical libraries for 391.2 thousand.

The accessibility of libraries and their services

A measure of the user-friendliness of libraries is their accessibility in terms of opening hours (and days) and facilities for the disabled. Taking into consideration the average number of weekdays when library services are available, the best offer is that of pedagogical libraries, open to users 5.5 days a week (almost all of them work 5–6 days). Research libraries have a slightly shorter working week (on average 5.1 days, though 5.9% of them work seven days a week) and INTE centres (5 days). The remaining libraries work all similar hours (public[60] and scientific societies – 4.6 days, trade, trade and fiction – 4.7 days). The longer opening hours of pedagogical and research

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60 A mere 15% of public libraries work six days a week, and 0.1% (8 libraries) have a seven-day working week.

libraries are due to the fact that they work on Saturdays (68.8% of pedagogical libraries), or on Saturdays and Sundays – 44.2% and 1.8% respectively. As for public libraries, 23.3% of them work on Saturdays, and only 0.4% on Sundays. The rhythm of the working week of the remaining libraries, e.g. trade libraries operating within the framework of some institution or another, is adapted to the needs of those institutions, therefore only a few of them work on Saturdays and Sundays (e.g. 5% of trade libraries).

CHART 8. HOURLY ACCESSIBILITY OF LIBRARY SERVICES IN 2015
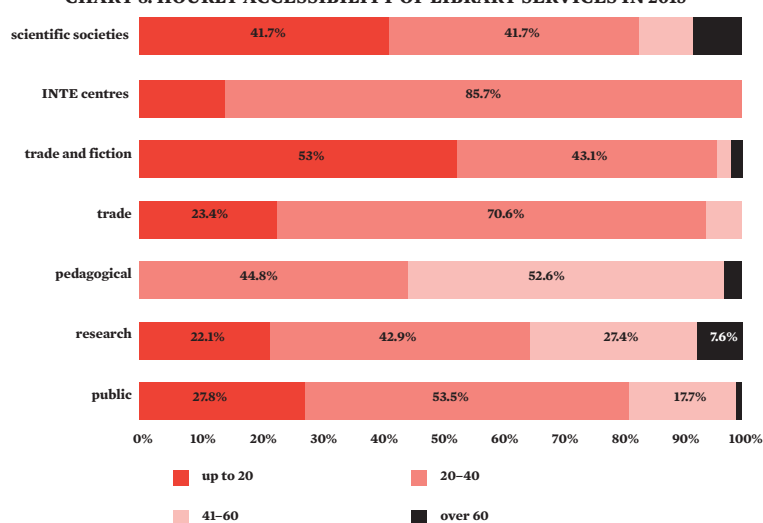
Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

The factors that have an impact on the length of the working week include the level of financial support and the staff of a library. Research libraries, notably those in higher education institutions, periodically extend opening hours, e.g. during the examination session, in order to make their resources available to the students. As regards public libraries, a certain improvement in this field was brought in by the requirements introduced under such programmes as "Library infrastructure", or the regulations of Library+ Certificates award. Admittedly, public libraries, especially small ones, find it hard to extend their working hours and stay open 24/7.[61] How-

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61 Danish libraries, for example, opt for the model of "open libraries", self-service institutions where for a certain number of hours there is no staff. R. Sigwald, "Self-service customer

ever, if they are to fulfil their function in the community and aspire to the role of "the third place", they have to adjust to different, individualised expectations of the recipients of their services and aim at a flexible organisation of work. Elements that expands access to library services include e-services, library www pages containing detailed information on library services and enabling contact with the users (email, inquiry forms, etc.), on-line catalogues with information on the resources, which can additionally service the user's account (placing orders, reserving items, reminding of the expiry date, etc.). In public libraries we note increasing interest in book drops (which in research libraries are standard facilities) for returning borrowed books, e.g. during days and times when the library is closed, or simply in order to save the users' time.[62] How significant such facilities are is shown by the fact that one of the suggestions for the 2017 participatory budget was providing nine libraries in the Warsaw district of Ursynów with biblioboxes – book drops open round the clock.[63]

TABLE 5. PERCENTAGE OF LIBRARIES IN PREMISES ADAPTED FOR THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED IN 2015

Libraries	Percentage of libraries in premises adapted		
	for wheelchair users		for the blind and visually impaired
	entrance to the building	interior facilities	
0	1	2	3
Total	41.9	26.8	1.9
public	38.3	21.9	0.7
research	69.4	61.2	12.0
pedagogical	46.0	32.4	1.5
trade	45.4	36.8	1.6
trade and fiction	46.2	38.5	3.8
INTE centres	28.6	33.3	0
scientific societies	30.8	15.4	7.7

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Another aspect of the accessibility problem is the adaptation of library premises for disabled users. Much has been done in this area, though Pol-

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models in libraries", *Journal of Library Administration* 2016, vol. 56, No. 4, pp. 453–478 – http://babin.bn.org.pl/?p=4347 [accessed 29.03.2017].

62 http://www.lazarski.pl/wydzialy-i-jednostki/biblioteka/wrzutnia-ksiazek/; http://www.mbp.chrzanow.pl/us%C5%82ugi/509-wrzutnia-ksi%C4%85%C5%BCek.html; http://bu.uwm.edu.pl/pl/uslugi/wrzutnia-zwrot-ksiazek-247; http://skarby-biblioteki.blogspot.com/2014/06/wrzutnia-na-topie.html [accessed 26.03.2017].

