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MICROFILMING IN POLAND

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INTRODUCTION

In 1950, a caravan of American scholars and photo technicians made their way across the Sinai Peninsula in order to copy the collections of the St. Catherine's monastery on Mount Sinai. In the same year, at the National Library in Warsaw, an institution was created to launch an initiative for preserving collections on a scale unprecedented in Europe. At first, the Microfilm Station was in charge of producing surrogates of the most valuable monuments of writing that had survived the disasters of World War II. In the 1970s, its work was extended by a project of completing the collections of Polish newspapers and journals. In this way, over half a century of microfilming resulted in preserving integral series of periodicals as well as manuscripts, early printed books and music documents housed

in over 200 institutions in Poland and abroad. Furthermore, the collection of surrogates gathered by the National Library became the most complete scientific workshop for the Polish humanities.

PHOTOGRAPHIC TECHNIQUES IN POLAND UP TO 1950

Photographing texts was first discussed in Poland in the interwar period. Scholars and custodians were aware of the potential that the new technology had, however, once Poland regained independence, the country's institutions had to face more fundamental challenges, and the young state dealing with economic problems was unable to provide suitable funds even for the most basic activity. In 1934, four state archives out of sixteen still had no typewriters, not to mention costly photographic equipment.¹ Therefore, before 1939, using photographic techniques to copy texts was mainly discussed in articles and at conferences,² while their practical application was restricted to the Archive of Public Education in Warsaw, the Cracow Library of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, the National Ossoliński Institute (Ossol.) in Lviv and the Jagiellonian Library.³ A fact that illustrates the limited scale of the phenomenon is that between 1936 and 1937, the latter produced no more than 1,937 copies (for example of the *Bogurodzica* manuscript), using a Foto-Clark camera, for 58 clients in total, one of the orders comprising 500 copies. The only person to work with microfilms was Professor Jan Rutkowski of the University of Poznań, who copied documents concerning the reviews of royal properties borrowed from the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw.⁴ Under such cir-

1 "Sprawozdanie z działalności" [Report on Activities], *Archeion*, vol. 13, 1935, p. 153.

2 J. Grycz, "Zagadnienie fotografii w bibliotekarstwie" [Photography in Library Practice], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], year 12, 1938, pp. 145–170; M. Handelsman, "Metoda poszukiwań archiwalnych" [A Method for Archival Research], *Archeion*, vol. 2, 1927, p. 39; A. Rybarski, *Potrzeby i zadania fotografii w pracy archiwalnej* [Needs and Purposes of Photography in Archival Work], Lviv 1926; "Sprawozdanie z VI sesji Rady Archiwalnej w dniach 19–20.12.1928 r." [Report of the 6th Session of the Archival Council held on 19–20/12/1928], *Archeion*, vol. 5, 1929, *Część Urzędowa* [Official Part], p. 4.

3 The isolated attempts to photograph texts undertaken by Prof. Jan Kruszyński of the University of Vilnius were of minor significance. J. Kruszyński, "Nowy aparat do reprodukcji fotograficznej i jego zastosowanie szczególnie do zabytków archiwalnych" [A New Apparatus for Photographic Reproduction and its Application to Archival Objects in Particular], *Archeion*, vol. 14, 1936, pp. 24–25.

4 J. Deresiewicz, "Powielanie archiwów" [Copying Archives], *Dziennik Poznański* [Poznań Daily] of 30/04/1937, issue 100, p. 7; B. Drewniewska-Idziak, "Projekt Polskiej akcji mikrofilmowania zbiorów bibliotecznych z XIX i XX wieku z podziałem na regiony" [Project of the Polish Action of Microfilming Library Holdings of the 19th and 20th Centuries According to Regions], in *Chrońmy oryginały* [To Protect the Originals], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2000, p. 30; "Fotobiblioteki" [Photo Libraries], *Kurier poznański* [Poznań Courier] of 4/04/1937, vol. 32, issue 152, p. 4; J. Rutkowski, "Mikrofotografia na usługach historii" [Microphotography in the Service of History], *Roczniki Dziejów Społeczno-Gospodarczych* [Socio-Economic History Yearbook], vol. 6, 1937, p. 601.

cumstances, it is no wonder that Józef Grycz once admitted that “in Poland, any application of photography in library practice lies fallow.”⁵

This situation remained unchanged until the 1950s. During the period of the war and occupation, microreprography was limited to isolated initiatives undertaken in a life-threatening way, such as the ones of Professors Mieczysław Wolfke or Janusz Podoski.⁶ Following the year 1945, several institutions, such as the Institute of General Chemistry and the Institute of History of the University of Warsaw, decided to purchase 135 film cameras. At the University of Poznań, Professor Rutkowski reopened his pre-war studio. Also, the first microfilm cameras appeared. They were used by the Jewish Historical Commission, the Institute of Electronics of the Warsaw University of Technology and the Chair of Photographic Techniques of the Wrocław University of Technology.⁷ In 1948, Professor Karol Górski pursued plans for issuing micropublications through the photographic studio of the Toruń Scientific Society.⁸ In spite of “rudimentary equipment and modest funds”,⁹ by 1950, two such editions were published, containing the proceedings of the Prussian parliament of 1506–1653 and the parliamentary acts of Ducal Prussia since 1541.¹⁰ Microfilms were no longer solely discussed in writing,¹¹ but had begun to be used in research.¹²

5 J. Grycz, op. cit., p. 170.

6 W. Żdźarski, *Historia fotografii warszawskiej* [History of Warsaw Photography], Warszawa 1974, pp. 226–227.

7 At the latter university, the chair held by Professor Romer was the first one in Poland to begin training future photography engineers in 1948. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów archiwalnych i bibliotecznych w Polsce 1950–1970* [Microfilming Archival and Library Collections in Poland 1950–1970], Wrocław 1978, p. 57.

8 K. Górski, “Zagadnienie produkcji mikrofilmowych odbitek pozytywów w zastosowaniu do źródeł historycznych” [Production of Microfilm Positive Copies Applied to Historical Sources], *Zapiski Towarzystwa Naukowego w Toruniu* [Notes of the Toruń Scientific Society], vol. 14, Toruń 1948, p. 109–119; A.W., *Recenzja*: K. Górski, “Zagadnienie produkcji mikrofilmowych odbitek pozytywów w zastosowaniu do źródeł historycznych” [Review: Karol Górski, Production of Microfilm Positive Copies Applied to Historical Sources], *Przegląd Historyczny* [Historical Review], vol. 39, issue 2, 1949, pp. 112–113.

9 A. Wyczański, “Mikrofilm w archiwach i bibliotekach polskich” [Microfilm in the Polish Archives and Libraries], *Archeion*, vol. 26, 1956, p. 138.

10 These publications, released as the *Fontes, Seria II, Rotuli photographici* series, were entitled *Recessus comitorum Terrae Prussiae* (Toruń 1948) and *Acta conventus Prussiae Ducalis* (Toruń 1950).

11 Compare: T. Komornicki, “Mikrokarty i przyszłość bibliotek naukowych świata” [Microcards and the Future of Research Libraries Worldwide], *Życie Nauki* [Research Life], vol. 3, issues 13–14, 1947, pp. 58–68; M. Łodyński, “Biblioteki i polityka biblioteczna w związku z potrzebami nauki” [Libraries and Library Policy in Connection with Research Needs], *Życie Nauki* [Research Life], vol. 4, 1947, p. 293.

12 For example, when Władysław Tomkiewicz was investigating inventories of the works of art that remained in Paris following the death of King Jan Casimir, he used a microfilm of a codex with

MICROFILMING IN THE POLISH ARCHIVES

In 1950, the first microfilm camera was bought for the Central Archives of Historical Records (CAHR).¹³ At first, the studio limited its works to preserving the most valuable and deteriorated items. Therefore, microfilms were not recorded as separate holdings, but as surrogates of those already owned.¹⁴ Furthermore, until 1954 no positives were produced, nor was opening a reading room to the public considered. The studio was incorporated into the existing structure of the archive, so the work of preparation and description of the copied materials was conducted in shifts by, not always enthusiastic, archivists.¹⁵ The situation was even worse at the two technical departments that produced and verified the microreproductions. Due to low wages, the laboratory staff tended to change constantly. This high employee turnover was exacerbated by a shortage of duly qualified staff. As a case in point, the position of technical manager, responsible for production quality, was given to a photography amateur and professional driver.¹⁶ This is why the fact that 279,975 film frames were taken in 1951 should be considered a huge success.¹⁷ 225,704 book pages were photographed, along with 23,346 pages from the Radziwiłłs'

the shelf mark K.K.533 held in the Archives Nationales in Paris. Meanwhile, Jadwiga Karwańska prepared a critical edition of the life of St. Adalbert of Prague based on the microfilms of 30 manuscripts held by various European institutions. Marian Łodyński wrote about his experiences of working with microcopies brought from the National Bibliotek in Vienna in M. Łodyński, "Kilka uwag na marginesie dyskusji mikrofilmowej" [A Couple of Observations in the Margins of the Microfilm Debate], *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 21, 1953, p. 147; W. Tomkiewicz, "Z dziejów polskiego mecenatu artystycznego w wieku XVII. Źródła do dziejów sztuki polskiej" [From the History Polish Arts Sponsorship in the 17th Century. Sources for the History of Polish Art], vol. 4, Wrocław 1952, p. 83; A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 144.

- 13 The studio at the Central Archives of Historical Records was created upon the initiative of the Ministry of Education. A respective request was submitted by Witold Suchodolski, director of the State Archives, to the Commission for the Reconstruction of Polish Science at the Government Executive Committee in 1948. The endeavours to purchase specialised equipment were successful, and in 1950 the CAHR managed to acquire a Watson-Document Recording Camera manufactured by the English company W. Watson & Sons, unavailable on the Polish market at that time. One year later, a French Micro-Jumma camera produced by the Debie company was bought, with the function of taking two negatives at a time. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów*, op. cit., p. 56.
- 14 A. Wyczański, *Mikrofilm – nowa postać książki* [Microfilm – a New Form of the Book], Wrocław 1972, p. 89.
- 15 A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 138.
- 16 CAHR was not alone in having to deal with this problem, as evidenced by the fact that in 1953 the same employee assisted as an expert in the creation of a photographic laboratory at the Provincial State Archives in Poznań. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów...*, op. cit., pp. 65–66.
- 17 A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 138.

Historical Archives, and 12,346 pages of medieval documents.¹⁸ From 1953 on, 6,000 frames were reserved for domestic and foreign orders, while during three months in 1954, the holdings of other archives were also microfilmed.

In 1953, a microfilm studio was launched at the Provincial State Archives in Poznań.¹⁹ Although not as well equipped as the CAHR one, it was more independent in its activity due to different administrative solutions. The common feature of both centres was a special focus on preserving the holdings through the production of negatives. To begin with, their own collections – the municipal books of Poznań, Gniezno, Inowrocław, Kalisz, Pyzdry and Kościan – were microfilmed. Next, this activity was extended to other Greater Poland institutions as well as *Acta Consularia Cracoviensis* from the 14th–16th centuries held in the Provincial State Archives in Cracow.

By 1955, the Polish archives produced 2,354,801 frames in total (1,835,655 of which were shot by the CAHR), compared to 4,817,694 frames taken by the Microfilm Station of the National Library in the same period. This was why the Head Office of the State Archives (HOSA) decided to improve reprography-related activities in the institutions they governed. On 14 May 1955, an ordinance of the General Director of State Archives on launching microfilm studios at the state archives was announced.²⁰ The regulations obliged the existing as well as newly created laboratories to maintain a uniform organisational structure consisting of three departments responsible for technical preparation of materials for microfilming as well as microfilming, photocopying and technical supervision. At the same time, pursuant to an order of the Prime Minister, a new institution was launched called the Archives of Mechanical Documentation (AMD) to take care of audiovisual materials and, under a decision of the General Director of State Archives of 20 July 1956, to supervise all activities in

18 In subsequent years, the following collections were microfilmed: *Metryka Koronna* [Crown Chancery Public Register], *Metryka Mazowiecka* [Masovian Chancery Public Register], *Libri Legationum*, *Lustracje dóbr królewskich* [Registers of Royal Properties], *Decreta referendaria*, *Księgi Starej Warszawy* [Books of Old Warsaw], *Korespondencja Stanisława Augusta* [Correspondence of King Stanisław August], *Komisja Rządowa Spraw Wewnętrznych* [Government Committee of the Interior], *Władze centralne powstania 1830/31* [Central Authorities of the 1830/31 Uprising], *General Gubernator Warszawski* [Governor-General of Warsaw], *Kancelaria Starszego Inspektora Fabrycznego Guberni Warszawskiej* [Chancery of the Senior Factory Inspector of the Warsaw Governorate] and others.

19 A. Wyczański, “Mikrofilm w archiwach...”, op. cit., p. 141.

20 J. Boniecki, “Akcja mikrofilmowania zbiorów archiwalnych” [Initiative of Microfilming Archival Collections], *Narada: Zastosowanie mikroform w bibliotekarstwie i informacji naukowej, zorganizowana w dniach 5–6.12.1978 w Warszawie* [Debate on Applying Microforms in Library Practice and Scientific Information Held on 5–6/12/1978 in Warsaw], conference materials, p. 4.

reprographics.²¹ To be able to fulfil this task, on 13 October 1956, AMD took over the CAHR microfilm studio together with its staff.²² In the same year, contracts were signed for the copying of archival materials by other institutions that had the necessary equipment: the Central Institute of Scientific-Technical Documentation, Toruń Scientific Society, and the Wrocław University Library.²³ The next year, a studio was opened at the State Archives in Gdańsk in accordance with these new principles. The AMD coordinated the reprography activities in the archives in two major ways: firstly, they established annual working plans for each of the institutions, and secondly, they took charge of making positives. The studios passed the negatives to the AMD, which copied them and then returned the positives produced, while the negatives were stored at the Central Warehouse. Under these rules, from 1957 to 1960, the archives made 2,941,852 negative frames, while the AMD produced 6,328,278 positives.²⁴

In 1960 and 1961, the General Director of State Archives issued other crucial directives.²⁵ The first one, of 29 June 1960, specified the rules on how microfilms should be used. It was decided that items whose microcopy surrogates were available should be withdrawn from public access. This regulation, however, was a dead letter, as the number of available microfilm readers was insufficient, users were reluctant to use the surrogates, and the original materials had to be made available for editorial purposes anyway. The regulations on microfilming, recording and the storage of microfilms of 14 June 1961 had a more practical impact. To begin with, it was resolved that the purpose of reprographic activity should be to protect the originals from damage, to supplement the holdings of the state archives and to increase their availability, especially for regional research. Therefore, the materials were selected according to their research, cultural and economic value. Copying entire collections or their major parts was recommended, however, microfilming single documents not included in any collection was also acceptable. The archive took photographs of these materials, which were subsequently sent to the AMD. In its laboratory, the negative was made and had its quality controlled, and two positive copies were produced.

21 Official Gazette of the Government of the Republic of Poland no. 74, item 917.

22 J. Boniecki, "Akcja mikrofilmowania...", op. cit., p. 4.

23 H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów...*, op. cit., p. 80; A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 141.

24 From collections held in Białystok, Bydgoszcz, Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Lublin, Łódź, Opole, Olsztyn, Poznań, Wrocław, Zielona Góra as well as those of the Central Archives of Modern Records (CAMPR) and CAHR.

25 J. Boniecki, "Akcja mikrofilmowania...", op. cit., p. 5.

The first one constituted an unalterable security copy, while the other was a service copy sent to the archive where the originals were stored. Hence, each collection or single item considered particularly valuable had three surrogates, two of which were stored at the Central Microfilm Warehouse. The master negative was useful if more service copies were needed over time. The second group of holdings subjected to filming were those that were most in demand among the users and in the most deteriorated condition. In this case, the AMD produced one positive copy only, which was subsequently returned to the archive that had sent the negatives for development. Also, guidelines for microfilming as such were established.²⁶ Additionally, registry aids were collected for the users. These were mainly lists of books with introductions, photographed before every collection or single document. Microfilming as such was a highly time-consuming activity. The archive collections often contained files of diverse formats, which required continuous changes in the configuration of cameras. Although the efficiency of microfilming in archives was questioned on a couple of occasions, the above structure with its strict rules of copying was only subject to limited technical modifications over the years.²⁷ This resulted not only from the philosophy of centralisation applied to all the aspects of life under the communist system, but also from the economic circumstances, since the archives could not afford to buy equipment for microcopy processing and copying due to insufficient funding. Also, the existence of only one such centre guaranteed that the same photochemical materials were coherently used and ensured the stable quality of the microforms elaborated in accordance with the pre-established rules.²⁸

All of the studios operated in line with the above principles, both those previously existing and the newly created ones at the archives in Wrocław, Łódź, Kraków, Zielona Góra, and later in Rzeszów, Szczecin, Koszalin and

26 The basic principle was copying structured collections, so that the surrogates could reflect their ultimate contents. For this purpose, the physical condition and contents of the archival unit had to be analysed first. If no pagination or foliation existed, the files had to be properly numbered. Items in a poor state of preservation were first subject to conservation. Next, a reference number was assigned and a data sheet prepared to make it possible to identify the microfilm in the future. It contained: the microfilm number preceded by a letter symbol of the archive, the name of the archive, name of the collection (set), title of the file unit or document, shelf mark of the unit, first and last date of the files forming the unit (volume), number of pages and number of frames. The last field was completed at the studio once the microfilm was finished.

27 Compare: A. Janowski, C. Jesionek, "Problemy mikrofilmowania akt w archiwach" [Problems of Microfilming Files in Archives], *Archeion*, vol. 50, 1968, p. 102.

28 The above quality issues played a crucial role, as in 1968 a commission on microfilming appointed by the HOSA to examine the microfilms made from 1951–1961 stated that most of them were unsuitable for long-term storage due to technical issues, and therefore had to be retaken. J. Boniecki, "Akcja mikrofilmowania...", op. cit., p. 7.

the State Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw. Each of these prepared annual working plans and supplementary five-year plans which, once approved by the AMD, were sent to the HOSA. They also took into account the photographs commissioned by other institutions.²⁹

The archives also sought to import microcopies of Polonica from foreign institutions.³⁰ For instance, in 1968 HOSA acquired 180 frames of files of the Police Department of the Ministry of the Interior from the Central State Archives of the October Revolution (CGAOR) in Moscow, 670 frames of seven units of the Archives of the Potocki Family from Tulczyn held in the Central State Historical Archives in Kiev,³¹ and 2,300 frames from the collection of the Patriarch Kiron II (gathered while he stayed in the Kaunas eparchy from 1902 to 1905) held in the Central Historical Archives of Georgia in Tbilisi. Meanwhile, microfilms of two archival units were imported from the State Archives of Parma (*Polonia 1536–1726* and *Polonia 1726–1783*). They comprised 1,500 frames and were copied from the *Carteggio Estero farnesiano e borbonico* collection.³² CAHR, in turn, imported microcopies of civil registry acts originating in the so-called trans-Bug territories from Belarus, Lithuania and Ukraine.³³ Catalogues of microfilms and photocopies of Polonica from foreign archives were published for the users. Even the first two issues of 1965 and 1969 listed resources imported from 17 European countries and the USA.³⁴

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- 29 The most interesting project of this kind was implemented in 1967 as the result of an agreement signed with the Foreign Trade Centre „CEKOP”. It consisted in copying genealogical files upon the request of the Mormon Genealogical Society, which included books of birth certificates, civil registries as well as births, marriages and deaths of members of all confessions from the 16th century until 1865 held in the Polish state archives. The project was estimated at 15,000,000 frames. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów...*, op. cit., p. 83.
- 30 B. Jagiełło, “Mikrofilmy poloników z Archiwów ZSRR i Włoch otrzymane przez Naczelną Dyrekcję Archiwów Państwowych” [Microfilms of Polonica from the Archives of the USSR and Italy Received by the HOSA], *Archeion*, vol. 49, 1968, pp. 180–182.
- 31 They included, among others, correspondence addressed to Stanisław Szczęśny Potocki and Zofia Potocka from the years 1795–1809, a copy of the marriage certificate of Stanisław Szczęśny Potocki and Zofia de Witt, materials related to the library of Tulczyn of 1818, an album of drawings depicting a journey along the Dnieper River and the characters of the epic poem *Pan Tadeusz*.
- 32 They included, among others, letters of the Polish kings – from Sigismund I the Old to Stefan Batory – as well as letters of major figures of Polish ecclesiastical and secular institutions to Cardinal Farnese, letters of Marie Casimire, Jakub Sobieski’s daughter, sent from Rome, Blois and Olawa to her mother’s sister Dorothea Sophie and to the wife of the prince of Parma, translations of letters of Catherine the Great to the Primate and the Grand Marshal of the Crown of Poland, and documents related to Polish affairs of 1772 from Poland, Vienna and Constantinople.
- 33 E. Rosowska, “Mikrofilmowanie w archiwach państwowych” [Microfilming in State Archives], in *Konserwacja XXI wieku* [Conservation in the 21st Century], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2003, p. 175.
- 34 A. Wyczański, *Mikrofilm – nowa postać książki*, op. cit., p. 89.

Another typical issue encountered in the course of reprography-related activities at the archives was the legal status of microfilms. In the early 1960s, Karol Weyman pointed to the lack of appropriate standards in this respect and proposed to introduce a separate category for original files.³⁵ The HOSA then referred the matter to the Ministry of Justice, which objected to recognising reproductions certified by the issuing institution or employer as legal evidence.³⁶ Copies authenticated by a notary were acceptable, but only where the originals were available too.³⁷ Furthermore, in 1968, an expert legal inquiry conducted by the HOSA demonstrated that the Polish legal regulations did not allow the replacement of the original with a microfilm. In this way, the jurisdiction and economy ended the discussion regarding the lack of up-to-date documentation with respect to microfilms.³⁸

In 1978, at the time when the popularity of microfilms reached its peak worldwide, the Polish archives had 12 operative microfilm studios. They owned 23 cameras in total, mainly the Dokumator and Recordak models. Throughout a quarter of a century, preservation microfilms were provided for 4% of the most valuable items selected for copying. The originals proceeded from two central archives, the Central Archives of Modern Records (CAMPR) and the CAHR, as well as 26 provincial institutions, the most important of which were the holdings of the archives of Poznań, Łódź, Wrocław, Gdańsk, Kraków, Katowice and Lublin. At the Central Microfilm Warehouse, 32,000,000 negative frames and 300,000 metres of positive copies were gathered. This low efficiency stemmed from economic difficulties. First and foremost, the archives were unable to employ enough qualified staff in charge of reprography on an exclusive basis, and the statutes did not allow for the appointment of a larger team to make copies of the holdings only. Under such circumstances, equipping

35 K. Weyman, "O mikrofilmowaniu materiałów archiwalnych" [On Microfilming Archival Materials], *Organizacja, Metody, Technika* [Organisation, Methods, Technique], vol. 6, issue 5 (53), 1963, pp. 4–6.

36 A. Jankowski, C. Jesionek, "Problemy mikrofilmowania akt w archiwach", op. cit., p. 110.

37 The National Social Security (ZUS) adopted an innovative approach in this respect when in 1967 they agreed to recognise the microfilms of personal files of the National Bank of Poland as valid documents in pension-related matters. Consequently, the Bank copied the personal files alongside minutes from meetings of the management board. Nevertheless, the costs that this form of copying entailed were deemed excessive.

38 *Biuletyn Naczelnej Dyrekcji Archiwów Państwowych* [Bulletin of the Head Office of the State Archives] issue 2, 1968, pp. 8–10; M. Szaciński, *Opinia prawna w sprawie zastępowania oryginalnych źródeł archiwalnych / dokumentacji archiwalnej / mikrofilmem* [Legal Opinion on Replacing Original Archival Sources/Documentation with Microfilms], typescript held in the files of the Archives of Mechanical Documentation in Warsaw, Warszawa 1968.

laboratories with further costly cameras clearly missed the mark. As a result, a small group of archivists assigned with the time-consuming preparation of materials collaborated with photo technicians who were forced to operate obsolete, often worn-out equipment.

This did not change to a significant extent in the following years. Not even after the year 2000 was a centralised and standardised structure operating.³⁹ At the Central Warehouse, about 50,000,000 frames of security microfilm were gathered. This represented around 20% of the archive holdings, with mostly the earliest documents of Polish history being microcopied. Files dating from the 17th century onwards were copied to a much smaller extent. 35 mm-wide roll microfilm was used as before, however, the materials applied were slightly modified: security positives were produced on a high quality silver base, while the service copies, sent out to the archives that housed the originals, were on a cheaper diazo material. The AMD produced around 60,000 metres of both annually. Photography studios existed at 14 out of the 32 state archives.⁴⁰ Their average productivity varied between 1,200,000 and 1,500,000 photographs a year. The outcome depended largely on the technical and human resources. As far as technical equipment is concerned, the institutions owned 29 microfilm cameras, mostly Dokumator DA-5 and DA-7, made in the 1970s. More modern Fuji and Zeutschel equipment was also used, but at the same time some of the institutions still worked on devices from the 1950s. Equipment wear and tear was generally assessed at 60%. The archives covered the costs of necessary equipment overhauls and servicing from their own funds, obtained through producing microfilms for foreign institutions or providing reprography services, mainly photocopies, for readers. The necessary funds had to be earned in this way due to insufficient financing. Nonetheless, providing such paid services disrupted the works related to preservation microfilming. When larger orders were undertaken, the production of negatives could be suspended even for several months. In terms of new technical developments, the “Microfilm” electronic database was launched in 2000 to replace the registry book. This considerably accelerated the transmission of data from particular archives to the AMD. At the same time, digital imaging entered the archives. Scanners started to systematically supplement the equipment of the old microfilm studios.

39 E. Rosowska, “Mikrofilmowanie w archiwach państwowych”, *op. cit.*, pp. 173–179.

40 Specifically, at two central archives: CAMR and CAHR, as well as at the major regional ones in Gdańsk, Katowice, Kraków, Łódź, Poznań, Szczecin, Warsaw and Wrocław, along with four smaller archives in Kielce, Przemyśl, Rzeszów and Zielona Góra.

The advent of new technologies led to the transformation of the AMD into the National Digital Archives on 8 March 2008.

MICROFILM STUDIOS IN OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Central Archives of the Polish United Workers' Party's Central Committee (KC PZPR), independent of HOSA, conducted reprography activities on their own account.⁴¹ The filmed materials related to the history of the workers' and people's movement in Poland and worldwide. Microcopies of foreign collections were acquired, mostly from socialist countries, but also from the International Institute of Social History in Amsterdam and the French National Library in Paris. In May 1958, based on a collection of 50,000 frames, a Microfilm Archive was created, independent of the main holdings.⁴² In December 1964, the first volume of a catalogue entitled *Informator o zasobie mikrofilmowym* [Guide on Microfilm Holdings] was submitted for publication. By that time, 975,000 negatives and 920,000 positives were gathered. Out of these 1,900,000 frames, 635,000 were photographs of archival materials, the rest being copies of library resources. Of the archival materials concerning the history of the workers' movement, 37% referred to the period before 1916, 51% to the interwar years, 6% to the time of the Nazi occupation, and 1% to the years 1945–1948. The remaining 5% were sources related to the history of international revolutionary organisations. The next year, the second volume was published, consisting exclusively of descriptions of microfilms stored at the Polish archives from 1918–1939. The subsequent one featured many different thematic sections, such as one dedicated to the Spanish Civil War. In 1970, 1974 and 1980, three more volumes of the catalogue came out, listing microfilms held at the Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.

The Central Institute of Scientific and Technical Documentation (CISTD) in Warsaw tried to use microfilming techniques for the purposes of its own activity.⁴³ This centre, inaugurated in 1950, was supposed to

41 G. Iwański, J. Targalski, "Archiwum mikrofilmów Zakładu Historii Partii przy KC PZPR" [The Microfilm Archives of the Department of the Party's History at the CC PUWP], *Z pola walki* [From the Battlefield], issue 1–2, 1963, pp. 399–411.

42 S. Rosiak, "Informator o zasobie mikrofilmowym" [Guidebook on Microfilm Holdings], *Archeion*, vol. 48, 1968, pp. 197–199.

43 „By 1952, it was called the Central Institute for Scientific and Technical Documentation, since 1960, the Central Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information; it was governed by the Centre for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information from 1971–91, while from 1991–2001, it worked as an independent institute”, *Encyklopedia PWN* [Encyclopaedia of Polish Scientific Publishers PWN] <http://encyklopedia.pwn.pl/haslo/;3914947> [accessed on 21/11/2011].

provide up-to-date documentation to industrial institutes and laboratories. In order to facilitate the works, bibliographic and reporting reviews were replaced by microreproductions composed of four bibliographic descriptions legible by eye, and full article texts considerably reduced in size.⁴⁴ In 1956, 7,000,000 sheets were sent out to Polish and foreign research and technical institutions, factories, production plants and all other relevant entities.⁴⁵ They were used to communicate requests for micro or photocopies of articles to the CISTD. However, this idea, which followed the example of foreign projects, failed to work out well in practice. Reading the contents of the data sheets with a magnifying glass was inconvenient, and in the centres they were addressed to, appropriate readers were largely unavailable.⁴⁶ As a result, the institution returned to the traditional copy and photocopy methods in 1:1 size as regards its statutory activities. Simultaneously, the CISTD signed an agreement on the microfilming of archival materials with the HOSA, under which from 1957–1965, 3,872,728 frames were provided.⁴⁷

A similar activity, not limited however to technical issues, was conducted by the Scientific Information Centre of the Polish Academy of Sciences (SIC PAS). One of its statutory activities was providing documentation services to other entities of the Polish Academy of Sciences (PAS). To achieve this, the centre imported foreign microfilms of various publications and periodicals to record and transfer them to particular PAS departments or institutions of higher education.⁴⁸ With considerable foreign currency funds available, they imported on average about 30,000 pages of research materials each year.⁴⁹ This made the centre the largest importer of microcopies in

44 These 105x148 mm (a6) information sheets contained a microprint of four pages of the original. They could only be read with a magnifying glass with 4x or 5x magnification. Efforts were also made to put eight pages of the original on one sheet. In 1957, CISTD planned to manufacture 300,000 such sheets. D. Mendrzycki, "Karty dokumentacyjne jako narzędzie informacji naukowo-technicznej" [Documentation Sheets as a Tool in Scientific and Technical Information], *Przegląd Techniczny* [Technical Review], supplement to the CISTD Bulletin, issue 8, 1956, fasc. 7.

45 M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofilm w pracy naukowej i bibliotecznej" [Microfilm in Research and Library Work], *Kwartalnik Historii Nauki i Techniki* [Quarterly for the History of Science and Technology], vol. 3, issue 8, 1958, p. 109.

46 A. Wyczański, *Mikrofilm – nowa postać książki*, op. cit., p. 90.

47 In comparison, the total microfilm production of all the archives managed by the HOSA in the same period amounted to 9,082,525 negative frames. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów...*, op. cit., pp. 81, 83.

48 Only medical universities were excluded from this project. Apart from the PAS units, any research centre could request importing a microfilm from abroad as long as they transferred a corresponding amount of foreign currency to the Centre for the Dissemination of Scientific Publications of the PAS for this purpose.

49 *Ośrodek Informacji Naukowej PAN. Historia, działalność, organizacja* [Centre for Scientific Information of the Polish Academy of Sciences. History, Activity and Structure], Warszawa 1978, p. 18.

Poland.⁵⁰ Since 1963, the *Katalog mikrofilmów sprowadzanych z zagranicy* [Catalogue of Imported Microfilms] was published yearly with a circulation of 300 copies.⁵¹ The first one contained descriptions of 1,230 microfilms divided into manuscripts, prints and graphic materials.⁵² In the two subsequent issues, the classifications corresponded to the PAS departments and featured: social science, biology, mathematics and physics, agricultural and forestry science, and medicine. It provoked an unproductive debate on standardisation of the guidebooks on microfilm holdings. The centre also performed commissioned reprography works, also for foreign institutions. For instance, in the above-mentioned year 1956, materials were sent to 11 countries. The Information Technique Department of the SIC PAS based in Rembertów, in the Warsaw area, was in charge of copy production.⁵³ The studio also offered photographs and other reprography services to the PAS research units, universities and other institutions or individuals. This activity involved publishing materials with the offset technique, upon request, if their traditional printing would have been uneconomical. The largest project related to the production, not importing, of microcopies was implemented in 1972.⁵⁴ The centre started to produce microfiches with the previously purchased Fuji S105B cameras. This was, by the way, the only apparatus of its kind in the entire country.⁵⁵ Up to 60 reduced-size pages of articles from foreign research periodicals were put on a6 (105x148 mm) film, together with a bibliographical description legible by eye. Initially, the project incorporated 35 titles in science studies and policy. Next, 115 selected researchers were sent a list of periodicals by mail, so that they could choose the ones of their interest. Subsequently, they received the tables of contents of subsequent issues of the publications they had selected. Based

50 As early as in 1965, the centre imported microreproductions from 26 countries, mainly England and France. M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofilm w pracy naukowej i bibliotecznej", op. cit., p. 101.

51 B. Jagiełło, "Katalog mikrofilmów sprowadzonych z zagranicy" [Catalogue of Imported Microfilms], *Archeion*, vol. 50, 1968, p. 277.

52 For manuscripts, first the title of the original had to be specified, followed by the date of publication, number of pages or frames, name of the storing institution as well as the shelf mark of the original and the microfilm. For prints, the required data were the name of the author, title, place and year of publication, number of pages and place of storage.

53 *Ośrodek Informacji Naukowej PAN*, op. cit., p. 27.

54 S. Modzelewski, "Mikrofilmowy zbiór czasopism zagranicznych w OIN PAN" [Microfilm Collection of Foreign Periodicals at the SIC PAS], *Narada: Zastosowanie mikroform w bibliotekarstwie i informacji naukowej, zorganizowana w dniach 5-6.12.1978 w Warszawie* [Debate on Applying Microforms in Library Practice and Scientific Information Held on 5-6/12/1978 in Warsaw], conference materials, pp. 1-3.

55 M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofotografia w bibliotekarstwie" [Microphotography in Library Practice], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 26, 1958, p. 171.

on this, the scholars ordered microfiche photocopies of the selected articles. At first, plans were made to send out the microfiches directly, which would reduce the costs, but the lack of readers in regional centres, not to mention private equipment, made this utterly impossible. In 1974, the project already encompassed over 500 titles and more than 700 recipients, and in 1978, over 1200 titles and 1800 recipients. This rapid expansion made it necessary to split the microcopying works between two units. The SIC PAS Poznań department took over copying periodicals related to chemical and agricultural sciences from the Information Technique Department of the SIC PAS. As a result, in 1978, the collection of microfiches in Poznań reached 23,000 units, while 65,000 of these were stored in Rembertów.

The Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums also conducted its reprography activities on a centralised basis.⁵⁶ It was created on 20 June 1956 pursuant to a decision of the Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) Senate. Two years later, on 26 June 1959, it was transformed from a division of the library into an Inter-Faculty Department. The new status obliged the centre to “reproduce and microfilm archival materials that were the most valuable and demanded in research work.”⁵⁷ It was determined that the holdings of diocesan and monastic Church archives, Church archives held in state collections and foreign Church archives related to the history of the Church in Poland would be copied.⁵⁸ The microcopies were supposed to provide a basis for research on the history of Christianity in Poland conducted at the university. The institute collected them through buying finished microfilms or producing copies in-house. The latter task was performed by a reprography studio established in 1960. The conditions for filming holdings borrowed from other entities were set out in a bilateral agreement in each instance. It obliged the Institute to provide the institution that stored the originals with positive copies for free. Additionally, the agreements established that the microfilms could only be made available to academics in the reading room of the Institute. Any other use required the consent of the originals’ owner.

56 B. Kumor, “Działalność mikrofilmowa Ośrodka Bibliotek, Archiwów i Muzeów Kościelnych” [Microfilm Activity of the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums], *Narada: Zastosowanie mikroform w bibliotekarstwie i informacji naukowej, zorganizowana w dniach 5–6.12.1978 w Warszawie* [Debate on Applying Microforms in Library Practice and Scientific Information Held on 5–6/12/1978 in Warsaw], conference materials.

57 “Statut Ośrodka Bibliotek, Archiwów i Muzeów Kościelnych” [Statute of the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums], *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* [Church Archives, Libraries and Museums], vol. 1, 1959/60, fasc. 2, p. 5.

58 Note that the Institute has no jurisdiction over the Church archives and libraries, as these were governed by diocesan and provincial monastic authorities.

In total, by 1978, 1,600,000 pages of ca. 4,500 archival items were microfilmed.⁵⁹ Given the wide scope of the studio's activity and limited number of full-time staff – initially two employees (until 1972), later reduced to one – this result must be considered quite satisfactory. Furthermore, the institute imported microfilms of around 45,000 pages of Polonica from the Vatican.⁶⁰ Details of the collection could be found in catalogues published in the *Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne* [Church Archives, Libraries and Museums] review.⁶¹ The negatives were stored in the Archive at the Secretariat of the Institute located in the building of the Central Library of the Catholic University of Lublin. Also, a reading room was set up in the Institute's secretariat. The average annual attendance was about 200 readers. Bringing together copies of sources of critical importance for the history of Christianity in Poland greatly facilitated research work.⁶²

Another institution copying Church holdings was connected with the Institute of Church Archives, Libraries and Museums, namely the Pontifical Institute for Church Studies in Rome. In 1957, the initiator and head of the ICALM, the rev. Eugeniusz Reczek, S.J., left for Western Europe and the United States in order to conduct preliminary searches for

59 In the 1960s and 1970s, collections were copied from the holdings of: the Archive of the Archdiocese of Lviv of the Latins in Lubaczów, Archive of the Metropolitan Curia in Cracow, Archdiocese Archives in Gniezno and Poznań, Archive of the Warmia Diocese in Olsztyn, Archive of the former Diocese of Lutsk and Brest, Podlachia Diocesan Archive in Siedlce, diocesan archives in Kielce, Lublin, Płock, Przemyśl, Tarnów and Włocławek, monastic archives of the Pauline Fathers in Jasna Góra, archives of the Order of Saint Clare in Stary Sącz and Cracow, the Visitation Order in Cracow, the Benedictine Sisters in Staniątka, the Franciscans in Warsaw and others. As to the Church archives held in the state institutions, ecclesiastica were microfilmed from the collections of the National Library of Poland, the collection of the Zamość collegiate and chapter held at the Provincial State Archives in Lublin, the collection of the Benedictine Abbey in Lublin held at the Provincial State Archives in Poznań as well as medieval manuscripts of the Jagiellonian Library and the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. This collection was supplemented by documents from the former chapter archives in Łowicz, Kielce, Kruszwica and Wojnicz as well as *Acta Concilii Vaticani II* of the Pontifical Faculty of Theology in Cracow. As a result, various materials were filmed such as *acta episcopalia*, *acta officialia*, files of canonical visitations from the 16th–18th century, books of re-taxation of ecclesiastical benefices from the 16th-century Cracow, private and official correspondence, cartularies of documents and *acta actorum* of cathedral and collegiate chapters, bishopric economic archives, files and documents of the Franciscan monastery in Warsaw and the Order of St. Clare in Stary Sącz as well as census files, files of provincial chapters, hymnals and prayer books.

60 This represented microcopies of approx. 10,000 pages of investigative processes of bishops of the Latin, Greek and Armenian Rite from the late 16th until the first half of the 19th century, around 10,000 pages of documents of canonization and beatification processes of Poles and around 24,000 pages of a survey conducted by Nuncio Giuseppe Garampi in 1765–1776 on the economic, organisational, personal and pastoral conditions of the Polish monastic orders before 1772.

61 Seven such indices have been published so far, each containing descriptions of about 900 archival items.

62 This was even more noteworthy due to the fact that the Catholic University of Lublin, despite its leading role in such research in Poland, previously had a very limited source basis.

Polonica held in foreign archives.⁶³ This inquiry resulted in a project involving surveys of the Vatican holdings. The idea was approved by Primate Stefan Wyszyński. On 8 September 1958, the Institute, presided over by the rev. Eugeniusz Reczek, was officially inaugurated. The main task of the institute was to “register, systematically prepare and make available to historical science abundant source materials, both in the form of current information and regularly collected microfilms.”⁶⁴ It began to operate on a larger scale after 1963, when the first employees were hired and a separate premises obtained.⁶⁵ In December 1970, it was granted the status of a Pontifical Institute. In February 1971, when the rev. Eugeniusz Reczek died, his work was taken over by the rev. Hieronim Fokciński.

The basic research approach was to “investigate the volumes one by one, registering all the Polonica encountered” in the collections of Archivum Secretum Vaticanum (ASV) to start with.⁶⁶ In this way, card files, regesta, editions and microfilms of the Polonica were created. Although from 1953 the Vatican institutions had microfilm studios where copies of archival items could be ordered, the work taken on by the Institute required a separate workshop to be established.⁶⁷ The rev. Eugeniusz Reczek set it up in the late 1950s. It started with microfilming Polonica from the ASV collections and series, where documents related to Poland were most frequent. Consequently, by 1976, 755,767 frames were produced.⁶⁸ Some research was carried out jointly with national

63 H. Fokciński, “Powstanie i działalność papieskiego instytutu studiów kościelnych w Rzymie” [Creation and Activity of the Pontifical Institute for Church Studies in Rome], *Informationes. Biuletyn Papieskiego Instytutu Studiów Kościelnych* [Informationes. Bulletin of the Pontifical Institute for Church Studies], vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, p. 7.

64 Ibid., p. 8.

65 In 1974, it moved to new premises again, this time to a building at Piazza B. Cairoli, 117, which houses the Institute up to the present.

66 This required gaining a familiarity with the results of the work performed thus far since the late 19th century by the Rome Expeditions of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, taken over by the rev. Walerian Meysztowicz in 1940, and then by the Polish Historical Institute he founded in Rome in 1945. H. D. Wojtyśka, “Polski Instytut Historyczny w Rzymie” [Polish Historical Institute in Rome], *Informationes...*, vol. 5, Rome–Warsaw 1991, p. 15.

67 H. Fokciński, T. Zdziech, “Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. Rys historyczny, zasoby Biblioteki i ich podziały, omówienie serii, w których Instytut prowadził poszukiwania” [*Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana. An Outline of the History, Library Holdings and their Classification, and Description of the Series Investigated by the Institute*], *Informationes...*, vol. 2, Rome–Warsaw 1980, p. 12; R. P., “Normy zamawiania i korzystania z reprodukcji materiałów źródłowych w Archiwum Watykańskim” [Rules for Ordering and Use of Copies of Source Materials from the Vatican Archives], *Informationes...*, vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, pp. 70–71.

