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LIBRARY STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW – FROM DIFFICULT BEGINNINGS TO A DIFFICULT PRESENT¹



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ABSTRACT: **Thesis/goal** – The aim of the article is to present the 200-year history of library science education at the University of Warsaw. **Method** – analysis and criticism of the literature and sources. **Conclusions** – In the 19th century, library studies appeared twice in the curricula of the University of Warsaw, thanks to two outstanding Polish bibliologists – Joachim Lelewel and Karol Estreicher. But each appearance was short-lived, which was also partly due to Poland’s turbulent history and the difficult political situation. Library studies at the University

¹ The text contains excerpts from the author’s article entitled “Three anniversaries of Warsaw library science”. In: *Around libraries and cultural heritage*. Science editor. R. Kotowski. Warsaw 2022, pp. 156-174.

of Warsaw developed intensively in the second half of the 20th century. At the beginning of the 21st century, the Institute of Scientific Information and Book Studies of the University of Warsaw was the largest of 14 Polish academic centres providing education in Library and Information Science. At one point during that period, this field had over 500 students in full-time, part-time or post-graduate programmes in one academic year. Today, library studies are undergoing a serious crisis, and one of the reasons is the statutory abolition of requirements regarding library science education for people taking up work in a library.

The tradition of library education at the University of Warsaw (UW) is 200 years old, dating back to the academic year 1820/1821 when it was initiated by the historian, political activist, and bibliologist Joachim Lelewel with his lectures on bibliography. One might ask at the outset why we are speaking of the tradition of library science education here, when in fact Joachim Lelewel's obligation as part of his employment at the University of Warsaw was to give lectures on bibliography. Terminological issues related to the names for studies in the field of book and library knowledge in foreign and Polish academic centers in the 19th century have been described many times over, then and later. It is enough, therefore, to briefly recall that at the turn of the 18th and 19th centuries the term "bibliography" was most often used in Poland to describe studies concerning books and libraries. Jerzy Samuel Bandtkie gave his lectures at the Jagiellonian University under this name. This was also the title of Aleksander Bohatkiewicz's lectures at Vilnius University, and of Karol Estreicher's later lectures at the Warsaw Main School in the 1860s. However, these researchers noticed a naming problem consisting in the fact that the term "bibliology" was being used interchangeably for research and academic teaching. It should therefore be recalled that Paweł Jarkowski, the Polish precursor for didactics in book and library science at the Volyn Gymnasium (and from 1819 at the Krzemieniec High School) used the term "bibliology" for his lectures. Joachim Lelewel also noted the naming issue when he wrote: "bibliology, i.e. bibliography, is the collection of science and knowledge, used to mechanically enlarge the knowledge of books" (Lelewel, 1826, p. 255).

Some scholars and lecturers from this area devoted their lectures to a greater extent to discussing the history of handwritten and printed books, while others shifted the emphasis to librarianship and bibliography. Joachim Lelewel belonged to the latter. As shown from the schedule of classes conducted by him, as well as from his later writings, in his lectures he emphasized the knowledge of libraries, their organization and management. That is why Helena Więckowska, analyzing the subject matter of Lelewel's lectures, stated that they could be considered "the first studies in library science in the modern sense of the word" (Więckowska, 1979, p. 13). It is also possible, by a certain analogy, to use the argument of Lelewel himself, who in his considerations on bibliography stated: "That the word Biblio-

graphy is Greek, that it had different meanings in different ages, is understood by everyone, and it is certain that although there was no such thing, bibliography and bibliographers already existed in the world" (Lelewel, 1826, p. 239). Thus, using similar arguments, it can be said that although the term "library science" entered the scientific language in Poland only in 1862 thanks to Włodzimierz Górski and his book entitled "A short outline of the principles of library science", nevertheless library studies in Poland had functioned already in the first decades of the 19th century, even if they were not conducted under that name.