63 http://wawalove.pl/Pierwszy-bibliobox-w-Polsce-stanal-na-Ursynowie-a7993 [accessed 26.03.2017].

ish libraries still have some way to go, e.g. less than half of the the libraries covered by GUS surveys (41.9%) have wheelchair ramps installed. The leaders in this area are research libraries (over 2/3 of them have such ramps). With other facilities the situation is worse, in particular as regards those for the blind and visually impaired (less than 2% of the total, about 12% of the research libraries). A new initiative is IBUK Libra Light – a platform providing publications for the blind, the visually impaired and the physically handicapped (who cannot read printed books). Eligible users can get access free of charge to fiction, academic books and specialist publications in the format of ePUB or mp3 files.[64]

Recipients and use of library service

The institutional potential of Polish libraries, the functions they perform, the relevance and the variety of their collections all have an impact on the scope of social influence. The network of public libraries has the widest scope, though, as is also the case with the other types of library, they have noted a drop in both the number of users and the frequency of their visits. A similar tendency has been observed in those countries where the level of library services and their usage is high,[65] and in those countries where, in the wake of political transformations, libraries reformed their services.[66]

As many surveys indicate, the level of readership depends on many factors, such as people's attitude to books and the habit of reaching for them, or the transfer of socially and culturally conditioned needs connected with literacy.[67] An important element is now also the appearance and general condition of the premises, which can either encourage visitors to come in or, on the contrary, discourage them. This also has to do with the

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64 The project was initiated by the Polish Book Chamber, and implemented by the PWN Scientific Publishers commissioned by the Book Institute. It is finance by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. IBUK Libra Light enjoys the patronage of the Polish Union of the Blind and the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

65 http://tilastot.kirjastot.fi/ [accessed 29.03.2017].

66 For example, about 15% of inhabitants of the Czech Republic use libraries, the figure for Slovakia is 19%, that is, more or less the same as in Poland. On the basis of: "Stratégiarozvojaslovenskéhoknihovníctva na roky 2015–2020: východiskástratégie", *Knižnica* 2015, vol. 16, no. 2, pp. 4–10 – http://itlib.cvtisr.sk/buxus/docs/05%20strategia%20rozvoja.pdf [accessed 29.03.2017]; V. Richter, "The development of Czech libraries, 1990–2013", trans. KateřinaMillerová, *Library Trends* 2014, vol. 23, No. 2, pp. 161–182, bibliography 25 items, https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/bitstream/handle/2142/89806/63.2.richter.pdf?sequence=2 [accessed 29.03.2017].

67 J. Kopeć, I. Koryś, D. Michalak, *Stan czytelnictwa w Polsce w 2015 roku*, http://www.bn.org.pl/download/document/1459845698.pdf [accessed 31.03.2017].

removal of architectural barriers, the usefulness of all sources of information on the library resources (on-line catalogues), the building up of electronic resources, the preparedness of the users to receive remote services on the web. All of these prove that increased purchases of novelties do not constitute the one and only factor with an impact on the growth of readership, as was corroborated by library surveys carried out under the Priority 2 Programme of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in 2014.[68] These surveys revealed the need for combined efforts of various institutions, such as school libraries, schools and public libraries, in order to promote reading habits among children and young adults, and for doing it in a way that would be attractive in form and content for young readers.

Other important factors with an influence on the use of public libraries are their location[69] – their central, convenient situation within a district (easy access from outlaying localities), close to transport routes – as well as the presence of library information and services in virtual space (the scope of web services).

Recent years have seen considerable expansion in the services of various libraries (open library) to take in those social groups that have not, so far, been library users. As regards public libraries, offering universal resources and services to broad groups of society, they attract more and more readers who, until now, rarely took advantage of their services e.g. children aged 0–5 years accompanied by their parents, immigrants,[70] people handicapped in some way (e.g. autistic children) or the socially disadvantaged (e.g. unemployed). Other types of libraries also open up to the needs of new groups, which is particularly true of pedagogical, research and school libraries offering more than just standard library services.

In this context, useful instruments have included evaluations carried out under the Analysis of Library Functioning[71] of the Polish Librarians' Association, and such projects as "Biblioskan – civic control of public libraries in Łódź" of 2014–2016, aimed at diagnosing the condition of

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68   G. Walczewska-Klimczak, "Partnerstwo bibliotek publicznych i szkolnych", *Bibliotekarz* 2015, No. 9, pp. 13–21.

69   Such analyses have been produced, for example, in the United States, and in 2011 in Slovenia. V.Vodeb, G.Vodeb, "Spatial analysis of the public library network in Slovenia", *Journal of Library Administration* 2015, vol. 55, No. 1–4, pp. 202–220, bibliography 29 items – http:// babin.bn.org.pl/?p=3594 [accessed 29.03.2017].

70   B. Budyńska, "Biblioteki publiczne z ofertą dla cudzoziemców", *Bibliotekarz* 2016, No. 9, pp. 9–14.

71   For materials on public, pedagogical and research libraries see: http://afb.sbp.pl/ materialy,badanie-satysfakcji-uzytkownikow-bibliotek [accessed 29.03.2017].