68 “Stan kwerendy Instytutu w Archivum Secretum Vaticanum” [State of Investigation of the Institute at Archivum Secretum Vaticanum], *Informationes...*, vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, pp. 56–58.

institutions.⁶⁹ The Institute provided copies of documents to the Warsaw Theological Academy (today Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw), the Catholic University of Lublin, and directly to academics based in Poland. In order to intensify these activities, negotiations with the Polish authorities were initiated with the purpose of opening a branch in Warsaw. In 1975, an Information Point was created at the Library of the Writers of the Society of Jesus in Warsaw at 61 Rakowiecka Street, which “has made available to researchers: a) historical source materials microfilmed by the Rome-based branch of the Institute, b) the related repositories as documentation and thematic card files, c) various methodical and archival aids. Furthermore, the Information Point acts as an intermediary in research inquiries corresponding to the scope of the Institute’s works.”⁷⁰ To begin with, a set of 600,000 units with 300,000 frames was handed over to the Institute, with Polonica from the collections of the ASV,⁷¹ the Vatican Apostolic Library (BAV) and the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. In the late 1970s, the holdings already featured over 800,000 units. In spite of the fact that the Institute had to allocate a part of its funds to make copies for the Information Point, it kept on microfilming further Polonica,⁷²

- 69 From the end of the 1950s, in collaboration with the CALM Institute, the *Processus Consistoriales* (299 vol. I. 1563–1906) and *Processus Datariae* (262 vol. I. 1622–1896) series were investigated in search of documentation of the Polish bishops’ investigation processes. In 1962, the Catholic University of Lublin received microfilms of these documents. In the 1960s, Wiesław Müller, academic of that university, continued this research, as a result of which the collection of microfilms was supplemented by copies of over 80 bishops’ investigation processes from the 16th to the 18th century, apart from carrying out an inquiry in the files of the Warsaw Apostolic Nunciature including, among others, the monastic survey conducted by Giuseppe Garampi, documents of the Polish Nunciature comprising correspondence of the nuncios and internuncios from 1652–1721 as well as accounts of the Polish bishops referring to the pre-partition dioceses. Microfilms of these archival items were also transferred to the CALM Institute. H. F., “Uwagi na temat cytowania niektórych serii ASV w najnowszych opracowaniach polskich” [Observations on Quoting Certain ASV Series in the Newest Polish Studies], *Informationes...*, vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, p. 53; W. Müller, “Katolicki Uniwersytet Lubelski” [Catholic University of Lublin], *Informationes...*, vol. 5, Rome–Warsaw 1991, pp. 41–42.
- 70 “Regulamin korzystania ze zbiorów Instytutu w Warszawie” [Rules on the Use of the Warsaw Institute’s Collections], *Informationes...*, vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, pp. 72–73.
- 71 These were exactly: *Acta Congregationis Consistorialis* (16th–19th cent.), *Archivio della Nunziatura di Vienna* (17th–19th cent.), *Archivum S. Congregationis Rituum Processus*, *Archivum S. Romanae Rotae* (16th–17th cent.), *Epistulae ad principes* (16th–19th cent.), *Fondo Borghese*, *Instrumenta Miscellanea* (14th–19th cent.), *Lettere dei Principi e Titolati* (16th–18th cent.), *Lettere dei Vescovi e Prelati* (17th cent.), *Nunziatura di Germania* (16th and 18th cent.), *Nunziatura di Polonia* (16th–19th cent.), *Nunziatura di Venezia* (16th–19th cent.), *Registra Lateranensia* (15th–18th cent.), *Registra Supplicationum* (15th cent.), *Registra Vaticana* (13th and 15th cent.). T. Z., “Wykaz zmikrofilmowanych archiwaliów watykańskich udostępnianych w punkcie informacyjnym w Warszawie” [List of Microfilmed Vatican Archival Items Available at the Information Point in Warsaw], *Informationes...*, vol. 1, Rome–Warsaw 1976, p. 59.
- 72 Owing to the research by Wacława Szelińska, 330 supplications dating back to the pontificate of Pope Callixtus III were copied from the *Registra Supplicationum* collection. Also, archival items of the Vienna Nuntiature from the second half of the 19th century were

from the Vatican Apostolic Library⁷³ and the Historical Archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith,⁷⁴ among others. The activity was even extended to incorporate the collections of other institutions such as the state archives of Florence and Turin, general archives of the Jesuits (such as materials regarding beatifications and canonisations as well as the cult of Saint Stanislaus Kostka), the Theatines and the Trinitarian Order, the University Library of Bologna, the Biblioteca Vallicelliana in Rome and the German Historical Institute. Also, private legacies were organised and preserved, such as the family correspondence of Henryk Siemiradzki (23/10/1843–23/08/1902) comprising 2,648 frames in total. Copies of microfilms, despite a great many problems arising in particular out of the country's unstable political situation in the 1980s, were regularly sent to the Information Point in Warsaw. Through the Institute, a total of around 4,500,000 frames were made available in Poland.⁷⁵

microfilmed (vol. 377–549), along with the files of Nuncios Vannutelli and Galimberti. W. Szelińska, “Registra Supplicationum w Archiwum Watykańskim (XIV–XV w.)” [Registra Supplicationum in the Vatican Archives (14th–15th century)], *Informationes...*, vol. 3, Rome–Warsaw 1984, pp. 51–91.

- 73 From the following collections: *Fonda Barberini* (letters by successive apostolic nuncios, kings, princes, bishops and other secular and ecclesiastical dignitaries of the 17th century, including letters by Nuncio L. Lippomano, Kings Władysław IV and Jan Casimir, correspondence with Cardinal Carlo Barberini, protector of Poland in the second half of the 17th century, as well as parliamentary acts of 21/11/1635 and narrative works such as 14th, 15th and 16th century copies of the chronicles by Marcin Polak and a biography of Nuncio and Papal Legate Commendon), *Borgiani Latini* (including an account on Poland by mons. Cerrri addressed to Pope Innocent XI), *Fondo Chigi* (including, among others, accounts by nuncios, papal and royal documents from the second half of the 16th century, contributions to the history of medieval Silesia and a biography of St. Jacek Odrowąż), *Ferrajoli* (fragments of volumes: 139, 158, 181, 251, 256) and *Vaticani Latini* (such as materials related to the synod of Piotrków and documents dating back to the tenure of Nuncio Mario Filonardi). H. Fokciński, T. Zdziech, “Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana...”, op. cit., pp. 7–27.
- 74 Documents from the following series were copied: *Scritture Originali Riferite Nelle Congregazioni Generali* (17th-century Polonica), *Congregazioni Patricolari* (documents relating to the Pilte Bishoprick dating back to 1682, to the Collegium Hosianum in Braniewo and to the seminary in Krasław of 1758–1759), *Scritture Riferite Nei Congressi: Moscovia, Polonia, Ruteni*, vol. 23 (1862–1864), vol. 24 (1865–1892) and others, as well as an undated volume entitled *Moscovia, Polonia, Ruteni* and another one entitled *Moscovia, Besarabia, Crimae* dated 1679–1856, *Collegi Vari* (documentation of the papal seminary in Vilnius of 1669–1799, among others), *Visite e collegi* (Polonica from vol. 1 and vol. 41), *Lettere* (such as regesta of the letters from vol. 42 and 50 of 1622–1892), *Fondo di Vienna* (vol. 17 *Rutenia, Polonia, Kiovia, Ungaria* of 1658–1666 and others), vol. 18 *Ruteni* of 1658–1668, vol. 19 *Svezia, Romania, Tartaria Minor* of 1659–1666), vol. 31 *Moldavia* of 1785–1797, vol. 38 *Caucaso. Stampa* of 1761–1778 along with brevia of Popes Pius VI and Pius VII of 1784–1800 from vol. 68 and *Miscellanea Varie* (such as an 18th century account from vol. 21 *Indie Orientali, Germania settentrionale, Polonia, Olanda, Collegi di Missione*). T. Zdziech, “Archiwum Historyczne Kongregacji Rozkrzewiania Wiary” [Historical Archives of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith], *Informationes...*, vol. 3, Rome–Warsaw 1984, pp. 5–50.
- 75 H. Fokciński, “Wprowadzenie do sesji Stan i perspektywy poszukiwań i edycji poloników archiwalnych ze zbiorów Stolicy Apostolskiej” [Introduction to the Session “The State and Perspectives of Research and Publication of Archival Polonica from the Holy See’s Collections”], *Informationes...*, vol. 5, Rome–Warsaw 1991, p. 12.

LIBRARY MICROFORMS

As with the archives, microfilm studios in libraries were created beginning in the 1950s. Apart from the National Library, pioneering works were undertaken by: the Jagiellonian Library (1950), the Wrocław University Library (1951), the National Ossoliński Institute (1951) and the University Library in Poznań (1953). At a later period, laboratories were also set up at the libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Cracow and Kórnik,⁷⁶ the University Libraries in Toruń and Lublin, as well as in the Princes Czartoryski Library. In total, by the late 1960s 16 major studios operated at archives, libraries and other institutions.⁷⁷ Units created at libraries, apart from the Microfilm Station of the National Library, had little staff and very modest technical equipment. The scope of their activity was sometimes so limited that Prof. Wyczański accused them of “satisfying themselves with nothing but appearances.”⁷⁸ Their duties predominantly consisted in providing services defined in orders placed by other institutions. No initiatives for preservation microfilming of their own holdings were undertaken, unless agreed to with the National Library.

In the second half of 1978, the first nation-wide survey of microform holdings was carried out.⁷⁹ The questionnaire prepared by Konrad Zawadzki was sent to 231 libraries, including those of all institutions of higher education, their branches included (except for military universities), five independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences,

76 Already in 1973, it was closed. H. Zubala, *Mikrofilmowanie zbiorów...*, op. cit., p. 50.

77 Smaller studios like those operating at the Wrocław libraries of other institutions of higher education (University of Technology, University of Economics, Higher School of Agriculture or Medical University) have not been listed here due to their very limited scope of activity.

78 A. Wyczański, “Mikrofilm w archiwach...”, op. cit., p. 146.

79 For many years, no studies were conducted which would allow the gathering and analysis of data on the Polish microform resources. The first general questionnaire on preservation and maintenance of microforms was prepared as early as in 1949 by Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa. It was sent by the editors of *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Librarian Review] to 14 libraries and 6 archives. Unfortunately, no similar initiatives appeared in the following years. Microfilms were nothing but a rare topic at meetings and conferences. For instance, in 1950, this issue, although initially included in the agenda of a national conference of archivists and librarians, was eventually left out. It was not until 1972 that the First National Conference *Microfilms and Other Reprographic Techniques in the Service of Information and Work Organisation* was held. Then, the Commission on Collections' Microfilming appointed at the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association in the second half of 1978 conducted the first survey on microreprography in Poland. A. Kawecka-Gryczowa, “Wyniki ankiety w sprawie konserwacji zbiorów” [Results of a Survey on Preservation of Holdings], *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 18, 1950, fasc. 3/4, pp. 221–234; W. Tuszko, I Ogólnopolska konferencja: “Mikrofilm i inne techniki reprograficzne w służbie informacji i organizacji pracy” [1st National Conference: Microfilms and Other Reprographic Techniques in the Service of Information and Work Organisation], *Fotografia* [Photography], issue 8, 1972.

central libraries such as the Central Agricultural Library, Central Military Library, Main Medical Library, all provincial and major municipal libraries, pedagogical public and provincial libraries, libraries of selected research institutions and others such as the Silesian Library or the Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party.⁸⁰ Responses were obtained from 150 of them, which represented 65% of the institutions surveyed. The questions related to the structure of microfilm services, the extent of microform use, the quantity of the holdings, rules for their preparation, technical equipment and the size of production. In many cases, the information cited was inaccurate or unreliable.⁸¹ The questionnaire proved right from the start that a great many libraries failed to appoint separate, qualified and competent staff (e.g. to register microforms), able to answer the questions accurately. Nonetheless, the data so collected, although affected by a high probability of errors, provided a general outlook on how microforms were used in Poland.

University libraries were among the most interested in microphotography techniques.⁸² In general terms, in 10 libraries, 30,392 units and 2,007 microfiches were collected, 2,000 out of which were in possession of the library of the Catholic University of Lublin. The universities of Warsaw and Poznań owned the largest collections of over 6,000 units. The Wrocław University Library had more than 5,000 units and the Jagiellonian Library around 4,500.⁸³ The Library of the University of Gdańsk had the smallest collection, with about 800 units. The Jagiellonian Library

80 K. Zawadzki, "Mikroformy w bibliotekach polskich. Stan, zadania, perspektywy" [Microforms in the Polish Libraries. Conditions, Challenges and Outlooks], *Narada: Zastosowanie mikroform w bibliotekarstwie i informacji naukowej, zorganizowana w dniach 5-6.12.1978 w Warszawie* [Debate on Applying Microforms in Library Practice and Scientific Information Held on 5-6/12/1978 in Warsaw], conference materials; K. Zawadzki, "Z problemów mikrofilmowania zbiorów bibliotecznych" [On Microfilming Library Holdings], *Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej* [National Library Yearbook], vol. 16, 1981, pp. 323-348.

81 For example, one of the independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences claimed that they owned nothing but negatives despite previously having received 1,000 positive copies from the National Library, while one of the PAS institutes in Warsaw answered that they did not store microfilms at all, although the entity had two readers. The question of readers and the frequency of their use was particularly hard to estimate for the library of one of the country's major universities of technology. The institution claimed that the reader they had in the press search room was used by 5,576 people throughout 1977, which meant that the users would have to change every 34 minutes in every 12 hours in 12 months. While analysing the survey results, Konrad Zawadzki found a few more similar errors.

82 This was made evident by the fact that only three university branches failed to answer, namely the branch of the University of Warsaw in Białystok, the Rzeszów branch of the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin and the University of Silesia in Cieszyn.

83 In the case of the Jagiellonian Library, it ought to be noted that the survey took place before the Pentakta production line was put into operation.

was the only one to appoint an organisational unit in charge of preparing materials for filming, cataloguing and stocktaking. In other institutions, such works were assigned to other departments as additional tasks. The state of the equipment for microform production, comprising 22 cameras and 11 copiers in total, was assessed as obsolete and worn-out. As a result, the productivity of the studios oscillated between 2,500 and 42,800 frames annually. Data on the equipment for reading microforms looked more optimistic. The libraries had 115 readers in total, the largest share of which, 37, were owned by the Wrocław University Library, while the University of Warsaw and the Catholic University of Lublin had the smallest numbers of microform readers, 5 each. Nevertheless, none of the libraries had opened a separate microfilm reading room, and only four kept records on the way the microcopies were used by the readers.

The questionnaire was also sent to 17 universities of technology. Answers were received from 15 institutions, 12 of which confirmed conducting activities in microreprography. Microforms, specifically microfiches, were used to the largest extent by the Library of the Wrocław University of Technology. Using the Pentakta system, 31,400 films were made, and as many as 206 readers were purchased to enable their use. In the remaining 11 libraries, 9,945 items of 1,551 microfiches had been gathered in total. The library of the Kielce University of Technology had the smallest collection with 40 microfilms. The opposite was the library of the University of Technology in Częstochowa with 3,126 microfilms and 15 readers. In the remaining 10 institutions, 31 readers were used in total.⁸⁴

8 out of 11 libraries of pedagogical universities responded to the questionnaire. All had microform collections, however, that of the Pedagogical University of Częstochowa was limited to two items. Also, that library was the only one to have no reader. On the other side of the scale, the Pedagogical University of Bydgoszcz had gathered a collection of 575 microfilms. In total, pedagogical university libraries owned 1,778 microfilms and 42 microfiches, which could be read by means of 24 microform readers. Furthermore, three libraries had the equipment needed to produce microforms, however, their productivity was very low. At the Pedagogical University of Rzeszów, 5,782 frames were captured, 1,932 at the Pedagogical University of Słupsk, while the Pedagogical University of Zielona Góra suspended its own production due to the shortage of staff.

The questionnaire was also sent to five libraries of universities of economics. Data was obtained from four of them, one of which had no

84 One of the technical university libraries had no readers at all.

microfilm policy whatsoever. The three others had collected 1,543 microfilms. The libraries had five microform readers in total. The Main School of Planning and Statistics (SGPiS)⁸⁵ in Warsaw, which was the only one to have a modest microfilm studio, undertook certain service and preservation activities, but only to a limited extent.

Also, four libraries of agricultural universities responded to the survey, out of the eight the questionnaire had been sent to. They stored 1,278 microfilms and 50 microfiches in total, almost all of the microfiches being held in the Library of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW). Likewise, nearly all of the microfilms were stored by one institution only, namely the Library of the University of Technology and Life Sciences in Bydgoszcz. The Library of the Agricultural University of Cracow as well as the Library of the Agricultural and Technical Academy of Olsztyn–Kortów were in possession of 333 microfilms in total, while the SGGW library owned 126 microfilms. Only the Cracow library had equipment allowing it to make microforms. However, the lack of dedicated staff resulted in very low annual production, amounting to 2,226 frames only. The Cracow entity also had as many as eight out of the eleven readers available in the reading rooms of agricultural university libraries. The problem of low interest in microforms was evident at all of the libraries. In 1977, as few as ten people used the microform readers at the Library of the Agricultural University of Cracow, while the one located in the main reading room of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) was used only once in this period.

The situation was even worse in the libraries of medical universities, higher schools of fine arts and universities of physical education. Out of seven medical universities, only two had microforms. Their modest collections consisted of 72 microfilms and 1,037 microfiches, 980 of which were held by the Main Library of the Medical University of Warsaw. Likewise, only two such institutions had microform readers, five in total. The two other kinds of libraries showed practically no interest in microforms whatsoever. The exceptions were: the State Library of the Higher Academy of Music in Katowice which owned 315 microfilms and one reader and the Library of the University of Physical Education in Warsaw, which was in possession of 18 microfilms and three readers.

Among independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the one of the National Ossoliński Institute was the most active. This entity launched not only a section for the preparation, collecting and sharing of

85 Today Szkoła Główna Handlowa [Warsaw School of Economics].

microfilms, but also a separate microform reading room with eight readers. The studio was enlarged and equipped with three cameras, a copier and the Pentakta system, which was being tested at the time of the survey. Its annual productivity amounted to 60,000 frames. Meanwhile, the Warsaw Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences filled the gaps in current periodical publications with microfilms. The libraries in Cracow and Gdańsk, despite having no studios of their own, commissioned other institutions to make security copies of their collections. No information was available from the Cracow centre. In total, the independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences had 13,579 microfilms and 17 readers.

Out of the 17 public libraries that responded, 22 were using microfilms. However, the number in many of them was negligible. For example, the Provincial Public Library (PPL) of Biała Podlaska had collected 17 microfilms, while the one in Elbląg had only five items more. There was little interest in microforms. The readers of the PPL in Jelenia Góra and the Raczyński Library in Poznań remained idle throughout 1977, while the record of attendance at the Municipal Public Library in Łódź and the PPL in Kielce quoted four and five users respectively. Public libraries had 51 microform readers in total, 35 of which were available at provincial or municipal entities and 16 within their branch networks. Eight libraries had eight Zeiss cameras in total, however, five of them remained idle throughout 1977. Curiously, one of the institutions that was in possession of a microfilming camera only made microfilms using a 35 mm film device. The public libraries had collected 6,163 microfilms in total. Provincial pedagogical libraries did not use microfilms to a greater extent. Only five out of the 23 that responded collected microfilms. Their limited resources comprised 75 units. Nonetheless, most of the institutions planned to develop their activity in this respect. For instance, the Provincial and Municipal Pedagogical Library in Zamość had already prepared a project of collecting microforms, and drawn up posters informing the readers of those new resources and the rules of their use.

As to other types of libraries, microforms were collected by: the Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, Central Military Library, Main Medical Library,⁸⁶ Silesian

86 Compare: E. Janowicz, "Stan księgozbiorów, wyposażenie w sprzęt reprograficzny, stan zatrudnienia [...] sieci naukowych bibliotek medycznych i ośrodków informacji (wg danych za r. 1974)" [The Condition of Book Collections, Reprographic Equipment and Employment [...] of the Network of Medical Research Libraries and Information Centres (based on the data of 1974)], *Biuletyn Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej* [Bulletin of the Main Medical Library], vol. 24, no. 9/10, 1975, pp. 449–451; I. Kwaśniewska, "Instrukcja dotycząca zasad mikrofiszowania dokumentów w głównej bibliotece lekarskiej oraz opracowywania mikrofisz" [Instructions on Microfishing Documents at the Main Medical Library and on Microfiche Processing], *Biuletyn Głównej*

Library,⁸⁷ Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences (ILR PAS)⁸⁸ and the Poznań Society of Friends of the Sciences.

In various kinds of libraries, 78,000 microfilms were gathered in total, along with 42,500 microfiches. The microfiches were mainly used by institutions providing information in the technical sciences.

TABLE 1. RESULTS OF THE SURVEY OF THE COMMISSION ON COLLECTIONS' MICROFILMING

Type of libraries	Number of libraries owning microfilms	Number of microfilm items	Number of microfiches
University	10	30,392	2,007
Technical university	12	9,945	32,951
Pedagogical university	8	1,778	42
University of economics	3	1,543	0
Agricultural university	4	1,278	50
Medical university	2	72	1,037
University of fine arts	1	315	0
University of physical education	1	18	0
Independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences	4	13,579	0
Public	22	6,163	0
Provincial pedagogical	5	75	0
Other	6	12,840	6,415
Total	72	77,998	42,502

The libraries owned 590 readers in total, 377 for microfilm and 215 for microfiche, with as many as 206 readers equipping the Library of the Wrocław University of Technology. Separate microform reading rooms were only available at five libraries.

Biblioteki Lekarskiej [Bulletin of the Main Medical Library], vol. 24, issue 1/2, 1975, pp. 8–9; I. Kwaśniewska, “Mikroformy i ich zastosowanie w bibliotece” [Microforms and Their Application in the Library], *Biuletyn Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej*, vol. 24, issue 1/2, 1975, pp. 1–7; “Mikrofiszę starodruków” [Microfiches of Early Printed Books], *Biuletyn Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej*, vol. 24, issue 1/2, 1975, pp. 9–10; “Miniaturyzacja w Głównej Bibliotece Lekarskiej” [Miniaturisation at the Main Medical Library], *Biuletyn Głównej Biblioteki Lekarskiej*, vol. 24, issue 1/2, 1975, pp. 10–11.

87 Compare: K. Terpińska, “Mikrofilmy” [Microfilms], in *Biblioteka Śląska, 1922–1972* [Silesian Library 1922–1972], ed. J. Kantyka, Katowice 1973.

88 “Mikrofilmy w Archiwum Naukowym przy Bibliotece IBL” [Microfilms in the Research Archive at the Library of the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences], *Biuletyn Polonistyczny* [Bulletin of Polish Studies], vol. 2, fasc. 5, 1959, pp. 14–16.

TABLE 2. MICROFORM READING ROOMS IN POLISH LIBRARIES IN 1978

Type of libraries	Number of microform readers
University	115
Technical university	252
Pedagogical university	24
University of economics	5
Agricultural university	11
Medical university	5
University of fine arts	1
University of physical education	3
Independent libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences	17
Public	51
Provincial pedagogical	8
Other	100
Total	592

39 microfilm studios existed, employing 85 people in total. The entire microform production equipment consisted of 64 microfilm cameras and 4 microfiche ones. As far as technical issues are concerned, it is worth mentioning that the libraries used low quality films made in Poland or East Germany (ORWO).

In 1978, the National Library of Poland had a collection of 112,000 microfilm units, which meant that it had gathered more microfilms than all the other Polish libraries together.

The first and unique inquiry of this kind demonstrated the limited extent of using microphotographic techniques by the Polish libraries. In the questionnaires, lack of space was largely blamed for this situation, as no separate rooms were available for microfilm studios and reading rooms. On the other hand, the storage of microcopies instead of originals could be a solution to the shortage of space. Insufficient funds for equipment and for the employment of specialised full-time staff was another serious problem. As far as the machines are concerned, the greatest flaw was the unequal distribution of the few available readers. This particularly affected pedagogical libraries located outside large urban centres, which could have provided teachers with the newest academic and didactic materials by means of microforms. However, even if the entities had readers, these often remained idle due to the small size of the microfilm collection. Furthermore, the readers preferred originals, which the librarians often

supplied even if microcopies had been executed previously. The lack of regulations and insufficiently prepared staff also generated other problems. Sometimes, the librarians were unable to properly prepare materials for microfilming, so the same items had to be recopied. Microforms produced or received as donations were not always properly recorded, so they could not be made available to readers or for inter-library loans. Even if an entity conducted microreproduction activities, they often committed the serious error of making the one and only microcopy available in reading rooms. Shortage of full time laboratory staff provoked low productivity in the existing studios. This is best illustrated by the use of copiers, which took between 200–2,000 frames monthly on average, while at the National Library the standard was 13,500 frames per one device.

Following the survey, several proposals were made in order to improve this negative situation. Firstly, it was suggested that an expert commission prepare a nation-wide project of preservation microfilming, coordinated by the National Library with contributions by the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute. Its implementation would consist i.a. in producing a so-called third copy on high quality film, destined for perpetual archiving. Such copies would form the National Microfilm Resource, a part of the National Library Resource. The core of this collection would be formed by microfilms of the most valuable objects of writing made by the Microfilm Station of the National Library since the 1950s. It also became indispensable to prepare a central catalogue of microfilms. In terms of information about microfilm holdings, it was proposed that data on microreproductions be provided beside the shelf marks of the originals, as in the catalogues issued by the Jagiellonian Library, the Warsaw University Library and the Cracow Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Promotion of microfilm techniques within the community of librarians was considered critically important. This was to be achieved by introducing these issues to academic curricula on a larger scale, offering them more coverage in the professional press and giving related conferences within the circles of the Polish Librarians' Association. The unequal distribution of equipment among the entities was also an issue that had to be addressed. The last proposal was to create a mandatory standard for microform registering. Unfortunately, most of these desiderata, such as cooperation between the National Library, the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute, remained on paper.

Further studies were not conducted until August 1994. This time, the survey prepared by the National Library concerned the general activity of libraries in terms of the protection and conservation of collections. The

questionnaire was sent to 260 institutions, including all central, academic, university, provincial pedagogical and provincial public libraries. 208 of them responded to the survey. One of the questions concerned the activities of their microfilm studios. The responses revealed that 39 reprographics units were operational, employing 90 staff members in total in 88 full-time jobs. The National Library (Reprographics Department) had the largest laboratory with 21 technical employees. This number was augmented by the library service staff of the Department of Microfilm Holdings (DMH) with 12 full-time employees. Smaller staffs were employed by the laboratories of the Wrocław University Library (11 full-time jobs), the Jagiellonian Library (9 full-time jobs), the Library of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń (5 full-time jobs), the National Ossoliński Institute (4 full-time jobs) and the Library of the AGH University of Science and Technology (4 full-time jobs). The remaining 33 studios were one-person units or were run by small teams. All of them extended their scope of activity by making photocopies. At the same time, only 20 libraries hired other institutions to reproduce their own or external holdings as microforms in order to supplement the collections. Still, only the National Library of Poland conducted microfilm activities on a nation-wide scale.

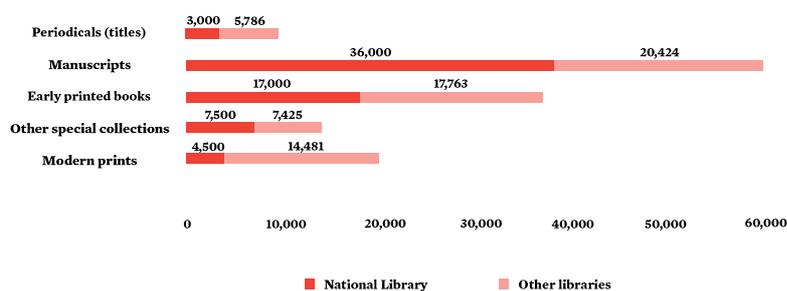
In 1998, the Committee for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Holdings at the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association prepared another survey. It took into account 32 libraries that, in theory, had microfilm studios. However, it turned out that six of these had suspended their activities due to obsolete equipment. Out of the remaining 26 institutions (81% of the respondents), only 22 produced microforms, while 4 only made photocopies. Thus, in four provinces – Lubuskie, Podkarpackie, Podlaskie and Świętokrzyskie – no microfilm studio was active. Although the number of laboratories fell as compared to 1994, employment increased from 90 to 110 people. In seven libraries, at least five were assigned to microform-related works. What improved was not only employment, but also equipment quality. The libraries owned 44 microfilm and 10 microfiche cameras in total. Although many devices were still from the 1960s and 70s, with occasionally even some antique machines in use such as a Kodagraph camera from 1938 at the Warsaw University Library, generally the machinery got significantly upgraded. This process was largely supported by grants from various organisations such as the Culture Foundation, the Foundation for Polish Science (within the “Archives” and “Librarius” projects), the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation or the German Volkswagen Foundation.

As early as in 1999, the Committee for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Holdings at the General Board of the Polish Librarians'

Association prepared another, more extended survey on the preservation of holdings. Out of the 150 recipients, 70 libraries completed the questionnaire. Thus, the reach of the survey was smaller than in 1978, but the study was equally detailed. The questions related to the hierarchy of library holdings subject to preservation microfilming, the number of microforms owned and the titles copied, any lack in equipment needed to produce microfilms and microfiches as well as the machinery such as photocopiers and scanners that the institutions planned to purchase.

The survey demonstrated that 42 libraries owned 191,215 microfilms on 201,627 reels in total. The National Library had gathered 91,168 units, the Wrocław University Library, which was in possession of the second largest collection, 23,781 units, followed by the Jagiellonian Library with 15,881 units and the Warsaw University Library with 11,457. The collections of all the remaining libraries did not exceed 10,000 units. Moreover, 25 libraries had 251,278 microfiches in total. In seven libraries, the microfiche holdings exceeded 3,000 units.

CHART 1. MICROFILM RESOURCES OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY AS COMPARED TO OTHER LIBRARIES IN 1999



The microfilming of periodicals requires further explanation. In theory, out of 37,500 titles, 8,786 were copied, representing 23% of their total number. However, only the National Library had a program in place that consisted in supplementing incomplete series with the missing items, which required borrowing several copies of various issues from numerous other libraries. Other libraries only microfilmed their own, very often incomplete collections. The need for transferring their contents onto a more durable medium resulted from the decomposition of low-quality acidic newsprint paper. Public access to the periodicals accelerated their deterioration. Nonetheless, the overall assessment of such practices

must be negative. Libraries tended to microfilm incomplete collections of periodicals, albeit these had been previously completed and filmed by the National Library, such as in the case of *Czas* [Time], *Kraj* [Country], *Naprzód* [Forward!] or *Kurier Warszawski* [Warsaw Courier]. The number of doubles created in this way is hard to estimate. Therefore, the data on the 8,786 microfilmed titles should be treated cautiously. It was far more affordable to order positive copies of complete series of periodicals from the National Library than to produce one's own, imperfect collections of negatives, Direct Duplicating surrogates and service copies for the readers.

In terms of equipment, the libraries owned 209 microfilm readers and 58 microfiche readers. At the same time, the entities reported a high demand for microfilm equipment, amounting to 115 units of various devices. The question about digitisation in the questionnaire of the Committee for the Preservation and Conservation of Library Holdings was a sign of the new times coming. The previous study of 1998 had already shown that the Silesian Library – as the only one in Poland – had scanners for both microfilms and originals, and also for colour copies. In 1999, the library confirmed that they were continuing their work on digitisation. Seven further institutions planned to start doing the same. In October 2002, the first digital library in Poland – the Digital Library of Wielkopolska (DLW) – was inaugurated. On 21 December 2002, the Scientific Research Committee launched the Polish Digital Library (PDL) under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Poland. A survey conducted in autumn of 2003 among the 55 libraries that made up the National Library Resource revealed that 22 libraries were digitising their collections and nine had arranged professional reprographics studios. Although microfilming was not definitively given up, the laboratories were being systematically transformed into digital imaging studios. In 2005, microforms were produced at 27 institutions and digital reproductions at 35 libraries.

MICROFILM STATION OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND (1950–1961)

The activity of the National Library in terms of preservation microfilming deserves particular attention for a couple of reasons. First of all, the NL was the only library to undertake nation-wide actions. Second, the implementation of these programs was unprecedented in Poland and even in Europe. Third, employees of the Microfilm Station and later of the Departments of Microfilm Holdings and Reprographics did not limit their activities to copying various collections, but also developed the domestic

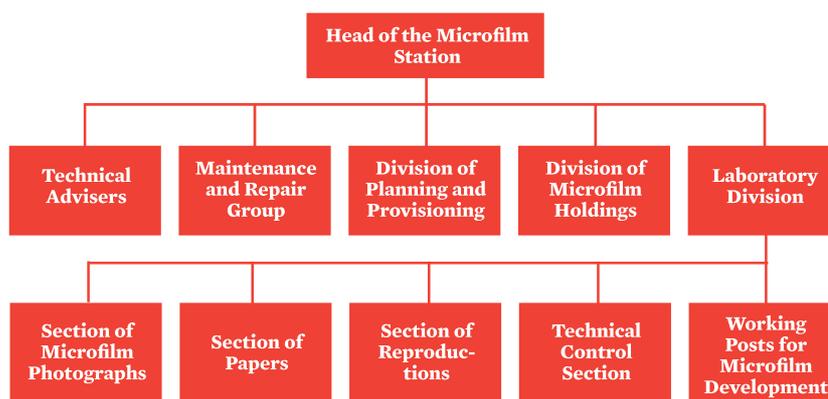
production of photochemical materials and equipment, promoted the use of microforms as well as provided assistance and arranged training sessions for staff of other laboratories in this respect. Practically from the very start, the NL Microfilm Station was an unofficial Polish competence centre when it came to applying photographic techniques in libraries, and for some time, also in archives. Nevertheless, in the beginning, the entity had to face many serious challenges.

The Statute of the National Library of 31 January 1938 provided that a photographic studio should be created as one of the fourteen divisions of the institution. Unfortunately, these plans, dating back to the interwar period, had never been completed. In the post-World War II period, the National Library had to rise from the ashes. Therefore, it was only after fundamental problems were addressed and basic tasks resumed that a chance arose to develop additional activities such as reprography. The critical year was 1949, when the National Library received microfilm equipment from UNESCO. The problem was the lack of specialists able to operate this equipment and a competent coordinator of the entire laboratory. Eventually, the task to create the studio – called the Microfilm Station by Director Władysław Bieńkowski – was taken on by a historian of the University of Warsaw, Andrzej Wyczański. He was rather unknown to the librarian community, and had to cope with the challenge of introducing unfamiliar technology to the people taking care of invaluable monuments of Polish writing saved from the conflagration of the war. Further problems were generated by technical and organisational issues. The transmission of expertise was seriously hampered due to the political situation in that period. There was no opportunity to send employees to Western Europe for training or to invite foreign experts to Poland. Thus, Wyczański had to draw the necessary information exclusively from specialised literature that the Bibliographic Institute had gathered for him. On this basis, he had to prepare the organisational chart of the new institution, define the programme of its activity and master the technical issues himself. The latter was made even harder as the equipment donated by UNESCO was not accompanied by instruction manuals.

Although microfilming was begun at the National Library at the turn of 1949/1950, the Station was officially launched with the adoption of the provisional Statute of the National Library of Poland effective as of 3/8/1950. The new department occupied refurbished rooms on the ground floor of the Krasieński Library building at 9 Okólnik Street in Warsaw. In the beginning, it employed five staff members. The photography technicians – with a general knowledge and practical experience of photography – had to learn

how to take photographs of invaluable and fragile items with millimetric precision. Proper use of light and filters also required extensive practice. In addition, meetings were held to discuss the latest professional literature. Technical issues were discussed with the engineers of the Film Technical Office. In the following years, the staff grew systematically, and in 1957 it reached the number of 19 full-time jobs, hence, the Station became one of the largest studios of the National Library.

The organisational structure prepared by Wyczański was modelled on the way a similar studio operated at the French National Library in Paris. The Station was divided into three units: the laboratory, the planning and provisioning division and the division of microfilm holdings. The first one was composed of sections for microfilm photography, papers, reproductions and technical control as well as work posts where microfilms were developed and copied. The leader of each of them reported directly to the head of the Station. Additionally, a conservation and maintenance team along with the technical advisers mentioned above collaborated with the Station.



The laboratory division was responsible for the production and technical activity of the Station. Its tasks were tedious and required great orderliness, accuracy and expertise in taking photographs and properly handling the invaluable originals. Moreover, contact with chemicals, use of sharp and variable lighting and inspecting the microfilms with a magnifying glass affected the health of many photo technicians. Regrettably, this harmful and hard work was not appropriately rewarded, which is why the laboratory had to cope with the problem of high employee turnover.

The staff of the microfilm photography section was in charge of machine and camera operation. To increase efficiency, each employee was allocated to a particular device. Also, annual production standards were established for each camera; they were, however, treated flexibly. The Station management cared about the quality rather than the quantity of the photos. Excessive haste in taking photographs could also provoke inappropriate handling of the valuable and vulnerable originals, which would deteriorate their state of preservation. It was understood that the work pace depended on the age, format and size of the items. Another factor that affected productivity was equipment breakdowns. Consequently, the annual production goals were mostly simple guidelines for the provisioning division. In fact, the average productivity of the Station oscillated between 800 and 1,200 frames daily for each camera, although the potential of the equipment was considerably higher.⁸⁹ It was assumed that a single 36x24 mm photograph should contain two pages of an original.⁹⁰ 35 mm film – perforated, low sensitivity and non-flammable – was used, cut into 30-metre sections.⁹¹

While the microfilm photograph section mainly implemented a specific policy of preservation and supplementation of the holdings, the two other units based their activity on the readers' requests. The section of papers produced optical photocopies and magnifications, while the section of reproductions took 6x9, 9x12, 13x18 cm photographs of texts, illuminations and bindings, graphic and cartographic holdings etc., in both black-and-white and colour (in the Agfacolor and Gevacolor methods). The latter entity, apart from undertaking inefficient and time-consuming works, also experimented with ultraviolet and infrared photography⁹². Experiments of this kind were conducted by such institutions

89 A. Wyczański, "Dwa lata Stacji Mikrofilmowej BN" [Two Years of the Microfilm Station of the National Library], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 20, 1952, p. 169.

90 Exceptions to this principle were allowed under exceptional circumstances, specifically in the case of manuscript codices.

91 The degree of reduction oscillated between x8 and x15, according to needs. The minimum resolution amounted to 75 lines per 1 mm, while density was between 15 and 19. As far as marking is concerned, the Station adopted the rule that data on the place, date and production no. should be introduced with a photographic method in the initial section of each microfilm, together with an excerpt from the catalogue card providing information on the contents of the original.

92 These techniques, enabling the reading of erased, obliterated or altered documents were used in criminology to detect counterfeits. Ultraviolet rays worked well for texts written with an ink of plant origin, while infrared enabled seeing mineral, Indian or printing inks. These properties were also applied to illegible monuments of writing and palimpsests. Compare: J. A. Neuman, *Fotografia w podczerwieni* [Infrared Photography], Warszawa 1938; J. R., "Badanie dokumentów przy pomocy promieni ultrafioletowych" [Document Examina-

as the National Library in Paris and the University Library in Uppsala.⁹³ At the Station, similar trials had been performed by Henryk Nowicki since 1952. Due to these experiments, a badly damaged manuscript by Amos Komeński from the 17th century could be read, and ornaments of the Yearbook of the Cracow Chapter, invisible to the eye, were photographed.⁹⁴ In 1956, manuscript no. 84 of the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter was examined in a similar way.⁹⁵ However, the most spectacular discovery was made in the course of work on the Bull of Gniezno, conducted with the consent of Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.⁹⁶ Ultraviolet rays enabled them to establish that the contents of the document we know today had been written over an earlier text. A more detailed examination was impracticable in that period. From the conservationist's point of view, the general suspension of experiments with ultraviolet and infrared rays was a proper decision, since expert studies had demonstrated that using such waves while photographing provoked thermal effects and photochemical reactions that could result in damage to the originals.⁹⁷

In 1955, the Station's activity was extended to include a newly created collection of manuscript illumination reproductions, especially of items from Church and graphic collections, mainly 19th-century engraved portraits.⁹⁸ The initial colour microfilm form was replaced with 6x9, 9x12 and 13x18 cm black-and-white or colour negatives. Due to the high costs, colour reproductions were reserved for the most valuable illuminations. The collection had a separate catalogue prepared by Zofia Rozanow, who was assisted by employees of the Manuscript Department and the Graphic

tion with Ultraviolet Rays], *Przegląd Papierniczy* [Papermaking Review], vol. 10, issue 7, 1954, p. 222; A. Wyczański, "Niektóre zagadnienia rozwoju nauki historycznej w Polsce do 1985 r." [Selected Questions on the Development of Historical Science in Poland until 1985], *Kwartalnik Historyczny* [Historical Quarterly], vol. 75, 1968, fasc. 1, p. 88.

- 93 In Uppsala, the text of *Codex argenteus* was read thanks to UV rays. M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofilm w pracy naukowej i bibliotecznej", op. cit., p. 103.
- 94 *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945-1956* [The National Library of Poland in 1945-1956], ed. B. Horodyski, Warszawa 1958, p. 125.
- 95 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 12-13, Letter of the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter to Prof. Jakub Sawicki of 9/01/1956, Letter of the National Library to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 16/01/1956.
- 96 A. Wyczański, "Biblioteka Narodowa – okiem uczestnika i obserwatora 1949-1974" [The National Library in the Eyes of a Participant and Observer 1949-1974], *Biuletyn Informacyjny BN* [National Library Information Bulletin], issue 1, 1997, p. 19.
- 97 D. Rams, M. Woźniak, "Wpływ światła na zbiory biblioteczne" [How Light Affects Library Collections], in *Zachowajmy przeszłość dla przyszłości...* [To Retain the Past for the Future...], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2002, p. 125.
- 98 *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945-1956*, op. cit., p. 126.

Arts Department. This activity, conducted for editorial purposes among others, resulted in great inefficiency due to the difficulties in the description of the items.

