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**AN ACADEMIC LIBRARY OR A LEARNING  
AND RESEARCH RESOURCES CENTRE  
(CRAI)? A COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO  
THE LIBRARY AS THE CENTRAL ELEMENT  
OF THE UNIVERSITY STRUCTURE IN  
POLAND AND SPAIN**



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**KEYWORDS:** Academic library. CRAI, Organizational model. Services. Scientific production. Educational visit. Innovative solutions.

**ABSTRACT: Thesis/Objective** – The article aims to present and compares four libraries: The Academic Library of Pope John II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska (PSW), the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) Library Service, the CRAI of Pompeu Fabra University and the CRAI of Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona. **Research method** – The comparison is based on statis-

tical data from the Academic Library of PSW and data collected during Polish librarians' educational visit in three abovementioned Catalan libraries. This comparison accounts for many aspects, such as infrastructure, user visits, the size of collections, expenditures, number of library training programs, circulation, and research output of the university staff. **Result/Conclusions** – Although analyzed libraries differ in size, organizational structure and user population, all of them increase their collections, offer similar services and document the research output of their employees which is an increasingly important library activity.

## INTRODUCTION

Academic libraries are an important part of the university structure. Behind a library's success stand skillful librarians, whose motivation, creativity, and willingness to learn, exchange information and collaborate, make the library work. The main task of a university library is to support the didactic process and scientific research. Academic libraries attract users with rich collections, access to resources in the form of electronic databases. Libraries have to cultivate a positive image and advertise their services. They often face financial difficulties, and join consortia to share the high cost of access to licensed databases. Spanish consortia are an excellent example of this practice. The following analysis compares different aspects of the functioning of three libraries of Catalan universities and one Polish library of a vocational college. The statistical data were collected during an educational visit, organized as a part of the project "State School of Higher Education – The university with the future." The visit took place in September 2018 and lasted five days. During that time, twelve librarians from Biala Podlaska visited five libraries in Spain. Every day of the visit abounded in opportunities to expand professional knowledge and to learn about the organization and management of the visited libraries.

## THE ANALYZED LIBRARIES

### 1. CATALAN LIBRARIES

During the educational visit, the librarians visited five libraries in Catalonia: the Learning and Research Resources Centre (CRAI) of Pompeu Fabra University, the Library Service of the Autonomous University of Barcelona, the CRAI- Biblioteca de Biblioteconomia i Documentación of University of Barcelona, the CRAI of Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona and the Library of The University of Girona. All these libraries are situated in Catalonia, a multicultural region with its own language and internationally recognized historical and cultural heritage. The region boasts eight public universities. Catalan public universities are known for

their state-of-the-art scientific and technological infrastructure including Research Centers of Catalonia (CERCA), and the Consortium of Academic Services of Catalonia (CSUC), created in 2014 after merging the Supercomputing Centre of Catalonia (CESCA) and the Consortium of Academic Libraries of Catalonia (CBUC). Unsurprisingly, the last library was of particular interest to the Polish visitors. In 1996, CBUC created the University Union Catalogue of Catalonia (CCUC), a catalogue listing more than 5 million titles, providing access to over 12 million items. The catalogue brings together the collections of the members of the Consortium and of other partner libraries (University Union, 2019). The patrons can request and loan items from other institutions.

In 1997, the CBUC undertook new activities, such as joint purchases. The first licenses were purchased in late 1998, and the first information resources subscribed to by the Consortium became available in early 1999. These were local and international databases and e-journals of Academic Press. The first products were acquired with government funding, but when it came to further purchases, the members of the CBUC had to provide their own funding (Anglada et al., 2019).

