



## Open access to national bibliography: Polish approach

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### Abstract:

*This paper makes an attempt to find the answer for a few questions:*

- *how can we implement the idea of open access in practice of bibliography?*
- *what conditions should the national bibliographies fulfill?*
- *why is it worthy to give open access to national bibliography?*

*The author tries to examine all aspects of the problem with special emphasis on currency and speed of access as well as availability and user-friendly access to the bibliographies. It is claimed that national bibliographic services taking this advantage, can work more independently from costs, number of versions and places of publication of the all documents. All problems, which are here presented are based on experiences of the National Library of Poland. The paper describes Polish National Bibliography and changing types of its publishing.*

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### Open access

“Open access” (OA) is the idea of no limited, permanent and easy availability for use of the content of digital resources for free, first of all scientific and educational publication. Each user has a right to read, copy, cite, research resources without technical, finance or law barriers, but with respect to authority law. The point of open access was define on the conference in Berlin in 2003.

“Open access contributions must satisfy two conditions:

1. The author(s) and right holder(s) of such contributions grant(s) to all users a free, irrevocable, worldwide, right of access to, and a license to copy, use, distribute, transmit and display the work publicly and to make and distribute derivative works, in any digital medium for any responsible purpose, subject to proper attribution of authorship (community standards, will continue to provide the mechanism for enforcement of proper attribution and responsible use of the published work, as they do now), as well as the right to make small numbers of printed copies for their personal use.

2. A complete version of the work and all supplemental materials, including a copy of the permission as stated above, in an appropriate standard electronic format is deposited (and thus published) in at least one online repository using suitable technical standards (such as the Open Archive definitions) that is supported and maintained by an academic institution, scholarly society, government agency, or other well-established organization that seeks to enable open access, unrestricted distribution, inter operability, and long-term archiving.”<sup>1</sup>

According to the meaning of open access we are trying to fulfill the conditions and to use new possibilities. This implies a question to be asked what it means for libraries, especially for bibliographies.

### **What conditions should the national bibliographies fulfill?**

Bibliography is a specific kind of publication, that is a set of metadata. How can we understand the term “open access to national bibliography”? From our point of view the clue of the bibliography is:

1. high quality and completeness of records with controlled access points, compliance with national and international standards;
2. making data available for free without any registration or licenses;
3. data should be easy available on website of library;
4. it should provide reliable retrieval of bibliographic and authority records (easy and understand for all, friendly interface with limit search of results);
5. it should have useful tools for copy cataloguing or for private using (e.g. end-of-work bibliography)

The National Library of Poland (Biblioteka Narodowa) is the national bibliographic agency. It is the state-controlled institution responsible for the preparation of the authoritative and comprehensive records of the current national output of selected types of documents published in our country and achieved through the means of legal deposit.

„A complete and timely national bibliography is an important information resource for:

- selection and acquisition in libraries and similar institutions
- cataloguing (both directly for copy cataloguing and indirectly for cataloguing support)
- verification of authorship and publication history”<sup>2</sup>

In this words Maja Žumer mentioned general mission of national bibliography. We always think about the national bibliographic services as institutions preparing and producing bibliographies. Meanwhile we often miss the point that they make authority records for names, corporate bodies, series and subject headings which are need for cataloguers and librarian probably even more than bibliographic records. Authority access points are especially useful for foreign publications, as we have to check them in the adequate national bibliography. It is important for searching further information and retrieval for document in index of bibliography.

In Poland it is an obligation to use the Polish Cataloguing rules based on the ISBD. Majority of National Bibliography is prepared in format MARC 21. Above all, one part of national bibliography (Foreign Polonica) is in the MARC-BN, the older, national version of format. However the national diacritic are main reason why the bibliographic descriptions are not coping from the other databases. All parts of national bibliography have subject access points in two information languages: National Library of Poland Subject Headings (JHP BN) and UDC (Universal Decimal Classification) excluding Bibliography of Sound Recordings, which

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<sup>1</sup> See: <http://oa.mpg.de/openaccess-berlin/berlindeclaration.html>

<sup>2</sup> M. Žumer: Guidelines for National Bibliographies in the Electronic Age [online]. [access 15 April 2010]. WWW: <http://archive.ifa.org/VII/s12/guidelines-national-bibliographies-electronic-age.pdf>

has its own classification. JHP BN authority file is available online, free of charge and without any restrictions on the National Library website<sup>3</sup>. We make it better visible and easier to use. Our point of reference is observation of practice of the other national bibliographic agencies.