The history of Joachim Lelewel's activities as librarian and lecturer at the University of Warsaw began in 1818. Earlier, in the years 1815-1818, he had held the position of deputy professor at the Department of History at the University of Vilnius (Więckowska, 1952, p. 4), which is worth recalling because after a relatively short period of employment at the University of Warsaw, Lelewel took advantage of the opportunity and willingly returned to Vilnius University, this time taking the position of full professor. Returning to Vilnius marked the end of the three-year period in Lelewel's life in which he worked as a librarian, combining these duties with conducting lectures on bibliography. However, it was an important and effective period for his later bibliological work, also favorable for the organization of the library at the newly established university, and finally significant for the tradition of library studies at the University of Warsaw.

Lelewel later mentioned the new library and his appointment to it in the second volume of his work "Two Bibliographic Books", writing: "in this way, things accumulated around the library work, and a bibliography course was needed at the university: I was summoned to teach this course along with the duties of librarian in the university library. But before I came to Warsaw, this university library had ceased to be. (...) It was a public library at the university (like its erstwhile section in the appellate court), it had a seal on which the name was the national one, it was a public library but without being called by that name" (Lelewel, 1826, p. 176).

So Lelewel was employed in a library that was no longer a university library. Let us recall then the sequence of events. In November 1816, under the edict of Tsar Alexander I, and on the initiative of the Government Commission for Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment (hereinafter also the Government Commission or KRWRiOP), the Royal University of Warsaw was established. One and a half years of organizational work led to the opening of the university in May 1818. Two months earlier, the status of the university library had changed. The library, which was to support scientific and didactic work in the new university, was established in 1817 on the basis of the combined collections of the Warsaw Lyceum and the Library of the Court of Appeals, and was located in the Kazimierzowski Palace on Krakowskie Przedmieście st. However, in

March 1818, the library formally found itself outside the structure of the University of Warsaw. The decision to change the status of the Library was taken by the Administrative Council of the Kingdom, which decided: "The library, which is attached to the Royal University of Warsaw, will henceforth be called the Public Library and will be open to the public on days designated by the Government Commission for Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment" (Bieliński, 1907, p. 747). From then on, the library was referred to as the Public Library at the University of Warsaw, but it did not report to the rector of the University, but directly to the Government Commission for Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment (Mycielski, 2016, pp. 99-103).

According to the statutes of the university, a person employed as a librarian at the Public Library at the Royal University of Warsaw was to combine these duties with bibliography lectures at the Faculty of Sciences and Fine Arts². For this purpose, the University Council presented the candidacy of Joachim Lelewel to KRWRiOP. In the first version of the arrangements for employing Lelewel at the University of Warsaw, it was assumed that he would become a sub-librarian in the university library. The issue of precisely determining the position in the Public Library that was offered to Lelewel seems perhaps of secondary importance. However, for himself, the difference between the position of librarian and sub-librarian was significant. First of all, it should be recalled that the position of a librarian used to mean a person holding a managerial position in a library, sometimes its director³. Thus, a person with the title of sub-librarian, which nowadays has a not very prestigious connotation, was actually the deputy director of the library.

Initially, Lelewel had hoped that the summons to Warsaw to take up the position of librarian at the Public Library at the University and professor of bibliography would mean the position of Library Director in the case of the former. But he had to lower his expectations. It is even clear from Lelewel's letters that he hesitated whether to take the job in Warsaw if it turned out that he would be "only" a sub-librarian, that is, that he would have a director as a supervisor. Even before coming to Warsaw, Lelewel knew that the prospect of becoming the director of the Public Library was clearly receding. The dean of the Faculty of Law and Administration informed Lelewel by letter, but asked for his discretion, because the information that Lelewel was to take the position of sub-librarian was unofficial. Lelewel wrote to his father about these reports: "I am just receiving (...) a letter from Bandkie, in which he informs me that I am a sub-

² The University's statute of April 15, 1818 stated: "In the Faculty of Sciences and Fine Arts there is to be a bibliography chair with the supervision of the library". See: Bieliński J. (1912). *Królewski Uniwersytet Warszawski (1816-1831)*. Vol. III. Warszawa, p. 542.

³ See entry „Bibliotekarz” [„Librarian”] [in:] *Encyklopedia wiedzy o książce. Warszawa 1971*, col. 205.