The libraries visited during this educational tour belong to CSUC (formerly CBUC) and the Spanish Network of Universities (REBIUN); they also participated in the creation of CCUC catalogue. Four of the visited institutions transformed their libraries into Learning and Research Resources Centres (CRAI). The CRAI offers general library services as well as specialized teaching support and a range of research support services, implementing quality strategies and assurance policies to improve its services and the level of user satisfaction. It is also responsible for promoting and disseminating information about its work among the university community and society in general. Thus, the library is not just a part, but the heart of the university. An interesting element of the CRAI system is La Factoria (in Pompeu Fabra University) – a space where scientists and students can find technical support for projects, presentations, etc. La Factoria provides instructional videos, training courses, and e-learning courses. During the visit, Polish guests had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with services and solutions they might implement at their own institution in the future. Furthermore, they had a chance to share experiences and establish collaboration.

Three of the five visited libraries agreed to provide statistical data for a comparison with the Academic Library of PSW; these were the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB) Library Service, the CRAI of Pompeu Fabra University and the CRAI of Rovira i Virgili University in Tarragona.

The Autonomous University of Barcelona, established in 1968 leads the most prestigious and influential international university rankings. Its main campus is situated in beautiful green surroundings; it is a center of

learning academic research, as well as a hub of cultural and social activity. The UAB offers degrees in Arts and Humanities, Bioscience, Science, Health Science, Social Science, and Engineering. Most of the statistical data analyzed later concerns the Communication Library and General Newspaper Archives, one of the eight libraries incorporated into the UAB Library Service. The primary function of this library is to support teaching and research of the entire university community, especially the Faculty of Communication Studies.

The Pompeu Fabra University (UPF) is a young, modern public university in Barcelona, founded in 1990. It focuses on three areas of knowledge, each based at its own campus: Social Sciences and Humanities at the Ciutadella Campus, Health and Life Sciences at the Mar Campus and Science and Information and Communication Technologies at the Poblenou Campus.

The Rovira and Virgili University (URV) was created in 1991 in Tarragona by the Catalan Parliament. The University comprises 12 faculties and schools in all areas of knowledge: natural sciences, health sciences, social and legal sciences, engineering and architecture, arts and humanities (Universities of Catalonia, 2019).

## 2. THE ACADEMIC LIBRARY OF POPE JOHN PAUL II STATE SCHOOL OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN BIAŁA PODLASKA

The Academic Library established in 2001, is an important part of Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska (here referred to as PSW). The establishment of public vocational schools (State Higher Vocational Schools) in Poland, partly modelled on the German system, was a result of the political transformation that brought a new administrative and structural model of the state. The establishment of public vocational colleges became possible under the Act of 26 June 1997 on Higher Vocational Schools, which specified the conditions for the development of this sector of public education at the undergraduate and engineering level (Musiałkiewicz, Zariczny, Zimny 2017).

The State School in Biala Podlaska was founded in 2000, enrolling 345 students with four specializations. Today the School enrolls over 2300 students in 19 fields of study with over 40 specializations. Most students are undergraduates; however, the School offers six postgraduate courses as well. Since 2013, there have been changes in University structure, as Department of Economics and Technical Sciences and Department of Health and Social Sciences have been established (Kaliszuk, 2018).

The Academic Library is not associated with any consortium. Its only option for reducing the costs of accessing licensed databases is to use the resources of the Virtual Library of Science (WBN). It is a program which allows Polish academic and scientific institutions to purchase and share

global knowledge resources in the form of electronic journals, books and databases . The program is co-financed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MNiSW).

## SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES

It is a challenge to compare academic libraries from two different societies and cultures. The obvious difference is the number of enrolled students: UPF is bigger than PSW. There are four times more students than at the UPF campuses than there are at PSW (Table 1).Secondly, the CRAI of UPF have larger collections. The UAB is also larger but only one of its faculties supplied data about the number of students, which was lower than the number of all students enrolled at PSW. The number of students at UPF and URV has been increasing while PSW's enrolment has been decreasing at the rate of about 3,8% over the last several years due to the general demographic decline in Poland. The number of students enrolled at the UAB Faculty of Communication Studies has been decreasing as well.