Łódź's public libraries, surveying the implementation of the tasks entrusted to them, and preparing recommendations for improvements in the quality of services and effectiveness of activity.[72] The research carried out in 2016 in Cracow by the Małopolska Insitute of Culture were of a similar character: their results are shown in the report *Biblioteka Kraków. Rozwój sieci miejskich bibliotek* [Cracow Library. Development of municipal library networks].[73]

In 2015, Polish libraries had, on average, circa 11 million users, who visited them over 94 million times. Two thirds of them were readers (i.e. those who borrowed at least one book or other library material). The remainder took advantage of other services (e.g. access to computers and the internet). The share of public libraries was 6.2 million (80%) readers, while the remaining 1.5 million were readers of research libraries (1.4 million, of which 1.2 million in higher education institutions), pedagogical libraries (274.6 thou.), trade libraries (19.2 thou.), trade and fiction libraries (20.6 thou.), INTE centres (1.9 thou.) and scientific societies (0.6 thou.).[74]

TABLE 6. SCOPE OF INFLUENCE: READERS, USE OF COLLECTIONS, USERS, VISITS, PARTICIPANTS IN EVENTS IN 2015

Libraries	Number of					
	readers	usage		users	visits	participants of events
		outside	in-house			
	in thou.					
0	1	2	3	4	5	6
total*	7,771.2	131,875.7	41,477.3	10,962.8	94,152.6	11,050.9
public	6,232.9	116,002.9	20,424.1	7,746.6	75,927.5	9,963.4
research	1,421.8	13,882.6	21,076.3	2,844.4	17,383.9	889.3
pedagogical	274.6	4,033.3	2,287.0	569.4	2,600.9	455.6
trade	19.2	131.4	223.8	46.0	151.9	10.8
trade and fiction	20.6	240.9	23.2	29.6	130.5	5.9
INTE centres	1.9	14.3	7.9	3.4	24.8	0.2
scientific societies	0.6	4.7	29.6	3.2	9.4	1.9

* The totals are not the sum of the following data, but they include also 13 public libraries and 1 pedagogical library with the status of research library.

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72 Implemented by the Foundation Normal City-Phenomenon. Financial resources for the project obtained from the European Economic Area as part of the programme Citizens for Democracy –http://dspace.uni.lodz.pl:8080/xmlui/bitstream/handle/11089/19012/Biblios-kan.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y [accessed 29.03.2017].

73 The research aimed to diagnose the activity of municipal libraries and to provide recommendations important for the preparation of the development plan for the new institution – Biblioteki Kraków, http://badania-w-kulturze.mik.krakow.pl/2017/03/10/biblioteka-kra-kow-rozwoj-sieci-miejskich-bibliotek-publicznych/ [access: 30.04.2017].

74 Data for 13 public libraries and 1 pedagogical library with a status of research library are also included in the group of research libraries.

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

In public libraries, a downward trend has been noted for many years, though the structure of readership remains the same. Although the number of readers of 24 years of age and below has dropped, they still constitute the most numerous group – 45.8%. The ratio of readers in the 25–44, 45–60 and over 60 age brackets has been growing, which sets a new task before the libraries: putting out a new offer for these groups of users (e.g. for the gainfully employed, or for those of 60+).

TABLE 7. STRUCTURE OF PUBLIC LIBRARY READERS AND INHABITANTS OF POLAND IN 2015

Age in years	Number of readers	% of total ("raw")	Population December 2015	% of total population	Ratio of readers to total population
0	1	2	3	4	5
Up to 5 years	166,207	2.7	2,305,972	6.0	7.2
6–12	943,371	15.1	2,727,859	7.1	34.6
13–15	497,027	8.0	1,097,351	2.9	45.3
16–19	576,643	9.3	1,601,098	4.2	36.0
20–24	663,955	10.7	2,411,283	6.3	27.5
25–44	1,746,630	28.0	11,911,345	31.0	14.7
45–60	943,503	15.1	8,159,348	21.2	11.6
60+	695,571	11.2	8,222,983	21.4	8.5
Total	6,232,907	100	38,437,239	100	16.2

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Polish libraries, especially public ones, attach considerable importance to the prevention of social exclusions (due to age, economic status, disability or technical skills).[75] Their activity in this field is diversified – from providing an appropriate offer as regards their collections to services based on information and communication technologies (ICT). For example, libraries arrange for access to their collections for people who have trouble moving and for whom the trip to a library is an insurmountable barrier.[76] They provide access to information (to library catalogues and services, but they also rent tablets, mp3 players, e-book readers, etc.), and to digitalised resources (digital libraries). They help users who have problems searching for infor-

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75 W. Pindlowa, "Rola biblioteki w procesie wyłączania i włączania społecznego", in: *Biblioteki XXI wieku. Czy przetrwamy? II Konferencja Biblioteki Politechniki Łódzkiej, Łódź, 19–21 czerwca 2006 r. Materiały konferencyjne*, Łódź 2006, pp. 45–50 – http://www.ebib.pl/publikacje/matkonf/biblio21/sesja2ref1.pdf [accessed 30.03.2017].