-librarian, that there will be a librarian, i.e. the director of the library. Reporting this, he asks for discretion probably because he did not expect me to be summoned by the committee so soon. In this summons, bibliography is shown as the main duty, and the title of librarian (under the director) is additional" (Lelewel, 1878, p. 305). In studies devoted to Lelewel and in those fragments that concern his employment at the Royal University of Warsaw, there is information that he was a sub-librarian or deputy librarian at the Public Library, and in one instance that he was a librarian, which, however, did not mean that he was the director.

For the purposes of this article, the second function assigned to Lelewel's full-time job is more important – the obligation to lecture on bibliography. This happened with a significant delay compared to the initial assumptions, because during the first two years of his employment at the University Library, Lelewel was released from the obligation to conduct classes with students. The temporary exemption from bibliography lectures turned out to be indeed justified. Organizing and expanding the library absorbed Lelewel to such an extent that he could not devote more time to his basic historical interests, which he had initially hoped to do. He also did not manage to prepare lectures on bibliography.

Thus, in the academic year 1818/1819, Lelewel was exempted from bibliography lectures at his own request, but at the same time it was decided that already in the second year of his employment at the University of Warsaw he would teach bibliography classes for two hours a week. However, that didn't happen either. In the following year, Lelewel again applied to the Government Commission for an exemption from bibliography lectures due to the numerous duties related to the function of a librarian at the Public Library at the University of Warsaw. The workload that had motivated the application for a new exemption from the obligation to teach bibliography resulted from a large influx of collections to the library, which in turn resulted from the dissolution of monasteries in the Kingdom of Poland carried out in 1819. And since it was Samuel Bogumił Linde, as the general director of libraries and Lelewel's superior, who actively participated in taking over book collections from liquidated monasteries⁴, it is not surprising that the public library at the University of Warsaw was the beneficiary of these acquisitions. There was a lot of work to be done on the development of the new collections, so the Government Commission again agreed to Lelewel's request and in September 1819 notified the University Council that for the year 1819/1820 it would again exempt Joachim Lelewel from "bibliography lessons" (Bieliński, 1912, p. 545), which he would recall a few years later: "(...) due to the great employment in the

⁴ Lelewel writes about this activity of Linde in the second volume of his bibliographic books on pp. 179-180.

library, I did not conduct the bibliography course in the first and second year" (Lelewel, 1826, p. 177).

Perhaps it is worth asking the question here, what did it mean that Lelewel was supposed to teach bibliography classes? After all, it did not concern "bibliography" in the sense that the word is usually used today. Thus, Lelewel did not have the task of teaching students how to prepare bibliographic descriptions in scientific dissertations. The answer to the question of what was to be the subject of his lectures may be in the study program at the Faculty of Sciences and Fine Arts in the academic year 1819/1820. It is already known that Lelewel was finally released from the obligation to teach bibliography in that year and did not start teaching this subject until a year later. However, it can be assumed that the syllabus from 1819/1820 did not change significantly, and that classes conducted by third-year students in the academic year 1820/1821 were conducted according to the previously adopted plan, which he presented in four points:

a) General bibliography is the history of book-keeping (*Bücherwesen*) from the first writing beginnings through all antiquity. Palaeography and diplomatics as well as getting to know the materials from which the books are made.

b) The continuation of book-keeping taken from the Middle Ages to the invention of printing.

c) On printing and typography with a brief mention of bookselling.

d) Completion of the most recent history of book-keeping; then on librarianship" (Bieliński, 1912, p. 322).

In this plan, Lelewel's use of the German term *Bücherwesen* as an equivalent of a general bibliography is noteworthy. This is clearly the influence of Michael Denis, who used the term *Bücherkunde* (Denis, 1777-1778) in the title of his 2-volume work from 1777-1778, but then already in the table of contents, and within the pages of the book, used the term *Bücherwesen* interchangeably. Lelewel writes about the influence of Denis in his remarks to the schedule, stating: "The general order of the bibliography lecture will be taken according to Michał Denis (...)" (Bieliński, 1912, p. 322). In addition, in preparing the bibliography course, Lelewel also used the advice of Jerzy Samuel Bandtkie and Paweł Jarkowski, to which he openly and gratefully admitted in "Two Bibliographic Books". Thus he wrote: "I used to meet Bandtkie and Jarkowski, from whom I could acquire various librarianship ideas and seek advice on the bibliography course. Finally, Bandtkie gave me advice, and Jarkowski, at my request, communicated to me his bibliography plan" (Lelewel, 1826, p. 177). Lelewel knew Jarkowski, who is considered to be the precursor of bibliography lectures in Poland, from his time in Krzemieniec, where he stayed in 1809-

1810 teaching ancient geography at the Krzemieniec Lyceum and waiting – unsuccessfully – to take over the chair of history there (Serejski, 1953, pp. 18-19).