Table 1  
The number of students

	Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biala Podlaska	Faculty of Communication Studies UAB	Pompeu Fabra University	Rovira i Virgili University
2016	2.642	1.843*	9.943	11.298
2017	2.540	1.826*	10.161	12.003
% Change	-3,86%	-0,92%	2,19%	6,24%

\*Academic year for Faculty of Communication Studies UAB

The libraries are also very different in size. Table 2 presents the data on library equipment: the number of places and the number of computers. The number of places for students at CRAI of URV is almost 20 times higher than that at The Academic Library of PSW and almost six times higher than that at the UAB Communication Library. The numbers of computer stations at URV and UPF are similar, while the number at the UAB Communication Library is four times lower. The number of computer stations is lowest at the Academic Library of PSW. The UAB Communication Library has more computer stations than the Academic Library of PSW, although it has fewer students than the PSW. The numbers of laptops in the analyzed libraries are similar.

Table 2  
Equipment

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
The number of places for users	183	582	1.880	3.261
The number of desktop computers	51	74	308	287
The number of laptops	7	5	131	189

Table 2 shows that URV has the best equipped library, but according to the data in Table 1, it has the highest number of users – which suggests it also has to meet the highest demand..

The data on the number of user visits (Table 3) confirms that libraries and library services are popular. In each of four analyzed libraries the number increased, with the biggest increase of 31% registered at the Academic Library of PSW; this was a result of the library's relocating in 2016 to a new, modern, well-designed building which is more comfortable and better-liked by students.

Table 3  
User visits

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	24.201	573.410	1.587.836	936.905
2017	31.881	584.446	1.623.608	959.346
% Change	31,73%	1,92%	2,25%	2,40%

The most important part of the library are its collections: books, journals, and electronic sources. Three of four libraries increased their collections. The number of volumes in the Academic Library of PSW has grown at a rate of 4,32% per year while the library collection of UAB Communication Library increased by 15,67% per year. The CRAI of URV increased its collections by 7,84%. However, The CRAI of UPF noted a decline in the number of volumes by about 0,57% . These data are presented in Table 4.

Table 4

## Library collections – books (the number of volumes)

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	15.857	152.028	573.176	64.3091
2017	16.542	175.855	569.883	693.484
% Change	4,32%	15,67%	- 0,57%	7,84%

The other significant source that users rely on for knowledge and scientific information are journals. Table 5 presents the data on the number of printed journals in each of the libraries. In the Academic Library of PSW, the number of journals increased by about 17%; the UAB Communication Library also subscribed to more journals. The CRAI of UPF subscribed to a lower number of journals, as did The CRAI of URV – by as much as 21%.

Table 5

## Library collections – Journals (titles)

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	99	11.040	11.795	610
2017	116	11.203	11.610	482
% Change	17,17%	1,48%	-1,57%	-20,98%

The data on electronic books were also collected. Nowadays, library users prefer electronic collections as they may access them from home. Users can read online texts without entering a library. They do not have to make a trip to return the books, and they can avoid the fines for overdue books. Rapid technological developments made e-books available to an increasing number of people (Dewan 2012, 28). The electronic books in the PSW Academic Library are monographs made accessible by the above-mentioned Virtual Library of Science (WBN). It is a database established by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which gives access to the following databases: Science Direct, Springer, Wiley, EBSCO, and Web of Science. The UAB Library Service, The CRAIs of UPF and URV all belong to CSUC and make joint purchases of access to licensed databases. The CRAI of UAB spent less money on e-resources in 2016: 128.882,56 € (UAB Library Service 2016 Report, 2016) than 2017: 128.804,02 € (UAB Library Service 2017 Report, 2017). The CRAI of UPF increased its spending between 2016: 646.252 € and in 2017: 680.541 €. However, each of the ana-

lyzed Catalan libraries also bought a high number of e-books. Table 6 presents the data on the number of electronic books purchased individually, excluding expenditure of CSUC.