76 One of the basic services is supplying books (ordered by phone or e-mail) to private homes by library staff, volunteers, probationers or family members.

mation, above all electronic information (organising courses) and using modern communication media.[77] This kind of activity also includes an offer for foreigners of various status (immigrants, refugees, students etc.), which includes language courses, a collection of foreign language literature and of interest to national minorities, events dedicated to the culture of a migrant community.[78] A special offer is addressed directly to the growing number of senior users of public libraries, e.g. in Warsaw there are the Points of ICT Support for Senior Citizens.[79]

Libraries of other types cooperate with smaller and less diversified groups of users. In the case of pedagogical libraries, these are readers associated with the educational system (31% teachers, 47.3% students), but also now, with the expanding activity for the benefit of the community in which these libraries operate, anyone who wishes to use their collections.[80] The readers in libraries of higher education institutions are primarily students – 79.7%, and then lecturers – 13.1%.[81] Libraries of research centres, higher education institutions and scientific centres address their offers to a wider public (including children and young adults) and engage in popularising knowledge, organise educational classes and workshops (e.g. the Main Library of the Pedagogical University in Kraków[82]), form universities for children and young people (e.g. Library of the Białystok Technical University, Main Library of the Pedagogical University in Kraków[83]). Other ex-

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77   Computer and internet courses, as well as those teaching the operation of mobile appliances are in principle standard services provided by public libraries.

78   B. Budyńska, "Biblioteki publiczne z ofertą dla cudzoziemców", *Bibliotekarz* 2016, No. 9, pp. 9–14.

79   Three-year project (2016–2019) "Points of ICT Support for Senior Citizens", run jointly by the local government of the city of Warsaw, the association Creative 50+, and 19 partners. In such points, 60+ senior citizens can obtain, free of charge, individual advice and consultation on the use of such things as computers, smartphones, tablets or digital cameras.

80   Over 1/5 represents the remaining people who do not fit any of the above categories of occupation (21.7%).

81   Others – 7.2%.

82   Within the international project European Researchers' Night, the Main Library of the Pedagogical University in Kraków organised workshops addressed to young children: *Mysterious World of the Library* in 2014; discovering "traditional and digital" library in 2015; in 2016 – the project was joined by research libraries in Poznań. Similar activity was undertaken by the Main Library of the Silesian Technical University in Gliwice. In: P. Milc, *Biblioteka naukowa (także) dla najmłodszych*, "Biblioteka i edukacja. Elektroniczne czasopismo Biblioteki Głównej Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego w Krakowie" 2016, No. 10 – http://www.bg.up. krakow.pl/newbie/index.php/bie/article/view/160 [accessed 30.03.2017].

83   From 2015, the Library of the Białystok Technical University has been running classes for children and young people within the framework of the Białystok University for Children (as of the academic year 2015/2016 the students of the Children's University can borrow books specially prepared for them and take them home). A. Sidorczuk, E. Kierejczuk, "Promocja i kształtowanie wizerunku biblioteki przez edukację dzieci w bibliotece naukowej",

amples of activity aimed at children, in which scientific libraries engage, are after-school clubs (Library of the University of Lower Silesia in Wrocław), Day-care Rooms (libraries of the Poznań and Białystok technical universities), and trips organised for children and young adults.

The level of utilisation of Polish libraries is associated, among other things, with their attractiveness as a convenient place for carrying out various forms of work. Meanwhile, in spite of the changes that have taken place in their infrastructure, many of them still work in conditions that do not favour such activity. This is, for example, the case with many public libraries, which, while statistically representing a high degree of accessibility, still work in conditions that make it difficult to conduct attractive forms of work – in 2015, 11.2% of libraries were housed in buildings, and 88.8% in premises shared with other institutions. In 2015, 16 separate library facilities were built for the needs of public libraries, 20 libraries acquired new premises in new buildings which they share with other institutions. This is not much, considering the fact that the library infrastructure calls for large outlays: 60.2% of library premises were built in the years 1945–1989, 22.8% – before 1945, and only 16.5% in the years 1990–2014.[84]

The first ventures aimed at a modern arrangement of premises and equipping of public libraries were completed in 2004–2005 in cooperation with Bertelsmann Foundation. These were mediatheques in Wrocław and Olsztyn. Libraries, especially public libraries, are being located in places where they have the best chance to get though with their services to their potential users, for example in shopping centres ("Abecadło" in Olsztyn, "Manhattan" in Gdańsk). In recent years, they have found premises in old railway stations (listed buildings). In addition to the "Stacja

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Biblioteka i Edukacja. Elektroniczne czasopismo Biblioteki Głównej Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego w Krakowie 2016, No. 10 – http://www.bg.up.krakow.pl/newbie/index.php/bie/article/view/156/155 [accessed 30.03.2017]; A. Folga, J. Kołakowska, "Udział Biblioteki Głównej Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego im. Komisji Edukacji Narodowej w Krakowie w działalność uniwersytetów dla dzieci", *Biblioteka i Edukacja. Elektroniczne czasopismo Biblioteki Głównej Uniwersytetu Pedagogicznego w Krakowie* 2016, No. 10 – http://www.bg.up.krakow.pl/newbie/index.php/bie/article/view/156 [accessed 30.03.2017].

84 Government programmes that make possible to obtain funds for the building, expansion, modernisation and equipping of library premises were: in the years 2009–2010 "Library Infrastructure", in 2011–2015 "Long-term Programme Culture+" (priority: "Library+ Library Infrastructure"). The aim of these programmes was to raise the level of attractiveness of library services by adapting the infrastructural basis to the changing needs and standards, suitably equipping them and making the premises capable of supporting new functions of public libraries (including e-services). Under a continuation of the programme within the long-term programme "Library Infrastructure" for the years 2016–2020, libraries are obliged to participate in local public-social partnership for the benefit of libraries and work towards the raising of digital (information) competence in the local community.