In 1952, a review section was appointed to assess the quality of the microforms produced.⁹⁹ Each one of the 3,000 photographs taken daily was examined.¹⁰⁰ Separate work posts were in charge of copying and development. Positives and duplicate negatives were made both for the purposes of the National Library collections and upon the readers' requests. Initially, developing tanks donated by UNESCO were used for development.¹⁰¹ This manufacture system was abandoned in 1954 to be replaced by automated work, performed by means of a developing unit designed in-house. In 1956, the pool of machines was supplemented with an analogue tool for positives.¹⁰² Production amounted to 70–90 m of negatives per hour, while for positives, the maximum production reached 150 m per hour. Apart from that, this method allowed considerable savings on chemicals (up to 70%).

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- 99 They were in charge, among other things, of verifying whether the microcopies conformed to the originals and the mechanics of the film were correct. Also, technical properties – such as the microfilm sharpness, legibility and density – were checked, along with the film chemical purity and accuracy of its markings. The standards related to resolution, density and chemical purity tests were no lower than in Western Europe. Defects in microfilms were caused by two things: defective materials and human error. The first one included bubbles and flaws on the film surface, wrong proportions in the chemical composition of the developers and fixers as well as damaged cameras. The second was connected with such errors as inadequate exposure, blurry or shaky images, incomplete or skipped pages or failure to properly wash out the solutions while developing the images. Depending on the type of defects, the films were repaired at the montage post where supplements were spliced, or alternatively it was mandated that the originals should be refilmed. To eliminate at least a part of the errors, test photos were taken every time before any new batch of films and chemicals was used for production as well as after any camera overhauls.
- 100 The trials were performed by means of a magnifying glass and microform readers as well as reagents and equipment for measuring optical density. The microcopy also had to be compared with the original.
- 101 This method was, however, inadequate for long roll microfilms. Firstly, the fact that the film roll had to be immersed in the developer, then the fixer and finally water, led to great consumption of the chemicals. Secondly, loading a long film onto the developing tank required skill and often led to damages to the microfilm. For some time, the Station also practised winding the tape through two recipients, one with a developer and the other one with a fixer. This, however, turned out to be even less efficient, as the equal distribution of this process was problematic, which affected the quality of the microfilms leading to inadequate optical density or distribution of grey, or insufficient washing. Wyczański recommended the above methods to smaller studios producing around 30 metres of film daily. For longer sections, he suggested using developing tanks every few days, and a winding system for shorter ones.
- 102 The equipment operation consisted in preparing chemicals, setting the development temperature and time as well as loading the film. The tape passed through the developing, stop, fixing and washing baths automatically, later to be dried and wound onto the reel.

TABLE 3. PRODUCTIVITY OF THE MICROFILM STATION FROM 1950–1956¹⁰³

Production	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	Total
Negatives (frames)	105,557	627,340	916,798	1,083,250	1,220,990	821,913	604,847	5,441,695
Positives (metres)	159	2,540	2,737	8,895	11,990	23,395	34,875	84,591
Photocopies and magnifications (units)	5,343	9,293	16,739	21,616	32,598	28,488	26,125	140,202
Photo reproductions (units)	no data	no data	no data	481	900	1,766	2,115	no data

In 1953, the Planning and Provisioning Division was created. Its staff ran the office and registry of the Station and were responsible for timely deliveries of photochemical materials. They also managed all matters related to equipment, such as its purchase, installation and maintenance. The Division collaborated in this respect with independent experts, i.e. the maintenance and overhaul team as well as the technical adviser. The original equipment of the Station consisted of the UNESCO machines as well as ones taken over from the former National Book Institute. The “dozen mysterious cases”¹⁰⁴ contained three microfilm cameras.¹⁰⁵ Thanks to its versatility and reliability, the American Kodagraph was particularly valued.¹⁰⁶ Unfortunately, it was virtually unavailable on the Polish market. Prior to acquiring further equipment, the Station’s management had to make a strategic decision whether to purchase cameras from the same manufacturer or to diversify the equipment. The first solution facilitated training as well as any maintenance and servicing tasks, but limited the possibilities of microfilming certain kinds of collections. This is why the National Library – which owned both large-size items such as maps and small early printed books – opted for the second strategy. In the case of any technical problems, they counted on the assistance of local photo technicians, electricians and opticians. The maintenance and overhaul team established for this purpose also had to periodically review, oil and clean the equipment. Unfortunately, the

103 *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945–1956*, op. cit., p. 126.

104 *Ibid.*, p. 124.

105 Detailed data: Kodagraph Model D made by Eastman Kodak, an English Watson camera supporting non-perforated 35 mm film (with 24x36 mm frames) and a German Fotokopist with identical specifications. The two first devices were donated by UNESCO.

106 The Kodagraph Model D was designed for both perforated and non-perforated films, its reduction range amounted to 8x–20x and the frame length was adjustable.

political situation back then required importing machines without having previously tested them. Advertising prospectuses only gave information about selected features of the equipment.¹⁰⁷ Theoretical information, however, was no substitute for direct contact with the device. The Station soon became aware of the difficulties arising out of this situation as well as the dreadful consequences of choosing diverse equipment. In 1952, with the foreign currency granted by the State Commission for Economic Planning, the Library managed to purchase two more Recordak A.H. cameras. Nevertheless, the English apparatuses turned out to be very prone to breakdowns.¹⁰⁸ This slowed down the works of the Station and provoked delays in returning materials to the lending libraries.¹⁰⁹ By 1956 the machine pool was made up of five microfilm cameras in total, one photocopier, two reproduction cameras, three developing units and seven readers. Further modernisation took place following the Polish October thaw in 1956, with the assistance of Jerzy Giedroyc.¹¹⁰ In March 1957, through the *Kultura* review, he called on the Polish diaspora to provide funds for the purchase of specialised equipment for the Polish archives and libraries, so that, for example, the National Library could launch a mobile laboratory.¹¹¹ However, he managed only to

107 Such as a phototube to measure the strength of reflected light, clearly marked formats supported by the camera lens, a picture counter, a lock preventing the taking of two pictures on a single frame, and a tape transport that could be turned on or a shutter opened with a pedal, so that the hands could freely manage the book at the same time. A. Wyczański, "Dwa lata Stacji Mikrofilmowej BN" [Two Years of the Microfilm Station of the National Library], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 20, 1952, p. 169.

108 The political situation was to blame for problems with the imports of spare parts such as lamps. As a result, from as early as 1955 some cameras were withdrawn from use due to protracted repairs. A. Wyczański, "Biblioteka Narodowa – okiem uczestnika...", op. cit., p. 17.

109 For instance, in August and November of 1955, the National Library apologised to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter for keeping their materials overdue. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 8–9, Letter of the National Library to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 3/08/1955, Letter of the National Library to the rev. Kazimierz Figliwicz, PhD, of the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 8/11/1955.

110 A. Wyczański, "Biblioteka Narodowa – okiem uczestnika...", op. cit., p. 18.

111 Plans were made to obtain microfilm and paper lamination equipment. With respect to the cameras, in order to avoid further production stoppages resulting from the lack of lamps, first, spare parts started to be included in the orders from the start, and second, efforts were made to acquire the more reliable American Kodagraphs. In particular, the National Library needed a Barrow Laminator paper lamination device (manufactured in Richmond, Virginia), worth \$2,000; stocks of fibre paper for lamination (20x500 sheets) – \$340; three Kodagraph microfilm cameras (manufactured by Kodak, Rochester, NY) – \$3,000 with spare parts; 80 Reflectoflood exposure lamps – \$100; projection lamps worth \$10 each and 10 exposure and projection switches – \$20; a Photostat optical photocopy camera for rolled and cut paper – \$2,000; with two sets of spare lamps – \$100; and spare judicature paper (around 1,500 sq. metres on reels of a varying width) – \$100; and a quartz lens with 10.5 or 13.5 focal length to „photorecord” damaged texts in ultraviolet – \$200. The total demand of

collect around 891,270 francs in this manner, only 1/8 of the projected sum. Thanks to the courtesy of the Eastman Kodak Company, who granted a significant discount to the editors of *Kultura*, a Kodagraph camera was purchased and donated to the National Library.¹¹² This unsuccessful initiative did not, however, discourage Jerzy Giedroyc. His further efforts resulted in NL getting new equipment from the Ford Foundation in the following years.¹¹³

The Planning Division staff were also responsible for the Station's provisions. The inventory book of the materials warehouse listed 276 different items in total,¹¹⁴ among which microfilm tape was of critical importance for the continuity of the work. The Station's early activity was based on the rolls donated by UNESCO together with the equipment. In autumn of 1950, owing to Mr Wyczański's efforts, the Warsaw Photochemical Plants started manufacturing tape according to an original formula. Unfortunately, the negative film failed to meet the applicable standards in terms of sensitivity, resolution, contrast etc., and the low quality of craftsmanship resulted in bubbles appearing on the surface. Consequently, many reels had to be returned to the factory. Nonetheless, in the beginning the

the National Library amounted to \$7,270 for the studio and \$3,500 for the mobile laboratory. Plans were for the latter to be equipped with a mobile Kodagraph microfilm camera and a developing unit, a 1.5 KW power generator for these devices and a vehicle for journeys outside the laboratory premises with space for the equipment and 3–4 crew members. The total value of the equipment for other Polish cultural institutions amounted to nearly \$25,000. The collection took place from March to October of 1957. 102 private donors answered the call all around the world (such as the writer Gustaw Herling-Grudziński), residing in England, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, France, Italy, Canada, Congo, Mexico, West Germany, South Africa, USA and Switzerland. Additionally, funds were provided by the Polish Book Depot in Argentina, the Polish Club Society and the Association of History Enthusiasts in Argentina as well as the General Board of the Association of Polish Students in Exile in England. The National Treasury of Canada granted 36,300 francs for this purpose. "Pomóżmy Bibliotece Narodowej. Apel do emigracji i przyjaciół Polski na Zachodzie" [We Can Help the National Library. A Call to the Polish Diaspora and Friends of Poland in the West] in *Kultura, wybór szkiców, opowiadań i sprawozdań* [*Kultura*. Selected Sketches, Stories and Reports], ed. J. Giedroyc, Paris, March 1957, pp. 3–5; "Zbiórki i wpłaty na Bibliotekę Narodową" [Contributions and Collections for the National Library], *Kultura*..., op. cit., issues of April–November 1957.

- 112 "Dar czytelników Kultury dla Biblioteki Narodowej w Warszawie" [Donation of the *Kultura* Readers for the National Library in Warsaw], *Kultura*..., op. cit., July–August 1959, p. 2.
- 113 Two Kodagraph model D cameras, a reader for newspaper microfilms, a microcard reader, two electric typewriters, seven cassettes with flat card files of the Cardex system and a paper laminator, *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za lata 1957–1960* [Report of the National Library for 1957–1960], ed. M. Dembowska, Warszawa 1987, p. 14.
- 114 Microfilm production required continual supplies of more than ten film types, a few dozen kinds of flexible and rigid tapes as well as other negative materials, various sorts of paper, developers and fixers as well as their components, chemical reactors, laboratory glass, electrochemical materials, tin, metals, reels, packaging etc. *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945–1956*, op. cit., p. 133.

Station had to work with this material, however defective, as no alternatives were available. It was not until the Film Technical Office and the Wrocław University of Technology issued negative opinions on the tape quality that the Photochemical Plants limited their production to positive tape. For items microfilmed on the domestic negative tape, retakes were needed. The quality of foreign materials was much higher, but problems arose as to the regularity of imports. A lack of tape provoked stoppages in the operation of the cameras, which affected the overall productivity of the Station. Thanks to Mr Wyczański's efforts, domestic production of other crucial resources was also launched, such as reels to store film rolls or a developer.¹¹⁵

In the early period of text photography, the job of the library staff was limited to conservationist work, i.e. deciding whether a particular item was apt for copying, and if it was, choosing the right way in which it should be done in order to avoid deterioration of the object. The development of microfilm holdings created new challenges for the librarians, such as selection of the items for copying or microcopy cataloguing. The question that arose was whether these tasks should be performed by one or more divisions. The first option would lead to imposing additional responsibilities upon the staff. The second option, where, for example, the department of early printed books would first carry out basic tasks such as incunable cataloguing, whilst microfilming would only be performed at the end, the threat was that the microforms would be marginalised. Furthermore, coordinating cooperation between the laboratory and several other library units would pose additional problems. Hence, it was decided to create a Division of Microfilm Holdings within the Station, which only in the most problematic cases would consult experts from the departments in charge of storage and copying of the originals. As the digitisation process has demonstrated, however, engaging with the units responsible for the contents would have been a better solution for this purpose.

Another strategic decision was connected with the storage of microforms. The question was whether microcopies should be treated as a separate collection or stored together with the originals, as with the British Library. In other words, a manuscript and its microfilm would have been stored in one warehouse, which would make it easier to catalogue and access both of them. On the other hand, microfilms were prepared in accordance with descriptions of the originals by a separate

115 A. Wyczański, "Dwa lata Stacji...", op. cit., p. 179; A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 138 et seq.

division, so the workload savings would have been doubtful. In turn, making them available to readers required special equipment operated by an appropriately trained employee (able to properly load the reel onto the reader and provide additional guidance). Back then, microform readers were most effective in darkened spaces and were relatively noisy. As this conflicted with the requirements for traditional reading rooms, a separate microfilm access space had to be arranged. Moreover, libraries divided their holdings according to their type. New and old books were stored separately, although the differences between these were less significant than those between an original and a microcopy. Likewise, originals were separated from their surrogates, as for example in the case of printed editions and the corresponding medieval manuscripts. Consequently, no precedent was created for microforms. Another argument in favour of the project to build an independent microfilm collection was that originals from other libraries were being photographed too. The National Library then would have no conventional objects which could be accompanied by such microcopies. Moreover, all Polish press titles completed on tape were treated as originals.

Any typical library tasks were performed by the Division of Microfilm Holdings. These mainly consisted in taking care of the originals and cataloguing the microfilms produced. The employees were responsible for the supplies, issue, protection and collection of items destined for microfilming brought from other libraries and NL divisions. To increase the Division's efficiency, the rule was adopted to hand the items over to the Station with abridged catalogue descriptions.¹¹⁶ In the case of early printed books, a reference to Estreicher's *Bibliography* was added along with the name of the printer. These cards were photographed prior to the contents of each item together with an information sheet containing the date of production, camera symbol and microform shelf mark. Then, the data sheet, complemented by the shelf mark of the microfilm and any other missing data, was transferred to the card file, which thanks to the above procedure managed to cover the entire microfilm collection of the National Library. For convenience, it was divided according to the type of original into manuscripts, early printed books, modern prints, journals etc. It is noteworthy that the Station was the first one

116 The data sheets produced on cards of the international 125x75 mm format contained basic information on the original such as: the author, date of creation, material (e.g. parchment), format, number of pages or leaves and the shelf mark in the upper right corner. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 152, Letter of the National Library Management to the Management Board of the Raczyński Library in Poznań of 7/02/1952.

in Poland to publish microfilm indices in print. Specialists from various library units – for example the Departments of Early Printed Books or Manuscripts – took part in their preparation. The first seven volumes released in 1951–1958 formed a guide for all microfilms produced in the respective periods. As production increased, the format of this publication had to change. Every new volume listed selected types of collections only, for example vol. 8 of the *Microfilm Catalogue* was also the first one of the *Catalogue of Music Microfilms*.

Before the microfilms were placed in the warehouse, they were recorded in the inventory.¹¹⁷ Sections up to 30 m long were stored on reels. These were kept in cardboard boxes, and subsequently packed in oblong fibreboard containers, 10 units each. Each of the above-mentioned containers bore a shelf mark, while a single unit was understood as an item recorded on the tape, for example a particular early printed book or manuscript rather than a tape section of a specific length. Providing proper storage conditions was not easy. The warehouse had no air conditioning or humidity regulation.

The Division was also responsible for receiving readers' requests. The orders, made exclusively in writing, were submitted directly or through the National Library Loan Division. The copies ordered could be collected at the Station's premises, the readers could also indicate an address to which they wished them to be sent. Payments were made via bank transfer or postal order. Both microfilms and magnifications were offered, from the collections of the National Library or other institutions, as well as copies of items provided by the ordering party.¹¹⁸ In 1952, 210 orders were recorded, with this number growing to 650 in 1956, 25 of which originated from outside of Poland.

From 1951, microfilms were available at the Station's premises. Regrettably, the modest facilities at Okólnik Street did not allow for arranging

117 In the stocktaking process, basic information on the original was recorded, i.e. the full name of the author, abridged title and place of origin, accompanied by the shelf mark and number of pages as well as technical data of the microform such as the type of microfilm (negative or positive), film type (e.g. 35 mm, perforated), number of frames, shelf mark and date of production.

118 Sample prices in the 1950s were for example PLN 0.45 per frame for positive copies, and in the case of magnifications, depending on the size: PLN 4.20 for a 13x18 cm copy, PLN 7.20 for 18x24 cm and PLN 9 for 24x30 cm. The total value of the orders placed in 1956 amounted to PLN 185,868.50. By comparison, in the same year, the Planning and Provisioning Division acquired cameras and technical equipment worth PLN 140,000 and spent PLN 200,000 on photochemical materials and microfilm tape. *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945–1956*, op. cit., p. 129; *Katalog Mikrofilmów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Catalogue of the National Library Microfilms], issue 1, Warszawa 1951, p. 1; *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za 1956 rok* [National Library Report for 1956], Warszawa 1957, p. 54.

an appropriate access space. Only a provisional reading room with four readers could be offered to the public.¹¹⁹ As a result, attendance oscillated between 30 and 40 people annually. This situation slightly improved in August of 1957, when the Station moved to the northern wing of the Palace of the Commonwealth on Krasiński Square in Warsaw.¹²⁰ Another major issue affecting the number of materials that could be made available to the readers was the low rate of positive copy production. Indeed, Mr Wyczański believed this was one of the four major flaws in the institution's activity.¹²¹ As a result, a reader interested in using a specific microfilm was forced to wait until the Station made a positive copy. This inconvenient situation only improved in the 1960s due to the efforts of Konrad Zawadzki.

The basic responsibility of the Station was to “create a microfilm collection including the most valuable manuscripts, early printed books [...] on a national scale.”¹²² It took up the challenge of building the “Central Historical Film Archives”, also called the “National Historical Film Archives.”¹²³ The lack of any top-down, national plans or guidelines made this ambitious task even more complex. Thus, Mr Wyczański had to outline a microfilming programme from scratch, taking into account the diverse collections of many institutions from the entire country.

First of all, a decision was made that the National Library would incur all the costs of this initiative. On top of that, each institution that made its collections available would receive their positive copy for free. The program involved microfilming the most important monuments of Polish writing, which made it excessively risky and uneconomical to send the items concerned by mail. Consequently, the National Library arranged special shipments by an appropriately prepared company car. This required not only coordination between the working plans of the Station and the capabilities of the NL administrative section, but also the schedules had to be frequently arranged in concert with several other institutions. Preferably, the convoys were organised in a way

119 K. Zawadzki, “Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej” [Memories of my Work at the National Library], *Biuletyn Informacyjny BN* [National Library Information Bulletin], issue 1, 1997, p. 23.

120 It was not until 1960, upon completion of an overhaul of the entire building, that attempts were made to obtain new facilities. *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za lata 1957–1960*, op. cit., pp. 7, 10.

121 A. Wyczański, “Mikrofilm w archiwach...”, op. cit., p. 140.

122 A. Wyczański, “Dwa lata Stacji...”, op. cit., p. 164.

123 M. Łodyński, “Kilka uwag na marginesie dyskusji mikrofilmowej”, op. cit., p. 146.

that permitted returning holdings that had already been microfilmed by the NL and collecting new ones at the same time, for example from the Jagiellonian Library, Princes Czartoryski Library, Cracow Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences or the Silesian Library. In that period, it was not always possible to successfully complete initiatives that were so complex from a logistical point of view. In the winter, poor weather tended to be the main obstacle.¹²⁴ Also, car failures occasionally occurred.¹²⁵ At times, the borrowing of materials was given up due to the microfilm camera repairs discussed above.¹²⁶ It happened that lending libraries also requested modifications in the schedules, as for various reasons they were not always able to prepare the data sheets on time.¹²⁷

- 124 In February 1952, a shipment of manuscripts and early printed books to Kórnik was cancelled because of heavy snowfall. For the same reasons, at the end of December 1955, resources of the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter could not be returned on time. In winter 1956, two expeditions were postponed, with shipments of holdings of the Raczyński Library in Poznań, the Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the Wrocław University Library and the National Ossoliński Institute. In December 1957, the weather made it impossible to return three volumes of King Jan Olbracht's Gradual to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter. In order to avoid overdue notices, Director Horodyski went even as far as to propose a handover of the manuscript to a Church institution in Warsaw as mandated by the Chapter. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 135, Letter of the National Library Management to the Management Board of the Kórnik Library of 07/02/1952; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 137, Letter of the National Library Management to the Management Board of the Kórnik Library of 20/02/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 10, Letter of the National Library Management to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 27/12/1955; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 15, Letter of B. Horodyski, Director of the NL, to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 19/12/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 183–185, Letter of the Poznań Municipal Library to the NL of 23/01/1956, Letter of the NL to the Poznań Municipal Library of 20/02/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, pp. 19, 62, Letter of the NL to the Wrocław University Library of 04/04/1956, Letter of the NL to the National Ossoliński Institute of 4/04/1956.
- 125 In spring 1953, this was the reason why a trip to Wrocław was postponed. It was also how, in summer 1956, the National Library explained its delays in returning borrowed holdings to the Raczyński Library. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 185, Letter of the NL to the Poznań Municipal Library of 16/08/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 6, Letter of the NL to the Wrocław University Library of 2/04/1953.
- 126 Such a situation occurred for example in early August 1955 and again concerned the collections of the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter.
- 127 At the end of September 1953, Mr Pocięcha, PhD, head of the Manuscript Department of the Jagiellonian Library, informed the NL that in view of a planned exhibition and training of apprentices, the next batch of manuscripts would not be ready until the second half of October, which caused the original transport to be postponed. On another occasion, in November 1957, the Silesian Library failed to prepare a shipment of early printed books in time, also owing to an exhibition. Because of a meeting of university directors and the General Council of the Ministry of the Interior, the Jagiellonian Library requested postponing a transport date in October 1956. Half a year later, the obstacle that impeded the lending of new items was staff-related difficulties in the Manuscript Department of the JL. At the same time, the JL gave notice that they had purchased a microfilm camera with which they could perform more work on manuscripts themselves, in agreement with the National Library. In 1955, a shipment to the National Library

As far as resource selection is concerned, the cooperating institutions were fully autonomous in the beginning. The Station only specified an estimated number of volumes. As the initiative was progressing, this rule was gradually abandoned in order to avoid a random character in the resulting microform collection. In April 1957, the Scientific Council of the National Library appointed a commission on preservation and supplementation microfilming for Polish library holdings.¹²⁸ Its task was to establish detailed rules on selecting materials for microfilming and to liaise with other libraries regarding microfilming plan and its implementation. To this end, field studies were conducted and questionnaires were sent out. However, this commission, composed of specialists from various departments of the National Library, did not live up to expectations. On certain occasions, items already borrowed by the National Library had to be excluded from microfilming, for example upon consultations with the Department of Early Printed Books.¹²⁹ Selecting collections required the assistance of specialists from the Departments of Music Collections, Early Printed Books and Manuscripts, among others, while their employees were not always able to engage in the microfilming initiative because

from the Diocesan Archive in Płock planned for 15 April 1955 had to be postponed due to the death of the head of the latter, the rev. Wójcicki. In April and May 1956, since the Wrocław University Library was moving to a new location, it was unable to provide any larger batch of materials. In November 1952, the director of the Municipal Library in Gdańsk requested a shipment date to be postponed from 27 November to 4 December 1952, since the library received the list of early printed books selected for microfilming by Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa after a delay, and because of the insufficient number of typewriters, they were unable to prepare the required data sheets on time. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 15, Letter of M. Pelczar, Director of the Municipal Library in Gdańsk, to the National Library of 23/11/1952; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 97, Letter of the Silesian Library to the National Library of 27/11/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 97, Letter of Mr Pocięcha, PhD, to the National Library of 02/10/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 77, Letter of Jerzy Zatney, Head of the Manuscript Department of the Jagiellonian Library to the National Library of 17/04/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, p. 50, Letter of Mr Pocięcha, PhD, to the Management Board of the National Library of 25/09/1953; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 69–70, Letter of the National Library Management to the Diocesan Library and Archive in Płock of 18/03/1955, Letter of the Diocesan Curia of Płock to the National Library Management of 31/03/1955; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, pp. 20, 22–23, Letters of the Wrocław University Library to the National Library of 9/04/1956, 18/05/1956 and 24/05/1956.

128 M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofilm w pracy...", op. cit., p. 109.

129 In spring 1957, based on an inquiry conducted by Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa, copying a part of the 17th-century prints from the Płock Scientific Society such as *Respublica Moscoviae* of 1630 was abandoned, as it turned out that the National Library was in possession of their several copies. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 82, Letter of the National Library to the Zieliński Library of the Płock Scientific Society of 23/04/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 83, Note by Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa addressed to the Microfilm Station of 03/06/1957.

of their position-specific duties. Although in the second half of the 1950s, the Station's staff began to select titles at their own discretion, this was due to technical rather than content-related reasons. Because of the problems with defective negative tape mentioned above, certain retakes were required.¹³⁰ Forwarding collections for refilming was easier for home institutions, since it did not require preparing data sheets, but the fact alone that the National Library requested specific items caused various implementation problems. Often, providing the indicated materials was impossible for reasons such as ongoing research, maintenance, loans or exhibitions.¹³¹ Furthermore, in the early 1950s,

130 A case in point, in July 1954, 57 items from the Princes Czartoryski Library and 36 from the Jagiellonian Library were selected for refilming. In early 1956, the Raczyński Library was contacted in a similar case. Also, 36 further manuscripts of the Princes Czartoryski Library were requested. In April 1957, microfilms of 48 manuscripts and 5 early printed books from the Kórnik Library of the PAS were indicated as requiring rectification. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 153, Letter of the NL to the Kórnik Library of 15/04/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 224, Letter of the NL to the Princes Czartoryski Library of 1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 275, List of shelf marks of the early printed books sent to be refilmed of 28/07/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 181, Letter of the National Library to the Municipal Library in Poznań of 12/01/1956.

131 In May 1954, the Princes Czartoryski Library refused to provide three manuscripts and one early printed book, as they had been lent previously. In such situations, the National Library usually waited until the resources were returned to the home institution, with a few exceptions. For example, in July 1953, the Toruń branch of the Provincial State Archives in Bydgoszcz sent directly to the Station, upon the request of the Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Gdańsk, a 16th-century manuscript borrowed from the latter, which included the proceedings of the Royal Prussia Estates. Institutions tended to refuse to provide items they needed at a particular moment, for example for exhibition or editorial purposes. This was why in March 1954 the Kórnik Library of the PAS did not pass on manuscript B.K. 1508 for microfilming; in January 1956, the Jagiellonian Library did the same for four manuscripts. In turn, in April 1953, Prof. Jan Dąbrowski, curator of the Cracow Library of the PAS, refused to lend manuscripts by Hugo Kołłątaj for microfilming owing to editorial works conducted by the vicedirector of the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Prof. Bogusław Leśnodorski. Poor condition of the holdings also hampered the loans. This was the case for, among others, six manuscripts of the Kórnik Library of the PAS selected for microfilming in March 1956 (The Kórnik Library proposed microfilming them at the studios of the Poznań University Library or at the Poznań Provincial Archives at the expense of the National Library). Two months earlier, the same library refused to lend other manuscripts, subject to conservation since November 1955. As a result, out of the 56 items requested by the National Library, only 16 could be microfilmed. There was another particular problem with making security copies of the Kórnik collections. The selected manuscripts with shelf marks B.K.1398, B.K.1399, B.K.1544, B.K.1546–B.K.1553, and B.K.1555 turned out to be variable materials, supplemented time after time, which made their loan impossible. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 16, Letter of the Provincial State Archives in Bydgoszcz, Toruń Branch, to the National Library of 01/07/1953; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 130, Letter of the Management Board of the Kórnik Library to the National Library of 18/03/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 136, Letter of the Management Board of the Kórnik Library to the National Library of 24/01/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 66, Letter of the Vice-director of the Jagiellonian Library to the Management Board of the National Library of 13/01/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 209, Letter of the Princes Czartoryski Library to the Managing Team of the

the government ordered libraries to cede a part of their collections to the archives.¹³² Microfilming helped the National Library retain as microrecords the holdings of the Zamoyski Archive, for example, which were passed to CAHR following that decision by the authorities.¹³³ Such mundane issues as wrong shelf marks entered by the Station's staff or requesting items that had already been microfilmed and did not require any modifications additionally complicated the task.¹³⁴

Difficulties in the implementation of the preservation project were not over once the collections reached the Station. The equipment breakdowns discussed above or staff-related issues provoked delays in microfilming, which in turn led to keeping the holdings longer than agreed upon. This exposed the National Library to overdue notices from the lending institutions.¹³⁵ An unprecedented situation took place in 1955 in connection with

Microfilm Station of the National Library of 04/05/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, p. 14, Letter of Prof. Jan Dąbrowski to the National Library of 04/07/1953.

- 132 This is why, for example, in October 1953, the Princes Czartoryski Library referred the NL to the Provincial State Archives in Cracow in matters related to a possible loan of 20 manuscripts previously owned by the former. In the same letter, the Princes Czartoryski Library informed the NL that they could not provide a further 14 manuscripts and one early printed book which were on loan at that time. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 207, Letter of the National Museum in Kraków, Department of the Czartoryski Collections, to the Managing Team of the NL Microfilm Station of 28/10/1953.
- 133 These were: correspondence of Jan Zamoyski (42 items), *starosty* registers, *regesta* of revenue and expenses of the Jan Zamoyski treasury (5 items) of the 16th century, correspondence of Tomasz Zamoyski, Katarzyna of Ostróg Zamoyska, the Koniecpolski family, Marcin Zamoyski, Anne of Gniscy Zamoyska and the sons of Marcin Zamoyski (27 items), *acta advocatalia*, exactor's books, court decrees and judgements (17 items) of the 17th century, correspondence of Tomasz Józef Zamoyski and Michał Zdzisław Zamoyski (5 items), Naruszewicz's Files (9 items) and various other files (4 items) of the 18th century as well as a 19th century inventory of the Royal Agricultural Society. *Katalog Mikrofilmów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Catalogue of the National Library Microfilms], issue 2, Warszawa 1952; *Zbiory rękopisów w bibliotekach i muzeach w Polsce* [Manuscript Collections in Polish Libraries and Museums], ed. D. Kamolowa, contribution by T. Sieniacka, vol. 1, Warszawa 2003, pp. XVII–XXVIII.
- 134 For example: NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 66, 220, Letter of the Jagiellonian Library's Vice-director to the National Library Management of 13/01/1956, Letter of the Princes Czartoryski Library to the National Library of 16/11/1955.
- 135 In 1952, the Kórnik Library of the PAS issued three overdue notices in respect to autographs by S. Graczyński (shelf mark B.K.1688), A. Mickiewicz (shelf mark B.K.1608–1610), J. Słowacki (shelf mark B.K. 1643) and C.K. Norwid (shelf mark B.K. Arch. Dział. Pudło czerw. 16) and files of the Masurians in Prussia (shelf mark B.K. 1429–1434). These holdings were most in demand among the library staff and readers, while restoration was planned in the case of Norwid's manuscripts. In the last quarter of 1955, the NL received overdue notices from the Provincial State Archives in Cracow (which needed manuscripts with shelf mark 5479 from the collection of correspondence between Prince Czartoryski and Lord Dudley for research), the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute. The latter case was quite peculiar, since the Ossoliński directors requested the Station to return 13 manuscripts borrowed from the Princes Czartoryski Library. As these holdings were unavailable in Cracow, Anna Owsieńska, PhD, was unable to complete a monograph commissioned by the Ossoliński Publishing House entitled

catalogue descriptions from the Wrocław University Library. The latter mistakenly provided catalogue cards – the basic records of the holdings – instead of data sheets.¹³⁶

As mentioned above, the technical staff received training on how to handle these precious items. Microfilming was cancelled if it could cause damage to the originals. For instance, in January 1956, copying two manuscripts in hard bindings was abandoned, as they were difficult to open and their spines could break.¹³⁷ Despite the high protection standards, lending libraries complained about inappropriate handling of their holdings.¹³⁸ However, in most cases it turned out that the condition of the items was already poor at the moment of delivery. This notwithstanding, in such situations the National Library proposed restoration at its own expense¹³⁹. Only once did collections get damaged

Pamiętniki J.A. Petrykowskiego [Memoirs of J.A. Petrykowski]. In 1956, the Płock Scientific Society inquired when their collections would be returned. Moreover, the Department of Early Printed Books of the Jagiellonian Library asked for the return of the print by Sebastian Petryca *De natura, causis...* that Prof. Barycz needed for his works. In June 1957, the National Library received as many as three overdue notices from the Silesian Library (calling for return of the periodicals borrowed), the Kórnik Library of the PAS (which needed an ephemeron by Stanisław Trembecki entitled *Gość w Heilsbergu* [Guest in Heilsberg] of 1784) and the Raczyński Library (regarding all the materials lent in August 1956). NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, pp. 94, 139, Letter of the Silesian Library Director to the National Library of 13/09/1957, Letter of the Kórnik Library of the PAS to the National Library of 24/09/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, pp. 124, 126–127, 129, Letters of the Management Board of the Kórnik Library to the Management of the National Library of 26/06/1952, 26/08/1952, 22/11/1952 and 23/12/1952; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 71, 76, Letters of the Head of the Jagiellonian Library Department of Early Printed Books to the National Library of 9/08/1956 and 02/11/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, pp. 64, 442, Letter of the Provincial State Archives in Cracow to the National Library of 03/10/1955, Letter of the Head of the Manuscript Department of the Jagiellonian Library to the National Library of 04/11/1955; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 74, Letter of the Płock Scientific Society to the National Library of 21/09/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 6, Letter of the Poznań Municipal Library to the NL of 24/09/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 97, Letter of the National Ossoliński Institute to the National Library of 19/12/1955.

- 136 This forced the Station's employees to time-consuming works on preparing their copies. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, pp. 11–12, Letter of the Wrocław University Library to the National Library of 22/02/1955, Letter of the National Library to the Wrocław University Library of 04/05/1955.
- 137 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 56, Letter of the National Library Management to the Management Board of the Jagiellonian Library of 12/01/1956.
- 138 For instance, in 1951, Jagiellonian Library reported damages to the bindings of two volumes of *Acta Tomiciana* to the Station. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 42, Letter of the Jagiellonian Library to Andrzej Wyczański, PhD, Head of the National Library Microfilm Station of 1951.
- 139 In 1955, the Raczyński Library alleged that a 15th century codex with shelf mark 1583 was unprofessionally handled, which resulted in its frontal cover being completely torn off the block. Upon checking the acceptance protocols, it turned out that the item had been received by the Station in that condition, therefore, no microfilming was attempted. This notwithstanding, since the mere transport could have affected its state of conservation, the National Library proposed restoring the codex at its own expense. In early 1956

in transport.¹⁴⁰ Occasionally, some items were lost, but considering the scale of the entire enterprise, involving at least 42 shipments between 1952 and 1959, these were isolated incidents, and besides, they were quickly clarified.¹⁴¹

From 1950 to 1958, the Station microfilmed 6,295 titles of manuscripts and 3,128 early printed books in total.¹⁴²

and in autumn 1957, the Kórnik Library of the PAS made similar objections against the Station's actions. It turned out, however, that the Station's staff could not be held accountable for the damaged cover spines, torn bindings, detached protection leaves or loose leaves in five codices, as the acceptance protocols showed that they had been received in this condition by the National Library. The bindings of those defectively sewn manuscripts had been cut by the former director of the Kórnik Library, Prof. Bodniak (the professor decided to cut the bindings himself, since the manuscripts required proper resewing anyway). Then again, the National Library promised to cover the restoration costs in this case too. At the same time, the head of the Station recalled that lending libraries must exclude such deteriorated items from microfilming. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 136, 140, 142, Letter of the Management Board of the Kórnik Library to the National Library of 24/01/1956 and 27/09/1957, Letter of the National Library Director to the Management Board of the Kórnik Library of 05/10/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 179–180, Letter of the Municipal Library in Poznań to the National Library of 10/08/1955, Letter of the National Library to the Municipal Library in Poznań of 12/09/1955.

- 140 In April 1956, during a return transport to the National Ossoliński Institute, several manuscripts were severely abraded and one gravely damaged by a nail protruding from a board due to improper packaging. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 64, Letter of the National Ossoliński Institute to the National Library of 20/04/1956.
- 141 In 1951, the Jagiellonian Library inquired whether any loose leaves from a manuscript with the shelf mark B.J. 3660 had been found at the Station (leaves k.54–56 and k.168–178). In April 1955, one of the codices owned by the Wrocław University Library was mistakenly shipped to the National Ossoliński Institute as a result of a joint transport to Wrocław. In July 1957, a small, 18-page manuscript of the Princes Czartoryski Library with shelf mark 3518 was lost, later found to have slipped under a hard cover of another codex. In the same shipment, the Silesian Library employees overlooked a couple of volumes of the *Gwiadka Cieszyńska* [Cieszyn Star] magazine (volumes: 76:1923, 77:1924, 78:1925, 80:1927, 81:1928, 82:1929, 83:1930). The missing issues were sent in mid-July to the Station by mail. In 1954, the Princes Czartoryski Library separately sent the National Library data sheets which by mistake had not been attached to a shipment of holdings. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, pp. 92–93, Letter of the National Library to the Silesian Library in Katowice of 05/07/1957, Letter of the Silesian Library Director to the National Library of 16/07/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 42, Letter of the Jagiellonian Library to Andrzej Wyczański, PhD, Head of the National Library Microfilm Station of 1951; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 92, Letter of the Princes Czartoryski Library to the National Library of 04/05/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 235–236, Letter of the National Library to the Princes Czartoryski Library of 09/07/1957, Letter of the Princes Czartoryski Library to the National Library of 16/07/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 15, Letter of the Wrocław University Library to the National Library of 03/05/1955.
- 142 *Katalogi Mikrofilmów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Microfilm Catalogues of the National Library], issues 1–7, Warszawa 1951–1958.

TABLE 4. MICROFILMING OF MANUSCRIPTS AT THE MICROFILM STATION

Lending institutions	up to the 15th century	16th century	17th century	18th century	19-20th century	Total
National Ossoliński Institute	107	130	530	874	380	2,021
Princes Czartoryski Library	25	159	212	623	168	1,187
National Library	118	190	179	220	161	868
Jagiellonian Library	135	174	51	87	136	583
Wrocław University Library	153	16	83	48	6	306
Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences	19	64	67	60	83	293
Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences	0	0	0	0	218	218
Raczyński Library	45	59	62	18	23	207
Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences	3	23	39	62	6	133
Kraków Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences	12	8	33	37	31	121
Archives of the Cracow Cathedral	78	14	15	0	1	108
Warsaw University Library	15	13	16	38	5	87
Archives of the Plock Chapter	10	0	0	37	28	75
Warsaw Public Library	0	0	0	0	36	36
State Archives (Czartoryski holdings)	0	0	5	17	4	26
Private collections	0	0	0	0	21	21
Poznań University Library	0	0	0	0	3	3
Lublin Public Library	0	0	0	0	2	2
Total	720	850	1,292	2,121	1,312	6,295

TABLE 5. MICROFILMING OF EARLY PRINTED BOOKS AT THE MICROFILM STATION

Early Printed Books	Incunables	16th century	17th century	18th century	Total
Jagiellonian Library	10	358	346	71	785
Provincial and Municipal Public Library in Gdańsk	18	286	98	93	495
Kórnik Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences	0	216	141	67	424
Library of the Plock Scientific Society	0	1	1	380	382
National Ossoliński Institute	3	278	32	3	316
National Library	2	123	51	98	274
Princes Czartoryski Library	0	217	12	6	235
Wrocław University Library	87	20	6	0	113
Kraków Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences	1	8	7	22	38
Library of the Urban Planning Institute	0	0	3	17	20
Warsaw University Library	0	2	5	8	15
Library of the Primate's Collegiate and Chapter in Łowicz	0	2	4	0	6
Library of the Warsaw School of Economics	0	0	0	5	5
Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences	0	0	0	5	5
Library of the Catholic University of Lublin	0	0	4	0	4
Municipal Library in Lublin	0	4	0	0	4
Library of the National Museum in Cracow	0	2	0	0	2
Warsaw Public Library	0	0	1	1	2
Raczyński Library	0	1	0	0	1
Toruń University Library	0	0	0	1	1
Municipal Library in Lublin	0	0	1	0	1
Total	121	1,518	712	777	3,128

By the end of 1961, the initiative to provide preservation microfilms of the most valuable holdings covered 6,592 manuscripts and 3,223 early printed books.¹⁴³ In 1956, the Station published the first thematic microfilm catalogue.¹⁴⁴ The selection criterion was a broad definition of music documents understood as source materials for music history. In consequence, along with manuscript and printed sheet music, composers' legacies – such as their correspondence, documents and mementoes, theoretical works and music lyrics – were also subject to microfilming. The materials were selected by specialists from the Music Department of the National Library, which sometimes required research in the lending libraries.¹⁴⁵ The first microfilm catalogue included almost 2,600 items in total. 667 manuscripts and two 16th-century prints from the Gdańsk Library of the PAS were listed. These were the only holdings previously prepared for microfilming separately.¹⁴⁶ At best, the holdings of other institutions had nothing but provisional, unstandardised descriptions, which made the catalogue even more challenging to prepare. 1,503 manuscripts were borrowed from the Library of the Warsaw Music Society, mostly related to the life and work of Fryderyk Chopin and Stanisław Moniuszko. A further 44 manuscripts and 91 early printed books came from the general collections of eleven entities. From private collections, the legacies of Feliks Nowowiejski and Ludomir Różycki were microfilmed.¹⁴⁷ In 1957, the Centre for the Documentation and Recording of Music Monuments in Poland was created at the Musicology Institute of the University of Warsaw.¹⁴⁸

143 Owing to gaps in the archival materials and changes in the microfilm catalogue format from an index to a thematic one, the data available for the years 1959–1961 are not equally detailed.

144 They included information on the music documents copied from 1950–1956, therefore, certain items copied under the general preservation microfilming initiative had been listed in the previous volumes of the publication too. However, new, expressly selected titles were the vast majority. *Katalog mikrofilmów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Microfilm Catalogue of the National Library], issue 8, *Katalog mikrofilmów muzycznych* [Catalogue of Music Microfilms], part 1, Warszawa 1956.