Table 6

## Electronic books

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Library Service	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	32.048	32.773	28.436	17.113
2017	41.540	40.253	31.596	20.077
% Change	29,62%	22,82%	11,11%	17,32%

All libraries bought more electronic books in 2017 than in 2016.

A decrease in expenditures on monographs was recorded in three libraries (Table 7). The Academic Library of PSW recorded a 15% decrease, The CRAI of UPF – 20% and the UAB Library Service – 33%. Only the CRAI of URV spent more on monographs – their expenditure increased by 15%. Spanish libraries spent a significantly higher amount of money on their monograph collections than the Polish library.

Table 7

## Expenditures on monographs (in euros)

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	8.016	22.582	162.391	174.176
2017	6.809	14.955	129.513	200.921
% Change	-15,06%	-33,77%	-20,25%	15,36%

Acquisition is an important part of the library's activities but we should also mention information and education services. Each of the analyzed libraries offers different types of training such as library presentations for the first-year students and presentations for research groups. The CRAIs of UPF and URV conduct workshops on various topics for its users. The UAB Communication Library organizes training sessions on a wide range of topics, such as information sources, Mendeley (reference manager), accreditation and evaluation of research output, scientific production, guidance in preparing final degree projects, intellectual property, and copyright. The Academic Library of PSW has conducted presentations on scientific production, information sources, or searching databases such as

EBSCO and Wiley. These training sessions are very useful and popular with the library users. Table 8 presents information regarding the number of presentations conducted in the analyzed libraries; Table 9 shows data of the participants.

Table 8

## Library trainings: number of presentations

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	49	54	372	649
2017	82	46	359	626
% Change	67%	-14,81%	-3,49%	-3,54%

The Academic Library of PSW noted a large increase (about 67%) in the number of presentations between 2016 and 2017. This was a result of the relocation, discussed above. The new training room allowed the librarians to present more comfortably, using the newest technology.

Table 9

## Library trainings: number of total participants in group presentations

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	1.182	983	7.489	9.854
2017	1.064	1.170	5.616	8.877
% Change	-10%	19,02%	-25,01%	-9,91%

In three of the analyzed libraries, the number of training participants decreased, possibly because some sessions were repeated every year, and some users already participated in the training offered in the previous year. In the Academic Library of the PSW, the decreased attendance was caused by a similar recycling of the offer and by the general decrease in the number of students. Only in the UAB Communication Library did the participation increase (by 19,02%); perhaps the users responded to a wide range of offered training courses. The significant decrease (-25%) in the UPF is surprising, especially as the university did not record decrease in the number of students.

We also analyzed the interlibrary loan. In Polish library, it is the only way to borrow a book unavailable in the institution. The users of Catalonian libraries which belong to CSUC can request and loan documents or

books from another library. The loan is an “interlibrary” loan only when the request comes from libraries outside the CSUC. The number of interlibrary loans decreases, probably because the library collections (printed and electronic) meet the users’ demands; the increasing open access to scientific content might also be a factor.

Table 10

## Interlibrary loan

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Library Service	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV				
	requests granted	requests received	requests granted	requests received	requests granted	requests received	requests granted	requests received
2016	170	3	3.071	4.285	5.664	1.229	2.218	1.816
2017	105	2	2.664	3.579	3.376	712	1.832	1.233
% Change	-38,24%	-33,33%	-13,25%	-16,48%	-40,40%	-42,07%	-17,40%	-32,10%

The most basic library service is circulation. Table 11 presented below presents the data on circulation in each of the analyzed libraries.

Table 11

## Circulations

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
2016	12.696	32.015	182.259	145.083
2017	13.365	26.035	168.655	240.175
% Change	5%	-18,68%	-7,46%	65,54%

A huge increase in circulation was noted in the CRAI of URV: about 65%. The UAB Communication Library recorded a 18% decrease in circulation.

The last issue analyzed is electronic searching. Table 12 presents the data on the number of searches and the number of retrieved articles. The data from Spanish libraries indicate that Spanish users use electronic

sources much more often than the users from the State School; this might be the case because Spanish users are more fluent in English than Polish users of the Academic Library of PSW.