For a long time, the National Library of Poland makes the best of its ability by giving the access to the most information about Polish publications and national output for the public in databases and print. The current national bibliography includes the types of documents, which we receives on legal deposit: books, serials, journal articles, printed music, digital resources on physical media, exteriorica, graphic and cartographic materials, recorded sound and audiovisual documents. The National Bibliography is the memory of the nation. The main task is to secure that published knowledge and experience produced in Poland is safe and registered not only for actual use but also for the future. It is important for us to make a direct access to national bibliography without any registration or licenses on our web sites.

### **Why is it worthy to give open access to national bibliography?**

At the same time the National Library of Poland prepares the national bibliographic control using the other national bibliographies. In the current bibliographic works we use national bibliographies to establish authorized access points for names or titles and also searching for publication of Polish authors or publications about Poland and Poles. In Polish National Bibliography there is an obligation to use controlled access points for foreign authors from appropriate bibliography and also to find the original titles of translations and copy it to bibliographic records if it is possible. In many cases our researches are difficult, because of many obstacles. The main problem is an access to the foreign national bibliographies, because of the price of printed version. In addition to that, bibliographic data is not easily visible on the websites and is not free of charge or there is necessity of registration. Usually there is no possibility for coping the records. The “open access” model is brought into action less common then might be expected. It is worth to popularize this idea for best interest of all users. In our opinion there is still some work to be done in this respect.

For a few years we used the *Index Translationum*, which is a list of books translated in the world, for searching Polish translations. It was a very good source of information at the turn of the century (during 1999-2001). In our opinion it has been changed since databases of national bibliography appeared on Internet. Since then we can find directly more entities of better quality in national bibliographies, so we started regularly browsing them on home pages of National Libraries and their databases. This search strategy appears to be more successful, so we continue practicing it. Open access of national bibliography in PDF version is very useful and give us more information about resources then it is possible to find in bibliography databases. The *Index Translationum* is used only for final testing of completeness of the Foreign Polonica Bibliography. Many times the WorldCat is more useful for searching new publications of translations, because of constant data updating and numerous number of partners.

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<sup>3</sup> See: [www.bn.org.pl](http://www.bn.org.pl) Since 2005, all JHP BN headings and authorized subject headings strings are available in the National Union Catalogue NUKAT [www.nukat.edu.pl](http://www.nukat.edu.pl)

Numbers of Bibliographic Guide for downloading since 2009.

The screenshot shows the website of the National Library of Poland (Biblioteka Narodowa). The main navigation bar includes 'KATALOGI I BIBLIOGRAFIE'. A search bar is present with the text 'Szukaj na stronie'. The breadcrumb trail reads: 'Katalogi i bibliografie / Bibliografia narodowa / „Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” / Numery do pobrania'. The page title is 'Numery do pobrania'. The main content area is titled '„Przewodnik Bibliograficzny”' and lists the number of downloads for each month from January to December for the years 2009 and 2010. The data is as follows:

Year	Month	Download Numbers	
Rocznik 2010	styczeń	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 5a, 6	
	luty	7, 8, 9, 10	
	marzec	11, 12, 13, 14	
	kwiecień	15, 15a, 16	
	Rocznik 2009	styczeń	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
		luty	5a, 6, 7, 8, 9
		marzec	10, 11, 12, 13, 14
		kwiecień	15, 15a, 16, 17, 18
		maj	19, 20, 21, 22, 23
		czerwiec	24, 25, 25a, 26, 27
		lipiec	28, 29, 30, 31
		sierpień	32, 33, 34, 35
wrzesień		35a, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40	
październik		41, 42, 43, 44	
listopad		45, 45a, 46, 47, 48	
grudzień		49, 50, 51, 52	