145 For instance, upon her visit to the Princes Czartoryski Library, M. Prokopowicz preliminarily selected about 250 manuscripts and music prints for microfilming. Additionally, it was planned that these items would be compared with the National Library's holdings. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, pp. 229–233, Correspondence between the National Library and the Princes Czartoryski Library from 22/09/1956–29/09/1956.

146 O. Günther, *Katalog der Handschriften der Danziger Bibliothek*, vol. 4, Danzig 1911.

147 197 items came from the Feliks Nowowiejski Archive in Poznań, including 14 photographs of the composer himself or showing a performance of his opera *The Legend of the Baltic*. Also, thanks to the courtesy of Stefania Ludomirowa, 93 items from the Ludomir Różycki Archive in Katowice were copied.

148 *Katalog mikrofilmów muzycznych* [Catalogue of Music Microfilms], issue 2, Warszawa 1962, pp. 7–9.

Its work in research, inquiries and recording provided excellent support to the initiative for microfilming music documents. At the same time, the National Library continued its studies aimed at selecting the most valuable items. In this way, from 1957–1961, 701 pieces from the Polish holdings were microfilmed, and over 60 microcopies acquired from foreign collections.¹⁴⁹

Microfilming music documents, many of which remained in manuscript form, made it no longer necessary to execute copies for solo musicians or orchestras. Releasing sheet music in print was expensive and complicated, while microphotography allowed copying every single piece of music, even the most complex one, in a seamless and quick way, and protected the original, as multiple copies or photographic magnifications were now available. Therefore, “microfilms and their magnifications sometimes formed the basis for the performance of certain musical works even outside Poland.”¹⁵⁰ Nonetheless, musicologists had certain objections as to the quality of the copies generated in this way, which “were far from exposing important features of musical expression such as interpretation.”¹⁵¹

From 1953, the microfilming initiative also included modern prints from nine institutions. However, these 208 titles, microfilmed with no specific criteria, were nothing but an episode in the Station’s history. The first attempts at copying Polish press were of much more importance. This issue was discussed by Mr Wyczański as early as in 1953 in *Przegląd*

149 As far as foreign collections are concerned, from the Ishan Memorial Library of Harvard University, copies were acquired of pre-war microfilms of tablatures originating in the Monastery of the Holy Spirit in Cracow and the Warsaw Music Society, whose originals had been destroyed in Warsaw in 1944. Microforms of *Cribrum musicum* by M. Scacchi, chapel master of the royal music of Warsaw from 1630–1649 and *Completorium romanum*, one of the two extant works by Wojciech Dębołęcki (2 manuscripts and 2 prints in total) were among those ordered from the G. B. Martini Library in Bologna. Works by Karol Kurpiński, Józef Elsner, Dawid Holland, Józef Kozłowski, Karol Ogiński and Michał Kleofas Ogiński (15 manuscripts and 20 prints in total) were obtained from Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden and Schwerin Mecklenburgische Landesbibliothek. Works by Feliks Janiewicz (21 prints in total) were found at the British Library and autographs by Karol Lipiński (2 manuscripts and 1 print) in Det Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen.

150 A. Wyczański, *Mikrofilm – nowa postać książki*, op. cit., p. 82.

151 For the above reasons, facsimile copies were considered to be the most exact surrogates available. In Poland, only the National Library microfilmed music documents on a larger scale. Even though the Toruń University Library also copied music prints, its entire activity in this respect – limited to polonaises and religious chants of the 16th century – only reached 350 items in 1978. L. Jarzębowski, “Potrzeby Biblioteki Uniwersyteckiej w Toruniu” [Needs of the Toruń University Library], *Gazeta Pomorska* [Pomerania Daily], edition B, issue 63, 1957, p. 3; M. Nałecz, “Najbliższe oryginałom” [Closest to the Originals] in *Przeszłość i przyszłość papieru* [The Future and the Past of Paper], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2006, pp. 245–250.

Biblioteczny [Librarian Review].¹⁵² The Station had little experience in this respect back then. In 1952, the press from the January Uprising 1863–1864, collected and supplemented by the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw on the basis of works by Stefan Kieniewicz, was copied.¹⁵³ At the same time, the Station was trying to complete the early issues of the *Robotnik* [The Worker] newspaper, but the initiative's results were ineffective due to the lack of bibliographic clues.¹⁵⁴ The next year, single issues of other communist press titles were copied.¹⁵⁵ Additionally, issues 11–16 of *Po Prostu. Dwutygodnik Literacko-Społeczny*, the social and literary fortnightly review (Vilnius 1936) as well as certain daily newspapers from the 1939 Defensive War, both from the National Library holdings, were microfilmed.

Despite little practical experience, Wyczański drew up an excellent policy for microfilming periodicals. Firstly, titles were to be selected if they deserved priority in preservation microfilming because of their scientific or historical importance. Secondly, the holdings of various libraries were to be reviewed and their state of preservation examined in order to discover the most complete collections of particular periodicals and indicate the items needed to complete them. Microfilming was to be preceded by preparation of descriptions of particular volumes and lists showing the sequences in which particular items should be filmed. Mr Wyczański proposed that major libraries, i.e. the National Library, the Warsaw University Library, the Jagiellonian Library, the National Ossoliński Institute, the Poznań University Library and the Wrocław University Library, should join the initiative

152 A. Wyczański, “W sprawie mikrofilmowania czasopism” [On Microfilming Periodicals], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 21, 1953, p. 138–143.

153 No data sheets of particular periodicals were placed on the microfilm tape (no. 375).

154 *Robotnik. Organ Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej* [The Worker. Organ of the Polish Socialist Party], issue 1–4, Warszawa 1894–1901, microfilm no. 3381.

155 From their own holdings: four issues of *Białostoczanin, Wydawnictwo Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej* [Białystok Citizen. Release of the Polish Socialist Party] (London–Białystok 1899–1905), two issues of *Listok Robotnika. Vychodit neperiodiceski Izdanie Rossijskoj Social-demokraticeskoj Raboczej Partii* (Geneva 1898); several issues of *Mysł Socjalistyczna. Miesięcznik polityczno-społeczny. Organ polskiej partii Socjalistycznej (Lewicy)* [Socialist Thought. Political and Social Monthly. Organ of the Polish Socialist Party (Left Wing)] (Kraków 1907–1908), *Światło. Czasopismo popularno naukowe. Organ Polskiej Partii Socjalistycznej* [Light. Popular Science Review. Organ of the Polish Socialist Party] (London 1898–1904) and *Przedświt* [Before the Dawn] (Geneva, Leipzig, London, Paris 1881–1912), as well as isolated issues of *Kolokol* (Geneva 1865–1870) and *Revue du Developpement Social, Politique et Litteraire en Russie* (Geneva 1865) from the Jagiellonian Library holdings; and several issues of *Z Pola Walki. Organ Polskiej Komisji Histpartu CKWKP* [From the Battlefield. Organ of the Polish Commission of the Historical Division of the All-Union Communist Party's Central Committee] (Moscow, 1926–1931) borrowed from the Warsaw University Library. *Katalog mikrofilmów Biblioteki Narodowej* [Microfilm Catalogue of the National Library], issue 3, Warszawa 1954.

to prepare the so-called issue list, indicating where to complete the gaps as well as preparing data sheets of periodicals from particular regions. The Station would be responsible for microfilming, completing the descriptions if necessary, and the copying process as such. These ideas were revisited in 1978, when the project of the National Microfilm Resources was under preparation. In the 1950s, however, the National Library tried to integrate particular volumes of Polish periodicals on microfilm independently.¹⁵⁶ In total, 1,486 volumes were microfilmed between 1957 and 1960.¹⁵⁷ From the 1960s, Konrad Zawadzki expanded the work on saving complete series of Polish press titles on microfilm on a scale unprecedented in Europe, based on the above policy and experience.

From the start, the National Library Microfilm Station was trying to implement a nation-wide policy of preserving the most valuable holdings. Its activity covered the collections of a few dozen institutions from the entire country as well as several foreign ones. Not only were state libraries and archives taken into account, but also private and Church-owned book collections. In the latter case, talks were held with the Primate of Poland, the rev. Stefan Wyszyński, in March 1959 on facilitating access to the holdings, which provoked an intervention of the state security services.¹⁵⁸ Cooperation with all institutions was always voluntary. Sometimes, it was solely based on oral agreements between the Management of the National Library and the management board of a particular library or the head of a specific department. Other cases had to be handled through official letters.¹⁵⁹ Nonetheless, usually an agreement was signed in which

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- 156 For example, the following were borrowed from the collections of the Silesian Library in Katowice: *Tygodnik Cieszyński* [Cieszyn Weekly], published as *Gwiazdka Cieszyńska* [Cieszyn Star] since 1851, *Gazeta Opolska* [Opole Newspaper] and *Zwiastun Górnoszlązki* [Upper Silesian Herald] (The Silesian Library also offered to lend *Nowiny Raciborskie* [Racibórz News] of 1847–1849, but the NL was already in possession of this title). As the collections of these titles were incomplete, the JL was contacted for the missing issues. Also, in collaboration with the Division of the Party's History of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party, further works were undertaken with respect to *Robotnik* [The Worker] of 1894–1907 and *Robotnik. Frakcja Rewolucyjna* [The Worker. Revolutionary Faction] of 1906–1914 and *Robotnik. PPS Lewica* [The Worker. Polish Socialist Party – Left] of 1908–1914. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 86. Correspondence between the National Library and the Silesian Library from 10/10/1956–25/11/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, pp. 79–80, Letters of the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library of 19/05/1957 and 25/11/1957; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 422–423, Acknowledgements of receipt of materials owned by the Polish United Workers' Party's Central Committee, Division of the Party's History, from the National Library Microfilm Station of 22/02/1957 and 18/04/1957.
- 157 *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za lata 1957–1960*, op. cit, p. 30.
- 158 NL, DDA, shelf mark 4/3, p. 7, Report of the works performed at the Division of Microfilm Holdings in Q2 1959.
- 159 To borrow any resources from the Kraków Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, the consent of Prof. Rogoziński, director of the PAS Publishing and Library Department, was

the National Library undertook to incur all transport and microfilming costs, provide one copy of the microfilm for free and assume full responsibility for the condition and return of the holdings.¹⁶⁰ Any restoration work or modification of the item's appearance required consent of the owner. Similar restrictions applied to utilising the resources lent to the National Library for research or publication purposes.¹⁶¹ The Station promised to return the materials within 6 months, around two weeks of which were dedicated to unpacking, verification and preparation of the items as well as control of the finished microfilms at the end, filming being performed throughout the rest of this time, at an estimated pace of 2,500–3,000 frames daily.

Due to numerous complications, the deadlines were not always observed. Therefore, in order to avoid all the above problems with borrowing holdings and to ensure their better protection, Mr Wyczański decided to set up a mobile Station. The equipment of the mobile laboratory consisted of a camera transported by car to the lending library, where the photo technicians of the NL took the photographs. The first expedition was organised as early as in October 1952 to the Archive and Library of the Cathedral Chapter in Płock.¹⁶² When establishing cooperation with other entities, the NL proposed that the most valuable resources or those unfit for transport due to a poor state of preservation be microfilmed at the home institutions.¹⁶³

required. To issue most of the manuscripts, the Princes Czartoryski Library needed approval from the Central Museum Authority of the Ministry of Culture and Arts, while the co-operation between the National Library and the National Ossoliński Institute was preceded by a letter of the Office for Culture and Education of the Government Executive Board of 5 February 1952. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 204, Letter of M. Wierzbicki, acting as the Head of the National Museum in Cracow, Division of the Czartoryski Collections, to the Management Board of the National Library Microfilm Station of 05/10/1953; p. 208, Letter of the Director of the Central Museum Authority of the Ministry of Culture and Arts to the National Library of 16/10/1953; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 371–372, Letter of prof. Z. Rogoziński, director of the Department of Publishing and Libraries of the PAS to the National Library of 31/10/1952 in reply to a letter of the National Library of 04/08/1952; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, pp. 42–49, Correspondence between the National Library and the National Ossoliński Institute of 16/02/1952 and 20/03/1952.

- 160 NL, DDA, Agreement on providing microfilm and photography documentation of 17/09/1960 signed with the Chapter Library in Gniezno and with the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, no shelf mark; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 6, Letter of the National Library Management to the Archives of the Cracow Cathedral Chapter of 28/09/1954.
- 161 For instance, in 1952, the vice-director of the Raczyński Library agreed to make manuscripts no. 157 and 158 available to Jadwiga Karawasińska; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 171, Letter of the Director of the Municipal Library in Poznań to the National Library of 17/05/1952.
- 162 *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945–1956*, op. cit., p. 125.
- 163 For instance, in accordance with these principles, the Kraków Library of the PAS selected 15 manuscripts in February 1953. In January 1955, the Chapter Library in Wrocław indi-

However, preparing further expeditions without a handy mobile camera proved troublesome.¹⁶⁴ Eventually, the idea of the mobile Station was given up due to the lack of technical resources.

Apart from implementing its own microfilming policy, the National Library also copied collections upon the request of other institutions, organisations or private clients. From 1953–1956, the Station collaborated, for example, with the Military and Historical Commission of the Ministry of National Defence,¹⁶⁵ the Ministry of Culture and Arts,¹⁶⁶ the Western Institute in Poznań,¹⁶⁷ the Chair of the History of Philosophy of the University of Warsaw,¹⁶⁸ the Order of the Franciscan Fathers in Warsaw,¹⁶⁹ the National Museum in Warsaw,¹⁷⁰ and various private persons.¹⁷¹

cated 8 such manuscripts, including *Liber fundationis monasterii B. Mariae in Henrichov...* NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, p. 11, Letter of Prof. Jan Dąbrowski, Curator of the Cracow Library of the PAS of 27/02/1953; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 497, Letter of the Archbishop's Curia of Wrocław to the National Library of 04/01/1955.

- 164 Visits to such institutions as the Diocesan Archive and Library in Płock or the Chapter Library in Wrocław were constantly postponed. This is why when requesting financial aid from the Polish diaspora, a need for a mobile laboratory was also reported. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 57, Letter of the National Library Management to the Diocesan Archive and Library in Płock (to the attention of the rev. can. J. Wójcicki) of 28/09/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 500, Letter of the National Library to the Chapter Archive in Wrocław of 23/08/1955.
- 165 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 130, Letter of the Management Board of the Kórnik Library to the National Library of 18/03/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, pp. 274, 276, 278, 493, Letters of Tadeusz Nowak, Secretary of the Military and Historical Commission of the Ministry of National Defence to the National Library Microfilm Station of 14/10/1953, 23/02/1955, 24/09/1956 and 24/11/1953.
- 166 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 382, Acceptance protocol of the Princes Czartoryski Library of 20/05/1954, p. 390, Acceptance protocol for the holdings of the Princes Czartoryski Library and the Jagiellonian Library of 15/05/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/3, pp. 385–386, Acceptance protocol of the Kraków Library of the PAS of 17/05/1954; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 383–384, Acceptance protocol for a manuscript of the Kórnik Library of the PAS of 14/05/1954, pp. 387–388, Acceptance protocol of the Łopaciński Public Library in Lublin of 15/05/1954.
- 167 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, p. 389, Acknowledgement of receipt – materials of the Commission of Nazi Crimes Research in Poland of 01/06/1954.
- 168 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/1, p. 137, Letter of the NL to the Kórnik Library of 20/02/1956; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 69, Letter of the NL Management to the Management Board of the Jagiellonian Library of 20/02/1956.
- 169 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 392–403, 424–428, Correspondence between the National Library and the Order of the Franciscan Fathers in Warsaw (on Franciszkańska 2) from 07/05/1954–24/11/1959.
- 170 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 405–416, Confirmations of receipt of the Inventory Books of the National Museum in Warsaw for 05/04/1956–05/07/1957.
- 171 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/2, p. 222, Letter of the NL to the Princes Czartoryski Library of 03/12/1955; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, pp. 16–28, Correspondence between the NL and the Wrocław University Library from 19/04/1955–03/10/1957.

MICROFILMING AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND FROM 1962–1992

Nearly ten years of commitment and dedication on the part of Andrzej Wyczański and his team made the “National Library Microfilm Station [...] one of the major institutions of its kind in Europe. It gathered a huge sum of experience, created a valuable collection of microfilms, trained a powerful team, giving microfilming a proper place in Poland.”¹⁷² In the initial period, emphasis was laid on technical issues related to the operation of unfamiliar modern equipment, as well as hiring and forming competent staff. Another problem was a widespread reluctance towards the new kind of collections. In order to remedy this unsatisfactory situation, guided visits and conferences were arranged, articles were published and guests invited.¹⁷³ Staff related issues were not limited to acquiring and training employees. The fact that the work was tedious, charged with responsibility, badly paid and involved health risks brought about high employee turnover. Additionally, Mr Wyczański had to prepare organisational charts based only on the literature and his own experience, both with respect to the workflow and the collection structure. Next, great challenges had to be faced in order to standardise the descriptions of the new holdings and the principles of their production. As to the technical issues, attempts were made at launching domestic production of various materials and devices with mixed success. As a result, Wyczański became the major Polish promoter and expert on microforms. Many institutions requested his help when setting up and arranging their own studios.¹⁷⁴

The negative factors mentioned before fully underline the poorer aspects of the Station’s performance. The technical quality of the first microfilm batch failed to comply with European standards, which led to necessary retakes. Likewise, the catalogue descriptions required amendments.¹⁷⁵ The stocktaking and duplicate storage procedures also had to be

172 *Biblioteka Narodowa w latach 1945–1956*, op. cit., p. 136.

173 For example, in 1953 when Zbigniew Zapert visited the Station, he admired the novel *Lalka* by Bolesław Prus in a microfilm copy weighing only 60 g, 35 mm wide and 25 m long. Z. Zapert, “Mikrofilmy w BN” [Microfilms at the National Library], *Film*, issue 21, 1953, p. 6.

174 In the early 1950s, a similar request was made by the CAHR, while in 1955, Edward Kiernicki, PhD, Vice-director of the National Ossoliński Institute, inquired about possible consultations. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/5, p. 60, Letter of Edward Kiernicki, PhD, Vice-director of the National Ossoliński Institute to the Director of the National Library of 11/03/1955.

175 K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe” [Microfilm Collections] in *50 lat Biblioteki Narodowej* [50 Years of the National Library], Warszawa 1984, p. 204.

modified. Mr Wyczański was fully aware of these deficiencies.¹⁷⁶ He listed unsatisfactory equipment maintenance and low production of positives as the main weaknesses, which translated into the scant use of microforms at the provisional reading room. In terms of library issues, delays in preparing microfilms were the fundamental problem. The above errors do not undermine, however, the highly positive overall assessment of the Station's output, as it managed to create a microfilm collection of the most valuable library resources, described in printed catalogues. The microfilming initiative caused cataloguing works to accelerate, which is best illustrated by the development of the Central Catalogue of Early Printed Books, which later formed the basis of selection for microfilming. Thanks to the efforts of Mr Wyczański, the Management of the National Library, and representatives of the Ministry of Culture, a "network was successfully created, centrally built by the National Library, without arbitrary orders, overdue notices, rivalry or unhealthy ambition."¹⁷⁷ The standards he developed formed the basis for further activity of the Microfilm Station.

On 30 April 1959, Mr Wyczański ceased to be the head of the Microfilm Station. This decision was of a political nature. The Management of the National Library was forced to appoint Waclaw Marciniak, a Polish United Workers' Party activist, to this position. The new manager, who lacked higher education and had previously worked as a low-level provisioning worker, was not much concerned with the entity's activity.¹⁷⁸ Other qualified staff members were also dismissed for political reasons at the end of the 1950s and beginning of the 1960s. This was provoked by the cooperation established between the Station and Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, aiming to further develop the microfilming of Church collections, especially those from Gniezno.¹⁷⁹ As a result, in the first half of the 1960s, the lack of qualified staff became one of the most serious problems for the unit responsible for contents.

176 A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., p. 140.

177 A. Wyczański, "Biblioteka Narodowa – okiem...", op. cit., p. 18.

178 Instead, according to the memories of Konrad Zawadzki, the head of the Station dedicated much time to his real passion, football refereeing, which often made him „leave Warsaw for places like Otwock, Zielonka, Wołomin and other small localities of the city's area.” K. Zawadzki, "Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej", op. cit., p. 22.

179 Following an intervention of the state security services, employees in charge of special collections were dismissed and received "wolf tickets", such as, among others, Zofia Rozanow from the division of reproductions. "Wywiad z Zofią Razańską" [Interview with Zofia Rozanow], *Niedziela-tygodnik katolicki* [Sunday. Catholic Weekly], vol. 54, issue 45, 2011, p. 32.

Another severe blow for the Station came on 2 January 1962, when, pursuant to a decision of the Library Management, the Division of Microfilm Holdings was separated from the Station and incorporated into the Library Section as the Department of Microfilm Holdings.¹⁸⁰ Konrad Zawadzki was appointed as its head as of 01/8/1961. Meanwhile, the responsibilities of the former Station became limited to technical tasks. It was moved to the administrative section and later had its name changed to the Reprographics Department. In this way, the structure developed by Mr Wyczański was torn apart. Moreover, the two independent departments the Station had been split apart and had to operate within two different sections of the National Library, which hindered cooperation and coordination of the works. This provoked, for example, a permanent conflict between Konrad Zawadzki and Henryka Jankowska. When many years later Mr Wyczański commented on this division, he admitted that “perhaps such an independent structure of a national reach seemed difficult to accept and maintain [to the Library authorities]?”¹⁸¹

The name “Microfilm Station”¹⁸² remained in use, however, up until the 1970s, despite its responsibilities being limited to technical and production tasks.¹⁸³ Its activity now consisted in producing microfilms, photo reproductions and photocopies upon the request of the National Library, and maintaining the microfilms archived, as well as producing microfilms, photo reproductions and photocopies for other clients, the services provided to the National Library being of primary importance.¹⁸⁴

180 *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1962* [Report of the National Library for 1962], ed. E. Kurdybacha, Warszawa 1964, p. 9.

181 A. Wyczański, “Biblioteka Narodowa – okiem...”, op. cit., p. 19.

182 The term “microfilm studio” only appeared in the reports of the National Library for 1971–1972. The more adequate name of Reprographics Department was predominantly used from 1973. In the present study, in order to distinguish it from the original Microfilm Station, the name “Reprographics Department” will be used with reference to the entity from 1962. *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1971* [Report of the National Library for 1971], ed. I. Gołabek-Szczepańska, Warszawa 1977, p. 101 et seq.; *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1972* [Report of the National Library for 1972], ed. R. Łubek, Warszawa 1981, p. 80 et seq.

183 Their responsibilities and procedures were defined in the new professional regulations effective as of January 1962. Apart from the internal regulations, general professional regulations were also introduced in the library. They obliged the Reprographics Department employees i.a. to work from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. 6 days a week. NL, DDA, shelf mark 53/474, pp. 4–15, National Library Professional Regulations. Instructions on Documentation and Circulation Recording came into effect at the same time. NL, DDA, shelf mark 53/476, pp. 2–26, Instructions on Documentation and Circulation Recording.

184 Furthermore, the staff became accountable for conducting research and experiments in microfilming technology. Their scope of responsibilities was defined in annual quality and quantity plans, subject to prior approval of the management. The department’s budget – a part of the National Library general budget – was planned in a similar way. It was made

The internal structure was built upon the existing solutions developed by Mr Wyczański. The head of the department responded directly to the Economic Director of the National Library. On 16 August 1964, Henryka Jankowska was appointed to this position.¹⁸⁵ As a result of her endeavours, the pool of machines was upgraded in the 1970s. A Recordak microfilm camera was purchased along with Dutch Kinotechniek and Cobilabor developing machines. With the acquisition of a Jacknau microfiche camera, microfiche production was launched. Furthermore, due to new kinds of copy machines, the diazo technology was introduced, enabling them to copy microfilms more quickly and economically. The National Library was also the first in Poland to use xerography, from the mid-1970s.¹⁸⁶ In the 1990s, colour photography started being used to record the events organised by the NL, and colour reproductions were also executed for editorial purposes. In 1994, Ms Jankowska supervised the transfer of the Department from the Palace of the Commonwealth to the new NL premises in Mokotów Field. This was accompanied by the entity's internal restructuring: it was divided into four sections and two independent positions. At the end of July 1995, Jankowska resigned as the head of the Reprographics Department, after over thirty years in that office.¹⁸⁷

The machine pool upgrade increased the quality of the microfilms. This was made evident by the fact that microcopies ordered by institutions such as Harvard University, the Library of Congress or the Bodleian Library not only were not returned, but were often praised for their quality. The number of orders regularly grew to exceed 4,000 annually in 1994. Throughout Henryka Jankowska's 30 years in office, only once did a grave dispute occur between the service provider and a client.¹⁸⁸ Difficulties in

clear that the unit did not form a separate body for organisational and financial purposes. NL, DDA, shelf mark 53/473, pp. 1–22, Internal Regulations of the Microfilm Station.

185 NL, Personal files, Henryka Jankowska, no pagination, scope of responsibilities.

186 Initially, domestically produced equipment – the successive Pyłorys models – was used, later to be replaced by automatic book xerocopiers manufactured by AGFA and automatic microfilm photocopiers made by Canon.

187 Henryka Jankowska did not leave the NL completely. On 18/09/1995, she started working as a part-time custodian at the Information and Access Department of the Centre for Cultural Heritage Protection (OODK). This employment was terminated on 31/12/2006 upon mutual agreement. NL, Personal files, Henryka Jankowska, no pagination.

188 In June 1973, Jacek Zaremba from Nowy Sącz complained in a letter to the Management that a microfilm he received contained a number of underexposed or out-of-focus photographs, its surface was scratched and that in some cases wrong pages had been photographed. Furthermore, the Department failed to provide information on the performance term of the order, which involved texts from 20 different periodical titles. It turned out that the oversight which provoked those defects resulted from the fact that the Department was simultaneously performing other, equally complex works. The microfilming was repeated

providing regular deliveries of photochemical materials and spare parts for equipment to the entity she managed were a permanent challenge.¹⁸⁹

The basic activity consisted in the production of negatives and positives both for the National Library and upon external orders.¹⁹⁰ In 1962–1994, over 15,243,869 negative frames and over 1,640,033.5 metres of positives were produced. Additionally, the Reprographics Department offered 6x9 reproductions as well as photocopies and magnifications. These services were provided upon external orders and for the Department of Iconographic Collections: for the contact sheet collection, the construction files of the building in Mokotów Field in Warsaw and exhibitions organised by the National Library. Sporadically, orders by other National Library units were accepted, for example in 1985, when 4,056 magnifications were produced for the Manuscript Department.¹⁹¹ These services were also affected by deficiencies in provisions.¹⁹² From 1962–1994, over 122,800 reproductions along with over 447,380 magnifications and photocopies were produced in total.¹⁹³

Konrad Zawadzki was entrusted with the management of the Department of Microfilm Holdings (DMH),¹⁹⁴ separated from the Microfilm Station in January 1962. That entity's scope of responsibilities remained

under a complaint procedure. NL, Personal files, Henryka Jankowska, no pagination, Letter of Jacek Zaremba to the director of the National Library of 07/06/1973, Letter of Henryka Jankowska to Citizen Jacek Zaremba of 02/07/1973, no shelf mark.

- 189 For example, in the first half of 1987, the Centrala Foto–Kino–Film [Photo – Cinema – Film Headquarters] company had no positive tape, which decreased the efficiency of the Department. In 1981, in view of the country's economic crisis, Polish fixers and developers were nowhere to be found in the shops, so the Reprographics Department employees manufactured chemicals with components purchased from the „Chemia” [Chemistry] enterprise. NL, Personal files, Henryka Jankowska, no pagination, letter of Henryka Jankowska to Director Czajka of 05/04/1988, no shelf mark. NL, DDA, shelf mark 93/18/1, p. 11, Report on the activities of the Administrative Section's organisation in 1981, no shelf mark.
- 190 Since 1981, microfilms were also made for the Department of Collections Supplementation of the National Library (DCS), a fact which started to be taken into account in the reports as of 1983. From that moment, data about the photographs developed were published.
- 191 *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1985* [Report of the National Library for 1985], ed. K. Diehl, Warszawa 1992, p. 102.
- 192 In early 1992, the Reprographics Department had only 15 6x9 films, which allowed them to make 150 reproductions, whereas acquiring any larger amounts of film was extremely complicated. *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1982* [Report of the National Library for 1982], ed. W. Pawlak, Warszawa 1983, p. 100.
- 193 The Reprographics Department was also irregular in providing information about other types of services provided, such as developing colour photographs, including colour reproductions, making diapositives, magnifications and special photographs, production of offset matrices and colour slides, providing photographic documentation of National Library events in colour as photographs and negatives as well as making photocopies.
- 194 It was called the Division of Microfilm Holdings until 30/12/1970. Order of the National Library Director of 30/12/1970 effective as of 31/12/1970.

unchanged. It still involved library tasks such as registering materials received for microfilming, keeping catalogues, making microforms available to readers and collecting the photocopies of illuminated medieval manuscript pages and portraits of prominent personalities produced at the laboratory. Nonetheless, the new manager introduced a couple of substantial changes.

In his memoirs, Zawadzki admitted that he lacked knowledge on microfilms at the moment when Director Horodyski appointed him to this position. He only became one of the most prominent specialists in this area due to extensive studies of the professional literature and practical experience. It was evident that despite Mr Wyczański's efforts, upon his dismissal a negative attitude towards microforms started to prevail among the librarian community again. Microcopies were seen as "a technical novelty with little practical use", while microfilm resources were regarded as inferior, second-rate holdings.¹⁹⁵ The new management of the Library no longer seemed to be equally interested in microforms.¹⁹⁶ Moreover, no policy of resource protection had been specified, precise working plans were missing, the staff was composed of randomly appointed employees, and the limited facilities available made it impossible for the Department to work properly. "A long *Sturm und Drang* period began", as Mr Zawadzki once put it, as he was fighting with the library administration for space for a warehouse and a reading room, necessary office supplies, appropriate microfilm tape, and even such mundane issues as making an entry to the toilet from the corridor.¹⁹⁷

The Palace of the Commonwealth, after its general overhaul in 1960, apart from the two departments that the former Microfilm Station had been split into, also housed the Agency for International Exchange of the National Library's Publications and the departments of the Section of Special Collections – Music, Iconographic, Cartographic, Manuscript and Early Printed Book.¹⁹⁸ Consequently, saying that the Department was facing problems with space is an understatement. As early as in the third quarter

195 K. Zawadzki, "Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej", op. cit., p. 21.

196 The only ones to support and understand him were Alodia Kawecka-Gryczowa, Head of the Department of Early Printed Books, Helena Hleb-Koszańska, Head of the Bibliographic Institute, and Director Bogdan Horodyski, assistant professor (the latter acted as the Head of the Manuscript Department as of 1945, and as the NL Director since 1956, and in 1962 he was appointed the Vice-director for Library Issues). *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1965* [Report of the National Library for 1965], ed. Z. Czaykowska, Warszawa 1971, p. I.

197 K. Zawadzki, "Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej", op. cit., p. 23.

198 *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za lata 1957–1960*, op. cit, p. 10.

of 1962, Zawadzki complained about the lack of indispensable warehouse space.¹⁹⁹ Negatives were stored in provisional racks standing along the corridors by damp walls or packed in boxes kept on the floor and window sills in office rooms of the Department's employees, heated only with heaters.²⁰⁰ This resulted in damages to the tapes discovered by the NL technical adviser, Mr Wojciechowski.²⁰¹ It was not until December 1966 that a part of the collections could finally be moved to a warehouse, which allowed for the expansion of the reading room.²⁰² Still, the storage conditions failed to comply with the applicable standards. Humidity did not exceed 30–31%, while the projected level was 65%, which provoked cracks in the dried tape. In this way, the surrogates that were intended to form backup copies of the collections were at a risk of failing to outlive the originals. Apart from the costs and efforts involved in creating the microfilm collection as well as its research utility, we must not forget about its material value, which in 1969 already exceeded PLN 20,000,000. Nonetheless, requests for installing air conditioning filed with the National Library administration remained unaddressed for a long time.²⁰³

- 199 Moreover, the racks for microfilm rolls and catalogue boxes ordered a year before had not been supplied. As a result, microfilms were stored in inappropriate conditions and supplementing the catalogue with new data sheets became impossible. Unlike the storage issues, the latter problem got promptly resolved. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 32, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1962 of 10/10/1962.
- 200 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 60–64, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1964 of 10/02/1965.
- 201 The damages to the tape were confirmed during a subsequent inspection of Mr Wojciechowski, engineer, in 1965. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 82–83, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q1 1965 of 24/04/1965.
- 202 Following letters sent by Mr Zawadzki to the Management on 25/05/1964 and 7/10/1964, new facilities were allocated to the Department, but not without further complications. The first of the rooms in the Palace's basement was eventually assigned to the Department of Early Printed Books in early 1965, the other remained occupied by the Agency for International Exchange, and the last one required overhaul and adaptation. Once the necessary work was performed, some of the rolls remained in the corridors after all, as the racks purchased in 1965 warped after only a few weeks due to defective materials – damp wood – and became unusable. Furthermore, in 1967, the recently assigned space was reduced by 25 sq. m, and efforts aimed at obtaining an additional room were ineffective, since the post-exhibition space Mr Zawadzki applied for was eventually allocated to the Department of Early Printed Books. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 90–94, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966, p. 107, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1966 of 11/01/1967, p. 120, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1967.
- 203 Also, in early 1971, an inspection of the firefighting services revealed that the room failed to comply with the fire safety standards. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 140, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in

Because of the lack of space for the constantly growing collection, which increased by about 1,000,000 frames annually, provisional solutions were still applied, while the search for definitive ones was ongoing.²⁰⁴ A supply of metal racks in 1976 came to the Department's rescue; unfortunately, they were mainly placed in corridors – damp, mouldy, exposed to varying temperatures – which affected the durability of the microfilms.²⁰⁵ Therefore, regular maintenance became of critical importance. According to the applicable Polish standards, negatives were to be subject to inspection and maintenance every 3 years and positives every 5 years. Consequently, servicing was required for 7,500 reels of negatives and 4,300 reels of positives annually. The Reprographics Department, however, failed to comply even with the standard adopted by the NL providing for 2,000 reels a year.²⁰⁶ It was only after years of Mr Zawadzki's efforts that the collection

Q3 1968 of 15/10/1968, pp. 199–205, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972.

- 204 The best one was a project of a two-storey warehouse developed in 1968 by Mr Wojciechowski, engineer. Unfortunately, despite the promises of the NL administrative section, the proposal remained unimplemented. It was not until 1972 that a commission presided over by Rafał Kozłowski, director of the Section of Special Collections, appointed in order to solve the Department's problems, allocated another room for storage purposes and officially initiated the acquisition procedure for metal cabinets. The seriously worn-out racks were provisionally placed in a new room on the first floor. In 1975, Director Kozłowski reversed his own decision and took over this room as his private office. Most of the microfilms landed in the corridors again, while a part of them was moved to the reading room, due to which two microfilm readers had to be disabled. The warehouse reserve space was reduced to three running metres of shelves. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 142–146, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1968 of 06/02/1969, pp. 274–283, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1975 of 17/01/1976.
- 205 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 66–67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.
- 206 In the first quarter of 1964, upon performing maintenance on 50 reels, the Reprographics Department suspended any further works of this kind. Mr Zawadzki drew specific attention to this problem in successive annual and quarterly reports. Owing to his efforts, in 1967, the Reprographics Department started conserving microfilms again. Using its own resources, even a tape-cleaning device was built at the former laboratory. This enabled the entity to subject 2,939 reels to maintenance in the same year. Another temporary stoppage took place in December 1970 and 1974, but it was in 1977 when truly grave problems began, with only 1,639 reels being serviced out of the 2,000 planned. At that time, the microfilm collection comprised 22,500 negative reels and 21,500 positive ones. The DMH was in charge of the collection's condition, but all the maintenance was planned and carried out by the Reprographics Department. Zawadzki was not receiving any reports or memos on the state of the microfilms inspected that would include guidelines regarding any necessary removal of defects or recommendations for retakes albeit he asked for them on many occasions. In consequence, in 1977, the head of the DMH proposed that his department be in charge of the maintenance. This claim – repeatedly filed since then – became even more justified, as the proportion of completed works in this respect was systematically declining from 66.6% in 1978 to 31.5% in 1979. In 1980, Mr Zawadzki defined this situation as

maintenance was conferred to the DMH on 1 February 1981. As a result, 3,982 reels were secured in that year, 82% more than the year before.²⁰⁷

Maintenance of the collections was one of the reasons for the dispute between the DMH and the Reprographics Department. Zawadzki pointed out that better coordination was needed to improve the cooperation between both entities as early as in the second quarter of 1962.²⁰⁸ What provoked the conflict was the fact that it was the Reprographics Department that received client's orders, although such operations fell within the scope of responsibilities of one of the DMH sections.²⁰⁹ Mr Zawadzki reported to the management that "two workshops with an identical scope of duties had been created within one institution, working in the same building and even in the same staircase."²¹⁰ Only partly did the National Library authorities implement his proposal, as in January 1963, when the order section of the DMH was dissolved.²¹¹ Nonetheless, despite their

"disastrous". NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 54, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1964, p. 120, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1967, p. 192, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1970 of 14/01/1971; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 51–56, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1977, p. 118, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 5–6, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Department of Microfilm Holdings' Plan for 1979 of 10/01/1980, pp. 48–54, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1980 of 09/01/1980; *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1966* [Report of the National Library for 1966], ed. Z. Czaykowska, Warszawa 1971, p. 75.

- 207 However, in the 1980s, only negatives were regularly subject to maintenance (about 3,000 reels annually) due to staff shortages. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 91–98, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1981 of 27/01/1982; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/3, pp. 33–38, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Report for 1988 of 03/01/1989.
- 208 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 29, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q2 1962 of 10/07/1962.
- 209 In 1961, Zawadzki even introduced new rules for providing commercial services by his department. Non-domestic orders as well as those involving the production of microfilms, photocopies or reproductions of the National Library holdings were accepted without limitations. At the same time, no orders from institutions such as the CISTD or the state archives were accepted, since they had their own photographic or microfilm studios and making duplicates was one of their statutory obligations. In accordance with these principles, in 1961, 539 orders were admitted including 63 foreign ones, of which the Reprographics Department completed 536: 581 negative frames, 4,231 metres of positives, 602 reproduction units and 3,788 magnifications. The invoices issued amounted to PLN 87,344 in total. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 15, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962.
- 210 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 32, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1962 of 10/10/1962.
- 211 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 46, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1963 of 07/03/1964.

close vicinity, the Reprographics Department failed to communicate with Zawadzki on the kinds of orders they were fulfilling. This resulted in problems with duplicate copies of periodicals that had already been microfilmed.²¹² In spite of many attempts, this issue remained unresolved all throughout Mr Zawadzki's term of office.²¹³

Also, repeated allegations regarding the irregular work of the Reprographics Department were never clarified. Mr Zawadzki's objections also concerned client's orders. The DMH head alleged that their fulfillment was the reason why the Station failed to meet the annual plans for the production of negatives for the NL collections.²¹⁴ Additionally, the microfilms produced were not regularly forwarded.²¹⁵ This obstructed the works of the DMH, especially in terms of stocktaking, cataloguing and storage. Retaining the originals for many months also put the Department at risk of overdue notices and the blocking of its accounts by the lending libraries.²¹⁶ Mr Zawadzki kept making such objections for a couple of subsequent years. In 1971, while clarifying the issue of orders, Ms Jankowska also addressed this problem.²¹⁷ She assured him that microfilming for

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- 212 This collided with the principles of the preservation microfilming initiative, putting the originals at risk of deterioration and generating additional transport costs. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 164–168, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1969 of 17/01/1970.
- 213 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, pp. 34–35, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to Stanisław Czajka, PhD, acting as the Director of the National Library of 20/12/1982; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 208, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q2 1971 of 12/01/1972, pp. 212–222; H. Jankowska, Annex to the National Library Report for the first half of 1971, section III, point 6, p. 223, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q1 1971 of 10/04/1971, pp. 256–262, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1974 of 11/01/1967, pp. 274–283, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1975 of 17/01/1976.
- 214 For example, in 1963, the Reprographics Department took only 453,823 photographs, although the volume of originals prepared was 623,000 frames. Furthermore, microfilming was performed at an irregular pace. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 46–49, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1963 of 07/03/1964.
- 215 For instance, from 22 May 1963 through 2 October 1963, the Reprographics Department did not provide one item of its ongoing production, the negatives from February 1963 reached DMH in October that year, while ones from July were received in December. Positives were provided on an equally irregular basis, e.g. out of the 1,161 microfilm units filed for copying for the National Ossoliński Institute in the fourth quarter of 1962, only 346 were received by 31 December 1963.
- 216 In 1965, the DMH head objected again that the weekly output of the Reprographics Department oscillated between 5,955 and 15,148 frames and that the production cycle often lasted as long as four months. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 46–49, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966.
- 217 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 212–222, H. Jankowska, Annex to the National Library Report for the first half of 1971, section III, point 6.

the DMH was always a priority and that the materials were held in the Reprographics Department usually for about two weeks. Data from the first half of 1971 was supposed to confirm the regular pace of work, but at the same time Jankowska blamed the DMH for planning the annual production too hastily, which led the Department to reduce or increase the original plans later, during their implementation. This unrealistic planning exposed the National Library to a risk of financial loss, as the excess of purchased tape was getting prematurely exposed with time, and the chemicals decomposed. Furthermore, the DMH was accused of passing improperly prepared materials to the Reprographics Department, for example with missing pagination. Apparently, the clarifications did not help much, as throughout the entire decade of the 70s and in the early 80s Mr Zawadzki quoted in his reports data attesting to an irregular pace of the Reprographics Department's works, an excessively long production cycle and delays in providing microforms.