Table 12

Use of Electronic Resources (Number of searches in digital journals and number of retrieved articles)

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB Communication Library	The CRAI of UPF	The CRAI of URV
	Number of searches	Number of retrieved art.	Number of searches	Number of retrieved art.
2016	29.525	7.854	471.380	1.588.592
2017	16.575	12.278	347.941	1.437.118
% Change	-44%	56%	-26%	-10%
	-25%	2%	-13%	-5%

## SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

Another important activity of scientific libraries is documenting the scientific output of university faculty and staff and supporting their scientific communication of knowledge and experience regarding functioning in the scholarly community. These libraries offer the researchers and academics training and information on relevant subjects. Guides for users are very popular: they present all library resources, including electronic sources, and describe services of the institution. Libraries also advise scientists on where to publish, how to plan and disseminate research data, and how to use reference managers as well as explain open access, research identifiers, bibliometric indicators, methods of evaluating scientific output and research institutions (Services, 2019).

In Spain, the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation (ANECA) and the National Commission for The Evaluation of Research Activity (CNEAI) are the state bodies responsible for assessing research output and researchers. Besides these, Catalonia has its own assessing and regulating entity: the University Quality Assurance Agency (AQU Catalunya) (Teixeira, et al., 2017). In Poland, external evaluation is the responsibility of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education as well as the Polish Accreditation Commission (PKA) and the Science Evaluation

Committee (KEN), responsible for evaluating the quality of research output once every four years (Tomala, 2019).

In both Poland and Spain, the most important research identifiers are ORCID (the unique identifier of the author of the publication), Researcher ID, Scopus ID and Google Scholar Profile. Thanks to these, researchers can present their research in one place, which allows them to make their scientific activity more visible and thus increase its impact on learning, as measured by the quotation indexes and the Hirsch index. Having an ORCID identifier is compulsory for authors to be included in the Portal de la Recerca de Catalunya. In Poland, having an ORCID identifier and a complete research profile is required for the evaluation by scientific institutions.

The main bibliometric indicators used to evaluate research output in Poland and Spain are Journal Impact Factor, SJR and SNIP from the Scopus database, Hirsch index and Eigen factor Eigenfactor. Altmetric indicators measure the impact of a particular scientist or article by quantifying its presence in social media.

Some of the analyzed libraries manage, or contribute to, the Current Research Information Systems (CRIS) at their universities. Data on their research activity and output is publicly available in websites. For instance, UPF Scientific Output Portal (PPC) displays information about research projects (11,601), publications (123,301), symposia and congresses (53,267), graduate theses (4,075) and other academic and research activities carried out by UPF researchers (1,520) (Scientific, 2019). It is important that the database shows the indexed publications' bibliometric indicators: the number of citations in the Web of Science database, Scopus, Google Scholar, SJR index and altmetric indicators. The profile of a researcher not only presents their research activity, including participation in conferences and research groups, grants they received, etc. It is also linked with profiles in other databases or portals. Libraries are responsible for updating these profiles.

The CRIS of the UAB, managed by the UAB Area of Research and Transfer, is currently shifting from an *ad hoc* software called Ein@-SIGMA to a more powerful system (Pure, introduced by Elsevier) which will facilitate collecting data and improve the completeness and accuracy of the information provided about the researchers. The new database is supposed to be ready in 2020. It will be compatible with the university institutional repository and allow the users to automatically load data from databases such as PubMed or Scopus into the CRIS .

Research database created by the Academic Library of Pope John Paul II State School of Higher Education in Biała Podlaska currently stores 4133 bibliographical records of academic publications written by the University's employees (Dorobek naukowy, 2019). It contains abstracts, links to

full texts available in the Open Access, indication of related grants and projects, as well as the author's? ORCID identifier. The database enables bibliometric analyzes and rankings of various types. The new version will also link the author's profiles on other portals.

