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Polish Memory Institutions Show Resources Online

Poland

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Introduction

Following the *Bangemann Report*[1] and the *Global Information Networks* declaration signed in Bonn on July 8th, 1997 by the Ministers of 29 European countries, the Polish Parliament issued a resolution on July 14th, 2000, in which it decided to prepare the foundation of an information society development strategy. Among other results, it produced the document *Strategy of Information Society Development in Poland in 2001-2006 - ePolska* containing a list of budgetary needs for the implementation of the Information Society. In the following year the Parliament passed a law on *Common Access to Public Information* and a few other legal acts supporting the electronic revolution.

Some years earlier, starting in 1993, cooperation in library computerisation was initiated among research libraries. They started by changing the temporary systems into an integrated library system (ILS) based on a relational database, which improved significantly library management. Libraries had to learn and introduce, one by one, system modules such as cataloguing (classifying and indexing materials) and serials (tracking magazine and newspaper holdings). The next modules included acquisitions (ordering, receiving, and invoicing materials), and finally circulation (lending materials to patrons and receiving them back). Among the chosen systems, the most popular ones were VTLS, Horizon, and Aleph, to mention just the top choices. The National Library was the only one working with Innopac. To overcome difficulties, local consortia were created in some big cities like Kraków, Poznań, and Łódź, and included libraries of all types. Following these good results libraries with the two most popular systems formed the consortium of VTLS libraries (27 libraries) and the Coalition for Libraries with Horizon (52 libraries). In 1998 both coalitions and the National Library with the Innopac system established - with the help of the Mellon Foundation - the central national catalogue NUKAT. This work started slowly and with difficulties; however, this cooperation was very successful, and in 2011 the number of bibliographical records reached approximately 2 million, with 70 000 serial titles and 1.7 million authority files (1.3 names, 0.4 subject headings) created in cooperation with 120 research libraries. The success could have been even greater if the National Library not limited cooperation to the years 2005-2007 in creating the bibliographical records. In 2011 the central catalogue also initiated an international cooperation with OCLC, Google Books (http://books.google.pl), and Google Scholar (http://scholar.google.pl) available under the links: Find in NUKAT[2].

The first Polish regional digital library **Digital Library of Wielkopolska** based on dLibra software was opened as a result of cooperation between the Foundation of Poznań Research Libraries and the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center.

Polish Internet Library

From the very beginning libraries planned digitization of their collections. One of the first achievements was the Polish Internet Library opened by the Prime Minister on October 25, 2001. Responsibility for building this library changed over time, and finally the project was stopped in 2007 with 32069 items for which maintenance had been taken over by the National Library. The digitised content is available at
http://www.pbi.edu.pl/index.html.

Regional digital libraries

In October 2002 the first Polish regional digital library *Digital Library of Wielkopolska* based on dLibra software was opened as a result of cooperation between the Foundation of Poznań Research Libraries and the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center. In November 2004 the next regional digital library *Lower Silesian Digital Library* used the same system, and in the next year the third one *Kujawsko-Pomorska Digital Library* followed the same path[3]. In a short time the other libraries,

including the National Library which joined the community of dLibra users in 2006, implemented the software offered for free by the Poznań Supercomputing Center so the number of digital libraries increased significantly.

Federation of Digital Libraries

When the digital library model prepared by the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center became the most popular solution it was decided to create a federation of digital libraries with one access point. In June 2007, when the number of digital objects reached 80 000 produced by 16 libraries using the same software, the "Federation of Digital Libraries" service was launched. It was based on the OAI-PMH protocol and included from the beginning persistent identifiers attached to the digital objects[4]. It offered to the users such functions as distributed searching across the available publications, distributed searching across the digitization plans, and creation and recognition of permanent references to digital objects. In August 2011 the number of digital libraries registered in the DLF Digital Libraries Database reached 80 with 697683 digital resources in total[5].