Another dispute arose in connection with the microfilms' quality. While virtually no further complaints were filed in the case of readers' requests, Mr Zawadzki reported on the inappropriate quality of the microforms produced for the DMH on a couple of occasions.²¹⁸ In 1969, due to problems with imports, low quality tape made in Poland had begun to be used. This was why in September Mr Zawadzki suspended all preservation microfilming activities until appropriate film was available.²¹⁹ The problem returned in the early 1980s. The low quality of the ORWO and FOTON products was discussed in the *Kultura i Życie* [Culture and Life] and *Nowoczesność* [Modernity] journals, specialists also expressed negative opinions about them during the Experts' Panel of the International System of Socialist National Academies of Sciences held in Bratislava from 6–11 April 1981.²²⁰ Mr Wojciechowski, engineer, and Henryka Jankowska were aware of the increased static electricity and low density

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- 218 A spot check in 1966–1967 revealed a large number of defects, which made it necessary to bring the originals again for microfilming. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 108–109, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1966 of 08/10/1966.
- 219 In August 1970, microfilming of manuscripts – such as manuscripts by Adam Mickiewicz or Juliusz Słowacki from the Kórnik and Kraków Libraries of the PAŚ as well as volumes of *Dziennik Pomorski* [Pomerania Daily] from the second half of the 19th century and current issues of foreign press – was suspended for the same reason. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 164–168, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1969 of 17/01/1970; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 104, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to the Management of the National Library of 22/08/1970.
- 220 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 99–103, K. Zawadzki, Annex to the Report of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library of 27/01/1982.

of these films: in a letter of 15 April 1981, Ms Jankowska gave assurance that for preservation microfilms of the most valuable holdings, the Reprographics Department used the AGFA and KODAK tapes imported from the West exclusively. However, a spot check performed by Mr Zawadzki revealed that precious collections of the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute had been microfilmed on domestic films. As a result, on 28 May 1981, Mr Zawadzki notified Director Kozłowski that all preservation microfilming had been suspended until appropriate tapes were available.²²¹ Furthermore, in July 1981, DMH employees learned by accident that the Reprographics Department had already purchased AGFA products (Cevaert), but had failed to inform them that microfilming could be resumed, as they kept on carrying out analyses of the films' resilience.²²² In Mr Zawadzki's opinion, this situation was bordering sabotage, and in consequence, he requested "a significant shift in the management of the Reprographics Department of the National Library."²²³

This was the peak of the conflict that had been escalating since the mid-1960s. The initial dispute regarding the scope of competencies resulting from the division of the Microfilm Station in 1962 led to personal animosities which affected the microfilming activities at the National Library. Until 1971, with the endorsement of Prof. Andrzej Wyczański, adviser to the National Library's director, weekly meetings of the management of both institutions were taking place where the coordination of ongoing works as well as plans for the future were discussed along with the difficulties both units were facing and possible ways to remedy them. These meetings were suspended from 1971. Meanwhile, at the National Library employee meetings, the head of the Reprographics Department spoke frequently of Mr Zawadzki's ill intentions and constant reproaches. The Management of the National Library were aware of the problem, but found themselves unable to resolve this increasingly tense situation. When in the early 1980s the conflict started to affect the performance of microfilm projects, the authorities of the National Library took advantage of the fact that the head of the DMH had reached retirement age.²²⁴

221 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 105, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to Rafał Kozłowski of 28/05/1981.

222 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 106, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to Rafał Kozłowski of 26/07/1981.

223 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 99–103, K. Zawadzki, Annex to the Report of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library of 27/01/1982.

224 Years later, Zawadzki commented on his dismissal from the National Library: "Technically, everything followed the letter of law. Naturally, upon the request of the National Library Management, I was relegated to retirement by the Minister of Culture and Arts. Unfortunately,

The collaboration between the DMH and the administrative section, critical for the proper operation of the Department, was not flawless either. Major problems resulted from the tardiness and “unfavourable attitude” towards organising transports to the lending libraries.²²⁵ In spite of oral and written interventions, it took months and months to implement the motions filed. As a result, either missing objects or the fact that the NL was keeping the originals overdue provoked notices and blocking of its accounts by the lending libraries.²²⁶ Even purchasing equipment – from the storage racks mentioned above to minor office supplies – caused many problems.²²⁷ These provisioning issues came to a head when Zawadzki made efforts to have small-font typewriters allocated, as being necessary to fill out catalogue cards. Despite the best endeavours and numerous motions filed by the DMH, the Department only received one – used – device in 20 years.²²⁸ Further difficulties were related to microfilm readers, on which access to microforms depended. Pursuant to a NL decision, in the first quarter of 1966, the microfilm reading room had only two such devices.²²⁹ From 1 January 1966, to prevent long queues of

the Management forgot that apart from legal regulations, there is also such thing as *boni mores* and that good manners should have been respected, especially in an institution enjoying the social esteem of the National Library”. K. Zawadzki, *Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej*, op. cit., p. 24.

- 225 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 140, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1968 of 15/10/1968.
- 226 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 116, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.
- 227 Such as sticky tape, envelopes, paper clips, boxes or even basic tools such as a hammer or pliers. Catalogue cabinets, chairs, desks, lamps, hangers, warehouse steps, carts to transport books and periodicals, microfilm reels, negative wrappers, splicers, winding devices or magnifying glasses were delivered with considerable delays. Only after numerous requests were door latches installed in the warehouse doors. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 13, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962, p. 102, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1966, p. 120, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1967, p. 140, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1968 of 15/10/1968, pp. 243–248; K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1973 of 25/01/1974, pp. 256–262, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1974 of 11/01/1975; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 116–124, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.
- 228 One of the more burdensome matters was also the so-called “toilet war”, Zawadzki’s repeated requests to have a more convenient passage to the restroom cut. K. Zawadzki, *Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej*, op. cit., p. 23.
- 229 Pursuant to a Management decision, the DMH lent the Bibliographic Institute three readers in total in 1961 and 1965. At the same time, the administration allocated two newly ordered devices to the Reprographics Department. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 89,

readers, the reading room was open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays and from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturdays.²³⁰ It was not until the second quarter of 1966 that the number of microfilm readers was increased to six, including one supporting microcards.²³¹ In 1972, a further four microfilm readers were acquired.²³² The Zeiss products had many defects, but even so Zawadzki's efforts to acquire more modern equipment as well as to supplement the machine pool with microfiche readers and reader-printers able to obtain microfilm magnifications directly on paper proved unsuccessful.²³³ Moreover, at the end of 1978, the maintenance service agreement expired and despite the endeavours of the Department's head, the administrative section found no substitute for the technician.²³⁴ As a result, the state of the machines deteriorated to the extent that in 1981 some of them were no longer fit for use.²³⁵ Apart from that, due to the lack of permanent staff, DMH employees had to take turns serving in the reading room, which kept them from their main activities.²³⁶ This was connected with staff shortages that constantly plagued the Department, which also hampered the implementation of several other initiatives. In 1964, the

K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1965 of 07/01/1966, pp. 90–94, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966.

- 230 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 104, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q1 1966 of 12/04/1966.
- 231 Meanwhile, owing to the transfer of a part of the collections to the new warehouse, the reading room could finally be expanded. Card files were installed and a readily available as arranged by the library. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 105, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q2 1966 of 11/07/1966, p. 107, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1966 of 11/01/1967.
- 232 Nevertheless, they remained idle for as long as until December 1973, since the administrative section failed to connect them to the electric grid. At the same time, new tables were purchased for the reading room. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 227–233, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1972 of 16/01/1973, pp. 243–248, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1973 of 25/01/1974.
- 233 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 66–67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.
- 234 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 116–124, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 15–21, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for 1979 of 10/01/1980.
- 235 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 131–132, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for the first half of 1981 of 13/07/1981.
- 236 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 113–115, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1978 of 10/07/1978.

number of full time jobs within the Department was reduced from 13 to 9.5. Staff turnover became a true curse. After two years on average, new employees tended to leave the NL definitively or were moved to other departments at their own request.²³⁷ This stemmed from wages that were low, even considering the generally modest library standards.²³⁸ Due to the high employee turnover, whose impact was intensified by holiday and sick leaves, and despite strenuous efforts, the Department was not always able to fulfil their obligations, which translated into the non-performance of annual plans.²³⁹ The staff shortages were also the end of the DMH division of reproductions.²⁴⁰ The employee taking care of the reproduction

- 237 For example, on 3 February 1965, Barbara Drewniewska was employed to prepare manuscripts, but on 6 February 1967 she was moved to the Manuscript Department pursuant to a Management Decision. This scenario, which was repeated constantly, disrupted the works, as firstly a suitable candidate had to be found for the vacant position, and then time was spent on their training. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 56, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q4 1964, p. 132, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q1 1967.
- 238 Despite the claims of the Department's head, the DMH staff were not getting a pay rise upon completion of three months of work nor for language skills. Wages of more seasoned employees were also below the expected level, for example custodian H. Falkowska, head of a division and vice-head of the Department, earned PLN 4,000 monthly upon 27 years in service, while junior librarian E. Hołopiak was paid PLN 2,300 upon 5 years of work. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 115, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1978 of 10/07/1978.
- 239 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 32, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q3 1962 of 10/10/1962, pp. 90–94, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966, pp. 142–146, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1968 of 06/02/1969; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 66, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.
- 240 In 1961, a collection of 1,201 black-and-white negatives was acquired as the result of an exchange with the Institute of Art of the PAS. In the same year, two employees of the section were dismissed as a result of a state security service intervention: Ż. Rozanow and R. Pięcińska. In consequence, the interrupted works such as assigning shelf marks to the holdings, completing and correcting descriptions, comparing negatives with the originals and running the inventory book could only be resumed in mid-October 1961. In total, that year the collection increased by 2,967 black-and-white negatives, 161 colour negatives and 2,016 contact sheets. 1,265 items were entered into the inventories, and 1,691 negatives were compared with the originals. In 1963, the collection comprised as many as ca. 15,400 negatives, 39 diapositives and 3,757 contact sheets. Also, collection reviews were conducted, to be finished two years later. Simultaneously, further development of the collection of reproductions required the use of new types of originals such as copper and wood engravings or lithographic prints held at the Kórnik Library of the PAS. This involved a need for permanent consultations and support of experts from the National Library Graphic Arts Department (today the Department of Iconographic Collections). Therefore, on 2 November 1964, Zawadzki submitted a motion to the Management to wind up the section of reproductions and incorporate it into the above-mentioned department. This, however, remained without consideration, so the Department attempted to establish cooperation with other libraries to obtain suitable originals. It turned out that the institutions were

collection left in 1967. Attempts to appoint a competent art historian to this vacancy proved ineffective. In consequence, from 1968 to mid-1970, this collection did not increase.²⁴¹ In June 1970, the National Library Management agreed to transfer the collection, composed of 24,576 reproductions with descriptions, to the Graphic Arts Department.²⁴² Zawadzki was trying to solve the problem of staff shortages through increasing the number of full time employees assigned to his unit. His demands were fully justified, as from 1962 through 1977 the collections grew fivefold, the number of readers increased thirteen times, the number of items made available grew twenty times, the number of microfilms lent grew eight times, whereas the plans of the NL Management did not include any proposal for strengthening the DMH staff base, even though other departments of the section of special collections grew systematically.²⁴³ Nonetheless, Zawadzki's motions in this respect also remained unaddressed.

The DMH stored the microfilms produced within the preservation initiative in two copies. The positives served as service copies, while the negatives were devised as archival materials. Owing to the growing number of copy orders, especially requests for complete collections of periodicals, the archival negative became in fact a second service copy, equally exposed to damage and destruction as the positive.²⁴⁴ Therefore, Zawadzki proposed that a third copy be made for all DMH holdings.

willing to make the engravings available, but expected to receive free contact sheets of every lent item in return. The cost of one such copy in 1966 amounted to PLN 2.50. Zawadzki requested the Management to accept these conditions of cooperation, but staff-related issues impeded it. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 5, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to the National Library Management of 31/10/1966; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 10, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962, p. 18, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Holdings of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962, p. 49, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1963 of 07/03/1964; K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966, p. 102, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1966.

- 241 The DMH staff limited their activities to making the existing resources available. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 168, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1969 of 17/01/1970.
- 242 The items returned to the DMH in 1995. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 183, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q2 1970 of 11/07/1970.
- 243 Between 1962–1977, from 5 to 11 employees at the Manuscript Department, from 4 to 8 at the Department of Iconographic Collections, from 3 to 5 at the Department of Cartographic Collections and from 3 to 9 at the Department of Music Collections. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.
- 244 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 66–67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.

Providing such backup copies of the microfilms was urgent and of primary importance, since some of the periodical collections could no longer be recreated, such as the one of *Dziennik Poznański* [Poznań Daily], due to autodestruction of the originals. Furthermore, the standards for preserving microforms required making an archival copy.²⁴⁵

This issue was related to the protection of resources in case of war or natural disasters. Preserving the most valuable materials which had survived the conflagration of the war was one of the fundamental tasks of the Microfilm Station. Nevertheless, once the collections were moved to the Palace of the Commonwealth, the two surrogates as well as the originals in the special collections of the National Library were held in the same building. That was why from the early 1970s, Mr Zawadzki demanded not only that archival microfilms should be made, but they must also be taken away from large urban agglomerations.²⁴⁶ In 1972, he negotiated this matter with the management of the Cracow Saltworks Museum in Wieliczka.²⁴⁷ Despite the positive outcome of the talks, the project was not implemented due to the refusal of the National Library agent for the protection of the holdings.²⁴⁸ However, after talks with Director Kozłowski held in the third quarter of 1979, the procedure of creating a third copy was implemented. Nonetheless, as the Reprographics Department had not anticipated an appropriate amount of microfilm tape in its annual plans, only 100 reels could be copied.²⁴⁹ The work did not increase its pace much in 1980. Again, tape was lacking and an additional copier and developing unit had to be acquired for the project to be properly completed.²⁵⁰ In consequence, the Reprographics Department copied 860 reels only, which represented 3.8% of the holdings.²⁵¹ At this pace, copying the entire collection, its constant growth notwithstanding, would

245 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 274–283, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1975 of 17/01/1976.

246 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 205, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972.

247 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 227–233, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1972 of 16/01/1973.

248 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 116–124, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.

249 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2, p. 4, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for the first half of 1979 of 11/07/1979.

250 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 47, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Working Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for the first half of 1980 of 09/01/1980.

251 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 48–54, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1980 of 09/01/1980.

take 26 years. Therefore, considering the tense political situation in the 1980s, Mr Zawadzki proposed that at least the negatives be taken away from the Palace of the Commonwealth.²⁵² In spite of certain inconveniences, this increased the odds of saving the collections in case of military action. The issue was discussed with Director Kozłowski and other representatives of the National Library on 7 April 1981.²⁵³ As usual, acceptance of the project was not followed by its implementation.

Mr Zawadzki also failed to expand the international cooperation of the DMH and consequently to launch the microfilming of Polonica housed in libraries abroad. Unfortunately, during his tenure, organising research trips was as problematic as in Wyczański's times. In 1979, the head of the DMH complained that only two foreign delegations had taken place throughout nearly 25 years of his Department's existence.²⁵⁴ This meant that the Department enjoyed 27 days of research trip per 27 years of its activity, while at the Departments of Music Collections or Early Printed Books many more delegations were arranged every year. Consequently, the Department's employees did not attend any international conferences on microfilming library collections, and thus were unable to compare their own experiences with the practice of specialised institutions abroad, such as the Association pour la Conservation et Reproduction Photographique de la Presse in Paris which also preserved periodicals.²⁵⁵ As professional literature was anything

252 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 91–98, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1981 of 27/01/1982.

253 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 99, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to Rafał Kozłowski on preserving microfilms of 29/06/1981.

254 Both took place in 1971. During the first one, upon invitation of the management of the Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, Mr Zawadzki gave a talk on microfilming in Poland, and during his second journey, to St. Petersburg and Moscow, he discovered about 90 early printed books unavailable at any of the Polish libraries along with 300 press titles, many previously unknown to bibliographers and press historians. In 1976, Ms Prończa spent 7 days in Budapest, while Mr Zawadzki paid a 6-day visit to Leipzig. Mr Zawadzki's applications to delegate a Polish representative to the Second International Conference of National Library Experts of the Socialist Countries dedicated to building collections, held in September 1977 in Berlin, were rejected. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 199–205, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972, pp. 274–283, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1975 of 17/01/1976; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 66–67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.

255 As an aside, the NL Management denied the DMH the right to host an international conference themselves as well. An application for organising a symposium for libraries of the socialist countries on cooperation in the use of microfilms in library practice, filed in 1972, remained unanswered. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 67, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1977 of 12/07/1977.

but abundant, just as in Wyczański's times, the staff had to learn on a trial-and-error basis. Additionally, it was not possible to make inquiries to foreign collections in order to find and microfilm Polonica or order finished microfilms. In 1978, Zawadzki persuaded the National Library authorities that the question of microfilming Polish collections, especially periodicals from the territory of the former Austrian annexation held in Vienna, was essential for the entire library.²⁵⁶ In 1979, the head of the DMH spent seven days at the Hungarian National Library in Budapest.²⁵⁷ Upon his return, he remarked that the library had been microfilming Hungarian press from both national and foreign institutions for 10 years. Moreover, his initial inquiry revealed that the institution had 42 early printed books unavailable in any Polish holdings and mostly unknown to bibliographer Estreicher. Mr Zawadzki's works at Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin, also carried out during a seven-day visit, allowed him to discover 52 early printed books of a similar value and a few dozen volumes of early 19th-century periodicals from Poznań that were unavailable in Poland.²⁵⁸ In consequence, nearly 100 microfilms of prints from both libraries were brought.²⁵⁹ In 1980, Zawadzki outlined a general plan for microfilming Polonica in the National Library Yearbook.²⁶⁰ Regrettably, his proposals did not receive an adequate response.

- 256 In 1981, Zawadzki visited Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna where he discussed the chances of access to the Polish periodicals received by that library as legal deposits during the Austrian annexation period. The talks produced a positive outcome. The DMH head proposed setting up a microfilm unit in Vienna, modelled on analogous Hungarian institutions. The Polish Institute of Vienna offered their support in this respect. Unfortunately, the NL Management was not interested in this initiative. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 123, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.
- 257 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 5–6, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for 1979 of 10/01/1980.
- 258 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 15–21, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for 1979 of 10/01/1980.
- 259 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, pp. 24, 29, 33, Letters of Zawadzki to the Department of Collections Supplementation of 13/02/1978, 18/11/1981 and 06/09/1982.
- 260 He called for inquiries to the libraries of: Rome, Florence, Milan, Naples, Padua and other Italian cities, the Spanish National Library in Madrid as well as libraries of West Berlin and West Germany. Apart from that, holdings of the following libraries required examination: National Library of Sweden, University Library in Lund, Library of Uppsala (in this case, the inquiry could be based on an existing catalogue of its Polonica: J. Trypućko, *Polonica vetera Upsaliensia. Catalogue des imprimés polonais ou concernant la Pologne des XVe, XVIe, XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles conservés à la Bibliothèque de l'université royale d'Upsala*, Uppsala 1958) and the University Library of Helsinki which was one of the three libraries that received legal deposits from the Russian annexation territory until 1917. For analogous reasons, he indicated the Österreichische Nationalbibliothek in Vienna as a source of publications from the territory of Galicia. Polish collections were also to be searched for in British libraries, including the British Library, Polish institutions in London and the USA, where the Kościuszko Foundation and Polish Diaspora Association „Polonia” could be helpful. For Eastern Bloc countries, the head of the DMH listed libraries of Moscow,

As well as on the international front, attempts to strengthen relationships with major domestic libraries were generally unsuccessful. Initiatives such as securing the most valuable collections or completing volumes of the Polish press were continued, however, they were exclusively initiated, funded and performed by the National Library.²⁶¹ In 1978, while the National Library Resource (NLR) was being developed, the idea came up at a conference on *Applying Microforms in Library Science and Scientific Information* to create a National Microfilm Resource.²⁶² The DMH collections were supposed to become its core part. Together with two other libraries that initiated the NLR²⁶³ – the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute – a plan for further microfilming and copy exchange was prepared. The enterprise was to be coordinated on a regional level. The Jagiellonian Library would have been in charge of holdings from the southeastern region, including Cracow and Western Galicia. To begin with, it undertook copying such periodicals as *Czas* [Time], *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* [Illustrated Daily Courier], *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] and *Gazeta Krakowska* [Cracow Daily].²⁶⁴ The National Ossoliński Institute would have been responsible for the Wrocław region and the former Eastern Galicia. The NL, in turn, was committed to microfilming publications from Warsaw and the Warsaw area as well as periodicals from before 1800. Respective agreements were signed in 1978

Petersburg, Lviv, Kiev, Vilnius as well as the Statni Knihovna in Prague, Slovenska Matica in Bratislava, the University Library in Brno and Slovenska Matica in Martina, where initial inquiries had already been performed. In Hungary, research at the National Library had to be completed and holdings of the following libraries examined: University Library in Budapest, Library of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the Archbishop's Library in Esztergom. Zawadzki also mentioned book collections from Bucharest and Cluj as well as major East German Libraries: University Libraries in Leipzig, Halle and Jena, Sächsische Landesbibliothek in Dresden and Deutsche Staatsbibliothek in Berlin. Also the holdings of the Polish Library in Paris required preservation copies. K. Zawadzki, "Z problemów mikrofilmowania...", op. cit., pp. 323–347.

- 261 In 1977, Mr Zawadzki even suggested that the NL Management should propose to the State Library Council that the DMH become the governing and coordinating national unit with respect to preservation microfilming. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 51, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1977.
- 262 National Library, Archive of the Department of Microfilm Holdings, pp. 7–8, K. Zawadzki, Department of Microfilm Holdings, letter of 28/03/1979, no shelf mark; I. Łoś-Stembrowicz, "Zbiory mikrofilmowe czasopism w BN" [Microfilm Press Collections at the National Library] in *Zachowajmy przeszłość dla przyszłości...* [To Retain the Past for the Future], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2002, pp. 175–181.
- 263 L. Marszałek, "Narodowy Zasób Biblioteczny" [National Library Resource], *Przegląd biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 46, 1978, pp. 423–432.
- 264 In the case of *Czas*, the volumes concerned were the ones published since 1901, excluding those of 1928 or the volumes released in Warsaw.

with the Jagiellonian Library and a year later with the National Ossoliński Institute,²⁶⁵ by which on 17 April 1980, a conference was held in Cracow on microfilming the collections of the National Library Resource, arranged by the management of the Jagiellonian Library and the Commission on Microfilming and Preservation of Collections at the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association.²⁶⁶ The participants defined the tasks for the following years in terms of preserving collections. The NL, JL and Ossoliński Institute were to be equipped with modern microfilming devices, while the remaining libraries would receive readers to be able to use the microforms provided.²⁶⁷ Based on the regional division adopted previously, the above-mentioned libraries undertook to present detailed microfilming plans for 1981–1985. The Commission on Microfilming and Protection of Collections at the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association was responsible for preparing originals for copying, recording, sharing and storage. The DMH was obliged to keep a Central Microform Catalogue based on descriptions sent by the cooperating libraries. The decision was made to submit respective motions to the Executive Board of the National Library Resource, the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association and the Library Team of the Culture Department of the Polish United Workers' Party's Central Committee. Regrettably, the works “never gained suitable momentum”.²⁶⁸ The participants managed to invite the Silesian Library as well as the University Libraries of Toruń and Wrocław to collaborate, but “over time, catalogue descriptions stopped coming to the NL”.²⁶⁹ The ideas of the Central Microform Catalogue and the National Microform Resource collapsed quickly. The partner institutions failed to fulfil their microfilming plans as well. This,

265 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 116–124, K. Zawadzki, *Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979*.

266 It was attended by representatives of the National Library (K. Zawadzki), National Ossoliński Institute (J. Szczepaniec), Jagiellonian Library (M. Zwiercan), Warsaw University Library (H. Zasadowa) and the Commission on Microfilming and Preservation of Collections at the General Board of the Polish Librarians' Association. National Library, Archive of the DMH, no pagination, J. Szczepaniec J., K. Zawadzki, H. Zasadowa, M. Zwiercan, motions proceeding from the conference on microfilming the collections of the National Library Resource held in Cracow on 16–17/04/1980, no shelf mark.

267 The Warsaw University Library planned to join the NLR once its Division of Microform Holdings was restructured.

268 T. Szczęsna, “Program mikrofilmowania czasopism i innych dokumentów z bibliotek polskich realizowany w Bibliotece Narodowej” [Program of Microfilming Periodicals and other Documents of the Polish Libraries Implemented at the National Library] in *Ochrona i konserwacja zbiorów bibliotecznych* [Protection and Maintenance of Library Resources], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, E. Stachowska-Musiał, Warszawa 1998, p. 79.

269 I. Łoś-Stembrowicz, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe...”, op. cit., p. 176 et seq.

however, did not result from their ill will, but from the lack of appropriate equipment and personnel.²⁷⁰ For the DMH, staff shortages were the major issue. Mr Zawadzki's calls aimed at obtaining new positions in order to perform these fundamental tasks remained unheard.²⁷¹ Under these circumstances, the DMH could only continue its own microfilming policy as it had been doing since the 1950s.

An outline of the scope and methods of the collection microfilming policy had been defined by Wyczański. Zawadzki, however, did not content himself with passively continuing the Microfilm Station activity, but introduced some very important changes. In the case of manuscripts, the opinion of the head of the DMH was that the previous role of his unit was limited to an "intermediary" one,²⁷² as it was up to the lending libraries to select the items for microfilming. They were registered at the DMH and passed on to the Laboratory where the finished copies were later collected. Thus, the National Library did not have any power to decide about the contents of the surrogate collection so created. Already in the 1950s, attempts were made in order to change this situation, but it was eventually Mr Zawadzki who resolved that the DMH should fully take over the selection of manuscripts and preparation of their data sheets. Depending on the staff available and other plans, it was projected that they would accept 800–1,000 items for microfilming every year, as a result of which from 1962–1982, 17,858 units were filmed in total. Upon summing up these data with the production of the former Microfilm Station and taking into consideration the output of the transitory period in 1983, the number of microfilmed manuscripts amounted to 28,125 items.²⁷³ It was the largest group within the DMH collections back then.²⁷⁴

270 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 36, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for the first half of 1981 of 13/07/1981; J. Tyszkowska, "Rola Biblioteki Jagiellońskiej w kształtowaniu NZB oraz jako centralnej biblioteki nauk społecznych" [The Role of the Jagiellonian Library as the Central Library of Social Sciences and in the Formation of the National Library Resource] in *Tradycja i współczesność w bibliotekarstwie. Materiały seminarium polsko-macedońskiego odbytego w Krakowie w dniach 19–20.11.1980 r.* [Tradition and Modernity in Library Science. Proceedings of the Polish-Macedonian Seminar held in Cracow from 19–20/11/1980], ed. Z. Walczy, Kraków 1983, p. 38.

271 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2, p. 4, K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Plan of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for the first half of 1979 of 11/07/1979.

272 K. Zawadzki, "Wspomnienia o mojej pracy w Bibliotece Narodowej", op. cit., p. 22.

273 National Library, Archive of the Department of Microfilm Holdings, p. 5, K. Zawadzki, Department of Microfilm Holdings in 1983, no shelf mark.

274 Of which 7,215 units were received from the Ossoliński Institute, 4,183 from the Princes Czartoryski Library, 5,372 from the National Library, 2,771 from the Kraków Library of the PAS, 2,143 from the Jagiellonian Library, 1,146 from the Wrocław University Library,

By the end of April 1984, the collection of early printed books included 8,644 titles.²⁷⁵ With the assistance of the Department of Early Printed Books of the National Library, 570 incunables, 2,261 16th-century titles and 5,813 17th- and 18th-century ones were microfilmed in total. Over 2,000 of the items were not listed in Estreicher's bibliography, and a large part of them were only mentioned in the abridged chronological list. Securing writing prototypes was a completely innovative idea. Mr Zawadzki conducted his own research in this field, and for example published their bibliography. Such resources began to be microfilmed in 1963. A year later, 95 titles had already been secured in this way.²⁷⁶ By 1983, the Department managed to gather over 1,500 such titles.²⁷⁷

Mr Zawadzki's most famous initiative was also connected with the press. It consisted in supplementing the collections of Polish periodicals on microfilm. The idea as such was not a new one, but the project's level of detail and scope of implementation was a phenomenon on a European scale. Wars waged throughout the centuries had decimated the Polish collections. Pillages and destruction affected the collections of Polish press in particular. Following World War II, even the largest Polish libraries had no complete collections of the most important Polish journals. Additionally, copies of periodicals released since the mid-19th century that survived the conflagration of war were subject to automatic degradation due to the decomposition of acidic paper. The regrettable way in which readers tended to handle the holdings was another threat.²⁷⁸ Therefore, in 1962, Mr Zawadzki took on the task of preserving and completing the Polish press on microfilm. The initiative, already prepared by Wyczański in part, was extremely ambitious in its principles, as the plan was to create complete collections of the highest possible number of titles, including independent supplements, often omitted in bibliographic aids or library catalogues. Copies from many libraries had to be brought in to form full

814 from the Kórnik Library of the PAS, 1,949 from Church libraries (including seminary, chapter and monastic ones) and 2,532 from other libraries.

275 The data for 1975–1981 are overstated, since in the reports they were listed under one position, namely “non-serial prints”, comprising both old and new prints. National Library, Archive of the Department of Microfilm Holdings, p. 4, K. Zawadzki, Department of Microfilm Holdings in 1983, no shelf mark.

276 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 65–67, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1964 of 10/02/1965.

277 K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe...”, op. cit., p. 208.

278 For example, in 1968, during preparatory works for microfilming *Tygodnik Ilustrowany* [The Illustrated Weekly], it was made clear that pages 1, 2, 481 and 482 of the 1913 volume had been cut out with a razor blade. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 13, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to director Z. Daszkowski of 04/12/1968.

collections. Meanwhile, the Central Catalogue of Periodicals had many gaps, so it could not be as helpful as its counterpart listing early printed books. Therefore, the DMH employees were forced to conduct time-consuming inquiries, which often proved that catalogues and inventories did not accurately reflect the actual state of the holdings. Letters to many institutions were sent in search of unique volumes or supplements. Also, items from private collections, previously unknown to bibliographers, were filmed.

Once the inquiries were finished, problems arose with bringing large-format volumes that could not be sent by mail. They required organised transport, sometimes in order to bring single items only. Nonetheless, the immensity of work stemming from the rigorous principles of the project yielded excellent results. In the first year of the program, 106 titles were microfilmed. The next year, microfilming was continued for journals such as *Gazeta Korespondenta Warszawskiego* [Journal of the Warsaw Correspondent] (1792–1841), *Gazeta Codzienna* [Daily Journal], *Słowo* [The Word] and *Kurier Warszawski* [Warsaw Courier] of 1821–1921, which required only few supplementations.²⁷⁹ Microcopies of *Kurier Litewski* [Lithuanian Courier], a title unavailable at any of the domestic libraries, were provided by the Russian National Library in St. Petersburg.²⁸⁰ Out of the 86 titles copied in 1963, 37 were successfully completed, along with 16 titles of the underground press published in 1939–1945. In 1964, a further 65 complete volumes were achieved, out of the 91 periodicals subject to microfilming in total. Upon the first three years of its implementation, the results were truly impressive, so the project could be regularly expanded. For instance, in 1970 microfilming incorporated such titles as: *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal], *Gazeta Rządowa Królestwa Polskiego* [Government Journal of the Kingdom of Poland], *Biesiada Literacka* [Literary Feast], *Bluszcz* [Ivy], *Droga* [The Way], *Kurier Literacko Naukowy* [Literary and Scientific Courier], *Niepodległość* [Independence], *Przegląd Księgarski* [Bookseller's Review], *Przegląd Społeczny* [Social Review], *Praesens*, *Ruch Muzyczny* [Musical Movement], *Słowo* [The Word], *Wiek* [The Century], *Gazeta Polska* [Polish Journal] and the underground *Płomienie* [The Flames].²⁸¹ The Department also took up the challenge to

279 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 47 et seq., K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1963 of 07/03/1964.

280 At that time called the Saltykov-Shchedrin State Public Library in Leningrad.

281 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 184 et seq., K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1970 of 23/01/1971.

complete the 44 volumes of *Dziennik Poznański* [Poznań Daily] of 1859–1902.²⁸² It was only the following year that a full collection of this daily from the years 1859–1939 was completed. At the same time, the following journals were microfilmed: *Kurier Codzienny* [Daily Courier], *Robotnik* [The Worker], *Gazeta Gdańska* [Gdańsk Journal], *Oświata* [Education], *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal], *Wiadomości Polskie* [Polish News], *Kurier Polski* [Polish Courier], *Nadgoplanin* [Citizen of the Gopło Region], *Tygodnik Powszechny* [General Weekly] (1887–1891), *Gazeta Rządowa Królestwa Polskiego* [Government Journal of the Kingdom of Poland], *Ruch Muzyczny* [Musical Movement], *Kronika Ruchu Rewolucyjnego w Polsce* [Chronicles of the Revolutionary Movement in Poland], *Zabawy przyjemne i pożyteczne* [Pastimes Pleasant and Profitable] (1770–1777) and *Ateneum* [Athenaeum]. 19th and 20th century rural periodicals were also completed, for example: *Bartosz*, *Chłopska Dola* [Peasant's Fate], *Chłopska Sprawa* [Peasant's Cause], *Lud Polski* [Polish People], *Polska Ludowa* [People's Poland], *Przegląd Ludowy* [People's Review], *Strażnica Polski Ludowej* [Watchtower of the People's Poland], *Zagon* [Garden Bed] and *Życie Gromadzkie* [Gromada Life]. Copying of the underground press was continued, comprising titles such as: *Polska* [Poland], *Polska Idzie* [Poland Coming], *Dziennik Radiowy PZW* [Radio Daily of the Polish Liberty Union], *Głos Prawdy* [The Voice of Truth], *Biuletyn Społeczno Gospodarczy* [Social and Economic Bulletin] and *Radło* [Plough]. In 1972, the DMH passed the following titles to the Reprographics Department: *Gazeta Rządowa Królestwa Polskiego* [Government Journal of the Kingdom of Poland], *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal], *Kurier Świąteczny* [Holiday Courier], *Kurier Poranny* [Morning Courier], *Kurier Polski* [Polish Courier], *Dziennik Urzędowy Województwa Mazowieckiego* [Official Journal of the Masovia Province], *Nadwiślanin* [Vistula Riverside Citizen] (1850–1866), *Młody Polak w Niemczech* [Young Pole in Germany] (1933–1939), *Zdrój* [Spring], *Opole* (1925–1929), *Warta* (1874–1890), *Gazeta Gdańska* [Gdańsk Journal] (24 volumes from 1891–1939), *Gazeta Toruńska* [Toruń Journal] (1867–1884), *Jedność Narodowa* [National Unity] (1944–1946), *Współczesność* [Modern Times] (1956–1970), *Głos Ludu* [People's Voice] (1944–1948) and *Życie Warszawy* [Warsaw Life].²⁸³ The following year, microfilming was continued for the

282 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 204, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972.

283 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 232 et seq., K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1972 of 16/01/1973.

following titles, among others: *Gazeta Gdańska* [Gdańsk Journal] (1891–1939), *Gazeta Toruńska* [Toruń Journal] (1867–1921), *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal], *Przyjaciel Ludu* [Friend of the People] (1861–1880) and *Kurier Poranny* [Morning Courier].²⁸⁴ Collections of 19th-century official journals from particular governorates and underground press were also successfully completed. In 1974, the volumes of *Kurier Polski* [Polish Courier], *Przegląd Warszawski* [Warsaw Review], *Przegląd Socjalistyczny* [Socialist Review], *Przegląd Polityczny* [Political Review] and *Przegląd Polski* [Polish Review], along with 53 titles of underground press, were completed.²⁸⁵ *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal] and *Kurier Poranny* [Morning Courier] were still being copied, as well as Pomeranian and Greater Poland periodicals such as: *Gazeta Gdańska* [Gdańsk Journal], *Gazeta Toruńska* [Toruń Journal], *Orędownik Naukowy* [Science Advocate], *Wielkopolanin* [Greater Poland Citizen], *Kaliszanin* [Kalisz Citizen], *Pielgrzym* [The Pilgrim] (*Pelplin*), *Kurier Poznański* [Poznań Courier] and *Gazeta Kartuska* [Kartuzy Journal]. *Gazeta Robotnicza* [Worker's Journal] began to be completed in agreement with the National Ossoliński Institute. In 1975, microfilming of such periodicals as *Kurier Poznański* [Poznań Courier], *Pielgrzym* [The Pilgrim] and underground press was continued.²⁸⁶ Also, the following were passed to the Reprographics Department, among others: *Czarna na Białym* [Black on White] (1937–1939), *Lewy Tor* [Left Track] (1935–1948), *Dziennik Gdyniński* [Gdynia Daily] (1928–1939), *Straż Gdańska* [The Guard of Gdańsk] (1927–1938), *Kurier Bałtycki* [Baltic Courier] (1937–1939), *Kamena* [Camena] (1933–1973) and *Orędownik Naukowy* [Science Advocate] (1840–1846). Press titles published in exile formed a separate group: *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] (Dortmund, 1934), *Głos Górnika* [Miner's Voice] (Bochum, 1920–1924, 1927), *Nauka Katolicka* [Catholic Teaching] (Bochum, 1882–1889), *Posłaniec Katolicki* [The Catholic Herald] (Bochum, 1915–1917), *Wiarus Polski* [Polish Veteran] (Bochum, 1849–1924), *Zwierciadło* [The Mirror] (Bochum, 1894–1899), *Kurier Polski w Rumunii* [Polish Courier in Romania] (Chernivtsi, Bucharest, 1938–1939), *Nowa Polska* [New Poland] (Bucharest, 1939–1940). In the second half of the 1970s, the following dailies were microfilmed, among

284 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 246–248, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1973 of 25/01/1974.

285 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 260–262, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1974 of 11/01/1975.

286 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 280–283, K. Zawadzki, Reports on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1975 of 17/01/1976.

others: *Czerwony Sztandar* [Red Banner] (Lviv, 1939–1941), *Dziennik Bydgoski* [Bydgoszcz Daily], *Gazeta Kaliska* [Kalisz Journal], *Gazeta Narodowa* [National Journal] (Lviv, 1862–1915), *Kurier Powszechny* [General Courier] (Warsaw), *Nowa Gazeta* [New Journal] (Warsaw, 1906–1918) and *Polska Zbrojna* [Armed Poland] (Warsaw, 1921–1933), along with weeklies such as: *Chłopska Prawda* [Peasant's Truth] (Warsaw), *Gazeta Chłopska* [Peasant's Journal] (Warsaw), *Praca* [The Work] (Poznań), *Ziemia Kaliska* [Kalisz Lands] and underground periodicals of 1939–1945, on a permanent basis.²⁸⁷ In the early 1980s, the following titles were completed, among others: *Ateneum* [Athenaeum], *Bunt Młodych* [Young Rebellion] (1931–1939), *Dziennik Kujawski* [Kujawy Daily], *Dziennik Narodowy* [National Daily] (1915–1917), *Dziennik Petrogradzki* [Petrograd Daily] (1914–1917), *Gazeta Kaliska* [Kalisz Journal] (1893–1926), *Gazeta Przemysłowo-Rzemieślnicza* [Journal of Industry and Crafts], *Gazeta Wojenna* [Wartime Journal], *Głos Chłopa Galicji i Podkarpacia* [Voice of the Galician and Subcarpathian Peasants], *Głos Grodzieński* [The Voice of Grodno] (1938–1939), *Głos Polski* [The Voice of Poland] (1921–1924), *Izraelita* [Israelite], *Katolik* [The Catholic], *Kronika Rodzinna* [Family Chronicles], *Kurier Nowy* [New Courier] (Petrograd), *Kurier Wileński* [Courier of Vilnius] (1925–1936), *Kurier Zachodni* [Western Courier] (Sosnowiec, 1928–1939), *Miesięcznik Kuriera Polskiego* [Polish Courier Monthly], *Myśl Narodowa* [National Thought] (1921–1939), *Nasz Przegląd* [Our Review], *Nowy Kurier Litewski* [New Lithuanian Courier] (Minsk, 1915–1918), *Polska Zbrojna* [Armed Poland], *Przegląd Techniczny* [Technical Review] (1866–1939), *Przyjaciel Ludu* [Friend of the People] (Poznań, 1882–1886), *Rzeczpospolita* [The Republic] (Warsaw, 1921–1931), *Rzeczy Piękne* [Beautiful Things] (1918–1932), *Samopomoc Chłopska* [Peasants' Self-assistance], *Strażnica Zachodnia* [Western Watchtower] (1922–1939), *Smuga* [The Smudge], *Tygodnik Artystów* [Artists' Weekly], *Tygodnik Polski* [Polish Weekly], *Warschauer Zeitung* (1939–1944), *Warszawski Dziennik Narodowy* [Warsaw National Daily], *Warszawski Dziennik Statystyczny* [Warsaw Statistical Daily], *Wiadomości Warszawskie* [Warsaw News] (1766–1773), *Więści Polskie* [Polish News] (Budapest, 1939–1942), *Wola Ludu* [People's Will] (Warsaw, 1921–1927), *Wychodźca* [The Emigrant], (1922–1939), *Ziemia Lubelska* [Lublin Lands] (1906, 1908), *Życie Młodzieży* [Life of the Youth] and *Życie Wolne*

287 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, pp. 120–124, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.

[Free Life].²⁸⁸ Literary ephemera were also copied, for instance: *Biały paw* [The White Peacock], *Rydwan* [The Chariot] and *Strumień* [the Stream]. The Reprographics Department received the following underground periodicals: *Barykada Wolności* [Liberty Barricade], *Biuletyn Żołnierski* [Soldier's Bulletin], *Do celu* [Until the Goal is Reached], *Gazeta Chłopska* [Peasant's Journal], *Harcerka* [Scouting], *Mysł Państwowa* [State Thought], *Niepodległość* [Independence], *Pokuckie Słowo Narodowe* [The National Word of Pokuta], *Polska Czynu* [Poland in Action], *Przewodnik* [The Guide], *Widomości Warszawskie* [Warsaw News] and *Wola i Czyn* [Will and Action], which increased the number of titles copied to over 450.

Furthermore, thanks to the endeavours of the DMH, works aimed at preserving the press collections of the National Library were launched as of 1978 through microfilming the titles from a list prepared by the NL Department of Periodicals.²⁸⁹ From the second half of the 1970s, apart from journals of historical value, contemporary press also began being microfilmed, for example *Kamera* [The Camera], *Kierunki* [Directions], *Kultura* [Culture], *Kwartalnik Historii Kultury Materialnej* [Quarterly of the History of Material Culture], *Kwartalnik Historyczny* [Historical Quarterly], *Literatura* [Literature], *Odra* [Oder], *Polityka* [Politics], *Przegląd historyczny* [Historical Review], *Przegląd techniczny* [Technical Review], *Trybuna Ludu* [People's Tribune], *Tygodnik Powszechny* [General Weekly], *Życie Literackie* [Literary Life], *Życie gospodarcze* [Economic Life], *Życie i nowoczesność* [Life and Modernity], *Życie Warszawy* [Life of Warsaw] and others.²⁹⁰ Current foreign periodicals were not left out. In 1969, Zawadzki discussed this topic with Józef Frieske, director of the Polish Institute of International Affairs.²⁹¹ At first, 15 titles were selected.²⁹²

288 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 50–54, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1980 of 09/01/1980, pp. 96–98, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1981 of 27/01/1982.