Kultura" (Culture Station) in Rumia,[85] old buildings have been adapted for library purposes in several other places.[86]

The situation of other libraries is similar. As regards research libraries, 12.8% of them have their own premises, 87.2% share the premises with other institutions. It is slightly different when we take a look at the age of the premises: the largest number of research libraries (46.6%) – as was the case with public libraries – function in premises dating from the 1945–1989 period, a third in premises from before 1945 (30.3%), and 22.5% in premises from the 1990–2014 period. In 2015, five university libraries (0.5%) moved to new premises.

A notable effort to improve the library infrastructure is visible in particular in libraries of higher education institutions. By 1990, 10 new buildings for university libraries had been completed, the figure for the 1999–2010 was 14, and for 2011–2014 – 16. In this group of libraries the leader was the Main Library of Warsaw University with a roof garden. In recent years, the following have been completed, among others: libraries of the Jan Kochanowski University in Kielce, of the Casimir the Great University in Bydgoszcz, Wrocław University, Wrocław Technical University. In addition, modernisation has been carried out in, among others, the library of the Medical Universities in Łódź and Katowice, Gdańsk Technical University, Catholic University of Lublin, and the Military Technical Academy in Warsaw.[87]

In pedagogical libraries, the ratios of those having their own facilities and those sharing premises with other institutions are more or less the same as in the case of public and research libraries (independent housing – 18%, shared premises – 82%). 55.1% of pedagogical libraries came into existence in 1945–1989, 37.5% before 1945, 7.4% in 1990–2014 (no new facilities in 2015).

In the context of changes that are taking place among library users, it is important to mention the ways in which the resources are used. Public libraries take first place as lending libraries. Of the 131 million inventory units borrowed (book collections and other resources), over 116 million were from public libraries,[88] nearly 14 million from research libraries,

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85   The library in Rumia won an international competition for the Library Interior Design in the "Single Space Design" category, for the best designed library interior.

86   Organised in Sopot, Nysa, Władysławowo, Koło, Sosnowiec, Rabka, Pleszew, Wronki, Sokołów Podlaski, Legionowo, Leszno, Nowe Skalmierzyce, Malczyce (Lower Silesia), and Karpacz. Plans have been made to open a library at the main station in Wrocław and in Ruda Śląska–Chebzie.

87   D. Konieczna, *Nowe budynki biblioteczne a strategia rozwoju bibliotek akademickich w XXI wieku* – http://bu.uwm.edu.pl/sites/default/files/files/pdf/nowe_budynki.pdf [accessed 29.03.2017].

88   Loans per 100 inhabitants in 2015 – 302 inv. units (in 2014 – 310 inv. units).

4 million from pedagogical libraries, and 391.3 thou. from the remaining libraries. Reading books on the premises (41.5 million inventory units) are most frequent in practice in research libraries (21 million), slightly less than that in public libraries (20.4 million),[89] followed by pedagogical libraries with nearly 2.3 million inventory units made available. In other types of libraries, 284.6 thou. inventory units were read on the spot.

TABLE 8. SELECTED INDICES – RANGE OF INFLUENCE (USE) IN 2015

Libraries	Readers per 1 library	Use of resources* per 1 inv. unit	Use of resources* per 1 reader
0	1	2	3
total	800	0.7	22
public	774	1.0	22
research	1,420	0.3	25
pedagogical	1,009	0.5	23
trade	61	0.03	18
trade and fiction	397	0.5	13
INTE centres	90	0.07	23
scientific societies	44	0.05	22

* Book collection and special resources combined.

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Financing

The condition of libraries, their present possibilities and future development largely depend on financing. Two aspects are of interest here:
· allocated financing
· project financing, including resources from government programmes and other than state funds.

The levels and methods of library financing differ, depending on what institution is a supervisory body. The basic financial means come from subsidies granted by the organiser. For example, in 2015 almost the entire budget of pedagogical libraries came from the organiser's subsidy (97.8%), which in the case of public libraries constituted over 92% of the whole (grants-in-aid – 4%, the remaining resources – circa 4%). Special resources form the largest part of the budget of research libraries (7.9% – grant-in-aid, 4.8% earned means and others, while the organisers subsidy amounts to 87.4%).

Although the share of foreign resources in Polish libraries is not high, it nevertheless has an enormous impact of their activity. Such resources are

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89 In-house use per 100 inhabitants – 53 inv. units (in 2014 – 57 inv. units).

used for various purposes: financing new publications, training and rais-
ing professional competence, financing cultural events and educational
projects, purchase of computers and new technologies, financing access
to the internet, introducing digital services. Participation in various pro-
jects brings public libraries many advantages (expansion of their own col-
lections and range of services, modernisation of the facilities, new equip-
ment, access to data bases and enlargement of the cultural offer) and is
also linked with the integration of libraries within local and regional net-
works as well as on an all-Poland scale.

Financial resources gained by libraries are above all special subsidies
granted by various ministries (e.g. Ministry of Culture and National Her-
itage, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Administration), donations by local
governments of various level, grants from associations and foundations,
EU grants and contributions from local sponsors. These are not always
cash. A frequent form of support for libraries are non-cash contributions,
such as materials, equipment or gratuitous services.