The fears and doubts that Lelewel had before starting work at the University of Warsaw turned out to be justified, because later – speaking already from a certain perspective – he recalled: “Without experience, entangled in the whole library maelstrom, I necessarily found the first year very unpleasant for me. The following years, if they were not more pleasant, whatever satisfaction they could have were given to those who had been somewhat experienced” (Lelewel, 1826, p. 177). The problem with Lelewel as the patron and precursor of the academic education of librarians at the University of Warsaw is that he treated his bibliography lectures as an activity performed more out of duty and as a sideline to his main historical interests. In the third year of work at the University of Warsaw, Lelewel was even able to undertake the anticipated history lectures, but it did not mean that he could later recall his time working in Warsaw with any more satisfaction. The students at the University of Warsaw were not eager to listen to his lectures on history, and Lelewel himself wrote about his students: “I have heard many times, one to another in a loud voice: *why are you attending, the course is not mandatory. I had no audience. Soon the number dropped to three (...)*” (Lelewel, 1858, p. 30).

The small attendance at his lectures in Warsaw, compared to what he had experienced in Vilnius, must have been unpleasant for Lelewel. Meanwhile, in 1821, there was a chance to return to Vilnius and take over the coveted chair of history, this time as a professor, and not – as before – as an assistant professor. The University of Vilnius announced a competition for the position of professor of history, and after dispelling all doubts related to this, which Lelewel described in his “Adventures” (Lelewel, 1858, p. 31), he submitted the documents for the competition. One of these doubts was that despite several years of university experience, he could not formally prove his academic titles. He himself wrote as well: “(...) I had no degree, neither doctor nor master; which I had no desire to receive (...)” (Lelewel, 1858, p. 32). However, fate favored him, because in June 1820 the Jagiellonian University awarded Lelewel a doctoral diploma (Bieliński, 1912, p. 547). Later, on June 8, 1821, Minister Stanisław Grabowski from the KRWRiOP signed a document granting Lelewel the patent of full professor, stating: “Known for his glorious manners, abilities and scholarly works, I appoint JP. Joachim Lelewel, the former sub-librarian, librarian of the public library, as well as permanent professor of bibliography and some part of history at the Faculty of Sciences and Fine Arts of the Royal University of Warsaw (...)” (Bieliński, 1912, p. 547). Practically at the last moment, just before leaving the University of Warsaw and moving to the chair in Vilnius, Lelewel was promoted to librarian and full professor.

However, this did not change his decision to move to Vilnius, and in August 1821, i.e. two months after he was promoted to full professor of "bibliography and some parts of history" (along with the confirmation of the position of librarian at the Public Library), Lelewel resigned with a request to KRWRiOP to release him, from October 1, 1821, from his professorial and librarian duties at the University of Warsaw. Minister Grabowski agreed to this request, and thus Lelewel's three-year period of employment at the University of Warsaw, during which he lectured on bibliography for less than a year, ended.