289 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 116, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1978 of 12/01/1979.

290 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, pp. 48 et seq., K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1980 of 09/01/1980.

291 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 14, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to the Management of the National Library of 11/01/1969.

292 These were: *Blick durch die Wirtschaft* (West Germany), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (West Germany), *Humanité* (France), *International Herald Tribune* (European edition of three major US dailies), *Izvestia* (USSR), *Le Monde* (France), *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (Switzerland), *Neues Deutschland* (East Germany), *New York Times* (USA), *Pravda* (USSR), *Times* (England), *L'Unità* (Italy), *Die Welt* (West Germany), *Die Weltwoche* (Switzerland) and *Die Zeit* (West Germany).

The Institute undertook to provide those journals, both current volumes and the pre-1945 collections, and to purchase the positive copies made at the National Library. The project was implemented without break from 1970.²⁹³

Microfilming 14,947 volumes in total made it possible to complete over 1,800 titles of journals.²⁹⁴ On many occasions, completing the titles required bringing issues from numerous other libraries.²⁹⁵ The record was held by the 1790 volume of *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal], microfilmed from 17 different copies. *Dziennik Poznański* [Poznań Daily], published from 1859–1939, was completed thanks to resources proceeding from 10 different libraries. For *Gazeta Polska* [Polish Journal] of 1830, six different copies were used. Completing the collection of *Kurier Polski* [Polish Courier] of 1829–1831 (617 issues) involved bringing volumes from eight libraries based in Cracow, Płock, Warsaw and Wrocław. This tedious, time-consuming and demanding work requiring an exceptional attention to detail made it possible to create an excellent collection of microfilms which were not simple surrogates. As was the case for many periodicals, no original, complete sequences were available at the libraries, the journals saved on tape were treated as primary resources.

During Mr Zawadzki's term of office, the microfilming of music documents was continued. The Music Department of the National Library was responsible for selecting and preparing these collections. If we take into account the works completed by the Microfilm Station in 1949–1962, the total microfilm collection of music documents reached 7,911 items.

Microfilming modern prints was significantly less successful. The analysis of bibliographic sources aimed at discovering rare publications from the 19th and 20th century had begun already in 1970, when the necessity of microfilming unique copies of works by Felicjan Faliński and Jan Kasprówicz was noted.²⁹⁶ However, due to staff shortages, the initiative never gained enough momentum. Zawadzki's endeavours to obtain

293 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/2/4, pp. 448–449, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to the Library of the Institute of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw of 01/12/1970.

294 K. Zawadzki, "Zbiory mikrofilmowe Biblioteki Narodowej. Historia, Stan obecny, Przyszłość?" [Microfilm Holdings of the National Library. The Past, the Present, the Future?], *Przegląd Biblioteczny* [Librarian Review], vol. 52, 1984, p. 347.

295 K. Zawadzki, "Zbiory mikrofilmowe...", op. cit., p. 210.

296 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, pp. 16–17, Letter of Prof. Daszkowski, Vice-director of the National Library to W. Piusińska, Head of the Department for Collection and Preparation of Holdings and K. Zawadzki of 28/03/1970, Letter of Z. Daszkowski, Vice-director of the National Library to K. Zawadzki of 05/04/1970.

funds for a new employee only produced the desired effect in 1977.²⁹⁷ By that time, only 54 prints had been microfilmed in total. It was decided that materials would be handed over for copying in the following order: first the National Library rarities, then titles absent in the NL collections, followed by Polonica solely available abroad and prints held in the Polish libraries in a small number of copies.²⁹⁸ A separate collection was devised for underground non-serial prints. By 1983, 892 items from the latter group were microfilmed out of the 1,069 listed in the Bibliography of Non-serial Underground Prints Released under the Nazi Occupation 1939–1945 by Władysław Chojnacki.²⁹⁹ Other modern prints copied in that period included 1,607 books and brochures brought mainly from the Jagiellonian Library and the Ossoliński collections in Lviv, the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Warsaw University Library.³⁰⁰ Microfilming this kind of collection to such a limited extent only was a serious mistake made by the DMH, as modern prints were published on acidic paper, like the 19th and 20th century periodicals.³⁰¹ Consequently, unique copies were subject to deterioration. In the face of staff shortages, the microfilming of early printed books – published on durable, classic laid paper – should have been limited, so that items issued since the mid-19th century could be preserved to a greater extent.

Other types of collections, such as maps, plans, engravings or drawings, were microfilmed in small amounts only. Mr Zawadzki made a powerful statement about possible preservation microfilming of cartographic materials in October 1977 at the First Polish Conference of Librarians-Cartographers.³⁰² Plans were even made to start building a national cartographic collection made up of the copies of materials stored at the Polish institutions and in private collections, along with Polonica from

297 K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe...”, op. cit., p. 211.

298 Ibid., p. 212.

299 K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe Biblioteki Narodowej...”, op. cit., p. 348.

300 Providing detailed data for each year is impossible, as from 1977 the reports only quoted general data on the prints handed over to the Reprographics Department, with no distinction between old and new publications. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 133 et seq., K. Zawadzki, Performance analysis for the Working Plan of Department of Microfilm Holdings in 1981; K. Zawadzki “Zbiory mikrofilmowe Biblioteki Narodowej...”, op. cit., p. 348.

301 See S. Błaszczuk, *Trwałość papieru w książkach polskich* [Durability of the Paper Used in Polish Books], Warszawa 1999.

302 K. Zawadzki, “Uwagi w sprawie Centralnego Zbioru Kartograficznego” [Observations on the Central Cartographic Resource] in *Materiały z Pierwszej Ogólnopolskiej Konferencji Bibliotekarzy Kartografów* [Proceedings of the First Polish Conference of Librarians-Cartographers], Warszawa 1979, pp. 24–30; K. Zawadzki, “Z problemów mikrofilmowania...”, op. cit., p. 331.

abroad, an initiative that would be coordinated by the National Library. This, however, provoked serious organisational and content-related problems as well as technical ones, since the enterprise required suitable equipment supporting unwieldy formats and substantial amounts of high-quality colour tape. For the above reasons, the initiative remained at the design stage. Documents of social life and doctoral dissertations were not microfilmed at all. Mr Zawadzki was losing sleep over the latter issue in particular. In 1973, his request for having another employee assigned to begin copying such materials was rejected.³⁰³ The head of the DMH also discussed microfilming PhD dissertations in the *Programme of Microfilming at the National Library* of 1974 and the *Plan for Future Development of the NL DMH until 2005* of 1979.³⁰⁴ A year later, in his article for *Rocznik Biblioteki Narodowej* [National Library Yearbook], he stated that “Poland is one of the few countries enjoying a high level of science and culture that still do not preserve these materials [doctoral dissertations]”.³⁰⁵ In 1984, he listed copying PhD dissertations as one of the future tasks of the DMH.³⁰⁶ Back then, most of the dissertations remained in typescripts kept in various locations throughout the country, as publishing them in print was uneconomical, which virtually eliminated them from the research activity. This was undoubtedly a problem, however, its solution did not fall within the competences of the National Library, but libraries of universities and research institutes.³⁰⁷ During Mr Zawadzki’s 20 years in office, 43,639 diverse originals were handed over to the Reprographics Department, emanating from more than 160 libraries in Poland and abroad.³⁰⁸ It ought to be noted that during this

303 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 248, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1973 of 25/01/1974.

304 National Library, Archive of the DMH, no pagination, K. Zawadzki, Program of Microfilming at the National Library, 18/10/1974; K. Zawadzki, Plan for Future Development of the NL DMH until 2005, 21/05/1979, no shelf mark.

305 K. Zawadzki, “Z problemów mikrofilmowania...”, op. cit., p. 332.

306 K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe Biblioteki Narodowej...”, op. cit., pp. 343–356.

307 In the United States, such activity was conducted by university libraries. As the survey of 1977 showed, in Poland the Main Medical Library was developing plans to microfilm dissertations in the medical sciences. Also the PAS Centre of Scientific Information was interested in such materials.

308 The number of volumes brought by the DMH was even higher, as many items did not make it to the Reprographics Department due to technical or content-related issues. In the case of periodicals, often the same volumes of a title were borrowed, so that they could be compared and the best copy chosen. As a result, from 1962 to the end of 1982 49,197 volumes were brought. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 62, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1964 of 10/02/1965, p. 90, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the

period the DMH contacted many more institutions in search of unique items. On numerous occasions the requests were rejected, as it turned out that the catalogues and other bibliographic aids did not reflect the actual state of the collections. As a rule, foreign Polonica were ordered as surrogates from the start, although some exceptions were allowed for.³⁰⁹ The number of photographs taken by the Reprographics Department to be used by the DMH amounted to over 8,500,000 frames. Taking into account the production of the period from 1949–1961, we may estimate that at the moment when Zawadzki left, the DMH collection exceeded 20,000,000 microfilmed pages from 64,399 diverse originals,³¹⁰ including: 28,125 manuscripts from 98 libraries, 8,644 titles of early printed books, 1,803 complete collections of periodicals and 7,911 music documents. By June 1983, the total number of negatives, positives and archival copies amounted to 125,572 items³¹¹ in over 50,400 rolls.

Although Mr Zawadzki could not count on the same resources as Mr Wyczański, since the Microfilm Station had been split into the Reprographics Department and the DMH, he managed, however, to review the collection and catch up on the execution of positives.³¹² Their production and stocktaking also facilitated access to the collections. The continually growing collection was becoming increasingly interesting for research-

National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966, p. 102, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1966 of 11/01/1967, p. 120, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1967, p. 164, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1969 of 17/01/1970, p. 183, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1970 of 23/01/1971.

- 309 In 1965, the DMH handed over for microfilming periodicals and prints published in exile from 1933–1945 emanating from the holdings of Deutsche Bucherei in Leipzig, which that institution exhibited on the NL premises. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 46–49, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1965 of 18/01/1966.
- 310 These figures could have been even higher, but for a number of reasons the Reprographics Department was not always able to accept all the materials from the DMH. A case in point, in 1971 technical issues impeded 187 items from being microfilmed, including 98 manuscripts, 24 vol. of periodicals, 60 early printed books and 5 music documents corresponding to about 45,000 frames. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 199, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972.
- 311 63,129 of them were microfilmed by the Reprographics Department, while the remaining 932 were received as finished microforms as a result of exchanges or donations from other institutions. K. Zawadzki, “Zbiory mikrofilmowe Biblioteki Narodowej...”, *op. cit.*, p. 344.
- 312 Even though stoppages occurred, as from August 1962 to October 1963 due to an employee absence. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 47, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1963 of 07/03/1964.

ers, which translated into a growing number of readers – from 35 in 1957 to 3,304 in 1982 – as well as of inter-library loans. The share of microfilms, which represented about 4% of all the NL holdings, amounted to around 30% of the total loans.³¹³ As with during the Microfilm Station period, in order to provide better information about the microfilms available, catalogues were published in print, while indexing³¹⁴ and card catalogue reviews were underway.³¹⁵

Meanwhile, the accumulating hardships related to an insufficient number of employees, staff turnover, lack of appropriate space or difficulties in organising foreign research trips made it impossible to meet the plans for microfilming Polonica, cartographic holdings, documents of social life or academic dissertations. Modern prints were preserved to a limited extent. Attempts at creating the National Microform Resource or the Central Microfilm Catalogue together with the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute failed. Archival copies began to be produced with delay. Prof. Konrad Zawadzki entrusted his successors with

313 National Library, Archive of the Department of Microfilm Holdings, p. 26, K. Zawadzki, Department of Microfilm Holdings in 1983, no shelf mark.

314 The DMH employees prepared personal, geographic and thematic indices of the micro-filmed holdings. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 205, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972, p. 233, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1972 of 16/01/1973; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/1, p. 17, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in Q1 1976 of 09/04/1976; NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/2, p. 98, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1981 of 27/01/1982.

315 When Mr Zawadzki took over the Division of Microfilm Holdings, then still forming part of the Microfilm Station, a spot check was performed on the ca. 250 periodical volumes filmed hitherto. It turned out that most of them were prepared inaccurately, inconsistently and in a way that did not reflect the actual situation. Systematic supplementations were introduced in the following years. 9,993 cards were arranged at the Manuscript Department, chronological order being replaced by an alphabetical or origin-based one. Together with the laboratory staff, the microfilm collection to date was properly arranged, as it appeared that the originals were frequently recorded on tape in an accidental and arbitrary way. This required cutting and splicing in the correct order ca. 18,600 negatives and 6,000 positives (3,211 reels). The work continued the following year, when 1,350 positive reels and 650 negative ones were rectified along with 973 catalogue descriptions of manuscripts. As part of the rearrangements put in place as soon as Mr Zawadzki took the office, the recording system was upgraded through removing spare card files, a new model of the inventory book was elaborated and the system of handing microfilms over for copying got simplified. Review of the old collections and currently incorporated catalogue cards was also systematically held in the following years. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, p. 10, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Resource Division of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962, p. 16, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Collections Division of the National Library Microfilm Station in 1961 of 11/01/1962, pp. 33–36, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Division of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1962 of 28/01/1963.

the completion of these goals, along with the tasks of reuniting the Reprographics Department and the DMH within one structural unit as well as obtaining additional spaces within the new building.

On 1 August 1983, Barbara Drewniewska, PhD, took over the management of the DMH.³¹⁶ In 1984, she announced a programme of preservation microfilming for the NL collections.³¹⁷ The basic rules for selecting originals remained unchanged. However, as the number of trips was being gradually reduced, more and more materials started to come from private collections and resources of Warsaw-based institutions.³¹⁸ Despite the difficulties in logistics, the Department tried to continue completing press collections: for instance, works on the *Bluszcz* [Ivy] and *Żołnierz Polski* [Polish Soldier] magazines came to an end, while those on *Gazeta Lwowska* [Lviv Journal] were underway; in terms of underground press, its time period was extended to 1956; Prof. Chojnacki was asked for assistance in the process of completing its collections.³¹⁹ In agreement with the Social Organisational Committee of the Museum of Scouting in Warsaw, 49 titles of underground scouts' press of 1939–1945 were filmed.³²⁰ In the case of early printed books – which were now prepared by the head of the DMH in their totality – 1991 was the breakthrough year, when many titles were copied in connection with the anniversary of the Constitution of 3 May 1791. Also, copies of original Polonica borrowed by the NL were copied.³²¹ At the same time, efforts were made to obtain finished micro-

316 She had the same scope of responsibilities as her predecessor, including: general management of the department, drawing up of microfilming policy guidelines, selection of materials for microfilming, supervision over materials prepared for microfilming, contact with libraries and other institutions in matters of microfilming, preparing early printed books for microfilming and other works assigned by the supervisors. *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1983* [Report of the National Library for 1983], ed. W. Nowak, Warszawa 1986, p. 21.

317 The basic role of the department still consisted in bringing and preparing library items for microfilming. It was planned that 1,520 items of various resources would be handed over to the Reprographics Department annually, including: 500 manuscripts, 400 periodicals, 200 early printed books, 300 music documents and 120 modern prints. NL, DDA, shelf mark 75/6/1, p. 229, DMH Report for 1988; B. Drewniewska-Idziak, "ZZM. Program zabezpieczenia zbiorów BN" [DMH. A Programme of Preservation Microfilming for the NL Collections], *Biuletyn Informacyjny BN* [National Library Information Bulletin], issue 3–4 (90–91), 1984, pp. 13–15.

318 For example, in 1988, 350 leaves with poems by Mieczysław Jastrun from 1962–1970 were lent by the poet's family. NL, DDA, shelf mark 75/6/1, p. 77, Report of the Manuscript Department for 1988.

319 NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/6/2/4, p. 99, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, DMH Report for 1991.

320 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/3, pp. 25–27, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, DMH Report for 1984.

321 In this way, a book of 1863 made available by the University Library of Lund was incorporated into the DMH collections. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 41, Letter of the Division of National and Foreign Loans to the National Library Reprographics Department of 27/11/1984.

forms from foreign libraries.³²² In 1987, surrogates made in Poland were also purchased, namely two positive copies of a text record of the negotiations held in August 1980 at the Gdańsk Shipyard.³²³ Review works were continued, new descriptions added to the card file and indices issued in print in accordance with the rules defined by Mr Zawadzki.³²⁴

The economic hardships Poland was facing in the 1980s also adversely affected microfilming at the National Library. As mentioned before, the Reprographics Department's own production was limited by the difficulties in acquiring photochemical materials. The irregular pace of work disrupted the DMH's efforts.³²⁵ Furthermore, in 1988, surrogates of periodicals were withdrawn from public access in cases where the DMH had only one positive copy.³²⁶ Unfortunately, this part of the microfilm resources was also the one the NL readers asked for most frequently, and

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- 322 A case in point, in 1983, eight microfilms were ordered from Deutsche Bücherei in Leipzig, with periodicals of World War II, unavailable at any of the Polish institutions. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 38, Letter of B. Drewniewska to the to the Department of Collections Supplementation of 17/10/1983.
- 323 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, 1966–1987, p. 43, Letter of B. Drewniewska to the Commission on Acquisition of Special Collections at the National Library of 24/03/1987.
- 324 Other works taken on by the DMH in that period included regular student training, guided visits for guests from Budapest, Leipzig, Moscow and St. Petersburg and the participation of the Department's head in conferences such as the National Assembly of Delegates of the Polish Librarians' Association's in Toruń (13–15 May 1985) as well as in commissions of: candidates for certified librarians at the Ministry of Education, the Central Audit Committee of the Polish Librarians' Association (head), the *Informator Bibliotekarza i Księgarza* review [Librarian's and Bookseller's Guide] (editor-in-chief), Commission on Salary Analysis and Interventions at the Executive Committee of the PLA (secretary), meetings dedicated to standardisation held by the Institute for Scientific, Technical and Economic Information (participant), Commission on Conservation and Protection of Library Holdings (member) and others.
- 325 For example, in 1985 substantial delays in manuscript microfilming occurred. 154 items borrowed from the Kraków Library of the PAS and prepared for microfilming in April had not been accepted by the Reprographics Department for over eight months. A similar problem arose in the case of the *Czas* [Time] journal microfilmed from the collections of the Cracow Municipal Archives. Keeping materials overdue resulted in justified notices and complaints from the lending institutions. In 1990, the Jagiellonian Library made the lending of the *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* [Illustrated Daily Courier] journal dependent on the return of *Nowa reforma* [New Reform], which the DMH had been keeping for over two years. The delays also concerned their own resources, e.g. 50 manuscripts in the same period. From December 1986 through February 1987, due to the lack of tape, the Reprographics Department was unable to make positive copies of microfilmed materials such as the periodicals *Słowo* [The Word] (Vilnius), *Express Wieczorny* [Evening Express], *Kurier Rzeszowski* [Rzeszów Courier], *Kwadryga* [Quadriga] and *Wieczory Rodzinne* [Family Evenings] as well as manuscripts of the Cracow Library of the PAS. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 42, Letter of B. Drewniewska to H. Jankowska of 12/08/1985, p. 45, Letter of B. Drewniewska to the Reprographics Department of 19/08/1987; NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/6/2/4, p. 99, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, DMH Report for 1991.
- 326 NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/3, p. 34 et seq., B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Report for 1988 of 03/01/1989.

the inability to access the periodicals in the reading room provoked understandable grievances. The restriction did not exclusively apply to orders from the Jagiellonian Library and the National Ossoliński Institute. It translated into an evident decline in the number of microfilms sent, from 3,428 items to 876 in 1990 and 871 in 1991.³²⁷ Nonetheless, attendance increased in the reading room. The highest number of readers, 4,943 people, was recorded in 1988. In the years to follow, it never fell below 4,000.

Although the Division managed to increase the number of staff members to 12 full-time jobs, it did not solve the problem of employee turnover. The difficulties caused by vacant positions were aggravated by frequent sick leaves of the staff.³²⁸ In spite of these issues, the microfilm collection grew systematically to reach 148,441 items in 1991.

REPROGRAPHY AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF POLAND UNTIL 2012

On 6 August 1992, the Section for the Protection and Conservation of Holdings was created, incorporating the Departments of Microfilm Holdings and Reprographics.³²⁹ Barbara Drewniewska, PhD, was appointed as its head. Thus, Mr Zawadzki's call for uniting the two entities in charge of surrogate production within one administrative unit was answered. Furthermore, both departments moved to the new building of the National Library in the Mokotów Field in Warsaw, which was another major change. Hence, the DMH – managed by Irena Łoś-Stembrowicz after the promotion of Barbara Drewniewska – carried out review and rearrangement works both in the catalogues (cards were verified, supplemented

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- 327 In 1988, microfilms were lent to 72 libraries including 12 foreign ones, in 1990 to 41 libraries including 10 foreign ones and in 1992 to 44 libraries including 9 foreign ones. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/3, p. 34 et seq., B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Report for 1988 of 03/01/1989; NL, DDA, shelf mark 90/8/5, p. 90, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, DMH Report for 1990; NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/6/2/4, p. 98, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, DMH Report for 1991.
- 328 This was why in the third quarter of 1988, for example, a long interruption in collection stocktaking took place. Staff shortages in the second half of 1985 and throughout 1991 caused the number of rolls handed over for maintenance to be under the estimate. The absence of a warehouse keeper from the second half of 1985 through April 1989 was especially troublesome. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/4/3, p. 45, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Reports on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in the first half of 1989 of 05/07/1989; NL, DDA, shelf mark 75/6/1, p. 235, DMH Report for 1988.
- 329 It was composed of: the Department of Library Holdings' Conservation, Specialised Bindery, Reprographics Department, Department of Microfilm Holdings and the Centre for Supervision over the Holdings. *Sprawozdanie Biblioteki Narodowej za rok 1992* [Report of the National Library for 1992], ed. W. Sznee, Warszawa 1994, pp. 5, 9.

and clipped together in the card files, while printed catalogues were checked for errors) and holdings (ca. 380 missing positive reels were integrated into the collection) as well as preparing lists of titles of the periodicals available in the reading room in 1993 and of the manuscripts and early printed books owned by the NL that required refilming.³³⁰ The move commenced on 12 May 1994. One month later, the DMH was already settled in the new premises. The fact that as early as on 11 July 1994 the collections became available at the reading room attests to an efficiency in moving the holdings.

Moving the Reprographics Department proved more troublesome. In its new facilities, problems with the water and electric grid arose. In some of the rooms, apart from replacing the sockets, it was necessary to repaint the walls in order to resume reprographic activities. The commencement of the specialised and highly specific workshop was also hindered by staff shortages.³³¹ The move and opportunities for acquiring modern equipment resulting from free access to Western markets following the political shift of 1989 stimulated an upgrade of the machine pool, so greatly desired since the late 1980s.³³² In 1992, the Reprographics Department received new equipment purchased from the Library's own funds.³³³ In 1994, owing to a grant from the Foundation for Polish Science amounting to PLN 600,000, equipment was acquired such as 18 readers for the reading room, which replaced the Zeiss devices made in the 1970s, no longer manufactured.³³⁴ New equipment also had to be acquired due to the

330 NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/7/6, p. 90, Activity of the DMH in 1994.

331 Four employees left the Department in total. Five new ones along with the existing staff needed training with respect to maintenance of the new equipment.

332 The first devices were purchased even before the Department moved to the new building. In 1989, a microfiche camera was installed together with a developer and copier. This allowed for producing microfiches in an A6 format in a layout of 49, 98 or 270 frames in one copy. NL, DDA, shelf mark 92/19, p. 3, Letter of H. Jankowska to W. Piusińska, National Library Vice-director, of 03/01/1989.

333 These were: an AGFA X-25-5 xerocopier, a FUJI microfilm camera (repurchased from the Office for the Installation of Special Equipment), a Cobilabor developer, a Libnhof photo camera (the previous camera was passed on to the Conservation Department) and a journalist photo camera NIKON 401. NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/6/2/4, pp. 48–49, H. Jankowska, Report of the Reprographics Department for 1991 of 10/01/1992.

334 Also, an Extex Silver Duplicator microfilm copier was bought, along with an Extex Diazo Duplicator diazo microfilm copier, a Schaut microfilm camera for periodicals, a Schaut microfilm camera with cradle, a Gordon folding camera, a microfilm splicer-welder and three desktop microfilm winders. The National Library also received a microfiche reader as a donation from the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/7/6, p. 27, Report of the Reprographics Department for 1994; B. Drewniewska-Idziak, I. Łoś-Stembrowicz, "Bieżąca działalność Zakładu Zbiorów Mikrofilmowych" [Archivity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings], *Biuletyn informacyjny BN* [National Library Information Bulletin], issue 1, 1997, p. 17.

introduction of negative and positive polyester films. Furthermore, the National Library was the first institution in Poland to start using the universal direct duplicating base for which the Reprographics Department had to elaborate its own, original procedures for development, fixing and copying. Furthermore, with the introduction of the affordable and easily produced diazo films, the microfilmed periodicals removed from public access since 1988 could be made available again.³³⁵

The upgrade of the machine pool and moving to the new location also caused structural changes in the Reprographics Department. Since 1994, the unit was divided into four sections, with charge of: microfilming, chemical processing, photocopies, and the office of readers' requests.³³⁶ Additionally, two independent work posts were created in the Palace of the Commonwealth – where the manuscripts, early printed books and iconic collections remained – responsible for the microfilming of manuscripts and early printed books as well as performing photo reproductions of iconographic collections. Upon completion of employee training and removal of the defects that appeared during the equipment start-up, the Department fully resumed its activity in October 1994.

More efficiency in handling periodicals was much needed, to the extent that the DMH also had to focus on preparing such collections, as well as modern prints, once they moved to the new location.³³⁷ Press titles were

335 Diazo films were twice as cheap as the silver ones. Furthermore, only ammonia was used for processing instead of costly reagents. Upon receiving an order for a particular title, a Department employee made diazo copies from the microfilms owned and then sent them to the interested library. According to these rules, the *Czas* [Time] journal of 1848–1885 was copied, among others. The diazo material was also used to copy the negatives made within the ongoing press completing activities. As journal loans resumed, orders in 1996 increased so dramatically that their performance, involving the execution of a diazo copy, had to be postponed until the end of the following year. NL, DDA, shelf mark 184/2/2, p. 62, Report on the activity of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings in 1996.

336 In 1994, the Reprographics Department employed 21 people in total, of whom 18 worked in the Mokotów Field building, 2 in the Palace of the Commonwealth and one was making photocopies upon readers' requests at the NL office on Hankiewicza Street. NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/7/6, p. 90, Activity of the DMH in 1994.

337 In 1994, the Department selected and prepared the following titles for microfilming: *Bellona* (London, 1950–1964), *Gaz i Woda* [Gas and Water] (Cracow, 1927–1939), *Szpilki* [Pins] (1963–1972), *Le Journal de Pologne* (1924), *Kwartalnik Kultury Materialnej* [Material Culture Quarterly] (1990–1991), *Kwartalnik Historyczny* [Historical Quarterly] (1990–1992), *Odra* [Oder] (1990–1991), *Twórczość* [Creativity] (1961–1978), *Chata Rodzinna* [Family Cottage] (1923–1933), *Przegląd Powszechny* [General Review] (1893–1902, 1906–1911, 1913, 1918), *Rocznik Historii Czasopiśmiennictwa Polskiego* [Yearbook for the History of Polish Press] (1964–1975), *Rzeczpospolita* [The Republic] (1982–1985), *Gazeta Wyborcza* [Electoral Journal] (1992), *Polityka* [Politics] (1992), *Kraj Codzienny* [Country Daily] (Petersburg, 1908), *Kresy* [Borderlands] (Kiev, 1907–1908), *Kłosy Ukraińskie* [Ukrainian Ears of Grain] (Kiev, 1914), *Kultura* [Culture] (Paris, 1947–1993), *Zeszyty Literackie* [Literary Notebooks] (Paris, 1983–1993), *Zeszyty Historyczne* [Historical Notebooks]

microfilmed from seven lists prepared by the Warehouse Department (49 items) and the Department of Periodicals, featuring 20 titles most frequently issued to readers, 119 damaged or incomplete ones and 61 independent publications from 1976–1990.³³⁸ Moreover, since 2000, within the Three Libraries programme financed by the Leopold Kronenberg Foundation, the National Library began microfilming periodicals from the end of the 19th and early 20th century together with the Warsaw University Library.³³⁹ As a result, both libraries obtained surrogates for 56

(Paris, 1962–1977), *Gazeta Lwowska* [Lviv Journal] (1851–1860) and *Kultura* [Culture] (Warsaw, 1990). NL, DDA, shelf mark 122/7/6, p. 5, List of the periodicals prepared and handed over for microfilming in 1994.

- 338 Microfilming of *Gazeta Lwowska* until 1903, *Przegląd Powszechny* [General Review], the pre-war *Przegląd Sportowy* [Sports Review] and *Trybuna Mazowiecka* [Masovian Tribune] (1954–1981) was continued. Microfilms of 48 volumes of periodicals published in 1939 were reviewed and – once compared to the collection of originals and the resources from the September Files – ten of them were supplemented. The collection of *Piast* [Piast] and *Chłopskie życie gospodarcze* [Peasant's Economic Life], which finished with the 1939 issues, was expanded by volumes from the 1940s. *Wiadomości Literackie* [Literary News] (Warsaw, 1924–1933) and *Pologne Litteraire* (Warsaw, 1926–1939) had to be refilmed. New titles were passed to the Reprographics Department, for example: *ABC* (Warsaw, 1926–1939), also after it changed the title to *ABC Nowiny Codzienne* [ABC Daily News] (1930–1935), *Dziennik Białostocki* [Białystok Daily], the Official Journals of the Lviv Province (1921–1939) and of the Vilnius Province (1919–1939), *Gazeta Bankowa* [Banking Journal] (Warsaw, 1988–2002), *Gazeta Polska* [Polish Journal] (Jerusalem, 1941–1948), *Gazeta Polska* [Polish Journal] (Paris, 1944–1952), *Gazeta Rolnicza* [Farming Journal] (1866–1939), *Kurier Częstochowski* [Courier of Częstochowa] (1940–1945), *Niepodległość* [Independence] (Paris, 1941–1945), *Nowiny Izraelskie* [Israeli News] (Tel-Aviv, 1952–1999), *Prawo i życie* [Law and Life] (1961–1980), *Państwo i Prawo* [State and Law] (1951–1990) and *Przegląd Psychologiczny* [Psychology Review]. Current newspapers were copied too, for example *Gazeta Wyborcza* [Electoral Journal], *Rzeczpospolita* [The Republic], *Sztandar Młodych* [Banner of the Youth], *Trybuna* [The Tribune], *Przegląd Techniczny* [Technical Review], *Wprost* [Directly] and *Życie Warszawy* [Warsaw Life]. In the case of the latter, microfilms of the 2003 and 2005 volumes were integrated into the collection, received from the editors in exchange for overdue legal deposits. For *Trybuna Opolska* [Opole Tribune], only the sequence from 1952–1964 was filmed, as the collection had to be split into more than one shelf mark due to several modifications of the title. Preservation microfilming of the *Najwyższy Czas* [High Time] magazine, published since 1990, was abandoned due to the incompleteness of the collection. *Ruch Słowiański* [Slavic Movement] (1928–1938) was microfilmed upon the request of the Main Library of the Opole University, and *Robotnik Polski w Wielkiej Brytanii* [Polish Worker in the UK] (1940–1943), upon request of the Warsaw University Library. In collaboration with the Polish Library in Paris, positive copies of the following dailies were executed on silver: *Dziennik Poznański* [Poznań Daily] (1859–1939), *Słowo* [The Word] (Vilnius, 1922–1939), *Kurier Wileński* [Vilnius Courier] (1924–1936), *Świat* [The World] (1906–1939), *Czas* [Time] (1848–1939), *Gazeta Lwowska* [Lviv Journal] (1811–1896), *Goniec Poranny* [Morning Messenger], *Goniec Wieczorny* [Evening Messenger] (1901–1919), *Kraj* [The Country] (St. Petersburg, 1882–1909), *Polska Zbrojna* [Armed Poland] (1921–1939), *Orzeł Biały* [The White Eagle] (1941–1988) and *Gazeta Narodowa* [National Journal] (1862–1915).
- 339 The project embraced titles such as *Gazeta Świąteczna* [Holiday Journal] (1915–1939) held at the Warsaw University Library, or *Goniec Poranny* [Morning Messenger] and *Goniec Wieczorny* [Evening Messenger] (1901–1918) from the National Library. In April 2002, it was expanded by 15 further titles indicated by the departments of periodicals of both libraries as the most damaged and most frequently accessed by readers, e.g. *Przegląd Wileński*

periodicals that for the most part were not suitable for public access due to their poor state of preservation.

Manuscripts and early printed books were mostly copied on the basis of lists prepared before the Department moved to the new building. A part of these collections was filmed with the camera left at the Palace of the Commonwealth.³⁴⁰ At the same time, serious difficulties arose with respect to transport arrangements. In 1996, only two visits were organized, to Cracow and Wrocław. Instead, more materials were borrowed from the Warsaw libraries in order to remedy the deficiencies. Eventually, in 2001, the action of preserving the most valuable manuscripts from the Polish Libraries was finalised; now, post-war underground prints as well as 19th and 20th-century rarities from the NL collections began to be copied.³⁴¹ Thus, the initiative of providing back-up copies for the most valuable collections of the Polish institutions, carried out since the 1950s, was finished.

At the same time, from 1994–2001, copies of foreign collections were made at the home libraries by means of a mobile camera. From 28 February to 11 March 1994, at the Central Research Library in Kiev, 6,336 frames were taken of eleven volumes of the Albertrandi catalogue, ten manuscripts and two early printed books. Between 6 and 25 June 1994, 240 manuscripts from the Adam Mickiewicz Museum at the Polish Library in Paris were copied on 8,500 frames.³⁴² From 24–26 October 1994, music

[Vilnius Review], *Odrodzenie* [Renaissance], *Dzień Polski* [The Polish Day], *Kurier Wieczorny* [Evening Courier], *Pracownik Bankowy* [Bank Employee], *Przegląd Poranny* [Morning Review] and *Przegląd Wieczorny* [Evening Review]. While the project was underway, microfilming of *Deutsche Warschauer Zeitung* was suspended, since most of the volumes required conservation. In turn, *Pomorski Herold Pocztowy* [Pomeranian Post Herald] and *Polak nad Amurem* [A Pole by the River Amur] were copied. The periodicals were microfilmed together with their supplements, for example *Dziennik Wileński* [Vilnius Daily] was accompanied by its continuation, *Głos Narodowy* [National Voice], and supplement *Życie* [Life]. The microcopies were exchanged in December 2002. The National Library provided 217 positive rolls (11,675 frames), 44 titles of periodicals and 142 catalogue cards, and received 64 positive rolls (31,472 frames), 12 titles of periodicals and 130 catalogue cards from the Warsaw University Library. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/6, pp. 90–91, the Three Libraries Programme.

- 340 In the fourth quarter of 1994, it was used to produce 15,320 frames of 61 early printed books and 32 manuscripts of the NL as well as 33 foreign resources. The remaining special collections were microfilmed at the NL building in Mokotów Field.
- 341 The last transport to fetch collections was sent to the Kraków Library of the PAS. The last reels with positive copies of external collections were handed over to the libraries that kept the originals in 2007. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/3, p. 2, Report of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings.
- 342 This activity was based on an agreement concluded in 1992 between the Ministry of Culture and Art and the Historical and Literary Society based on the Quai d'Orléans boulevard in Paris which was taking care of the collections of the Polish Library, the Adam Mickiewicz Museum, the collections of Fryderyk Chopin and Kamil Gronkowski, as well as the

manuscripts were copied at the Monastery of the Jesuit Fathers in Święta Lipka on ca. 2,500 frames. In the following years, cooperation with the Polish Library continued.³⁴³ With the copies of the Paris collections and earlier reproductions of documents from various domestic institutions, the National Library acquired a complete and extensive set of materials related to Adam Mickiewicz.³⁴⁴ In 2001, a trip was organised to the Higher

Bolesław Biegas Museum from 1994. Once the agreement was signed, National Library employees, especially the Manuscript Department, began to provide their assistance in stocktaking and cataloguing the invaluable Polonica. Next, the intention was to transfer the originals to other storage devices by means of a mobile microfilm camera. The collections of the Adam Mickiewicz Museum were selected for copying. In 1931, Adam Lewak had made a catalogue of the holdings, however, the descriptions referring to 1,113 items in total were inaccurate and full of mistakes. Therefore, the collection required proper preparation prior to microfilming. Additionally, the documents required new pagination, since many times both the originals and their copies could be found under one shelf mark, for example shelf mark MAM 302 referred to a letter by Adam Mickiewicz to Tekla Wołoska as well as to its two copies produced by Maria Gorecka and Władysław Mickiewicz. In such situations, only the originals were microfilmed. Therefore, copying was always performed by teams of two, a librarian in charge of preparing the items and a photo technician, responsible for the reprographic work. Finally, the microfilm collection comprised manuscripts of a fragment of *Pan Tadeusz*, Parts II and III of *Dziady* as well as twenty-seven translations of the poet's works into English, Arabic, French, German, Russian, Slovene and Italian. The manuscripts of the Polish "national prophet" also included notes for his lectures given in Lausanne in 1839–1840 and for conferences on Slavic literature delivered at the Collège de France in 1840–1844, letters and speeches connected with the case of Andrzej Towiański of 1841–1855, orders and notes about the Polish Legion in Italy of 1848 and the Sultan Cos-sacks' Division of 1854–1856, drafts of his articles for *La Tribune des Peuples* of 1849 as well as other writing and materials. The poet's correspondence was a separate collection, comprising Mickiewicz's letters of 1822–1855 (beginning with a letter to Franciszek Malewski and ending with letters of November 1855 written in Constantinople) as well as those addressed to him from 1825–1855. Over 100 items were materials related to the poet's life such as an excerpt from the parish registry book in Navahrudak, passports and documentation of his journeys, a professor's nomination from the Lausanne Academy, a notice of leave from the Collège de France and his death certificate. From the family archive, financial records as well as mementoes of Celina Szymanowska-Mickiewiczowa were microfilmed.

343 From 8 October through 4 November 1995, materials marked with 223 shelf marks were copied on 10,635 frames. The third and last visit took place in September 1996 and resulted in copying 64 shelf marks on 30,734 frames. NL, DDA, shelf mark 184/2/2, p. 98, Report on the activity of the Reprographics Department in 1996.

344 When it came to microfilming Polonica kept abroad, the cooperation between the NL and the Museum of the Marian Fathers in Fawley Court, London area, is also worth a mention. In 2000, the National Library established a relationship with this institution, which resulted in a visit of NL librarians to Fawley Court to assist in rearrangement and stocktaking of their holdings. In 2001–2002, with a grant from the Polish Security Printing Works and the Leopold Kronenberg Bank Foundation, the most seriously damaged items were transported to Poland and underwent conservation at the National Library. Then, the restored originals were microfilmed prior to their return. Within the first batch, 122 documents were copied, including manuscripts by Romuald Traugutt and materials of the Chief of the General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces in the USSR. The second one was delivered to the NL in June 2002 and enabled the copying of originals concerning the January Uprising. J. Wielowiejska, "Współpraca Zakładu Konserwacji Zbiorów Bibliotecznych Biblioteki Narodowej z Muzeum Księży Marianów w Fawley Court w ramach pomocy konserwatorskiej" [Cooperation between the Department of Library Holdings' Conservation of the National Library and the Museum of the Marian Fathers in Fawley Court Aiming to Provide

Seminary in Pelplin in order to copy its collections with the Gordon camera.³⁴⁵ This was the last expedition of its kind.

Microfilms were lent to many domestic and foreign libraries. Furthermore, the DMH started to work with the Commission on Preservation and Access in order to share microfilm descriptions through the EROMM database. For this purpose, the department employees learned about the MAK computer system and the UNIMARC and USMARC formats. In the last month of 1996, the first 2,523 descriptions were shared with EROMM. Thus, 1994 was the first year of the automation process within the DMH. Meanwhile, works on printed catalogues were still underway.³⁴⁶ Additionally, on 27 October 1994, the Department of Iconographic Collections returned a collection of 78,486 photo negatives, borrowed many years before, to the DMH.³⁴⁷

The years 1992–1994 brought many changes related to administration, location, and technology.³⁴⁸ Incorporating the DMH and the Reprographics Department – managed by Barbara Włostowska since 1995 – into one section ensured better coordination of the works. However, like other national libraries, the NL was getting ready to implement new digital technology, which initially supplemented microfilming, and later was to replace it.

In January 2003, based on the Three Libraries project, directors Jagiełło and Hollender signed another agreement for creating a digital collection of periodicals.³⁴⁹ A newly appointed Team for Digitisation of the Polish Press selected 18 titles (volumes) of Polish periodicals from 1661–1945,

Assistance in the Conservation of Collections], in *Konserwacja XXI wieku* [Conservation of the 21st Century], ed. B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Warszawa 2003, pp. 208–211.