ALLOCATED FINANCING – EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIAL

The level of library financing reflects on its potential to incur the costs
of new publications, information material, licences and the structure of
their purchasing.

**TABLE 9. EXPENDITURE ON LIBRARY MATERIAL IN 2015
(IN THOU. PLN) ACCORDING TO TYPE OF LIBRARY**

Libraries	Outlays on:				
	Books	**Newspaper subscription**	**Remaining non-electronic resources**	**Inventoried electronic resources**	**Licensed electronic resources for which te library paid access fee**
0	1	2	3	4	5
total*	109,363.2	41,423.8	8,644.4	953.8	48,416.3
public	72,483.8	9,606.6	3,920.9	104.3	1,298.6
research	34,594.8	28,933.9	4,516.6	805.6	45,888.2
pedagogical	2,550.2	973.2	168.1	20.3	131.8
trade	1,396.6	1,852.4	270.0	24.0	1,303.2
trade and fiction	172.8	80.6	7.9	0.1	0
INTE centres	50.4	635.9	86.3	0.1	41.2
scientific societies	14.0	0.7	0	0	0

* The total is not the sum of all the items in the line, because the data for research libraries include also 13 public libraries
and 1 pedagogical library with a status of research library.

Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

In 2015, over half the resources for the purchase of library material went on the purchase of books (52.4%), followed by the purchase of licences (23.2%) and press subscriptions (19.8%). The structure of outlays was different for various types of library. For example, in research libraries, funds were spent primarily on licensed collections (e-books, e-periodicals, data bases and other electronic resources) which accounted for 40% of all spending. On the other hand, expenditure on books and periodicals was at a similar level (30.2% and 25.2% respectively). In public libraries, the main expenditure concerning the purchase of library material was on printed books (82.9%), followed by newspapers and periodicals (11%) and licences (1.5%). Expenditure in pedagogical libraries was similar (66.4%, 23.5% and 3.4% respectively). Trade libraries and INTE centres spent the largest amounts on press subscriptions (38.2% and 78.1% respectively), in trade libraries similar sums were spent on books (28.8%) and licences (26.9%). For INTE centres an important part of their budgets went to the remaining non-electronic resources.

CHART 9. EXPENDITURE IN 2015 FOR BOOKS PER 1 READER (IN PLN)
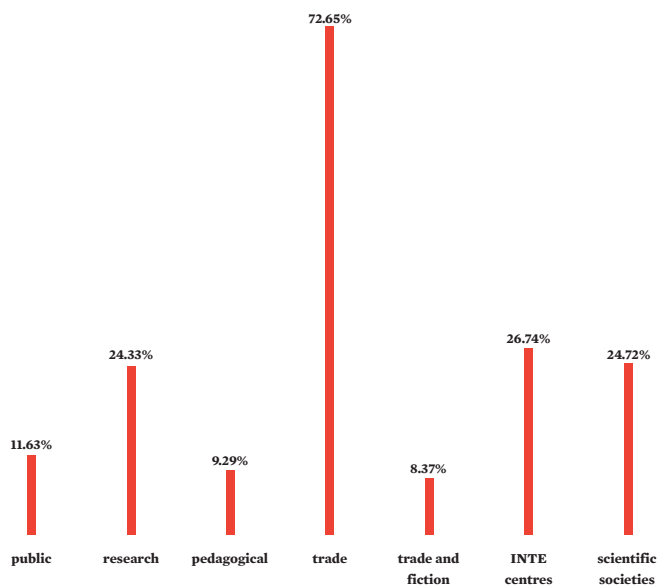
Source: own study based on GUS data for 2015.

Project financing

A strategic government programme of encouraging reading habits was the "National Culture Programme for Promotion of Readership and Development of the Book Sector" (2004–2013) which, among other things, provided for an improvement in the conditions of the functioning of public libraries, and for better access to library services, as well as for the higher quality of the collections and a larger role of readership in education and upbringing. A continuation of this programme was the "Long-term Programme Culture+" in the years 2011–2015, with its main aims being the modernisation of public library infrastructure in the countryside and in small towns, as well as digitalisation and the accessibility of resources.[90]

"The National Programme for the Development of Readership" (2014–2020) dealt with the most important areas connected with reading habits and the presence of books on the market, namely the promotion and dissemination of reading and books among those who do not read them, support for publishing good literature and cultural periodicals, training booksellers and legal regulations on the book market. Another important element of the programme was activity aimed at changing and consolidating the role of public libraries as the main place of contact with books (e.g. the purchase of new publications, the building and modernisation of library premises, the modernisation of services provided by public libraries, the creation and development of a uniform national central computer system MAK+ which makes possible the management of library resources, and remote internet access for library users, the internetisation of libraries and training of librarians in new skills). The programme accomplished a great deal, including: the purchase of new books for libraries, the promotion of literature and reading, a training programme for librarians, Book Clubs, MAK+ "Kraszewski. Computers for Libraries" project, creation of the Corpus of Polish Publications (catalogue descriptions of all books published in Poland, including books, periodicals, maps, CD and DVD discs with music and films, as well as audio-books), which made it possible to introduce uniform descriptions of all publication in Polish libraries and to competently introduce internet catalogues of all libraries in Poland.