All metadata in our databases and additional version of bibliography are available free of charge on our website for all without any limitations. Singular records can be copy into local catalogues in MARC 21 exchange format. In other cases National Library requires cost reimbursement for special services that involve further manual labor. During 2009-2010 we have gradually given up print and CD-ROM form of bibliography. Until now those forms have been sold, but we have observed continuous lower interest of the users in those publications. This is connected with current and regular online access to this data. We have also taken into consideration the experiences of the other national bibliographic agencies. Nowadays all parts of national bibliography are available in databases and as PDF files (<http://bn.org.pl/en/catalogues-and-bibliographies/bibliographies-online/>). All document descriptions in bibliographic control are also available in OPAC, but institutions interested in this data can receive it in electronic subscription. We can see that bibliographic databases and additional versions are very useful for our users. PDF files in perfect way replace the print version, giving more retrieval options. This forms of bibliography are effective tool for information, education and bibliographic goals.

[/ Bibliographies online](#)

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## Bibliographies online

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### Books

- „Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)] [[search database](#)]
- „Polonica zagraniczne” [[search database](#)]
- „Książki polskie podziemne (1976-1989)” [[search database](#)]
- „Bibliografia Polska 1901-1939” [[download PDF files](#)] [[search database](#)]

see also: [Metasearch in the National Library databases \(Fidkar system\)](#)

### Periodicals

- „Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych Nowych, Zawieszonych i Zmieniających Tytuł” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)] [[search database](#)]
- „Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych” [[search database](#)]
- „Czasopisma polskie podziemne (1976-1990)” [[search database](#)]

### Journal articles

- „Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)][[search database](#)]

see also: [Common database of the National Library and public libraries](#)

see also: [Metasearch in journal articles databases \(Fidkar system\)](#)

### Digital documents

- „Bibliografia Dokumentów Elektronicznych” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)] [[search database](#)]

### Cartographic documents

- „Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)][[search database](#)]

### Recorded sound documents

- „Bibliografia Dokumentów Dźwiękowych” [[download PDF files - in Polish](#)] [[search database](#)]

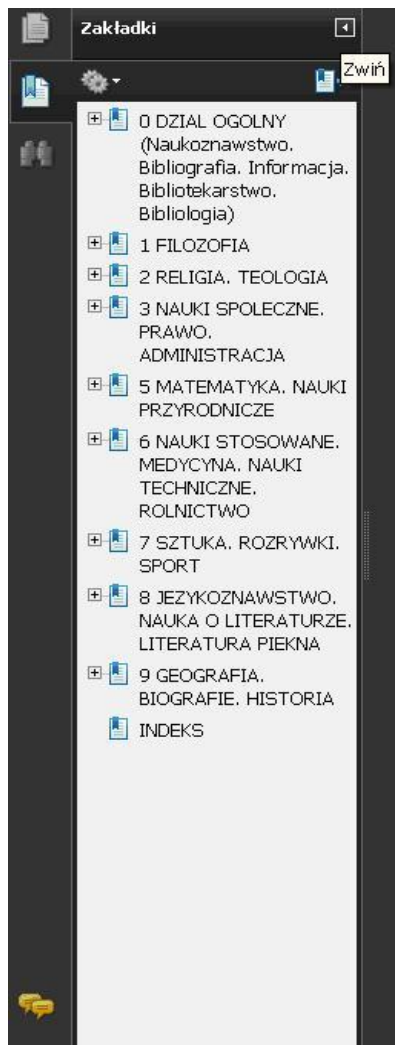
## Polish National Bibliography

The current Polish Bibliography is multiple categorized bibliographies.

It is comprised of seven parts as following:

„Przewodnik Bibliograficzny” (Bibliographic Guide) lists the publishing output of Poland since 1924, which is deposited at the National Library according to legal deposit act.

Nowadays it includes monographs and printed music. It is issued weekly in PDF version with alphabetic author/title index. Every year about 30 thousand bibliographic descriptions are published.