- 345 Over ten years later, the mobile equipment accessories were used again. Plans were to combine a tripod with a professional digital camera, so that digitisation could be conducted outside the NL studio. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/3, p. 53, Report of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings.
- 346 The publishing house received the *Catalogue of Microfilms no. 33: Manuscripts of the Cracow Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, part 2*. Catalogues no. 26–29 concerning music documents from the 17th–20th century were still edited. Also, a DMH reference book was released as a leaflet.
- 347 Nonetheless, the Department refused to accept the inventories of this collection, the explanation given being the lack of an art historian within the entity. Such justifications seem suspicious, as the items in question were not works of art, but their negative copies.
- 348 Further modifications to the facilities took place in 1996. To improve access to the resources, in December that year, the reading room was moved to a space right by the warehouse with positives and diazo copies. NL, DDA, shelf mark 184/2/2, p. 33, Report on the activity of Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings in 1996.
- 349 NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/9, p. 95, Report of the Department of Microfilm Holdings for 2003.

whose complete series had been saved on microfilm by the DMH.³⁵⁰ The essence of the project was to digitise the surrogates, not the originals. The NL sent the copies to the Warsaw University Library, where they were processed with microfilm scanners. In this way, by the end of 2005, 12 titles were transferred to digital storage devices within the programme.³⁵¹ The digitised items were available online over the internet at the electronic websites of both libraries.³⁵² Meanwhile, Ewa Potrzebnicka, the new head of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings, was assigned by the NL Management to the task of preparing the technological foundation for the production of modern surrogates of library materials – digital copies – in order to make it possible to share the collections via a digital library.³⁵³ Owing to her endeavours, on 23 February 2004, a day before the anniversary of the National Library, an official presentation of the most modern Polish reprography studio took place.³⁵⁴ Also, upon an analysis of work efficiency and equipment utility in terms of the tasks performed hitherto, the Reprographics Department was restructured and had his name changed to the Department of Reprographics and Digitisation pursuant to a decision of the director.³⁵⁵

350 Due to possible problems that could have arisen in the course of the scanning and description of digital copies, the idea of digitising daily newspapers was abandoned.

351 NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/17, pp. 36–38, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings.

352 The collaboration was renewed in 2006, whereas the machine pool upgrade which had been completed over this period enabled the National Library to expand this activity. The National Library not only passed further titles for scanning, but also made digital copies by its own means, for example of: *Pani* [Madam] (1922–1925), *Nasz Kraj* [Our Country] (1919–1920) or *Ziemia Brzeska* [Lands of Brest] (1919–1920). In 2008, a further 11 titles were sent to the Warsaw University Library for scanning from microfilms and digital copies in over 60,000 scans. In 2006, microfilm exchange was resumed. In 2008, 2,800 running metres of positives (56,000 frames, 202 reels) were produced within this initiative at the Chemical Processing Section, providing copies of such titles as: *Kurier Codzienny* [Daily Courier] (1865, 1867, 1870–1894), *Kurier Warszawski* [Warsaw Courier] (issues 179–269 of 1939) and *Robotnik Polski w Wielkiej Brytanii* [Polish Worker in the UK] (1940–1949). NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/6, p. 60, Cooperation with the Warsaw University Library aiming to create an e-collection of Polish periodicals.

353 Ewa Potrzebnicka was the head of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings from September 2002. Previously, she worked as vice-manager of the Department of Library Holdings' Conservation.

354 NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/13, p. 25, Presentations, demonstrations.

355 Out of the 21.75 existing full time jobs, 15.5 were still supposed to perform the previous activities – such as microfilming collections, chemical processing of the executed films as well as copying and making photocopies of originals and microfilms. At the same time, to keep the same efficiency, the work standards were increased. The digitisation section was formed by the remaining employees plus one allocated by the Management. The head, who was also in charge of digital copy control, supervised the employees responsible for recording the items admitted and passed for scanning, running the digital photography studio, colour scanning from originals, scanning from microfilms, and digital image processing.

The photocopy section was dismantled.³⁵⁶ Making microfiches and microfiche diazo copies was also suspended. This technology, so popular in Germany for example, failed to gain much popularity in Poland. Only to a minor extent were such surrogates requested by readers. A staff review was conducted to determine the employees' abilities to perform the new jobs.³⁵⁷ Consequently, a couple of employees were retrained, so that they could become scanning specialists. In the following years, the machine pool was completed with new scanners and digital cameras. With the efforts of Ewa Potrzebicka, the System of Digitised Resource Management was launched, allowing the uploading of digital copies of the collections to the library servers.³⁵⁸ In autumn 2006, the National Digital Library POLONA was made available to the public.³⁵⁹ Supervision over the development of the digital collection and the implementation of digital imaging programmes was taken over by the previously created Department of the National Digital Library POLONA.³⁶⁰

With the implementation and development of digitisation, microfilm activity was gradually being abandoned. In 2004, the decision was adopted to limit the number of diazo copies produced and to replace them with

In terms of organizational matters, we should also mention the transfer of the section of readers' requests to the Scientific Information Department. NL, DDA, shelf mark 06/3, p. 49, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library in 2007; NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/13, p. 7, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings.

- 356 A private company was tasked with setting up a photocopy point by the microform reading room, where copies of positives were issued on the spot. However, owing to the impossibility of making colour photocopies of the originals, the readers requested digital copies more and more frequently from 2004 on. As a result, the number of photocopies of originals fell from 107,188 items in 2003 to 46,786 in 2008. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/3, p. 11, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Holdings; NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/13, p. 98, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation.
- 357 Information provided by Ewa Potrzebicka, Director of the National Library for Collections Preservation and Access.
- 358 The programme was developed by NL employees Jakub Kostynowicz and Dariusz Paradowski. From the moment of its implementation, CDs were burnt only upon the request of readers and other NL departments. NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/3, p. 25, Report of the IT Department. The decision was made pursuant to a document of 06/03/2007, NL, DDA, shelf mark 06/3, p. 41, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library in 2007.
- 359 J. Potęga, "Cyfrowa Biblioteka Narodowa" [Digital National Library] in *Biblioteki cyfrowe. Projekty, realizacje, technologie* [Digital Libraries. Projects, Implementation, Technologies], ed. J. Woźniak-Kasperek, J. Franke, Warszawa 2007, pp. 35–50; <http://bbc.uw.edu.pl/dlibra/doccontent?id=4> [accessed on 03/20/2012].
- 360 In June 2008, the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage entrusted the NL with running the Polish Internet Library, previously managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The institution also participated in many international digitisation projects such as: TEL ME MOR, The European Library, TEL PLUS, Europeana, REDISCOVER and ENRICH.

silver film.³⁶¹ This was a result of the frequent equipment breakdowns,³⁶² the arduous working conditions provoked by fumes of concentrated ammonia, which could not be completely eliminated,³⁶³ as well as financial calculations.³⁶⁴ Finally, on 25 September 2007, upon consultation with the NL Management, making any copies at all on the diazo material was ultimately abandoned.³⁶⁵ Upon the purchase of a digital camera, demand for traditional photography services, such as black-and-white 6x9 negatives, systematically declined. As a consequence, at the end of 2008 analogue photography services stopped being provided at all.³⁶⁶

In 2004, the scope of the DMH tasks was reduced to preparing foreign periodicals and microfilms obtained as a result of exchanges or donations.³⁶⁷ Hence, the Department could concentrate on further works aiming to complete the collections of Polish press and fill the gaps in the existing microfilms. Also, the process of microfilm maintenance was amended. This task was being performed by the DMH owing to the efforts made by Mr Zawadzki since the 1980s.³⁶⁸ However, due to staff-related issues,

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- 361 NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/13, p. 97, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation.
- 362 The total cost of the diazo Extek copier overhaul was estimated at PLN 60,000. Under these circumstances, a decision was made that only minor defects should be removed until diazo photography was ultimately given up. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/9, p. 63, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings.
- 363 In April 2002, the Provincial Sanitary and Epidemiological Station of Warsaw inspected the level of ammonia concentration in the proximity of the diazo copier and stated that the working conditions were safe. However, making such copies was very cumbersome.
- 364 It turned out that production of such a duplicate was only 0.02 PLN cheaper than making a traditional positive copy. Furthermore, director Ewa Potrzebnicka remarked that: "The diazo copy was the second copy made for the use of the Polish libraries that borrowed materials from the National Library. The National Library bore the total costs of execution as well as (upon getting the items back) maintenance of this material, chemically different from the microfilm ones. Throughout many years, both kinds of storage media were kept together". Information provided by Ewa Potrzebnicka, Director of the National Library for Collections Preservation and Access.
- 365 New racks were bought and the collection comprising 9,602 reels closed. NL, DDA, shelf mark 06/3, p. 41, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library in 2007.
- 366 This meant that the 6x9 negative collection was closed at inventory number 102,233. NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/9, p. 237, DMH Report for 2009.
- 367 The respective NL units in charge of particular collections were responsible for providing the Department of Reprography and Digitisation with all other types of collections.
- 368 Nonetheless, as only one employee was assigned with this task, the works were limited to checks and repairs of negative copies. It was not until 2003 that a position was created for a positive tape conservator. Also another problem arose. In microfilms no. 49,000–56,000, precipitation of silver was observed due to a chemical reaction between the emulsion and a sticker keeping the roll from uncoiling. The reels and endings required replacement, however the Department only managed to perform these works on 250 reels in 2003. Current tasks such as selection and preparation for recopying of positives made between

pursuant to a Management's decision of 1 February 2007, the Conservation Laboratory for National Library Collections was assigned with the maintenance of microfilm resources.³⁶⁹ However, the DMH, apart from providing tapes to the laboratory, continued securing the currently produced microfilms with paper envelopes as well as supplementing or replacing damaged film rolls and reviewing the holdings.³⁷⁰ Another element of the department's activity was providing access to the collections. The DMH had a reading room located opposite the warehouses, which ensured quick distribution of the resources to the readers. It was equipped with 18 microfilm readers as well as card files and a readily available library. In 2012, in connection with the NL building extension, the decision was made to transfer it to the General Reading Room, to which the readers reacted positively. Meanwhile, microcopies were also lent to other institutions. For example, in 2009, 1,491 reels were sent out in response to 840 orders. Thus, although microforms represented only 3% of the total NL collections, they still accounted for 27% of inter-library loans.

Cutting down on ongoing microfilm production in order to gradually replace it with digital imaging made it necessary to introduce further organisational changes. On 16 January 2013, a new Statute of the National Library was promulgated. Consequently, the Department of Microfilm

1992–1993 on out-of-date tape also made it impossible to solve this problem in the following years. Under such circumstances, the DMH management proposed that additional funds be assigned for this task pursuant to the rules on supplementary commissioned works, but the NL Management disagreed. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/3, p. 63, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings; NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/9, p. 166, Report of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings; NL, DDA, shelf mark 06/3, p. 174, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library in 2007.

- 369 Therefore, the unit had two new work posts arranged, equipped with fume and dust extraction systems. Tape cleaning with tetrachloroethylene was launched, accompanied by descriptive and photographic documentation of the microfilm damages. In 2007, two employees checked and restored 4,292 reels, and 4,794 reels the following year. All reels were secured with new paper envelopes. Additionally, in August 2007, the negatives made in 1951–1962 on cellulose acetate film were checked for their state of conservation. This was assessed as good, but storage in low temperatures was recommended. Therefore, tapes were placed in newly purchased cooling cabinets. NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/3, p. 174, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library in 2007; NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/6, p. 16, Report of the Department – Conservation Laboratory for National Library Collections.
- 370 As a result of these works, in the second half of 2008, defective microfilms from the 1970s were detected. Because of the insufficient fixture and washing, yellow stains and visible silver spots appeared in the emulsion layer. Due to the work overload of the Laboratory at that time, the restoration was taken over by the staff of the chemical processing section of the Reprographics Department. In consequence, in the second half of the year, 23,700 metres of microfilm (680 reels) were washed and fixed again. NL, DDA, shelf mark 506/9, p. 141, Report of the Department of Reprography and Digitisation of the National Library.

Holdings was incorporated into the Department of Reprography and Digitisation.

On December 31, 2009, the microform collection reached 274,794 items. It consisted of ca. 43,000 manuscripts, 40,000 early printed books, 12,000 music documents, 2,000 documents of social life, 400 iconic documents, 100 cartographic items and over 4,000 completed press titles. In the 1970s, when the holdings were half as extensive, Aleksander Gieysztor had already stated that “the collection of the Department was the most excellent research workshop in Poland”.³⁷¹

The chronological spectrum embraced 9th century codices, for example the *Codex Theodosianus* from the Warsaw University Library and *Praedicationes* from the Chapter Library in Cracow, to manuscripts of eminent 20th century figures. For instance, the following texts were copied from the oldest collections, brought predominately from the Jagiellonian Library, the National Library, the Princes Czartoryski Library, the Wrocław University Library, the Pelplin Seminary and the chapter libraries of Gniezno and Cracow: *The Holy Cross Sermons* (14th century), copies of the chronicles by Gallus Anonymus, Wincenty Kadłubek, Janko of Czarnków (the earliest ones dating back to the 14th and 15th centuries) and autographs by Jan Długosz, *The Przemyśl Meditation* (15th century), Franciscan annals, annals of Cracow, Kujawy and Lesser Poland, illuminated codices: the *Tyniec Sacramentarium* (11th cent.), Gospel books of Kruszwica (11th/12th cent.), Emmeram (12th cent.) and Pułtusk (13th cent.), the *Florian Psalter* (14th/15th cent.), Zbigniew Oleśnicki's Pontifical (15th cent.), Erazm Ciołek's pontifical and missal (16th cent.) and the *Balthasar Behem's Codex* (16th cent.). As to early modern documents, materials of a fundamental significance for Polish history were microfilmed, such as: *Acta tomiciana*, *Teki Naruszewicza* [the Naruszewicz Files] (218 volumes), *Teki Platera* [the Plater Files] (8 volumes), the Jan Szembek collection (67 volumes), *Teki Jarochowskiego* [the Jarochowski Files] (23 volumes), the Feliks Łojko collection (65 volumes), *Teki Pstrokońskiego* [the Pstrokoński Files] (69 volumes) and *Teki Stanisława Lukasa* [the Stanisław Lukas Files] (44 volumes). The Great Emigration period was represented by the archives of Hôtel Lambert and Leonard Niedźwiecki, numbering hundreds of volumes. The correspondence of various rulers and political activists from many different periods was represented, for example by letters of Jan Zamoyski, Stanisław August, the Lubomirski family, J.I. Kraszewski,

371 NL, DDA, shelf mark 18/1/12, National Library, p. 3, Minutes from the National Library Management meeting of 21/10/1974.

Adam Kazimierz Czartoryski, Adam Naruszewicz, Ignacy Potocki, Jędrzej Śniadecki, Hugo Kołłątaj, Stanisław Staszic, Joachim Lelewel, Teodor Wierzbowski, Jan Baudouin de Courtenay, Oswald Balzer and Ludwik Bernacki. Moreover, microfilms were produced of autographs of works, memoirs, letters and notes of the most eminent Polish writers and poets: Wacław Berent, Władysław Broniewski, Maria Dąbrowska, Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński, Maria Konopnicka, Ignacy Krasicki, Leon Kruczkowski, Adam Mickiewicz, Cyprian Norwid, Eliza Orzeszkowa, Wincenty Pol, Bolesław Prus, Władysław Reymont, Tadeusz Różewicz, Henryk Sienkiewicz, Antoni Słonimski, Julian Tuwim, Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, Gabriela Zapolska, Stefan Żeromski, and many others.³⁷² Economic history was documented by files of the Bochnia and Wieliczka salt mines, banks and factories, documents of starosta and province registers and reviews, inventories of goods, property files and accounting books. The collection also included materials from such domains as schools, education, arts (especially theatre), military affairs, diplomacy, history of the Church and religion, genealogy, heraldry, as well as the history of confederations, insurrections and independence movements. The history of towns and cities was represented by copies of acts of rights and privileges, guild books and documents, last wills and post-mortem inventories of the bourgeois, aldermen's books, as well as notes on the works and activities of urban institutions. Information on the history of the Polish state and law was gathered on microfilms from the parliamentary journals of the 16th–18th centuries, resolutions and instructions of local parliaments, files and documents on the history of Prussia, Livonia, Courland and Silesia as well as the provinces of the former Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Extensive bibliography and book science sources were also gathered, including copies of library catalogues and book collection inventories. Church collections were represented, among others, by: catalogues of the Dominican Monastery in Warsaw, the Canons Regular and Jesuits in Cracow as well as those of Piarist colleges in Łużyki (called Walerian's College), Opole Lubelskie, Cracow, and Połock; the book collection of A. Leszczyński, abbot of Czerwin; the Library of the Lublin Seminary; and an inventory of the Evangelical Church of the Augsburg Confession in Leszno.

372 In the case of writers and poets of the 20th century such as Andrzejewski, Brzechwa, Dąbrowska, Gałczyński, Pruszyński, Przyboś, Słonimski, Tuwim or Wierzyński, the letters and autographs mostly came from the collection of Alina Kowalczykowska, while works by Czeczot and Zan were microfilmed from the collection of prof. Zbigniew Karpiński. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/3, pp. 200–202, K. Zawadzki, Report on the activity of the Department of Microfilm Holdings of the National Library in 1971 of 12/01/1972.

In matters related to 16th–18th century prints, the Microfilm Station had been cooperating with the Department of Early Printed Books. This did not change with the creation of the DMH. The specialists in early printed books were continually supporting the Department in the selection and preparation of materials. The publications selected for microfilming were mostly unique editions, not included in Estreicher's bibliography, preserved in a maximum of three copies, of a significant intrinsic and typographical value. Distinguishing features of the items such as ownership marks or glosses were also taken into consideration. The Central Catalogue of Early Printed Books was very helpful in the classification of originals. The collection included the oldest prints of texts by Mikołaj Rej, Jan Kochanowski, Andrzej Frycz-Modrzewski, research works, publications of the dissenters, missals, hymnals, booksellers' catalogues, Varsaviana, reprints of parliamentary acts, speeches, manifestoes, universals, announcements and other official documents, mostly from the Four-Year Sejm period and the Kościuszko Uprising. Both books released by domestic publishing houses and Polonica – issued in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, England, the Czech Republic, France, Spain, the Netherlands and Switzerland – were microfilmed.

Press ephemera published from the 16th to the 18th century formed a group of its own. They were housed at many domestic and foreign libraries, mostly in single, scarcely accessible copies, hence, despite their value as historical sources, remaining unused by historians. The idea of copying them and putting them together on microfilm was innovative on a worldwide scale. The earliest ephemera were related to the Orsza battle of 1514, while the most recent ones came out during the Kościuszko Uprising. The prints communicated on the current political events such as wars, elections, coronations, weddings and funerals of major personalities, and the course of parliamentary debates, as well as religious matters and sensational events of any kind, as one might expect from the prototypes of modern newspapers. Mr Zawadzki was particularly proud of obtaining a microfilm of *Nowiny* [The News] of 1557. The only extant original of this first newspaper in Polish was held in the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

After 40 years of the press completion project, over 4,000 titles had been preserved, representing 12% of all periodicals published in Polish.³⁷³ The collection included a major portion of all titles released by the second half of the 19th century, including *Merkuriusz Polski* [The Polish

373 I. Łoś-Stembrowicz, "Zbiory mikrofilmowe czasopism w BN", op. cit., pp. 175–181.

Mercury] (Cracow–Warsaw, 1661), *Kurier Polski* [The Polish Courier] (Warsaw, 1729–1760), *Neues der Welt* published in Toruń (1733–1734), *Zabawy Przyjemne i Pożyteczne* [Pastimes Pleasant and Profitable] (Warsaw, 1770–1777), *Monitor* [The Monitor] (Warsaw, 1765–1785), *Gazeta Narodowa i Obca* [National and Foreign Journal] (Warsaw, 1791–1792), press from the periods of the Kościuszko Uprising, the Congress of Vienna and the Polish–Russian War of 1830–1831, pre-1831 official prints, journals of the Great Emigration period as well as weeklies and magazines published in the territories of the three partitions of Poland. The press of the Polish diaspora was represented by journals published in Westphalia during the labour migration period as well as post-war periodicals such as: *Kultura* [Culture], *Zeszyty Historyczne* [Historical Notebooks], *Zeszyty Literackie* [Literary Notebooks] and titles published in London such as *Mysł Polska* [The Polish Thought] (1941–1985), *Wiadomości* [The News] (1946–1981), *Na antenie* [Over the Radio Waves] (1963–1982) as well as fragments of *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] and *Dziennik Żołnierza* [Soldier's Daily] (1944–1950). As far as 20th-century collections are concerned, much attention was paid to underground press: 508 periodicals from 1939–1945 were secured, 38 of which were absent in the Central Catalogue of the Polish Underground Press.³⁷⁴ We must not forget that many of these items were unavailable for ordinary library loans.³⁷⁵ After 1989, the time period for the Polish underground press subject to preservation microfilming could be extended to 1956, and it became possible to copy 61 periodicals of the so-called second circulation. 350 journals from the Eastern Borderlands of Poland formed a separate collection. They included 174 titles

374 The items came from the library of the Department of the Party's History at the Polish United Worker's Party's Central Committee, the archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with very restricted access, as well as the private book collections of Władysław Chojnacki and Błażej Włodarz. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 11, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to director W. Stankiewicz of 08/03/1968.

375 A case in point, in 1968, the Library of the Institute of History of the PAS refused to lend issues 1 and 2 of 1942 of the *Sztuka i Naród* [Art and the Nation] journal, as the copies they had were unique. Attempts at obtaining these issues from the Archive of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also failed. In 1968, Konrad Zawadzki even proposed that a conference be arranged to establish a policy for completing the collections of underground press, as the Institute of History of the PAS was envisaging a similar project, using photocopies instead of microfilms. The conference would have been attended by representatives of: the Central Archives of Modern Records, Archives of the Ministry of the Interior, Warsaw University Library, Central Military Archives, Institute of History of the PAS, Department of the Party's History, Jagiellonian Library and the Cracow State Archives. The project was never implemented. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 11, Letter of Konrad Zawadzki to director W. Stankiewicz of 08/03/1968, p. 12, Memo by K. Zawadzki to director Daszkowski of 04/12/1968.

from Lviv, such as the following dailies: *Gazeta Lwowska* [Lviv Journal] (1811–1881), *Gazeta Narodowa* [National Journal] (1862–1915), *Kurier Lwowski* [Lviv Courier] (1888–1934); 144 titles from Vilnius, including 24 dailies such as *Słowo* [The Word] (1922–1939), *Kurier Wileński* [The Courier of Vilnius] (1924–1940) or *Dziennik Wileński* [Vilnius Daily] (1906–1939); as well as regional periodicals from 20 towns and cities of the Eastern Borderlands.³⁷⁶ By comparison, Warsaw was represented by 1,112 periodicals, including: *Biblioteka Warszawska* [The Warsaw Library] (1841–1914), *Bluszcz* [Ivy] (1865–1939), *Kronika Rodzinna* [Family Chronicles] (1867–1915), *Tygodnik Ilustrowany* [The Illustrated Weekly] (1859–1939), *Zorza* [Aurora] (1866–1931), *Gazeta Sądowa Warszawska* [Warsaw Court Journal] (1873–1939), *Korespondent Handlowy, Przemysłowy i Rolniczy* [Commercial, Industrial and Agricultural Correspondent] (1841–1905), along with 83 dailies such as: *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal] (1774–1935), *Kurier Warszawski* [Warsaw Courier] (1821–1939), *Kurier Poranny* [Morning Courier] (1877–1939), *Kurier Świąteczny* [Holiday Courier] (1865–1919) and *Robotnik* [The Worker] (1894–1948). 242 titles came from Cracow, including 15 dailies such as: *Czas* [Time] (1848–1939), *Naprzód* [Forward] (1892–1948), *Nowa reforma* [New Reform] (1882–1928), and *Ilustrowany Kurier Codzienny* [Illustrated Daily Courier] with its fourteen supplements (1929–1939). Also periodicals from the communist period were microfilmed along with the most important contemporary foreign publications. Apart from the Polish dailies with the longest tradition, *Gazeta Warszawska* [Warsaw Journal] (1774–1935) and *Kurier Warszawski* [Warsaw Courier] (1821–1939), and general informational press, also literary, research, political, social and economic magazines, weeklies and newspapers were subject to microfilming. Many of the above titles required ongoing supplementation.³⁷⁷

376 These were: Boryslav, Brest, Berezhany, Chortkiv, Drohobych, Dubno, Grodno, Horodenka, Kiev, Kolomyia, Koniecpol, Kremenets, Lidy, Lutsk, Minsk, Nesvizh, Navahrudak, Pinsk, Rohatyn, Rivne, Sambir, Stanslaviv, Ternopil, Turka on the Stryi River, Zolochiv and Zhovkva.

377 A case in point, it was only in 2006 that *Bluszcz* [Ivy] was successfully completed by its supplement *Ubiory i Roboty* [Costumes and Works] (the material was extremely hard to microfilm, as the 11 volumes of this A4 brochure had numerous folding insertions printed on both sides), and that the collections of titles such as *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] and *Dziennik Żołnierza* [Soldier's Daily] – including *Dziennik Żołnierza* [Soldier's Daily] (Glasgow, 1940–1943), *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] (London, 1940–1943) as well as *Dziennik Polski* [Polish Daily] and *Dziennik Żołnierza* [Soldier's Daily] (London, 1944–1970) – were ultimately completed. NL, DDA, shelf mark 594/21, p. 18, Report of the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings.

Music documents were selected by the Department of Music Collections. The collections comprised antiphonaries, graduals, hymnals and organ tablatures released up to the 18th century as well as autographs and the earliest editions of works by eminent composers from the 18th to the 20th century, including Tadeusz Baird, Fryderyk Chopin, Ignacy Dobrzyński, Józef Elsner, Mieczysław Karłowicz, Karol Kurpiński, Karol Lipiński, Witold Lutosławski, Emil Młynarski, Stanisław Moniuszko, Zygmunt Noskowski, Michał Kleofas Ogiński, Karol Szymanowski and Krzysztof Penderecki. 19th century publications by the Warsaw music engraving studios of Cybulski, Elsner and Klukowski were also microfilmed. Another collection of around 100 chants from the period of the Polish-Russian War of 1830–1831 was made available by Ludwik Golec. Furthermore, in 1983, upon the request of the head of the Department of Music Collections, a 20-volume encyclopaedia entitled *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* (London 1980) was microfilmed.³⁷⁸ Music documents from monastic collections microfilmed with a mobile camera formed a superb supplement to this collection.

THE BOSCH PROJECT

The project of microfilming monuments of writing from the Polish-German cultural borderlands, known briefly as the Bosch project, was the largest private initiative in the history of Polish library practice. Polish libraries implemented it independently of their statutory activity, so it likewise deserves to be discussed separately.

In the early 1990s, a number of meetings attended by representatives of the major Polish libraries and German experts³⁷⁹ were held under the

378 The National Library was in possession of only one copy of this monumental work, and the high demand for its photocopies among the readers raised concerns as to its possible deterioration. In this case, M. Tomaszewski, assistant professor, director and editor-in-chief of the Polish Music Publishing House, was consulted in matters of copyright. In his estimation, “if the microfilms are made and used for the internal purposes of an institution and its readers, no legal impediments exist as to the production of microfilms”. NL, DDA, shelf mark 40/1, p. 36, Letter of W. Bogdany-Popielowa, head of the Department of Music Collections to the DMH of 26/04/1983.

379 The leading actors of the project were Martin Dinges, PhD, head of the Institute for the History of Medicine of the Robert Bosch Foundation, Franz Georg Kaltwasser, PhD, Director of the BSB at that time (on 01/12/1992, Mr Kaltwasser retired, but continued supervising the project as director emeritus), prof. Klaus Garber from the School of Language and Literary Studies of the Osnabrück University, Hartmut Weber, PhD, member of the Management Board of the Baden-Württemberg Land Archives and Klaus Haller, PhD, head of the cataloguing department of the BSB, who acted as an expert on preparation of collections until the completion of the project. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/66, p. 2–4, H. Gonschor, V. Pleyer, Polish-German working discussion held in Munich from 30–31/10/1992, trans.

patronage of the Robert Bosch Foundation.³⁸⁰ Possible options were discussed for facilitating access to German collections that had been taken over by Polish institutions after World War II. It was resolved that each of the participating libraries would be fitted out with a modern microfilm laboratory, computers and cataloguing software and would receive funds for creating jobs and providing personal training. In return, the institutions undertook to provide microfilms of selected collections within the following five years. One copy was supposed to stay with the library that kept the original, while the other would be passed on to the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek (BSB) together with a catalogue description in an electronic format. Upon completion of the project, performed independently of the entities' statutory activity, the title to all equipment was transferred to the collaborating institutions.

The materials were selected according to the following proportion: early printed books had to account for 2/3 and periodicals for 1/3 of all the selected resources. As the plan of copying closed collections failed,³⁸¹ the Polish side proposed that the criterion of place of publication should be applied to the early printed books. The National Library employees prepared two lists. The first one (list A) included printers from Silesia, Pomerania as well as East and West Prussia. All pre-1800 releases by such publishing

E. Hartmann; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/72, p. 3, Letter of F. G. Kaltwasser to H. Tubacki of 07/12/1992; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/102, p. 3, J. Warmbrunn, T. Szymorowska, Project assessment [...] summary requested by the Robert Bosch Foundation in December 2000; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/112, p. 1, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to W. Kowalski of 24/04/1993; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/118, p. 4, K. Garber, Expert's opinion on the project [...] of 7/05/1994.

- 380 Robert Bosch Stiftung. The foundation, established in 1964, aimed to continue the social activity of the German industrialist Robert Bosch. With the financial assistance of the parent corporation, it was one of the largest institutions of its kind in West Germany. Acting for the benefit of the reconciliation between nations was one of its statutory tasks, initially limited to supporting the development of German-French cooperation in the field of science. From the mid-1970s, the foundation also started to actively support Polish-German reconciliation.
- 381 The original idea on the German side to microfilm entire collections proved to be unrealistic, since, due to the disastrous damages that had occurred during World War II, all incoming collections sent from various places had been arranged according to the order of receipt. As a result, only the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences had conserved the systematic arrangement of the former Municipal Library of Gdańsk. As to the remaining institutions, closed collections such as the Masonic documents from the Poznań University Library (mainly from the former castle library in Sława Śląska), the Library of the Schoenaich Entailed Estate at the Warsaw University Library, the collection of the Schaffgotsch of Bad Warmbrunn (Cieplice) held in the National Library, as well as the Hans von Oppersdorff or Szembek collections held in the Silesian Library were rare exceptions. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/8, pp. 66–67, Project: Common European Heritage: protection of printed works and improvement of the access conditions to prints from the Polish collections which attest to a common heritage of the Polish and German cultures of 15/04/1994; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/113, p. 46, F.G. Kaltwasser, Description of the Polish Libraries.

houses were to be incorporated in the project. The second one (list B) listed the printers from central Poland. This time, the selection for microfilming was based on the document being “written in German or related through its contents to Polish-German relations”.³⁸² This decidedly over-general criterion led to serious misunderstandings between the National Library and its German partners.³⁸³ In the case of the press, the project was limited to German periodicals published before 1900 and Jewish ones released prior to 1939. Lists of the selected titles were approved by the German side each time. Furthermore, the project was supervised by a Scientific Council which brought together representatives of both sides. The meetings were held on a half-yearly basis at the BSB and the Polish libraries.

382 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/8, p. 33, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Project proposal “Improvement in Access to and Protection of Prints from the Polish-German Cultural Borderlands held in Polish Library Collections”.

383 In August 1998, Dr Kaltwasser analysed the first 467 titles of the microfilms provided. These were copies of 16th-century prints that the German expert divided according to the place of print. Group A, including localities from Prussia, Silesia and Pomerania, consisted of 49 items, 10 of which duplicated resources owned by the BSB. Group B, materials from central Poland, consisted of as many as 386 titles, 365 of which were from Cracow. There were also 32 titles published in localities not included in the project. Mr Kaltwasser cautioned that the 16th century publications from central Poland had to be written in German or be connected with Polish-German relations, and additionally, that it had been decided that they would be copied in the second place. Notwithstanding, they formed over 80% of the materials sent to BSB in the first batch. In consequence, the German expert concluded that the project principles had not been respected and the choice of resources consisted in nothing but taking out entire drawers with card file descriptions without any selection whatsoever. Also, in his opinion, the fact that “the printer was called Haller” and printed works by Aristotle in Cracow did not qualify the respective materials for microfilming within list B. Joanna Pasztaleniec, Director of the National Library, communicated her preliminary observations in this respect in October 1998. She reminded him that the NL was in permanent contact with Dr K. Haller, who reviewed the selected descriptions. Moreover, in her view, the selected prints complied with the project criteria, but M. Brynda, Head of the Department of Early Printed Books, had already taken over the selection of resources. Her letter, written in a bitter tone, suggested that the NL employees felt offended by Dr Kaltwasser’s allegations. Accusations that the materials had not been properly selected were particularly grievous. Resource selection, as well as conservation, was not included in the cost estimates. Consequently, M. Brynda, working overtime, with no remuneration, selected the titles in a chronological order based on library inventories. She also applied the criterion of cultural connections with Germany for any 16th century publications. When defining Polonica, the publisher’s nationality was taken into consideration, therefore similar principles were adopted for selecting German materials. This was the reason why so many items from central Poland were included in the first batch of the microfilmed resources. However, the proportions had already changed with the completion of the works on 16th century prints. For 17th-18th century publications, plans were to apply the criterion of place of publication exclusively, considering Silesia, Pomerania and Prussia. In the case of certain prints from group C, not mentioned in the project at all, M. Brynda explained that they had appeared as the result of microfilming entire compilations of prints bound together. The head of the Department of Early Printed Books added that the Reprographics Department had received many 16th century German prints in the course of implementation of other projects, such as the one of prof. Garber. Thereby, they were not selected to be refilmed within this initiative. Apart from that, the general principle of avoiding duplicate copying of resources opened an opportunity for the National Library to complement its microfilm collections. On 8 December 1998, a meeting was held

At first, the target was to create as many as eight microfilm studios, firstly at the National Library and the Poznań University Library, followed by the Jagiellonian Library and the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences, and finally at the university libraries of Toruń, Warsaw and Wrocław as well as the Silesian Library. Each of these was supposed to hire five employees for five years for the purposes of the project.³⁸⁴ In terms of efficiency, the German side requested a total number of 20,000,000 photographs. In 1994, the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation decided to finance the project, estimated at PLN 16,500,000,³⁸⁵ at 95%.³⁸⁶ The initial assumption was that the National Library would be

at the office of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation, also attended by representatives of the RSB and NL. It was resolved that the library should take an appropriate number of photographs at their own expense to compensate for the failures. It was estimated as at equivalent of 103,000 frames of 1,987 titles of early printed books. In November 1999, director J. Pasztaleniec proposed that three Jewish periodicals be copied instead of early printed books, namely *Dos Judise Togblat* (Warsaw, 1929–1939) (42,000 frames), *Warsawer Radio* (Warsaw, 1928–1939) (34,000 frames) and *Unzer Ekspres* (Warsaw, 1928–1939) (27,000 frames). The German side approved this solution, so preparation works could start in the same month. As the three titles of German press were not enough, the NL microfilmed two more newspapers at their own expense: *Nowy Dziennik* [The New Daily] and *5-ta Rano* [5 A.M.]. On 15 May 2000, director J. Pasztaleniec gave notice of the anticipated termination of the compensation works in June, which was confirmed by the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation in October 2000. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/39, pp. 18–20, Report for November 1999; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/129, pp. 1–3, Letter of F. G. Kaltwasser to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 05/08/1998, p. 8, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to F. G. Kaltwasser of 12/10/1998, pp. 9–10, Letter of M. Brynda to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 15/10/1998, pp. 33–34, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to the Management Board of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation of 10/12/1998; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/130, p. 6, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to F. G. Kaltwasser of 05/11/1999, p. 9, Letter of F. G. Kaltwasser to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 09/11/1999, pp. 20–21, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to the Management Board of the FPGC of 15/05/2000, p. 22, Letter of P. Albiński to the NL of 02/10/2000.

- 384 For each of the studios, plans were made to purchase three cameras, an automatic developer integrated into a laboratory table with a water treatment facility, a control reader, an ultrasonic device for film welding, a densitometer, a microscope with an ocular lens with 5x magnification, a winder, a computer and office furniture. It was emphasised that each of the studios should be supplied with the same equipment, which would facilitate training, exchange of experiences and maintenance. The machine pool installation required at least five rooms of a total surface area of ca. 70 square metres to be adapted. The ability to comply with these conditions for the facilities was a critical factor at the moment of deciding whether a studio should be launched.
- 385 On 01/01/1995, currency redenomination took place in Poland at a 10,000:1 ratio. The cost estimates of listed sums from 1994 amounted to hundreds of billions of Polish zlotys, which were recalculated for the purpose of the present study.
- 386 A strategic partner was searched for among large foundations such as the Volkswagen, Thyssen, Krupp or FPGC Foundations. Due to the prolonged talks, plans to organise a large conference promoting the program in Frankfurt (Oder) or Leipzig in autumn 1993 failed. In July 1993, the German Ministry of the Interior recommended that Dr Dinges contact the secretariat of the Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation in Bonn. Because of its international character, the organisation seemed to be the most appropriate candidate for the principal sponsor of the project. The talks were preceded by an exchange of correspondence between representatives of both foundations from autumn 1993 until 10 March 1994.

the only applicant and coordinator of the entire enterprise, but due to formal and legal issues, this solution was impracticable.³⁸⁷ At the same time, a shortage of facilities and staff caused the Jagiellonian Library,³⁸⁸ Silesian Library³⁸⁹ and the University Library in Toruń³⁹⁰ to withdraw from the previous commitments, while the Warsaw University Library had to limit its contribution to cataloguing.³⁹¹ The Gdańsk Library of the

At the meeting with RBS representatives held in Warsaw, the FPGC Management Board declared a desire to finance the entire enterprise. The Foundation for Polish-German Cooperation was established by the Minister of Finance in October 1991, however, its origins dated back to 1975, when the West German authorities granted a financial loan to the People's Republic of Poland, informally known as the "Jumbo loan". On 7 November 1990, the Government of the Republic of Poland entered into an agreement on its repayment with the German Government. A large proportion of the debt was cancelled, while the Polish government committed to dedicating the remaining part to activities supporting Polish-German cooperation. The FPGC was established for this purpose and, in a sense, became the beneficiary of the "Jumbo loan". Its management board, which met at least twice a year, consisted of six members (both governments designated three persons each), two of them acting as co-presidents. The organisation had two offices, in Berlin and in Warsaw. According to the status, the funds for various projects could only be assigned to Polish organisations, institutions or private companies. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/72, p. 4, Letter of I. Hees and R. Stephan to FPGC of 28/03/1994; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/88, p. 1, M. Dinges, Chronologie zur Besprechung mit Kuratoren [...] of 21/01/1996.

- 387 Had the National Library, as the sole applicant, received the entire grant, then, due to the lack of a legal basis allowing it to distribute the funds between the remaining libraries, it would have been forced to enter into contracts on commissioned works, which could have given rise to objections as to the legal status of the microfilm equipment that was planned to be purchased. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/15, pp. 1–2, I. Sieńko, Special report on the status of application 1201/94/IS (National Library – Bosch Foundation) of 20/03/1995.
- 388 The Jagiellonian Library Director, Prof. K. Zamorski, strongly disagreed with the attitude of the FPGC, which in his view "acted against the best interest of the National Library of Poland", giving notice at the same time of the JL's withdrawal from the project due to the unavailability of appropriate facilities (overhaul of the library building connected with an extension of its old premises), which made it impossible to set up a microfilm studio. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/78, p. 1, Letter of K. Zamorski to I. Sieńko of 21/02/1995.
- 389 Even in the beginning of February 1995, Director Pasztaleniec gave assurance of having received a telephone confirmation of the previous declaration by the Director, Prof. J. Malicki. Nevertheless, the project description of 27 April 1995 no longer mentioned the Silesian Library as one of the participants. As no documents shedding light on this matter are available, we assume that it must have withdrawn from the project between February and April 1995.
- 390 Director S. Czaja was one of the recipients of the letter by Prof. Manikowski of 2 March 1995, however, no document can be found in the NL archives that would directly prove that a response was issued. Furthermore, the University Library in Toruń was no longer taken into consideration in the project description of April. Thus, the conclusion is the same as in the case of the Silesian Library, while the withdrawal must have been filed no sooner than in March 1995. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/71, Letter of A. Manikowski to S. Czaja of 02/03/1995, pp. 3–4.
- 391 H. Hollender, PhD, director of the Warsaw University Library, made known his reservation that due to financial problems, this institution would not be able to make any financial contribution whatsoever. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/77, p. 5, Letter of H. Hollender to I. Sieńko of 20/03/1995.

PAS³⁹² and the Poznań University Library³⁹³ also expressed their doubts. Consequently, in March 1995, the resolution was adopted at a meeting of the NL, RBS and FPGC held in Warsaw³⁹⁴ that the NL should submit a framework project on behalf of the five libraries, consisting of a cost estimate and a detailed application for funds for its own activities only, which would serve as a model for the other institutions. Hence, each of the interested libraries had to apply to the FPGC individually, while the responsibilities of the NL became limited to the role of a content coordinator. The Scientific Council of the Project, composed of four representatives of the German side and five directors or vice-directors of the Polish libraries, would determine whether the principles of the framework project were being respected.³⁹⁵ The RBS' financial contribution was also determined.³⁹⁶

The final documentation of the project aiming to “catalogue and microfilm early printed books from the Polish-German cultural borderlands and 19th-20th century periodicals held in the Polish libraries”³⁹⁷ was submitted to the FPGC secretariat on 27 April 1995.³⁹⁸ Microfilm studios were planned for launching at the National Library, the University Library in Poznań, the

392 Prof. Z. Nowak gave notice about the financial problems that the library was facing, making it impossible to fund the required contribution, and therefore suspended its participation in the project at least until 1996, also because by that year any funds of the library were allocated to finance the celebrations of its upcoming 400th anniversary. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/76, p. 5, Letter of Z. Nowak to A. Manikowski of 10/03/1995.

393 For A. Jazdon, PhD, Director of the University Library in Poznań, another problem was the modest budget and unfavourable principles of the project – which gave preference to early printed books – while the entity was most interested in preserving ageing 19th and 20th century periodicals from Greater Poland. The final decision on behalf of the University Library in Poznań was made by Prof. S. Dworacki, Pro-Rector for the Libraries of the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, p. 20, Letter of A. Jazdon to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 08/02/1995; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, p. 18, Letter of A. Jazdon to A. Manikowski of 17/03/1995.

394 The meeting was attended by Dr Bopp and Dr Dinges from RBS, Prof. Manikowski and Dr Drewniewska-Idziak from the National Library, Dr Gorczyca, FPGC Secretary, his substitute, Prof. Albiński and Dr Sienko. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/77, p. 6, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to H. Hollender of 04/05/1995.

395 It was decided that an FPGC observer should participate in the debates, however, the exact role of the Council was not well defined, which was to lead to misunderstandings in the future. The FPGC also agreed to finance the appointment of a project manager, who would also act as the Council secretary, but this idea was never implemented.

396 To ensure appropriate efficiency, it was decided that the salaries of the cataloguing and microfilming staff would be raised, e.g. twice as high compared to the rates applied by the institutions, or to correspond to the average of the salaries in libraries and in the private sector.