The period of librarian activity in Lelewel's life was – as H. Więckowska put it – "short and episodic", and his achievements in this field remain overshadowed by his works in the field of history and by his political achievements (Więckowska, 1952, p. 2). But this time, although short and perhaps not supported by particularly good memories, was very fruitful when we look at the works he published after leaving Warsaw for Vilnius, which were created on the basis of research and experience that Lelewel gained from the period of work in the University of Warsaw. First of all, the already cited two-volume work of "Bibliograficznych Ksiąg Dwoje" ("Two Bibliographic Books") published in Vilnius in 1823 and 1826 should be mentioned here. It is also worth mentioning here the dissertation "Dzieje bibliotek" ("History of Libraries")⁵, which, according to Lelewel's initial idea, was to be included in the supplement to "Two Bibliographic Books", which was announced on the title page of these first two volumes with the announcement "a useful catalog of Polish incunabula" (Lelewel, 1858, p. 45). Eventually, the dissertation was published in fragments in the scientific and literary journal *Dziennik Warszawski* (from December 1827 to September 1828) and testified to Lelewel's in-depth studies in the history of libraries from ancient to contemporary times. In this series, one might also mention the work "Projekt utrzymania i urządzenia biblioteki" ("Project of maintaining and equipping the library"), which - if chronological order is applied - should be listed first. While "Two Bibliographic Books" and "History of Libraries" are works that are the aftermath of the Warsaw period in Lelewel's academic activity, "Project of maintaining and equipping the library" was created in Warsaw. At least this is what the author of the study on this text, Maria Magdalena Biernacka, claims, who noticed that although Lelewel's text does not explicitly state that his remarks concern the Public Library at the Royal University of Warsaw, it does mention the library of the Lyceum and the University, so it should be assumed that it was about the Warsaw Lyceum and the University of Warsaw, and that the text must have been written in the period 1818-1821 when Lelewel was

⁵ The dissertation was published in the form of a condensed publication entitled "Dzieje bibliotek do Dziennika Warszawskiego" ("History of libraries for Dziennik Warszawski") at the end of 1828 in Warsaw.

a librarian at the Public Library in Warsaw and a professor of bibliography at the University of Warsaw (Lelewel, 1989, pp. 20-21).

Certainly, based on a few memoirs taken out of context, Lelewel cannot defend the thesis that he was disappointed and bored with librarianship, since he became so involved in it that he *de facto* became the author of the first Polish librarian's handbook. For the chapter "Bibliotekarstwo czyli Książnictwo" from the second volume of "Two Bibliographic Books" (Treichel, 1957, pp. 167-230) has been recognized as such. H. Więckowska described this fragment in Lelewel's works with this designation, writing that it was "the first in Poland, and one of the first in general, modern textbook covering all library issues" (Więckowska, 1952, p. 8). Lelewel's librarian practice also resulted in the development of librarianship methodology. As noted by Irena Treichel, Lelewel was the first in Poland to include the material aspect of the book in bibliographic descriptions, and the development of the method of typographic analysis in his works on the history of printing was possible thanks to the fact that the author of "Two Bibliographic Books" had the opportunity to describe the books from personal observation and that the Warsaw Public Library provided him with vast material for research (Treichel, 1955, p. 146, 150).

Thus, when Lelewel left Warsaw in the autumn of 1821, the young University was losing its professor and librarian. But Polish bibliography was gaining the builder of its foundations. And from Lelewel's point of view, the decision to return to Vilnius turned out to be the right one, as evidenced by the warm welcome at the Vilnius University and the large audience attending his inaugural lecture. It is also worth recalling that Adam Mickiewicz's poem "To Joachim Lelewel" was written on this occasion. It is therefore understandable that when recalling that time, Lelewel wrote: "For the sake of Lithuanian kindness, I left a somewhat inconvenient position in my home environs" (Lelewel, 1858, p. 32).

After Joachim Lelewel left the University of Warsaw, his place as librarian at the Public Library and as professor of bibliography was taken by Adam Tomasz Chłędowski, who worked at the Library at the University of Warsaw in the years 1821-1831, but, despite such long employment, did not lecture on bibliography (Nowak, 1972, p. 113).

Chłędowski, in turn, was replaced for a relatively short time by Łukasz Gołębiowski, who worked at the Public Library at the University of Warsaw from January to October 1831, and who also had in his job description lectures on bibliography. He also did not take up these classes, although he had a lecture prepared and a nearly 500-page manuscript of the planned lecture entitled "A bibliography course prepared by Łukasz Gołębiowski when, as a librarian of a public library, as well as a professor of the University, he was to lecture on bibliography to students of this

University." The creation of this manuscript was known for a long time, because it was mentioned in the "Diary of Łukasz Gołębiowski" (Gołębiowski, 1852, p. 88)⁶ published in 1852. The manuscript itself was found in 2014 in the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia in Tbilisi and published in 2017 with an introduction and editing by Elżbieta Maruszak and Jacek Puchalski (Gołębiowski, 2017).