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**PRZEWODNIK**  
**BIBLIOGRAFICZNY**  
 URZĘDOWY WYKAZ DRUKÓW  
 WYDANYCH W RZECZYPOSPOLITEJ POLSKIEJ

**BIBLIOTEKA NARODOWA - INSTYTUT BIBLIOGRAFICZNY**

R. 66(78) Warszawa, 11 - 17 kwietnia 2010 r. Nr 16  
 Poz. 9415 - 9655

WYKAZ DZIAŁÓW UKD

0 DZIAŁ OGÓLNY (Naukoznawstwo, Bibliografia, Informacja, Bibliotekarstwo, Bibliologia) 0/9(03) Encyklopedie i leksyony o treści ogólnej 004 Informatyka 005 Zarządzanie, Biurotwórczość 1 FILOZOFIA 159/9 Psychologia 2 RELIGIA, TEOLOGIA 272 Kościół rzymskokatolicki 3 NAUKI SPOŁECZNE, PRAWO, ADMINISTRACJA 30 Metodologia nauk społecznych, Polityka społeczna, Problematyka płci, Socjologia 211 + 314 Statystyka, Demografia 316 Socjologia 32 Nauki polityczne, Polityka 33 Nauki ekonomiczne 331 Praca 336 Finanse, Podatki 338/339 Gospodarka, Handel 338/48 Turystyka 34 + 351/354 Prawo, Administracja publiczna, Gospodarka komunalna 355/359 Nauka i sztuka wojenna, Siły zbrojne 364/368 Opieka społeczna, Ubezpieczenia, Konsumeryzm 37 Oświata, Wychowanie, Szkolnictwo 39 Etnografia, Zwyczaje i obyczaje, Folklor 5 MATEMATYKA, NAUKI PRZYRODNICZE 502/504 Nauka o środowisku, Ochrona i zagrożenie środowiska 51 Matematyka 52 Astronomia, Astrofizyka, Geodezja, Kartografia 53 Fizyka 54 Chemia, Krystalografia, Mineralogia 55 Geologia, Meteorologia, Hydrologia 56/59 Paleontologia, Antropologia, Biologia, Botanika, Zoologia 6 NAUKI STOSOWANE, MEDYCYNĄ, NAUKI TECHNICZNE, ROLNICTWO 60 Biotechnologia 61 Medycyna 62 Technika 621.3 Elektrotechnika, Elektronika, Technika telekomunikacyjna 622 Górnictwo	625 Technika środków transportu, Technika astronautyczna 63 Rolnictwo 63(6)35 Leśnictwo, Ogólne zagadnienia rolnictwa, Uprawa roślin 63(6)39 Zootechnika, Weterynaria, Produkty zwierzęce, Łowiectwo, Rybołówstwo 64 Gospodarstwo domowe, Gastronomia, Hotelarstwo 654 + 656 Telekomunikacja i telemechanika, Iraraport, Poczta 655 + 659 Działalność wydawnicza, Reklama, Środki masowego przekazu 657 Rachunkowość, Księgowość 658 Organizacja przedsiębiorstw, Organizacja i technika handlu 658.1/5 Organizacja przedsiębiorstw 66/68 Przemysł, Rzemiosła, Mechanika precyzyjna 69 Przemysł budowlany, Rzemiosła budowlane, Materiały budowlane 7 SZTUKA, ROZRYWKI, SPORT 71 Planowanie przestrzenne, Urbanistyka 72 Architektura 73/76 Rzeźba, Rysunek, Malarstwo, Grafika, Rzemiosła artystyczne 77 Fotografica i procesy pokrewne 78 Muzyka 79/792 Film, Teatr 792/794 Rozrywki towarzyskie, Zabawy, Gry 796/799 Sport 8 JEZYKOZNAWSTWO, NAUKA O LITERATURZE, LITERATURA PIĘKNA 80/81 Językoznawstwo, Filologia, Języki 82(091) + 82.0 Historia literatury, Nauka o literaturze 82-1/9 Literatura piękna 821.162.1-1/9 Literatura polska 82-23 Literatura piękna dla dzieci i młodzieży Literatura popularnonaukowa dla dzieci i młodzieży 9 GEOGRAFIA, BIOGRAFIE, HISTORIA 902/904 Archeologia 91 Geografia, Opisy krajów, Podróże 915 Atlasy, Mapy 915(438) Geografia Polski 925 Biografie, Genealogia, Heraldyka 93/94 Historia, Historiografia, Archiwistyka 94(438) Historia Polski
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„Polonica Zagraniczne” (Foreign Polonica) lists the works published outside Poland written in Polish or by people with Polish background, translation into other languages of Polish works published abroad and works which have contents relating to Poland (mainly books, printed music, atlases, thesis). The National Library does not have all this publications, most of them are checked in foreign bibliographies. It is issued once a year.