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Museums

Museums were not eager to show their resources online as they were afraid of losing clients who might not come after seeing the museums' treasures on the Net. However after a few years of presentation of digital repositories at a number of conferences, museums changed their attitude and realized that available online resources can work for them as the best means of promotion. The first professional system for virtual museums was introduced by the Department of Information Technology at the Poznań University of Economics in 2009 and presented in the Szreniawa Museum during the conference, where the Athena project was also presented. For that purpose the ARCO system - an integrated software enabling museums to create, manage and display virtual exhibitions of cultural artefacts - was used. It offered a number of solutions such as interactive 3D, augmented reality presentations, and rich multimedia web presentations. The ARCO system was created as a result of international cooperation between researchers and museum staff. It supported the preparation and management of virtual museums - starting from digitalization of cultural objects, refinement, storage and collection management up to presentation through various interfaces[6]. As of 2011 the system had been implemented by three museums: the National Museum of Agriculture in Szreniawa[7], the Polish History Museum in Warsaw[8], and the Museum of Technology and Transport in Szczecin[9].

At the same time the Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center was working with the National Museum in Warsaw on the first version of a digital museum based on the dMuseion 1.0.0 software. As a result, in 2010 the national virtual museum[10] opened. Some other museums created their own digital collections available online like the Museum of Photography in Kraków[11].

There are some other examples of putting resources online by museums, but these are not professional solutions but rather *ad hoc* exhibitions and information about resources available on the museum websites.

Archives

Archives started their digital transformation with European projects such as EURIDICE (2005), in which a number of collections were digitized. In March 8, 2008 the National Digital Archive opened, which presents online materials from Polish archives[12]. The National Digital
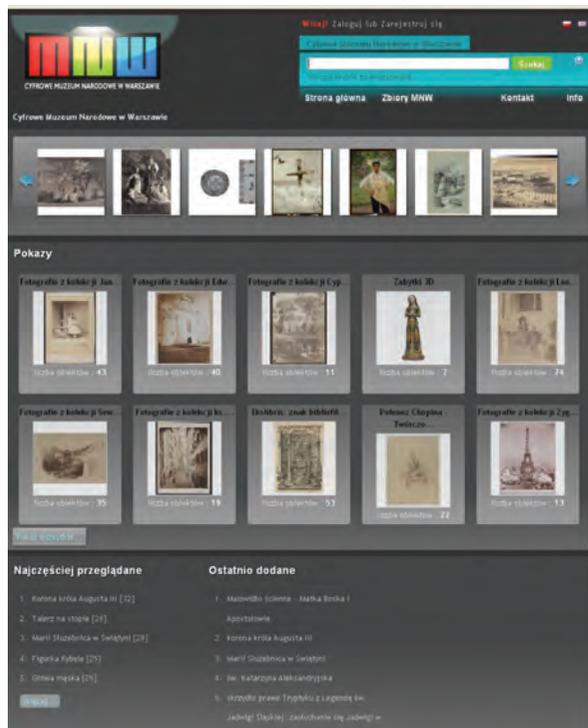
Archive has reached approximately 150000 documents available online[13]. In the digitized collection, the prevailing type of artefact is photographs.