397 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/16, p. 20, Letter of A. Manikowski to the FPGC Management Board of 20/04/1995.

398 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/16, p. 1, Letter of A. Manikowski to E. Gorczyca of 27/04/1995.

Wrocław University Library and the Gdańsk Library of the PAS, while the Warsaw University Library would only conduct cataloguing work. The FPGC grant for the entire project was estimated at PLN 16,262,776.³⁹⁹ RBS planned to spend PLN 430,100 on it.⁴⁰⁰ In accordance with the agreements, each of the libraries would have to calculate their own contribution separately, so the cost estimate only included details for the National Library. The facility adaptation and exploitation estimated by the NL amounted to PLN 65,340. Furthermore, within the grant offered by the RBS, the National Library would get PLN 297,500.⁴⁰¹ Hence, the total cost of the project at the National Library was estimated at PLN 4,347,765. On 10 July 1995, Eugeniusz Gorczyca, FPGC Secretary, informed Prof. Manikowski that the Foundation Management Board positively assessed the project and assigned the first part of the grant to the National Library for the purchase of the microfilm studio equipment worth PLN 1,170,000 PLN.⁴⁰² This, however, did not mean that the Foundation's Management Board accepted the entire cost estimate or had actually transferred this sum to the Library's account. The latter was to be performed once the National Library completed a respective tendering procedure, whereas the condition for repayment of the second grant, for the purchase of photochemical materials, was to settle the amount granted for equipment acquisition. This procedure also implied advance payment of the salaries. The other libraries participating in the project were facing similar problems. The Scientific Council repeatedly requested more flexibility in the rules, but the FPGC Management Board remained adamant.⁴⁰³

399 According to the estimate, it would cost PLN 2,975,299 to launch the studio and produce microfilms there for 5 years. Personnel costs – of hiring five employees in charge of microfilming and two cataloguers for five years – were estimated at PLN 1,009,656. Thus, a sum of ca. PLN 3,984,925 was assigned for the project implementation at each of the four microfilming libraries. For the Warsaw University Library, responsible for cataloguing only, the grant amounted to ca. PLN 312,576. A further PLN 10,500 were projected for the activity of the Scientific Council, the FPGC financing the participation of Polish representatives only.

400 The RBS undertook to cover the costs of the German part of the Scientific Council (PLN 261,800), training in cataloguing (PLN 51,000) and microfilming (PLN 40,800) as well as the computer equipment for cataloguing for five libraries (PLN 76,500).

401 A grant for one cataloguer and one microfilming employee, the computer equipment and visits by the German members of the Council.

402 The official name of the project was “Improvement in access to and protection of prints from the Polish-German cultural borderlands held in Polish library collections”. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/17, p. 1, Letter of E. Gorczyca to the National Library of 10/07/1995.

403 At the Council's second meeting, held on 04/11/1996, Prof. Manikowski requested a change to the principles of the project funding in such a way that the libraries would obtain a guarantee of receiving further funds and did not have to advance any payments of the expenses related to the implementation of the enterprise. Dr Gorczyca promised to make this

In the end, through the entire project, the National Library received four grants from the FPGC amounting to PLN 2,321,431 in total.⁴⁰⁴ The project was implemented from 1 September 1997 through 31 August 2002. In this period, the studio produced 1,712,162 frames (2,345 reels), of which 1,197,722 frames (1,528 reels) were copies of 19,059⁴⁰⁵ early printed books titles, while on 514,440 photographs (817 reels), 2,277 volumes (780 titles) of Jewish press from the 19th and early 20th century were saved. Within the works on Jewish periodicals, 1,870 volumes (448,854 frames) from the National Library collections and 409 volumes (65,595 frames) from the Jewish Historical Institute were filmed.

According to the project's principles, the studios created at selected libraries were to act as regional microfilm centres. The National Library counted on the Warsaw University Library in this respect, however, the latter withdrew from the enterprise.⁴⁰⁶ At the same time, in connection with the plans of copying Jewish press, the German side proposed launching cooperation with the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI). This opened up the possibility of gathering on microfilm a large part of this area of culture that had been "decimated by the Nazi terror".⁴⁰⁷ In 1999, 431 titles of periodicals owned by the JHI were compared with the ones

proposal at the Foundation's Management Board meeting held from 1–3 December 1996, but to no avail. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/80, pp. 3–6, Minutes from the second meeting of the Council of 04/11/1996 at the National Library; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/82, p. 21, Letter of E. Gorczyca to A. Manikowski of 22/11/1996.

- 404 The project's cost estimate submitted in 1995 assumed that PLN 3,995,425 would be granted. This significant difference can be chiefly explained by the reduced scope of works as compared to the initial plans. In terms of expenses for consumables, the estimates were based on previously used equipment, while the new equipment resulted in much greater cost efficiency. Moreover, for the five-year microfilming period, a capacity of 1,100,000 frames annually was assumed, in fact never even approximately reached. This reduced the personnel expenses, especially because of the incomplete staff of the microfilm studio. Finally, out of the PLN 2,321,431, 50.4% was spent on the studio equipment, 15.2% on photochemical materials and 34.4% on personnel expenses. In the case of microfilming equipment, the National Library's own contribution should be added, amounting to PLN 463,022. The total contribution of the Library itself has never been summed up. It was, however, certainly higher than the anticipated PLN 65,340. Likewise, no information is available on the amount of the RBS grant, purportedly amounting to PLN 430,100. For the above reasons, the total value of the project remains unknown.
- 405 In the final report for the FPGC, director J. Pasztaleniec quoted 19,042 titles, which, however, does not correspond to the data from the monthly reports of the microfilm studio, even if we allow for the varying data from June 1998. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/61, p. 5, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Report of the National Library from the implementation of the project [...] financed in 1995–2003 by the FPGC of 18/12/2003.
- 406 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/100, p. 14, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Minutes from the 9th meeting of the Project Council of 3–4/04/2000 held at the National Library.
- 407 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/116, p. 46, M. Dinges, Project: Preservation microfilming of monuments of the early modern and 19th century writing from the collections of the Polish libraries. Improvement in the conditions of access to the collections of 15/05/1993.

in possession of the NL.⁴⁰⁸ The inquiry revealed that 188 titles were available at both institutions, 126 at the NL only and 187 exclusively at the JHI.⁴⁰⁹ It was resolved that no matter who owned the originals, microfilm copies with complete titles should stay with both institutions and the BSB. In the early 2000, it was estimated that 200,000 frames would be taken of the JHI collections.⁴¹⁰ The Institute undertook to catalogue within the Aleph system 431 periodical titles, planned for microfilming by the NL according to the previous agreements.⁴¹¹ The costs of the initiative were incurred by the JHI and the NL from the fourth grant received from the FPGC.⁴¹² The application filed on 31 March 2000 was approved by the FPGC in October of the same year, despite the negative opinion of the Scientific Council.⁴¹³ In August 2002, microfilming was finished for 201 titles in 409 volumes on 65,594 frames.⁴¹⁴ Although the number of frames was

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- 408 In the project implementation plan for 1999–2000, Director J. Pasztaleniec declared that she was familiar with the 19th and 20th century periodicals in Yiddish, Hebrew and Polish kept in these institutions. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/4, p. 15, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Working plan for 1999–2000 in the follow-up of the „Improvement of conditions...” project of 22/12/1998.
- 409 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/42, p. 7, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Memo on the works performed by the National Library from 1 January through 30 September 1999 [...] of 19/10/1999.
- 410 Meanwhile, as early as in May 1999, before the results of the comparison of collections were known, at the 7th meeting of the Scientific Council, the question of how to formalise the cooperation was tackled, but the Institute rejected the proposed solutions. The German side wanted the JHI to catalogue the collections by the end of 1999 at their own expense, and then apply to the FPGC for a grant on their microfilming at the National Library. The Institute rejected this option, as they also requested funds for preparation of the periodicals and were not interested in filing the application individually. An agreement between the NL, FPGC and the JHI was not reached until the end of the year. A meeting was held at the FPGC office, attended by Director J. Pasztaleniec, Dr J. Hensel, Scientific Secretary of the JHI, and Dr Albiński. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/44, p. 1, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Implementation prospects for the project [...] at the National Library from 2000–2001 of 27/03/2000; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/94, pp. 2–17, Minutes from the 7th meeting of the Council held on 6–7/05/1999 at the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/96, pp. 4–5, Minutes from the 8th meeting of the Council of 25/10/1999 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.
- 411 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/100, p. 17, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Minutes from the 9th meeting of the Project Council of 3–4/04/2000 held at the National Library in Warsaw.
- 412 The JHI was assigned PLN 18,000, and the NL PLN 26,000, from the grant, for cataloguing works. PLN 28,000 was provided within the FPGC grant for producing microfilms accompanied by an additional silver copy for the JHI.
- 413 Due to the changes in the Institute’s Management Board, the transfer of the collections planned for May 2001 was delayed by 4 months. On 23 October 2001, Dr Drewniewska-Idziak confirmed the receipt of the first 175 titles of periodicals in Yiddish from the JHI. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/130, pp. 12–14, Application of the NL and the JHI for a grant from the FPGC of 31/12/2000, p. 22, Letter of P. Albiński to the NL of 02/10/2000; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/132, pp. 1–6, Acceptance protocol drawn up by the NL and the JHI of 23/10/2001.
- 414 In accordance with the principles adopted, on 17 October 2002, the Section for Protection and Conservation of Holdings of the NL provided the Institute with 100 microfilm reels.

smaller than anticipated, the cooperation was largely beneficial for both sides. The Institute obtained 2/3 of the funds for cataloguing all of the 431 periodicals and received service copies of 201 titles, whereas the NL managed to create complete sets of the Jewish press from the 19th and early 20th century on microfilm.

Despite a fruitful cooperation, the performance standards anticipated in the project failed to be met. Dr Dinges believed that it would be realistic to produce as many as 1,760,000 frames annually, while the National Library did not reach this sum during the entire five years of the project.⁴¹⁵ The first mistake was made at the stage of selecting the equipment for the studio. The acquired prism camera turned out to be a prototype device, very prone to breakdowns. Perhaps if the program had adopted the proposals of the Polish side regarding funds for conservation and preparation of the microfilmed materials, the delicate prism would not have been exposed to the dust and dirt from the surface of the copied objects, which could have helped avoid a couple of breakdowns. Removal of serious defects by the manufacturer rendered the device inoperative for 20 months in total (modification of the counters from 1/9/1997–10/2/1998, failures of the prism head: 4/3/1999–1/7/1999, 14/9/1999–10/2/2000, 9/2000–2/2002). To this should be added the number of minor defects that tended to be removed by the maintenance service within a few days. As a result, the standard of 600 frames daily established in the course of the talks with Zeutschel representatives in February 1998 was never reached. Furthermore, the mere construction of the prism sliding inside an open book was rather rough, which brought about the “guillotining” of more fragile book spines. Therefore, once the project was terminated, thanks to the efforts of Director Ewa Potrzebicka, the device was returned to the manufacturer as settlement for a new device, a Zeutschel OS 10000 scanner for originals. Breakdowns, although not so grave, haunted the two other cameras too.

NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/58, p. 3, that the Foundation team microfilmed from 01/09/1997 through 31/08/2002; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/130, p. 28, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to the JHI Library of 17/10/2002.

- 415 The plans were reduced upon the requests of the Polish libraries to 1,100,000 frames, and then to 750,000 frames annually for the three cameras. Nonetheless, the NL failed to meet even these standards, and in 2001 director Pasztaleniec gave to be understood that the studio would only take ca. 1,500,000 photographs. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/37, p. 5, M. Dinges, State of implementation of the Polish-German microfilming project upon seven years of performance (1992–1999) of December 1999; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/90, pp. 6–8, Minutes from the 5th meeting of the Council of 12/05/1998 at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/104, p. 4, Minutes from the 7th meeting of the Council held on 7–8/05/2001 at the Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Gdańsk.

As the project was embedded in two different areas of library practice – reprography and cataloguing – it required appropriate coordination by a specifically designated manager.⁴¹⁶ Due to the lack of such proper cooperation, the catalogued resources were not immediately directed to specific cameras. As a result, on many occasions one camera remained idle, while another one was overused. For early printed books, the chronological arrangement adopted was a serious mistake. Understandably, the National Library intended to microfilm the oldest holdings that had not yet been saved on microfilm first, given the uncertain financial situation of the project, so such collections were the first to be catalogued. Nevertheless, in consequence, operators with little experience in handling modern equipment had to start with very difficult materials, such as 16th-century compilations of bound prints. This often required the equipment to be reprogrammed, which affected productivity. Furthermore, the complex and time-consuming cataloguing did not always lead to a large number of microfilm frames. Nor was the preparation of prints sufficiently coordinated with the microfilming activities. Most of the time during the project, around 1,000 titles were prepared ahead of microfilming, while at the Wrocław University Library, this number was four times greater. Consequently, materials for microfilming were often lacking.

The National Library acted as the principal Polish partner for the German side. Its staff arranged the first meetings, encouraged other libraries to contribute to the project, determined details such as selection criteria for the materials as well as rules for cataloguing and microfilming, prepared cost estimates and conducted negotiations with the FPGC. Hence, if it had not been for the commitment of the National Library, the project would never have been implemented. Thanks to the project, the National Library obtained the most modern microfilm laboratory in Poland. Its employees were trained in microfilming and cataloguing in Germany, and later shared their knowledge with librarians from the other participating institutions, this time at the expense of the NL.⁴¹⁷ Moreover, we must not forget that the

416 In the case of the National Library, this role would have consisted in supervising the cooperation between the microfilm studio managed by B. Drewniewska-Idziak, head of the Section of Protection and Conservation of Library Holdings, and the Departments of Periodicals and Early Printed Books.

417 A case in point, within an initiative of peer collaboration, the staff of the Department of Early Printed Books, especially K. Ślaska, taught and provided ongoing consultations to curators from other institutions on how to handle the forms and structure of the MAK+ programme. In this way, a computer database was created at the Wrocław University Library with titles of all the early printed books microfilmed within the project. Database of the Wrocław University Library, Catalogue of Microfilms of the 15th-18th century prints: www.bu.uni.wroc.pl/cgi-bin/makwww.exe?BM=1 [accessed on 13/04/2013]. The National

National Library was the first one to join the project. Thus, other libraries could build upon its experience, the best evidence of which was the fact that plans to buy prism cameras were abandoned by all the other entities.

The FPGC provided the Wrocław University Library with PLN 2,656,200 in total.⁴¹⁸ This library was the only participating institution to exceed the threshold of 2,000,000 frames. Despite a couple of minor objections, the German experts acknowledged that the Wrocław library was a model participant in the initiative.⁴¹⁹ Moreover, based on previous experiences collaborating with Western librarians, director Ładomirski tackled such issues as maintenance of the copied holdings and bilateral agreements with the BSB, setting out the exploitation standards for the materials provided.⁴²⁰ Reaching the highest productivity among all the participating institutions was also possible due to efficient work organisation. Cataloguing started suitably in advance of microfilming, which assured a continuous flow of resources to the reprographics unit. Additional selection eliminating prints that were too small also proved to be an excellent idea.⁴²¹ The Wrocław University Library planned to prepare and microfilm such resources in the future at their own expense. Hence, the library began to build a base of Silesian prints excluded from the Bosch project called the “Notebook”.⁴²² This additional selection was continued all throughout the performance of the project and significantly increased microfilming productivity. Furthermore, the Wrocław University Library

Library is in possession of a similar database, limited, however, to its own collections. Databases of the National Library in the MAK system, Catalogue of Microfilms of Early Printed Books Published Mainly on the Territories of Silesia, East Prussia and Pomerania: <http://mak.bn.org.pl/cgi-bin/makwww.exe?BM=18> [accessed on 13/04/2013].

- 418 The gap between the amount of the grant and the sums actually needed, amounting to PLN 19,266, was covered at the library’s own expense. It should also be mentioned that the Wrocław University Library received another grant from the FPGC at the same time, amounting to PLN 76,250, for a project related to the preparation and preservation of music manuscripts.
- 419 Information confirmed by J. Noskowiak from the University Library in Poznań.
- 420 For instance, for the purposes of the scientific programme funded by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, initiated by prof. Lenz from the Centre for Studies on Literary Works of the Marburg University, which involved copying the collections of Prince George Rudolf of Liegnitz as well as the library collections of the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Legnica. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/74, pp. 37–38, Letter of A. Ładomirski to FPGC of 30/01/1997.
- 421 Director Ładomirski decided to exclude from the project items of less than four pages that did not form part of a larger work. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/74, p. 69 et seq., Minutes from the 6th meeting of the Council of 23/11/1998 held at the Wrocław University Library.
- 422 Apart from small-volume items, from 1997 it also included prints that could not be micro-filmed due to a poor state of preservation. By March 1999, the “Notebook” listed 1,355 records. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/74, p. 82, A. Ładomirski, Memo on the works performed at the Wrocław University Library from 1 January through 31 March 1999 within the project [...] of 20/04/1999.

could learn from the experiences of the National Library in matters of microfilm studio equipment. As a result, not only was the idea to purchase a prism camera – expensive and susceptible to breakdowns – abandoned, but also a different manufacturer of other equipment was chosen, with the resulting devices being very reliable. Because of its convenient location, the library was also helpful when it came to providing diazo copies, which was a critical issue for the German partner. The Wrocław University Library prepared 23,095 catalogue descriptions in total, plus 19,531 records within the “Notebook” base, and produced 2,145,389 microfilm frames between 1998–2001.

The fact that the Stanisław Staszic Pomeranian Library joined the project was a big surprise. Its director, Stanisław Krzywicki, had participated in the preliminary talks in Munich in 1992, but showed no interest in the Bosch initiative. It was not until March 1996 that the library applied for a grant to the FPGC.⁴²³ Microfilming began in September 1998, once the documents were rectified and a studio arranged.⁴²⁴ Out of the collection of over 30,000 titles of early printed books owned by the Szczecin Library, the criterion of place of origin was met for around 4,500 publications, coming from the collections of the former City Library, the St. Mary Gymnasium in Szczecin, the Groening Gymnasium in Stargard, and the Library of the Pomeranian Princes.⁴²⁵ The partners from the BSB, however, were more interested in microfilms of unique German newspapers. In total, throughout the 31 months of the project’s performance (until March 2001), the Pomeranian Library produced 886,907 frames of 4,511 early printed books and 57 periodicals in 1,425 volumes. According to Dr Dinges, the microfilm studio in Szczecin was appropriately equipped, but its potential remained unexploited, since this number of frames could have been taken within a shorter period.⁴²⁶ The reasons for the low productivity were probably the constant problems that the Pomeranian Library had with obtaining grants, which forced the institution to advance salary payments and economise on photochemical materials. This was accompanied by the same problems as in the case of the National Library: delays in

423 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/89, pp. 12–14, S. Krzywicki, Memo on the works performed by the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin within the project [...] of 20/11/1998.

424 Ibid., p. 13.

425 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/109, p. 6, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Project of microfilming monuments of writing of the Polish-German cultural borderlands held in the Polish libraries. Common European heritage.

426 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/37, p. 5, M. Dinges, State of implementation of the Polish-German microfilming project upon seven years of performance (1992–1999) of December 1999.

cataloguing and equipment failures. Furthermore, the library decided to microfilm other resources as well, not included in the project, at its own expense, but still using the equipment purchased with the FPGC grant.⁴²⁷ Even though the German experts eventually accepted these practices, the evaluation report mentioned that such activities adversely affected the studio's efficiency.⁴²⁸

At the close of the 20th century, the Gdańsk Library of the PAS had 55,000 volumes of early printed books and 59 titles of periodicals from the 19th and early 20th century in 1,204 volumes.⁴²⁹ Therefore, when the order in which the libraries should join the project was established, based on the suitability of their collections, the state of the facilities and their organisational efficiency, the Gdańsk Library of the PAS came second, following the NL.⁴³⁰ Unfortunately, financial problems made it impossible for that entity to join the project at an earlier stage. In 1997 a fierce battle commenced, lasting over 2 years, to incorporate it into the initiative.⁴³¹ Finally, due to the lack of appropriate facilities and human resources, the library abandoned the idea of setting up its own microfilm studio and resorted to outsourcing instead.

From October 2000 to December 2001, the Microfilm Center company produced 252,560 frames of 2,500 early printed books⁴³² catalogued

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- 427 These were periodicals published from 1945–1946 and an unspecified collection from Warsaw, in theory concerning Polish-German relations. This initiative resulted from the poor state of conservation of the originals, which impeded their loans. Director Krzywicki provided information on such activities in October 1999 at the 8th meeting of the Scientific Council. Dr Weber stated that although it was detrimental to the project, it enabled a more effective use of the equipment purchased. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/96, p. 6, Minutes from the 8th meeting of the Council of 25/10/1999 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.
- 428 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/102, p. 15, J. Warmbrunn, T. Szymorowska, Project assessment [...] summary requested by the Robert Bosch Foundation in December 2000.
- 429 The institution also had a number of catalogues available: an alphabetical one, a systematic one (based on the inflow of funds), a special one for collections classified thematically, and a catalogue of printers arranged according to printing location, which listed 40% of the entire book collection. The library also had experience in microfilming. Its studio was fitted out with two Carl-Zeiss Jena cameras from 1970, one – an Iva model – for perforated 35mm film and the other – a DA5 – for non-perforated film. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/69, p. 4, M. Spandowski, Description of selected Polish libraries, pp. 44–45, F.G. Kaltwasser, Description of the Polish Libraries.
- 430 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/8, p. 67, Project: Common European Heritage: protection of printed works and improvement in the access to prints from the Polish library collections which attest to a common heritage of the Polish and German cultures of 15/04/1994.
- 431 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/37, p. 3, M. Dinges, State of implementation of the Polish-German microfilming project upon seven years of performance (1992–1999) of December 1999.
- 432 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/76, p. 68, Letter of M. Pelczar to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 07/02/2002.

within the project.⁴³³ The project cost PLN 380,330 in total: PLN 65,000 were spent on cataloguing and 314,830 on microfilming.⁴³⁴ Procuring the services of a commercial company permitted saving a large amount of the funds which otherwise would have to be spent on modern equipment.

The nature of the collections of the University Library in Poznań made it a perfect candidate for the Polish-German project.⁴³⁵ Its vice-director, Zbigniew Sławiński, PhD, attended the first meeting of librarians in Munich in 1992, and submitted his preliminary observations already in the beginning of February 1993.⁴³⁶ Nevertheless, in 1995, the above-mentioned financial and content-related issues arose. The project's profile – where the share of periodicals was limited to 30% – was also unfavourable for the library. It was not until 1997 that its authorities expressed their interest in the initiative, planning to outsource the microfilming works.⁴³⁷ However, the successive applications were rejected by the FPGC Management Board, for example because of the excessive outsourcing costs and objec-

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- 433 Finally, 2,750 records were introduced to the MAK database. Upon deletion of duplicates and necessary revisions, it resulted that 2,500 titles of early printed books complied with the project's principles. These were both large legal, historical and theological works as well as occasional prints, the Ordinances of the Gdańsk City Council being considered particularly valuable. They included very detailed information on the city's history and the everyday life of its residents. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/76, p. 58, M. Pelczar, Memo on the works completed at the Gdańsk Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences from 01/08/2000 through the end of April 2001 within the project [...] of 05/04/2001.
- 434 On 30 November 1999, the FPGC awarded the library a grant amounting to PLN 379,830. The difference of PLN 500 was covered by the library. The Foundation also accepted an application filed in 1998 for granting funds for deacidification and microfilming of selected periodicals. This project, however, worth PLN 119,114, did not form part of the Bosch initiative.
- 435 As the project was launched at the University Library of Poznań with delay, the documents from this process probably failed to reach the National Library or were not included in the archival series related to the Bosch project. I received the data used for the purposes of the present section thanks to the courtesy of the staff of the University Library in Poznań: J. Noskowiak, head of the Microfilm and Digitisation Studio, and A. Karpowicz, head of the Masonic Collections Unit.
- 436 The library had to prepare rooms as required for two cameras – not necessarily owned by the institution – to be installed. The director proposed that the German partners lease them for the term of the project and also incur the costs of their maintenance. At the same time, the foreign partners had to commit to covering the personnel costs, as the institution was facing financial problems. As a result of budget cuts, 51 employees were dismissed in 1991. To perform the project efficiently, the director offered to employ four camera operators and two employees in charge of preparation of the collections. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, pp. 1–2, Letter of Z. Sławiński to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 10/02/1993.
- 437 In early April, directors Sławiński and Jazdon exchanged letters with Dr Dinges on that matter. Mr Jazdon also contacted director J. Pasztaleniec. The library was willing to join the project, provided, however, that they could manage the selection and cataloguing of the holdings themselves. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, pp. 21–22, Letter of Z. Sławiński to M. Dinges of 9/04/1997; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, p. 23, Letter of M. Dinges to A. Jazdon and Z. Sławiński of 10/04/1997; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/85, p. 13, Minutes from the 3rd meeting of the Council of 28/04/1997 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.

tions as to the holdings selected for microfilming.⁴³⁸ Eventually, in 1999, the university authorities decided to set up a microfilm studio. Once this obstacle was overcome, a dispute arose in connection with the financial transactions for the equipment supplies.⁴³⁹ As the procedure failed to follow the FPGC's instructions, the library had to incur the purchase costs of the necessary machinery itself. All the above problems provoked delays in the project's implementation. In the end, the library joined the project in the fourth quarter of 2002, four months after the conference that of-

- 438 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, p. 25, Letter of M. Dinges to A. Jazdon and Z. Sławiński of 13/01/1998, p. 26, Letter of M. Dinges to Z. Sławiński of 22/05/1998, pp. 38–41, Letter of Z. Sławiński to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 18/05/1999, pp. 42–43, Letter of F. G. Kaltwasser to A. Jazdon of 28/09/1999; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/74, p. 74, Minutes from the 6th meeting of the Council of 23/11/1998 held at the Wrocław University Library; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/86, p. 13, Minutes from the 4th meeting of the Council of 28/11/1997 held at the National Library; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/90, p. 12, Minutes from the 5th meeting of the Council of 12/05/1998 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/94, p. 11, Minutes from the 7th meeting of the Council held on 6–7/05/1999 at the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/95, pp. 5–6, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to I. Sieńko of 06/01/1999; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/96, pp. 2–3, Minutes from the 8th meeting of the Council of 25/10/1999 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, p. 7, Minutes from the 8th meeting of the Council of 25/10/1999 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.
- 439 In December 1999, the FPGC granted PLN 525,000 to the Library for the purchase of equipment for the studio. Three companies submitted their bids within the procurement process, but the applications contained formal errors. Therefore, the procedure could not be closed until April 2000. Eventually, the successful bidder selected within the repeated procedure was M. Chojnacki's company. The equipment was furnished by October 2000, then training sessions were arranged in June and October at the National Library. Everything seemed to be prepared for the start of the works. Then, the FPGC unexpectedly cancelled the offer, since no representative of the Foundation had participated in the award procedure. In consequence, the FPGC secretariat only learned about the proceedings after nearly ten months. Also other objections were raised in connection with the procedure itself. Under these circumstances, at the 10th meeting of the Scientific Council held in October 2000, Prof. Meżyński proposed that the university finance the purchase of equipment, while the Foundation should assign a grant for the project's implementation. Although A. Kozak, the library's representative, considered that such a solution was rather unlikely, the rector finally decided to reimburse the equipment costs from the university budget. At the same time, the FPGC accepted the application for moving the funds assigned towards project implementation. Nonetheless, the bidding process had to be repeated due to the modification of its conditions. The subsequent process, however, was cancelled by the university's legal department. It was only the fourth bidding process, finalised in November 2001, that led to a legally binding award. Apart from that, it was not until the second half of 2001 that the library received the computers bought by the RBS, while cataloguing could have been launched already in the third quarter of 2000. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/35, p. 7, J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska, Memo on the works performed by the National Library in Warsaw from 1 March to 30 September 2000; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/100, p. 18, B. Drewniewska-Idziak, Minutes from the 9th meeting of the Project Council of 3–4/04/2000 held at the National Library; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/101, p. 4, Minutes from the 10th meeting of the Council of 24/10/2000 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, p. 6, Minutes from the 10th meeting of the Council of 24/10/2000 held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/104, p. 6, Minutes from the 7th meeting of the Council held on 7–8/05/2001 at the Library of the Polish Academy of Sciences in Gdańsk; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/105, pp. 5–6, Minutes from the 8th meeting of the Council of 29/10/2001 [...] held at Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.

officially closed the initiative. A significant part of the funds assigned by the FPGC was spent on a Zeutschel OK 301H hybrid camera which enabled microfilming and digitising resources at the same time.⁴⁴⁰ The remaining sum was spent on consumables (silver and diazo films, reels, boxes, developer, fixer) and salaries of a reviser and three cataloguers employed under mandate contracts. Apart from that, the library spent PLN 13,156 from its own budget. As a result, the total cost of the Bosch project at the University Library in Poznań amounted to PLN 538,156. With these funds, 304,350 microfilm frames were taken from October 2002 through January 2004. The diazo copies (397 boxes) were sent by courier mail to the BSB in July 2004. The project covered 1,701 titles from the collection of Masonic documents, including 355 18th- and 19th-century prints of the Rosicrucians.⁴⁴¹ Also, 31 titles of German-language Masonic periodicals and the same number of members' lists of German Masonic Lodges were microfilmed. Additionally, 494 titles from the general collection of early printed books were photographed.⁴⁴²

On 3 June 2002, a conference was held to officially close the project.⁴⁴³ It did not, however, mean the completion of all the activities connected with the enterprise. Microfilming was only about to start at the Univer-

440 This was a symptomatic sign of the times. For the library formed a part of the Poznań Library Foundation which, together with the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Centre, was working on the Digital Library of Wielkopolska. The works were accomplished on 1 October 2002, when the library began microfilming within the Bosch project. Hence, the purchase of a hybrid camera was fully justified.

441 The collection of Masonic documents was discovered in autumn 1945 in Sława Śląska. It was predominately made up of book collections of the Masonic Lodges from Silesia and Pomerania. Out of its at least 80,000 volumes, 66,027 had been prepared in the course of cataloguing works conducted since 1981. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/73, pp. 38–41, Letter of Z. Sławiński to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 18/05/1999.

442 Information obtained from J. Noskowiak.

443 The symposium was finally held on 3 June 2002 in Warsaw. Following the official welcome by the National Library Director M. Jagiełło, U. Bopp, E. Gorczyca and H. Weber spoke. The official part was closed with a lecture by prof. Bartoszewski on Polish-German relations. Next, an exhibition presenting the project was solemnly opened. Following a short break, a two-hour research seminar was held. The conference finished with a debate with contributions by numerous participants representing the research communities of both countries. The event was preceded by the publication of a bilingual brochure *Mikrofilmowanie zabytków piśmiennictwa z polsko-niemieckiego pogranicza kulturowego* [Saving Monuments of Writing from the Polish-German Cultural Borderlands on Microfilm], ed. M. Pflüger, Stuttgart 2002. After the conference, the National Library released another bilingual publication entitled *Ochrona wspólnego dziedzictwa europejskiego. Materiały z konferencji poświęconej mikrofilmowaniu zabytków piśmiennictwa z polsko-niemieckiego pogranicza kulturowego* [Protection of the Common European Heritage. Proceedings of a Conference Dedicated to Saving Monuments of Writing from the Polish-German Cultural Borderlands on Microfilm], ed. A. Mężyński, Warszawa 2003. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/106, pp. 12–13, Research seminar and presentation of the results of the project of saving monuments of writing from the Polish-German cultural borderlands on microfilm [...].

sity Library in Poznań. Other libraries still corresponded with the BSB on the transfer of collections in 2003.⁴⁴⁴ However, a respective database, completed and edited by Weronika Karlak from the Wrocław University Library, was successfully published on a CD on time.⁴⁴⁵ Once duplicates were deleted, the database listed 34,944 descriptions.⁴⁴⁶

Common European Heritage. Improvement in Access to Collections from the Polish-German Cultural Borderlands was the largest private project ever implemented by Polish cultural institutions. The FPGC granted PLN 8,014,861 to individual libraries for this purpose.⁴⁴⁷ With these funds, microfilm studios with the most up-to-date equipment were created at the NL, the Wrocław University Library and the Pomeranian Library.⁴⁴⁸ The idea to set up a microfilm studio in Gdańsk was supplanted by outsourcing. Meanwhile, in Poznań, the existing studio was equipped with a hybrid camera worth PLN 321,475. The remaining PLN 4,731,411 of the FPGC grants were spent on project implementation, i.e. personnel costs (20 full-time jobs) and purchase of consumables. Furthermore, the Robert Bosch Foundation provided five Polish libraries with 16 computers with software, necessary to create the catalogue descriptions. Dr Weber estimated the total RBS contribution at ca. EUR 250,000.⁴⁴⁹ Each of the participating institutions also incurred its own costs, especially in connection with the preparation and operation of the facilities and the creation of new jobs.

444 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/108, p. 18, Letter of B. Drewniewska-Idziak to K. Haller of 09/04/2003; NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/123, p. 14, Letter of F. G. Kaltwasser to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 23/04/2003.

445 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/61, p. 3, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to the FPGC Management Board of 18/12/2003.

446 Information provided by Weronika Karlak, Head of the Early Printed Books Division of the Wrocław University Library. Today, the database is available on the NL websites. For unknown reasons, about 5,000 catalogue descriptions prepared by the National Library never reached the Wrocław University Library, which is why those records have never been included in the database. This was probably due to a lost floppy disk with that data. The FPGC granted PLN 50,000 for the creation of a common database. The funds were issued from the fourth grant awarded to the National Library. NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/123, p. 10, Letter of J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska to the FPGC Management Board of 03/08/2001, p. 12, Letter of E. Gorczyca to J. Pasztaleniec-Jarzyńska of 05/09/2001.

447 According to Dr Weber, it was about EUR 2,000,000.

448 The Foundation provided PLN 3,283,450 for this purpose in total. 1,113,450 for the Wrocław University Library, PLN 1,170,000 for the National Library (the actual cost of the microfilm studio equipment amounted to PLN 1,219,579; the PLN 49,579 difference was covered by the library's own funds) and PLN 1,000,000 for the Pomeranian Library in Szczecin.

449 H. Weber, *Poprawa warunków dostępności i ochrony zbiorów z polsko-niemieckiego pogranicza kulturowego w bibliotekach polskich* [Improvement of Protection and Access Conditions of the Monuments from the Polish-German Culture Borderlands in Polish Libraries], in *Ochrona wspólnego dziedzictwa europejskiego*, op. cit., p. 23.

Within the project, early printed books, 19th century German press, Jewish 19th- and early 20th-century periodicals and a part of the Poznań collection of Masonic documents were catalogued and microfilmed. For the purposes of early printed books' selection, the National Library prepared a binding list of printers' locations. The lists of periodical titles were also approved by Dr Kaltwasser each time. This enabled the teams to respect the established proportion of 70% early printed books and 30% periodicals. By June 2002, the project incorporated 40,106 titles of early printed books and 5,486 volumes of periodicals.⁴⁵⁰ The selected resources from all the above institutions were microfilmed between September 1997 and January 2004. In total, 5,301,368 frames were taken in this period. An analogous number of diazo copies were provided to the BSB.

During the preliminary negotiations in 1992, the German experts assumed that each of the newly created microfilm studios would produce 1,760,000 frames annually, which would sum to 8,800,000 frames throughout the five years of the project.⁴⁵¹ In early 1994, the participation of eight libraries still seemed realistic. Thus, the RBS initiative could result in 70,400,000 photographs. Eventually, the project was undertaken by six institutions, to a much smaller extent. Furthermore, the standards were lowered upon the requests of the Polish side to 1,100,000 and later to 800,000 frames annually. In fact, only the Wrocław University Library reached close to this efficiency. The principal hindrances that occurred over time may be classified within two categories: low interest on the part of the Polish libraries caused by problems with insufficient staff, facilities and funds, lack of trust towards the German partners and the participating private entities, and at the same time defective project coordination. This was accompanied by particular problems each of the institutions faced, such as equipment breakdowns, organisational problems or the very strict grant award procedures applied by the FPGC. The results, much lower than expected, could not fully satisfy any of the parties. Nevertheless, it ought to be emphasised that this was the first initiative of large-scale cooperation between Polish and German librarians since World War II, resulting in the creation of mutual contacts. The project brought greatly appreciated experience and helped in learning about computer cataloguing and microfilming. Furthermore, the FPGC funds enabled the creation of three modern microfilm

450 The total number of items should be increased by the resources of the University Library in Poznań microfilmed at a later date: the Masonic documents and 494 early printed books.

451 NL, DDA, shelf mark 251/37, p. 2, M. Dinges, State of implementation of the Polish-German microfilming project upon seven years of performance (1992–1999) of December 1999.

studios and the taking of more than 5,000,000 frames of valuable collections, often unique and threatened with destruction.

In point of fact, this project ended the microfilming era in Poland. From the beginning of the 21st century, digital imaging started to steadily supplant it. In October 2002, four months after the conference finalising the project, the first Polish digital library was launched: the Digital Library of Wielkopolska. One of its founders was the University Library in Poznań, which joined the Bosch project at the same time. Thus, the fact that the library's authorities decided to purchase a hybrid camera with the funds granted by the FPGC was a suggestive one.⁴⁵²

The reach of microfilm techniques in Poland was limited to the research community.⁴⁵³ Prior to 1950, any application of microfilms consisted in modest in numbers and isolated attempts. Both archivists and librarians were aware of the potential that microfilms had, but the introduction of this new technology had to be postponed due to more urgent issues. It was only after the traumatic experiences of World War II that microfilming laboratories started to accompany books collections. In theory, by 1956 six studios were created in six years, but they were still treated as secondary, auxiliary units, just like carpentry workshops.⁴⁵⁴ As a result, libraries failed to cooperate with each other, undertook no systematic actions of preservation microfilming, but concentrated on specific orders instead. If they arranged for any kind of cooperation, it was most frequently based exclusively on oral agreements and the good will of the parties. The National Library's nation-wide activity was an exception in this respect. Laboratories at the archives managed by the HOSA worked together in a significantly more coherent way.

The issue of microforms was omitted in the curricula of library courses and university programs, not to mention textbooks. Foreign professional press was equally unavailable. Meanwhile, the political circumstances made it impossible to delegate employees to foreign workshops, so that they could receive training, or to international conferences. There was not enough staff qualified in technical photography. At the same time, a common view held among the librarian community was that dealing with

452 All the other libraries made a mistake when they failed to immediately use the surrogates produced within the Project to create digital resources, especially considering that Dr Weber demanded that the quality of all microfilms should enable their future scanning.

453 A. Wyczański, *Mikrofilm...*, op. cit., pp. 92–93.

454 Bookbinders' work was more appreciated and mentioned in the literature with more frequency. A. Wyczański, "Mikrofilm w archiwach...", op. cit., pp. 131–151.

microforms was something inappropriate for a researcher.⁴⁵⁵ To the general picture of the difficulties of introducing microforms must be added the users' attitudes. Their preference for the originals was not a new or exclusively Polish phenomenon. While users working in exact sciences were accustomed to operating various kinds of machinery, researchers in the field of the humanities showed reluctance towards the new technological developments. This was exacerbated by factors independent of the scholars, such as lack of information on the microfilms' availability, no organised microfilm network and the lack of cheap microfilm readers for private use on the market.

In consequence, considering the lack of coordination between various centres, insufficient equipment resources, rather poor quality of the photochemical materials, inadequate preparation of the technical and library staff and many other problems as mentioned above, the results of the initiative in preserving the most valuable collections and completing Polish press on microfilm implemented by the National Library should be considered a huge success.⁴⁵⁶ Without any assistance from experienced foreign specialists, quality and technical precision at an average European level were achieved.

In 1978, the situation was still far from perfect, but surveys indicated that the national microform resources were systematically growing. Although the National Library still played the leading role, other libraries stopped limiting themselves to filling orders, so that microcopies could be gathered in a more consciously planned way. On the other hand, some libraries began to save incomplete series of periodicals, a habit which was not given up until the beginning of the 21st century. Another problem was that certain types of collections were excluded from microfilming, which was the case with maps and plans, dissertations, documents of social life and Polonica.⁴⁵⁷ Works of various centres were also poorly coordinated, as illustrated by the example of the failed cooperation of the NL, JL and the National Ossoliński Institute.

As the 1990s saw a general boost in the interest in preservation of collections, the topic of microfilming returned. Also, the new economic situation after 1989 enabled libraries to upgrade their machine pools. Finan-

455 Ibid., p. 148.

456 M. Burdowicz-Nowicka, "Mikrofilm w pracy...", op. cit., p. 109.

457 For cartographic objects, this resulted first of all from the fact that specialised cameras for microfilming large formats would have been required. W. Grygorenko, "Zastosowanie mikrofilmów w kartografii" [Application of Microfilms in Cartography], *Wojskowy Przegląd Techniczny* [Military Technical Review] vol. 3, issue 1, 1970, pp. 21–23.

cial aid from various organisations played a significant role in this respect, as for example in the case of the Bosch project. Meanwhile, in the second half of the 1990s, the new digital technology for preserving collections first appeared in Poland.⁴⁵⁸ The turn of the centuries may be considered a symbolic ground-breaking moment, similar to the time barrier between incunables and early printed books. Microfilm studios first began to be equipped with scanners for microcopies, and then for originals. With the smooth transition from microforms to digitisation, the still unanswered question has arisen as to the future of microfilms in the world of digital libraries.

SUMMARY

In 1950, at the National Library in Warsaw, an institution was created to launch an initiative for preserving collections on a scale unprecedented in Europe. At first, the Microfilm Station was in charge of producing surrogates of the most valuable monuments of writing that had survived the disasters of World War II. In the 1970s, its work was extended by a project of completing the collections of Polish newspapers and journals. In this way, over half a century of microfilming resulted in preserving integral series of periodicals as well as manuscripts, early printed books and music documents housed in over 200 institutions in Poland and abroad. Furthermore, the collection of surrogates gathered by the National Library became the most complete scientific workshop for the Polish humanities. The end of the 20th century and start of the 21st may be considered a symbolic ground-breaking moment, similar to the time barrier between incunables and early printed books. Microfilm studios first began to be equipped with scanners for microcopies, and then for originals. With the smooth transition from microforms to digitisation, the still unanswered question has arisen as to the future of microfilms in the world of digital libraries.

458 D. Grygowski, *Dokumenty nieksiążkowe w bibliotece*, Warszawa 2001, pp. 65–77.