„Bibliografia Wydawnictw Ciągłych Nowych, Zawieszonych i Zmieniających Tytuł” (Bibliography of New, Ceased and Changed Titles Serials) lists the first and the latest issue of serials received by the National Library under the legal deposit act. It is issued quarterly with subject, corporative bodies, editors, ISSN and places of publication indexes.

„Bibliografia Zawartości Czasopism” (Index to Periodicals) is selective bibliography which does not take into account all serials issued in Poland. Nowadays among 2260 titles it includes 1993 ones, which are sill published. It is issued monthly.

„Bibliografia Dokumentów Elektronicznych” (Bibliography of Electronic Documents) includes e-books, conferences, thesis, maps, games and programs received by the National Library under the legal deposit act. It is selective bibliography, that takes into consideration only offline documents. It is issued half-yearly.

„Bibliografia Dokumentów Dźwiękowych” (Bibliography of Sound Recordings). Although it includes the self-dependent sound recordings it has the same general selection criteria as Bibliographic Guide. It is issued quarterly.

„Bibliografia Dokumentów Kartograficznych” (Bibliography of Cartographic Materials) includes maps, atlases and globs without electronic versions. In the contrast it includes any electronic documents accompanying printed cartographic materials. It is issued once a year.

It is worth to say a word about „Bibliografia Polska 1901-1939” (Polish Bibliography 1901-1939). Deposit legal act was accepted in 1932, so there was need to make bibliographic control since 1901. This was a reason for preparation retrospective bibliography, which was continuity of Estraichers „Polish bibliography” started in XIX century. This idea was taken into action in first years of XX century, though it was made by different institutions and not finished before II World War. In 1950 all works were taken by Bibliographic Institute in National Library of Poland and they are continuing there until now.

The accumulation of last year published titles was prepared for Bibliography of New, Ceased and Changed Titles Serials and for Bibliographic Guide. The compilation includes all bibliographic descriptions published in 2009 year. It makes easy to analyze national output according to place of publication, publishers, semantic headings (subject, classification) and so on.

### **Important role of catalogue**

The role of catalogue of the national library should be taken into consideration in the implementations of “open access to national bibliography”. The national bibliography as the set of publications is addressed for special kind of end-users: librarians making local catalogues, researchers of bibliography, bibliographers preparing the other bibliographies, publishers and other agents of publishing market. However, also wider community is interested in the authorities, high quality bibliographic descriptions as part of bibliographic universe. The complementary role of catalogue in view of bibliography should be stressed i.e.: greater set of publications includes national output without selection and there is common access points for different types of documents. Thinking about open, simple and wide access to data we should take both of these areas of bibliographic universe and make them as open as possible for needs and expectations of all types of users.

### **Conclusion**

When talking about “open access”, first of all we think about access to digital resources. The national bibliography available on web fulfills this condition. We have realized that users would like to have an access to full texts of publications, but copyright law does not allow it. Even if the library has these digital items, the online access is prohibited. The National Library of Poland prepare institutional repository for these kind of documents like e-books and sounded documents in mp3 formats. Both types of documents will be included in the national bibliography. Nowadays Polish law does not allow for harvesting websites. The online publications (e.g. electronic journal online) are so much changeable and variable that it creates doubts whether to describe them without making the archive, although it is theoretically possible.

The better realization of “open access” idea to bibliography needs more effort and further cooperation among the libraries, publishers and institutions of law especially in respect of copyright, legal deposit and press laws. International exchange of experiences and popularization of good practice in this field is necessary for success and inclusion of the national bibliography into open bibliographic universe.