The information on the employees' publications is also stored in institutional repositories. The institutional repository collects, disseminates and preserves in digital form the products of the university's academic and research activities, as well as scientific journals and institutional publications. Its purpose is to increase the impact of research conducted at institutions, and to protect intellectual property. The researchers collaborate with librarians to fill the repositories with data. The table below presents the quantitative dimension of the content of institutional repositories.

Table 13  
Research output: number of records in the repository

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB institutional repository (DDD)	UPF institutional repository (e-Repositori)	URV Institutional Repository
2016	371*	151.042	13.200	4.585
2017	280*	165.064	15.500	8.049
% Change	-24,53%	9,28%	17,42%	75,55%

\* The number of bibliographic descriptions of publications written by academics employed in PSW for the database created by the librarians of The Academic Library of PSW

Each of the Catalan libraries added more entries to their repository in 2017 than in 2016; the most significant rise was observed at the URV. Only the Academic Library of PSW added less entries: but, although the total number of scientific publications containing articles, monographs and individual chapters decreased, the number of journal articles increased. The table presenting the number of articles shows that scientists published more in 2017 than in 2016; the number of publications grew by 12,73%.

Table 14  
Research output: number of articles in the repository

	The Academic Library of PSW	UAB institutional repository (DDD)	UPF institutional repository (e-Repositori)	URV Institutional Repository
2016	220	47.212	3.631	1.624
2017	248	54.674	4.458	1.974
% Change	12,73%	15,81%	22,78%	21,55%

The growth of open access, motivated by the demand to make available the results of research carried out at universities and research centers has contributed to General Directorate of Research of the Secretariat for Universities and Research from the Generalitat de Catalunya's decision to launch Portal de la Recerca de Catalunya (Research Portal of Catalonia). The project is supported by CSUC and the working commission of experts from? Catalan universities and research centers. Twenty-one institutions participate. The base makes available data collected between 2016 and the present day, which maybe browsed according to different criteria such as scientists (11.820), research projects (35.608), research groups (1.552), departments – institutions – areas (398), publications (535.029) and theses (30.525). "The goal of this portal is to display and disseminate from a single place the research activity that is carried out in Catalonia in regard to researchers, publications, groups and research projects for the international scientific community, companies, financial organizations and public in general, thus making open access to scientific output easy" (Portal de la Recerca de Catalunya, 2019).

There is no single repository in Poland that would store all results of research conducted by scientists from different universities. In 2013, the Ministry of Science and Higher Education launched the Polish Scientific Bibliography – portal collecting information on Polish and foreign scientific journals. and on and Polish scientists' publications. It is a part of the POL-on Higher Education Information System. Currently, there are two versions of the system: a repository where the author can create their profile and list their scientific achievements (895.580 publications, 79.075 people, 12741 institutions). The second version of this system reports the scientific achievements of the institution on the base, in accordance with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education's guidelines on scientific units (1,109 thousand publications, 256 thousand identified authors, 1234 institutions) (Statystyki, 2019).

The Catalan libraries which hosted Polish victors participate in projects related to the dissemination of research output (supervised by CSUC), namely: RECERCAT (Dipòsit de la Recerca de Catalunya) and TDX (Theses and Dissertations Online). RECERCAT is a cooperative archive of digital documents which stores research output of the employees of the universities and research institutions of Catalonia, such as unpublished articles (preprints), conference papers, research reports, working papers, graduate theses and technical reports. The main objective of RECERCAT is to increase the visibility of research carried out in Catalonia and to contribute to the international movement for a free archive of academic output and research on the Internet, organized by the institutions that finance research, in order to provide an alternative to the model that requires that the users pay for access to information which has been produced at the in-

stitution. The repository indexes over 148 thousand documents, including 57,000 articles, 42,501 bachelor's theses, 10,225 working papers and 18,560 conferences (RECERCAT, 2019).