Among the other initiatives one can find also private materials, such as the virtual archive of Polish Armenians created with Ministry of Culture funds by the Foundation of Culture and Heritage of Polish Armenians[14], the Digital Archive of a poet Agnieszka Osiecka, placed on the digital libraries federation platform[15], and some others.
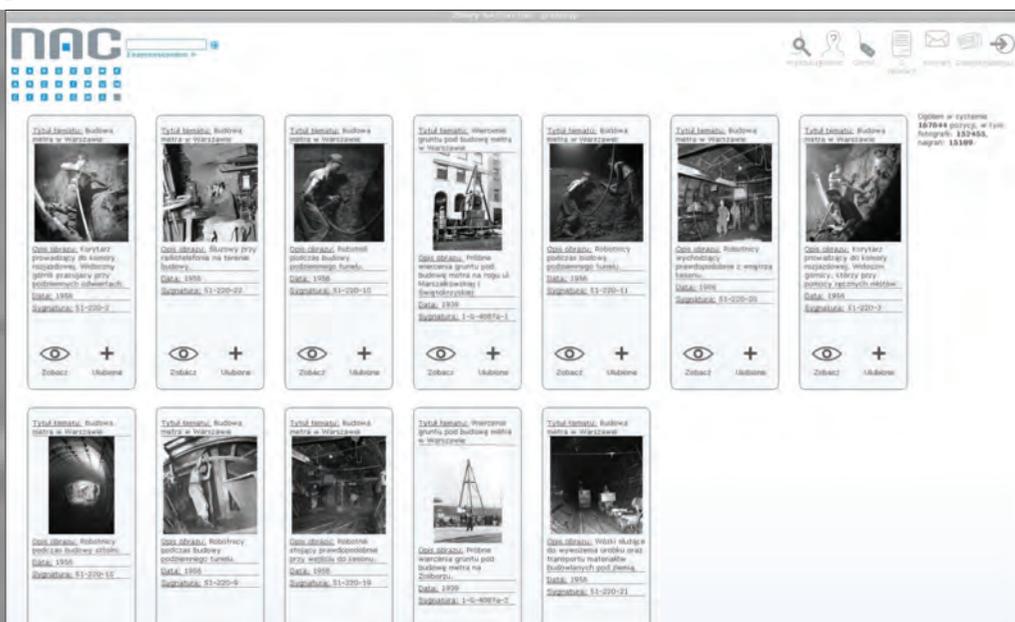
1. *Report on Europe and the Global Information Society: Recommendations of the High-level Group on the Information Society to the Corfu European Council.* Bulletin of the European Union, Supplement 1994 No. 2. [followup to the White Paper] (commonly called the Bangemann Report). [EU Commission - COM Document]

2 *Raport roczny z wykonania zadania: Narodowy Uniwersalny Katalog NUKAT* (www.nukat.edu.pl). *Prowadzenie Katalogu oraz koordynacja współpracy naukowych bibliotek polskich w zakresie jego budowania w 2010 r.* http://centrum.nukat.edu.pl/images/stories/file/sprawozdania/spub_2010.pdf [viewed 1 June 2011] and http://centrum.nukat.edu.pl/

3. *O projekcie dLibra.* http://dlibra.psnc.pl/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=81&Itemid=73&lang=pl 16.10.2006. [Viewed 1.09.2011]

4. Agnieszka Lewandowska, Cezary Mazurek, Marcin Werla, *Federacja Bibliotek Cyfrowych w sieci PIONIER - Dostęp do otwartych bibliotek cyfrowych i repozytoriów.* IV Ogólnopolska Konferencja EBIB Internet w bibliotekach Open Access Toruń, 7-8 grudnia 2007 roku, 7 p. http://eprints.rclis.org/bitstream/10760/10967/1/werla.pdf [Viewed 1.09.2011]

5. *Digital Libraries: dLibra the most popular in Poland.* Poznań Supercomputing and Networking Center News. 2011-08-25. www.man.poznan.pl/online/en/articles/1398/Digital_Libraries_dLibra_the_most_popular_in_Poland.html [Viewed 1.09.2011]

6. *ARCO System.* www.wirtualnemuzea.pl/en/node/25 [Viewed 1.09.2011]

7. http://szreniawa.wirtualne-muzea.pl/

8. www.en.muzhp.pl/

9. http://en.muzeumtechniki.eu/

10. http://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/dmuseion and its English version http://cyfrowe.mnw.art.pl/dmuseion?action=ChangeLanguageAction&language=en

11. http://zbiory.mhf.krakow.pl/navigart/artworks_view_fotografia

12. *Rozporządzenie Ministra Kultury i Dziedzictwa Narodowego z dnia 6 lutego 2008 r. w sprawie zmiany nazwy i zakresu działania Archiwum Dokumentacji Mechanicznej w Warszawie.* http://www.nac.gov.pl/files/rozporzadzenie.pdf

13. http://audiovis.nac.gov.pl/

14. www.ormianie.pl/

15. www.archiwumagnieszkiosieckiej.pl/dlibra