It turned out that Lelewel's departure from the University of Warsaw meant that lectures on bibliography disappeared from the schedules of Warsaw students for a long time. Naturally, Paweł Jarkowski continued his courses in this field in Krzemieniec, and in Kraków Jerzy Samuel Bandtkie, and after him Józef Muczkowski. And although compared to them, Lelewel's didactic achievements in the field of bibliography were undoubtedly more modest, the theoretical basis he created was a valuable support for those who continued research in the field of book and library science. It was shown quite quickly by Aleksander Wiktor Bohatkiewicz, a bibliography lecturer at Vilnius University, who willingly used the achievements and findings of Joachim Lelewel. From 1819, Bohatkiewicz was an employee of the Vilnius University Library, and in 1828 he was appointed a "university assistant professor with the duty of giving lectures on bibliography" (Nowak, 1972, p. 77). The plan of his lectures was presented by Bohatkiewicz in a work entitled "On the matter of general bibliography for the opening of this course at the Imperial University of Vilnius on January 10, 1829". In this work, he benefited from the achievements of his predecessors, and especially from Lelewel's findings. Let us note, for example, that for the lecture on librarian practice he planned the same title that Lelewel had used in the second volume of "Two Bibliographic Books", published three years earlier, i.e. "Bibliotekarstwo, czyli księżnictwo" ("Librarianship, or about Books") (Bohatkiewicz, 1830, p. 68).

The re-emergence of book and library science issues in Warsaw's academic life and study program took place only forty years later thanks to Karol Estreicher. In October 1862, Karol Estreicher was approved as an assistant professor at the then reactivated university in Warsaw under the name of the Szkoła Główna Warszawska (Warsaw Main School). After arriving in Warsaw in December of that year, he was employed on the same basis as Lelewel during the period of the Royal University of Warsaw. So he became a sub-librarian at the Main Library in Warsaw⁷ with the obli-

⁶ See also Fraczyk T. (1972). Gołębiowski Łukasz. In: *Słownik pracowników książki polskiej (Dictionary of Polish Book Workers)*. Warszawa, Łódź, p. 276.

⁷ Similarly to the times of the "first" University, the Main Library was not subordinate to the university authorities, but to the Director of Libraries in the Kingdom of Poland by the Government Commission of Religious Denominations and Public Enlightenment. However, the Act "On Public

gation to give a lecture on bibliography at the Main School (Muszkowski, 1918, pp. 5-6). Also, as in the case of Lelewel, he focused particularly on work in the library, which meant that he did not take up bibliography lectures for a long time. This took place only in 1865, and it might not have happened at all, because in 1864, in connection with the work on the act for universities⁸, an attempt was made to remove bibliography from the list of subjects taught at the Faculty of Philology and History of the Warsaw Main School, explained by the need to adapt the curriculum of Warsaw studies to programs at Russian universities where there was no bibliography subject. But this plan was not implemented, which may have been influenced by the attitude of Estreicher himself, who sent a memorial to the university authorities in defense of the bibliography department (K.Ś, 1928. p. 49).

Thanks to letting the department of bibliography remain in the organization of the Faculty of Philology and History, Karol Estreicher was able to pass on bibliographic knowledge to Warsaw students for four consecutive years, until he left Warsaw in 1868 to take the position of director of the Jagiellonian Library. Jan Muszkowski pointed out that in the Act "On Public Education in the Kingdom of Poland" of May 1862, Art. 235 lists the subjects taught at the Faculty of Philology and History, including a subject under the surprising name "bibliology and bibliography". Thus, Muszkowski stated: "The combination of these two terms to designate one lecture subject is the fruit of confusing terminology, which continues to this day" (Muszkowski, 1918, p. 16). It should be noted that Muszkowski's comment about confusing terminology was contained in his paper from 1918, i.e. more than a hundred years ago. And in fact, even until the middle of the 20th century, there were statements in which the terms bibliology and bibliography were treated interchangeably. However, in the second half of the 20th century, the process of harmonization of the basic terminology defining research in the field of book and library knowledge progressed, so that now arguments regarding confusion in the relationship between the terms "bibliology" and "bibliography" are no longer valid.