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90 It had in view an improvement of access to culture and a larger participation of local communities. It had two priorities: "Library+. Library infrastructure" which aimed at strengthening the potential and role of district public libraries, and "Digitalization", the aim of which was to expand access to digital resources of Polish cultural heritage via Internet and making this access easier, especially for the inhabitants of villages and small towns. The direct beneficiaries of this programme were, e.g., local and state cultural institutions.

The year 2015 saw the introduction of the Long-term "National Programme of Development of Readership" for the years 2016–2020,[91] which provides for supporting readership through the purchase of novelties for libraries, the modernisation and building of library facilities, and through encouraging of reading habits among children and young adults. Its aim is to provide financial support for the purchase of novelties for public, school and pedagogical libraries in a way that does away with the hitherto barrier of assigning the task to various ministries, concentrates on library users and their needs without the divisions into types of library.

One of the most important projects that support readership in public libraries is the establishment – since 2007 by the Book Institute and voivodship public libraries – of discussion book clubs (DKK). The project finances the arrangement of rooms or spaces for discussions, so that to attract users to the libraries and quickly make them realise that it is cool to read books. In 2015, 1,412 book clubs were registered – for adults, children and teenagers. The programme is addressed primarily to the readers in public libraries, though in its regulations it says that such clubs can also operate at other institutions (e.g. school libraries, cultural centres, etc.) in cooperation with a public library.

Research libraries find much support in their participation in programmes sponsored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, e.g. DUN (which finances activity aimed at the spread of learning), the National Programme for the Development of the Humanities (NPHR) (for institutions carrying out research in the field of humanities), the Foundation for Polish Science (whose mission it is to support learning, and which is Poland's largest non-government source of financing projects in this field), or the Polish-German Foundation for Science (supporting research projects carried out in a Polish-German partnership by universities and other research centres).

Foundations for libraries

One of the first initiatives supporting readership is the programme of the foundation "ABCXXI All Poland Reads to Children", which, since 2001, has introduced a number of reading projects in public libraries, schools and kindergartens, and has run an all-Poland campaign that has

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91 The funds for the long-term "National Programme of Development of Readership" come from the state budget and from local government bodies.

contributed greatly to a change in our thinking about the role of reading in a child's development.[92]

An important contribution to the development and modernisation of public libraries was made by the "Library Development Programme", a project carried out in 2009–2015 by the Information Society Development Foundation in partnership with the Polish-American Freedom Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates' Foundation. Its aim was to help public libraries throughout Poland fulfil their role as local centres of community activity (as places where their users spend time, develop their interests, learn new skills and engage in joint projects).[93] The libraries were given assistance in several areas: supply of computer hardware (tablets, laptops, personal computers, printers, image projectors), training for librarians and persons cooperation with libraries (e.g. in planning library development, forming partnerships, mediation, chairing meetings, making new technologies available), promoting library modernisation (in the media and at national library congresses), cooperating with institutions connected with librarianship (such as the National Library, the Book Institute, Polish Librarians' Association, voivodship libraries). The work on supporting this project is still continuing: e.g. further library networking, promoting model solutions, and making good use of new technology in library work.[94]

The foundations and associations that in the past created special programmes of support for libraries have included: the Batory Foundation, the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, the KLANZA Polish Association of Pedagogues and Animators, as well as foreign foundations, such as: the Open Society in Budapest, the Bosch Stiftung in Germany and the Mellon Foundation in the USA. Those mentioned above have since been joined by the Michał Oczapowski Foundation, the Foundation for

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92 IPSOS surveys from October 2006 show that the campaign "All Poland Reads to Children" is known to 85% of Poles and that it has changed habits of a third of the Polish community – http://www.calapolskaczytadzieciom.pl/ [accessed 28.03.2017]. As part of educational programmes and reading campaigns there have been held over 100 conferences, training courses and workshops on reasonable upbringing; over 6,300 leaders and coordinators for the campaign have been educated; work has begun in all of Poland on the programme "Reading Brings Us Closer" for healthy and disabled children, and the programme "Reading is a Cure"; the Astrid Lindgren Literary Competitions have been organised and their effects have been new books for children; together with the weekly *Polityka* a collection of 23 books for children, under the title "All Poland Reads to Children", has been brought out; over 2,400 towns and townships have joined the campaign of reading and the project "The Weeks of Reading to Children", which in many places have become the most important cultural events of the year.

93 In the three editions of the projects, a total of 3,808 libraries from 1,256 districts (mostly in the country and in small towns) took part.

94 http://frsi.org.pl/projekt/program-rozwoju-bibliotek/ [accessed 29.03.2017].

the Development of the Educational System, the Nobody's Children Foundation, the "ę" Society for Creative Initiatives, the Rural Development Foundation, the Jan Amos Komensky Child Development Foundation, the Leopold Kronenberg Bank Foundation, the Orange Foundation, the Foundation of Bank Zachodni, the Foundation of Bank Zachodni WBK, the PZU (PZU with Culture) Foundation, the Ignacy Łukasiewicz PGNiG Foundation, the PGE Foundation – Energy of the Heart.

Libraries can also use international programmes and funds – EU ones, like Creative Europe, the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Financial Mechanism of the European Economic Area – and others, like the Swiss-Polish Cooperation Programme or the International Visegrad Fund.