TDX (Theses and Dissertations Online) is a digital collaborative repository of doctoral theses presented at some Spanish universities. The user may consult these to construct searches of the complete text of all files, browsing by author, advisor, title, keywords, university and department of publication, year of defense, etc. This repository defines its goals as follows: to publicize the results of university research, to offer the authors of theses a tool to increase public access to their work, enhancing its visibility, and to stimulate the open scientific production (TDX, 2019).

In Poland, the National Repository of Written Diploma Works has been maintained since 2014, as a part of the Higher Education Information System POL-on; it archives full texts of graduate theses from Polish universities. At the moment, it stores 2,874,133 (Ogólnopolskie repozytorium, 2019).

## CONCLUSIONS

The educational visit to libraries of universities in Catalonia was an enriching experience for the librarians from The Academic Library of Pope John II State School of Higher Education in Biala Podlaska. in many areas of their activity, the similarities and differences between these institutions were apparent.

The size of library collections (printed and electronic), the degree to which they were used, the number of users, training and information activities, ICT infrastructure, practices of documenting the research output of university staff and openness of scientific resources – in all these aspects of library service, we observed differences between the Academic Library of PSW and Catalan libraries. They are determined by the size of these libraries and the unique character of universities to which they belong. Their differences notwithstanding, all libraries increase their collections, offer similar services and document the scientific production of their employees which is increasingly important in the library activities. To compare the activity of Catalan university libraries with the activity of Polish university libraries, it was crucial that we understood the CRAI management model used in Catalan libraries. It would be difficult to implement this model of collaboration and management in Poland due to financial barriers and the lack of organization and innovation in approach to library service in universities. Another issue is the lack of state policy in regulating the activities of university libraries in Poland.

The educational visit to the university libraries in Catalonia was a scientific and cultural experience, which inspired the visitors to intro-

duce new methods of work at their library, enrich their offer of services and training modules, and to implement best practices (solutions). Contacts established during the visit were the first step towards establishing an international cooperation of librarians; a great example of this cooperation was the scientific work whose results are presented in this study.

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**BIBLIOTEKA AKADEMICKA/CRAI (CENTRE DE RECURSOS PER A L'APRENENTATGE I LA INVESTIGACIÓ, CENTRUM ZASOBÓW NAUKOWYCH I BADAWCZYCH) – KOMPLEKSOWE PODĘJŚCIE DO BIBLIOTEKI JAKO GŁÓWNEGO ELEMENTU STRUKTURY UNIWERSYTECKIEJ W POLSCE I HISZPANII**

**SŁOWA KLUCZOWE:** Biblioteka akademicka. CRAI. Model organizacyjny. Usługi. Współpraca naukowa. Wizyta edukacyjna. Innowacyjne rozwiązania.

**ABSTRAKT:** **Teza/ceł artykułu** – W artykule przedstawiono i porównano cztery biblioteki: Bibliotekę Państwowej Szkoły Wyższej (PSW) w Białej Podlaskiej, bibliotekę Uniwersytetu Autonomicznego w Barcelonie (UAB), CRAI Uniwersytetu Pompeu Fabra oraz CRAI Uniwersytetu Rovira i Virgili w Tarragonie. **Metoda badań** – Porównanie zostało oparte na danych statystycznych z Biblioteki PSW oraz danych zebranych podczas wizyt studyjnych polskich bibliotekarzy w trzech wspomnianych bibliotekach katalońskich. Porównanie obejmuje takie aspekty jak: infrastrukturę, odwiedziny użytkowników, wielkość zbiorów, wydatki, liczbę szkoleń bibliotecznych, udostępnianie oraz dorobek naukowy. **Wyniki/Wnioski** – Pomimo że analizowane biblioteki różnią się wielkością, strukturą organizacyjną oraz liczbą użytkowników, wszystkie stale zwiększają swoje zbiorы, oferują podobne usługi i dokumentują dorobek naukowy swoich pracowników, co staje się coraz ważniejszym aspektem działalności bibliotecznej.