However, in relation to the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the term "confusion of terminology" in the field of book science studies was indeed justified. This is evidenced by the very beginning of Estreicher's paper from 1865, with which he inaugurated his lectures for students of the Main School in Warsaw. According to his job, Estreicher

Education in the Kingdom of Poland" of May 1862, in Art. 363, stated that "The Main Library is also the Library of the Main School".

⁸ Work on the law for the university was initiated in 1864, in connection with the planned transformation of the Main School into the University of Warsaw. See K.Ś. [Ksawery Świerkowski] (1928) Karola Estreichera memoriał w obronie katedry bibliografji. *Przegląd Biblioteczny* 1, 49.

was supposed to lecture on bibliography. This was also the title of the paper – “On bibliography”. However, his first sentence begins with the words: “Beginning the lecture on book science, I consider ...” (Estreicher, 1865, p. 1). It does not follow that the author of the “Polish Bibliography” used these names freely and thoughtlessly. On the contrary, he noted terminological nuances, proposing a division into “pure bibliography” (in the theoretical sense) and applied bibliography (in the practical sense). He also noted that the former is “called bibliology by French scholars” (ibid., p. 3).

After the Second World War, with the establishment of the Department of Library Science, a new stage began in the history of education in book and library science at the University of Warsaw. It should be recalled, however, that the Warsaw library center was not the first link of this type in the structure of a Polish university. The first university unit in Poland with this profile was the Department of Library Science of the University of Łódź⁹.

It was only five years later that a similar research and teaching institution appeared within the structure of the University of Warsaw. The Regulation of the Minister of Higher Education and Science of October 6, 1951, on organizational changes at the University of Warsaw¹⁰ declared that the unit under the name of the Department of Library Science would be part of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Warsaw. And just as its initiator and first head, Jan Muszkowski, had contributed to the establishment of the Department in Łódź, so the creation of the Department in Warsaw would be linked above all with the name of prof. Aleksander Birkenmajer, who was also its first manager. Birkenmajer was a historian of exact sciences and philosophy, but he showed his interest in book and library research already in the interwar period, being one of the first people in Poland with a habilitation in bibliography (Więckowska, 1979, p. 25). He was also a practicing librarian. Even before the outbreak of the war, he was a curator at the Jagiellonian Library and briefly director of the University Library in Poznań, and in order to organize library studies at

⁹ In this context, one should also recall the initiatives undertaken in the interwar period. Thus, in the academic year 1916/1917, the Society of Scientific Courses in Warsaw (TKN) briefly created two departments: the Department of General Book Studies and the Department of Librarianship and Bibliography. And after the transformation of the TKN into the Free Polish University, librarian studies were conducted from 1925 at the Social and Educational Work Study at the Pedagogical Faculty of this university. see Więckowska H. (1979). *Akademickie kształcenie bibliotekarzy. Zarys historyczny (Academic education of librarians. Historical overview)*. Warsaw: SBP, pp. 22-23.

¹⁰ *Rozporządzenie Ministra Szkół Wyższych i Nauki z dnia 6 października 1951 r. w sprawie zmian organizacyjnych na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim (Regulation of the Minister of Higher Education and Science of 6 October 1951 on organizational changes at the University of Warsaw)*. “Dziennik Ustaw” (Journal of Laws) 1951, No. 52, item 370, p. 458.

the University of Warsaw, he moved to Warsaw directly from the position of director of the Jagiellonian Library (*ibid*, p. 37).

Two significant changes for the Warsaw library science center took place in 1968. At that time, a regulation was issued changing the internal organization of the University of Warsaw, which meant that the Department of Library Science was elevated to the rank of an Institute, and the new Institute under the name of the Institute of Library and Information Science was this time included in the structure of the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw¹¹. One more change contributing to the further development of the Institute took place in 1970, when scientific and didactic work was undertaken at a new address in the center of Warsaw, at 69 Nowy Świat st. in the Zamojski Palace rebuilt after the war. The proof of further development and gradual strengthening of the Institute was its organizational development. In 1968, the Institute consisted of only two Departments – Library Science and Scientific Information – and from the academic year 1977/1978 there were already four departments – the Department of Bibliography and the Department of Old Book Knowledge were added (Czekajewska-Jędrusik, 1978, p. 119, 124-125). The period of the 1980s and 1990s was a heyday for library science centers at universities in Poland, and at the peak there were 14 of these centers – most often with the rank of an institute (Grygowski, 2020, p. 145). And the Warsaw Institute, which in 1997 was renamed the Institute of Scientific Information and Book Studies (IINiSB UW), was at the turn of the century the largest of the institutes that together formed the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw in terms of the number of students.