Conclusions

Judging by the results of research on the functioning of libraries in Poland in recent years, we may safely say that they operate according to the principles and trends observed in libraries related to civilizational and cultural development. The libraries are affected by the changes that occur in Polish society (demographics, changes in the way of life and people's needs). Despite Polish libraries being diversified as far as their potential and purpose are concerned, several phenomena and tendencies can be discerned, occurring differently depending on the type of library. An analysis of the condition and potential of libraries indicates that, on the one hand, the networks of different types of libraries have tended to shrink (drop in number) while, on the other hand, all these types are undergoing a modernization process with the introduction of new technologies and services.

The recent years have been a period of intense transformation for Polish libraries, which has taken place in several areas:

· **users**: libraries are increasingly opening up to users, they are adapting their forms of activity to the needs of ever broader sections of society. Research and specialised libraries – which until recently concentrated on a definite group of users – have begun opening their resources and services to new categories of readers;

· **communication with the community**: libraries are entering into dialogue with their users, who are gaining more influence on their functioning and directions of development (having a say on matters of space arrangement and the scope of services provided). More and more often, libraries are concentrating on addressing a definite user or groups of

users. They are preparing, for example, proposals for the disabled, 60+ users, specific interest groups, immigrants and national minorities, and in this respect they are not restricting their activity to strictly library tasks. They are making it easier for their readers to use the library's services, for example by doing away with barriers for people in wheelchairs, and changing the opening hours to better suit the users;

· **hybrid resources and services**: libraries want to become institutions that make use of new technologies and combine traditional and electronic collections. Increasingly, they attach importance to digital resources (repositories, digital libraries) and take their offers outside the physical walls of the library (remote access to resources);

· **spaces for various activities**: libraries are modernising their premises, new library buildings are being constructed, both in large agglomerations and in small townships. This is connected with the model of an open, friendly library that uses various forms of work – such is the case with public, research and pedagogical libraries. They offer open space as a method of organising free access to collections and of using them, places of activity for various groups of people and various social groups within the community;

· **cooperation**: libraries are consolidating their activity, establishing consortia, federations and cooperating groups in order to carry out their tasks and plans. This is absolutely essential if they are to meet the expectations and needs of their users;

· **effectiveness study**: Polish libraries are aspiring to international standards. They are analysing the effects of their work and using the results of that research to improve the quality of their work. Their analyses also serve government programmes for library support.

These are all positive changes, though there are two trends that are serving to slow down this process. While eager to work for their users to the best of their abilities, Polish libraries are improving their forms of cooperation and mutually complementing their offers. As numerous examples prove, the atomisation of libraries is a bad and ineffectual choice. A reluctance to cooperate is rather deeply-rooted, since it is conditioned by old regulations that divided libraries into different specialities, or by old privileges that only applied to employees of certain libraries, despite all librarians representing one profession. This issue is associated with another problem – libraries are variously financed or sponsored, which hinders or prevents their proper functioning. The situation is particularly difficult for specialist libraries with unique collections and a narrow

group of users, a fact that perhaps makes it hard for them to gain sponsors. A guarantee of library development is stabilisation and a regular supply of funds, but also, in the present period, the possibility to use special subsidies, grants and programmes. The way libraries are financed leads to divisions among them, and even to acute disparity. Libraries where the level of activity is in keeping with the current standards find it easier to introduce new projects, which more often than not demand the use of state-of-the-arts technologies. Less developed libraries usually lack new possibilities of obtaining financial support, and as a result have less chance of development.

The above issues clearly indicate the need for model solutions that would make possible further work on the structure of individual library networks. Built and developed in different social and technological conditions, libraries need reasonable reforms that would have no harmful effects for libraries, their collections and their users.

translated by Bogna Piotrowska

SUMMARY

Librarians as a professional group are experiencing considerable changes as their work is expected to be more and more effective, and the education and information markets are becoming increasingly competitive. It is therefore vital to define and diagnose the main areas of library activity. The following text discusses the key aspects related to the functioning of libraries in Poland in 2015 (library networks, resources, services, facilities, users), and attempts to analyse the trends that are crucial for those institutions (on a macro- and micro-scale).

This analysis aims at answering the question about the most important changes which impact on the functioning of, and demand for, library services, as well as discuss major achievements, weaknesses and potential niches in library activity, and how to respond to the changes which are currently ongoing. Changes in public communications and the transformation of libraries are the two dominant trends when we analyse libraries today. The most frequent problems connected with the work of individual libraries, their standards and also their development, include: the atomisation/dispersal of libraries, and changes to the work organisation in libraries towards developing various forms of cooperation (networks, consortia). The main ideas of present-day librarianship involve acting as a "middleman" in public communications, integration with the environment and the library's 'offer' in the broadest meaning of the word.

Research carried out in recent years on the work of libraries in Poland shows that they operate according to the principles and trends observed in libraries throughout the world. They are subject to changes brought about by civilizational and cultural developments to their counterparts in other countries and they are affected by the changes that occur in Polish society (demographics, changes in the way of life and people's needs). Despite Polish libraries being diversified as far as their potential and purpose are concerned, several phenomena and tendencies can be discerned, occurring differently depending on the type of library. An analysis of the condition and potential of libraries indicates that, on the one hand, the networks of different types of libraries have tended to shrink (drop in number) while, on the other hand, all these types are undergoing a modernization process with the introduction of new technologies and services.