The traditions of library education at the University of Warsaw are currently maintained by the Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies of the University of Warsaw (WDIB). The Faculty was created from the merger of two Institutes that previously functioned at two different faculties: the Institute of Journalism, which was part of the Faculty of Journalism and Political Science of the University of Warsaw, and the Institute of Scientific Information and Book Studies, which was one of the institutes forming the Faculty of History of the University of Warsaw. Two kinds of communities spoke in favor of merging the Institutes. First, by

¹¹ Zarządzenie Ministra Oświaty i Szkolnictwa Wyższego z dnia 27 czerwca 1968 roku w sprawie organizacji wewnętrznej Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego (*Ordinance of the Minister of Education and Higher Education of June 27, 1968 on the internal organization of the University of Warsaw*). "Dziennik Urzędowy Ministerstwa Oświaty i Szkolnictwa Wyższego" (*Official Journal of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education*) 1968, No. A-10, item 65.

2015¹², thus even as the unification plans were crystallizing, it was a literal community, as both Institutes occupied adjacent floors in the Zamojski Palace on 69 Nowy Świat st. Secondly, the juxtaposition of journalistic issues on the one hand and bibliology and information science on the other was visible in international classifications of scientific disciplines. An example is the International Classification of Educational Fields ISCED (UNESCO), which places journalism in the field of social sciences in class 0321, and librarianship, information and archival sciences in class 0322 (Grygowski, 2020, p. 169).

The creation of WDIB and thus the opening of a new stage in the history of book and library science education at the University of Warsaw turned out to be a trying time. The field of study under the name of “scientific information and library science” before the unification of 2016 was the only field of study offered to students at the first and second cycle of full-time and extramural studies at IINiSB UW. After the “unification” this changed. The emergence of “competition” from other fields of study at WDIB (primarily the fields of Architecture of Information Spaces and Modern Publishing) coincided with the nationwide phenomenon of the disappearance of library studies (in the didactic sense) in Polish academic centers, which has previously been described in detail in the article “Library studies in crisis” (Grygowski, 2020).

The crisis in this area is clearly demonstrated by the numbers of people taking up these studies in the last two decades. At the beginning of the 2000s, the number of people starting studies in the first year of full-time studies for a short time even exceeded 100. And these were people actually studying, which has changed in recent years with the lists of people admitted to university including many people studying fictitiously due to regulations that are favorable to employers (exempting them from paying social security contributions in the event of employing a student). In this situation, out of a number of several dozen people admitted to the university in recent years, those who took exams and actually intended to study the field of scientific information and library science numbered just over 10.

The decline in interest in these studies is evident – both at the University of Warsaw and throughout Poland. Currently (2023), for the second year in a row, full-time bachelor’s and master’s studies in Scientific Information and Library Science have not been offered at the University of Warsaw: only extramural studies are being conducted, but these are not largely followed either. There is still a satisfactory interest in postgradu-

¹² In September 2015, the Institute of Journalism of the University of Warsaw moved to Powiśle to the renovated building of the former Baths of Teodozja Majewska at 2/4 Bednarska st. See *Sprawozdanie Rektora Uniwersytetu Warszawskiego z Działalności Uczelni w 2015 roku (Report of the Rector of the University of Warsaw on the University’s activities in 2015)*. Warsaw 2016, p. 16.

ate studies in this field, but they are not attracting as large groups as they were a few years ago. It remains to be hoped, however, that the currently observed crisis in these studies is only a temporary state of turmoil. The interest in these studies on the scale observed at the beginning of the 21st century will certainly not return, but less interest in books and libraries in the era of the Internet, social media and artificial intelligence, with the increasing availability of electronic sources online, should not lead to a hasty conclusion that book and library studies are no longer needed or useful. Graduates of these studies will still be needed as employees for the basic activities in various types of libraries, as well as in publishing activities, in cultural and educational institutions and in the broadly understood information and public communication sector.

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