

Dear Readers,

„Przegląd Biblioteczny” („The Library Review”) is the oldest, research journal, covering all the basic trends of library science, book studies, bibliography and information science. Its publication began in 1927. Among the editors and members of the Editorial Board of this periodical were outstanding professors and librarians (e.g. Bogdan Horodyski, Zbigniew Daszkowski, Maria Dembowska, Barbara Sordylowa, Maria Lenartowicz, Barbara Sosińska-Kalata, Helena Więckowska, Barbara Bieńkowska, Krzysztof Migoń), who left their mark not only on the shape of the journal, but also contributed to the development and improvement of Polish libraries, especially research ones. Currently, the function of editor-in-chief is performed by Elżbieta Barbara Zybert (since 2013), formerly the Chair of the Editorial Board of this periodical, professionally associated with the Warsaw academic librarian’s education center (University of Warsaw, formerly at the Faculty of History, Institute of Information and Book Studies, and since 2016 at the Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies).

The above listed eminent persons managing the journal’s work and members of its editorial board also have their noticeable contribution to the development of library science as a university discipline. Although the beginnings of academic information and book studies education can be seen in the courses and lectures appearing in the mid-nineteenth century devoted to issues interesting and needed in the work of librarians¹, formally organized studies were not initiated until the 1950s. The first departments of library and information science were set up at the universities of Łódź (formally in 1946), Warsaw (1951), and Wrocław (1957).

Articles that appeared in the “Przegląd Biblioteczny” have become obligatory literature for library science students and library employees.

¹ It was already in the 19th century that Polish universities started to hold lectures entitled “Bibliography”. Those included, apart from strictly bibliographic contents, certain aspects of the history of writing, the book and libraries. See: A. Birkenmajer: *Rozwój i stan obecny wyższych studiów bibliotekoznawczych w Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej* [The Development and Current State of Higher Education in Library Science in the People’s Republic of Poland]. Paper written jointly by staff members of the Warsaw University, Institute of Library Science. Warsaw, December 1957. In: *Warszawskie uniwersyteckie studia bibliotekoznawcze i informacyjne (1951-2001)* [University Studies in Library and Information Science in Warsaw (1951-2001)]. Monograph by a team led by Elżbieta Barbara Zybert. Warsaw, 2002, p. 18.

Often, academic teachers preparing future librarians_were authors of texts showing new trends in library work, familiarized them with what is happening in the library and information science world, and experienced librarians-practitioners were invited to cooperate with the journal. And actually, since the beginning of editing the "Przegląd Biblioteczny", it has always been perceived as a journal very important for Polish library science, librarian' community, and for university teachers and students of departments dedicated to these fields, highly rated in the professional community, and being an inspiration for its development and improvement.

Similarly, the journal is also rated high by the ministries responsible for libraries (the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage) and higher education (the Ministry of Science and Higher Education) what is evidenced in the received grants supporting various projects related to publishing the journal, as well as placing the "Przegląd Biblioteczny" in the official register of journals of Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education (in the group of Polish research journals) and awarding it 9 points in 2016 and 20 points in 2019.

In 2019, "Przegląd Biblioteczny" became a beneficiary of the program of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education intended to support scientific journals, i.e. to modernize and implement new solutions, in managing the publishing process, its improved efficient organization, editing, publishing and providing wider and easier information about the periodical and expanding open access to texts published on its pages.

So, in the last issue of this year there are changes in publishing and editing the "Przegląd Biblioteczny" as a result of participation in the said program. The published texts received digital identifiers – DOI (Digital Object Identifier), and are supplemented with international researcher identifiers – ORCID (The Open Researcher and Contribution ID), enabling the construction of a unique and uniform scientific profile in the network, facilitating its identification and protecting its identity.

Another novelty resulting from receiving support from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education is the decision to publish regularly a special English-language issue, which will be a supplement to this quarterly journal. Although so far every year we have already published articles in English, they were usually texts by foreign authors and concerned either librarianship in other countries or problems bothering the international library scholars' community. The idea of special issues is to familiarize foreign readers with Polish librarianship, information and book studies, to disseminate our ideas and organizational solutions, as well as to share problems that bother the Polish information and book studies' environment. Each special issue will also contain a review of books in the field of information and book studies that were published in a given year.

It is worth mentioning that two special issues, published in English, have already appeared in the history of the "Przegląd Biblioteczny". However, they were of an occasional nature: the first one in 2012 on the celebration of the 85th anniversary of the "Przegląd Biblioteczny" (edited by B.Sosińska-Kalata) and the second in 2017 (edited by E.B.Zybert) prepared for the IFLA Congress and the 83rd General Conference, which took place in Wrocław that year.

This special issue contains texts that form three problem groups concerning:

- transformations in the field of information and book studies and new areas in its research

- the participation of libraries and museums in the preservation of cultural heritage

- activities of libraries for the needs of their children and youth users

The texts in the first part show how the transfer of information and book studies from the area of humanities to social sciences has influenced its location in academic education institutions, curricula and how it creates prospects for its further development.

- Jadwiga Woźniak-Kasperek (*Information science under the conditions created by the new classification of fields and scientific disciplines: opening a balance sheet*) recapitulates the specifics of information technology and information research in the conditions of reorganized scientific life in Poland, taking place after the introduction of a new classification of scientific and artistic disciplines.

- Bożena Koredczuk (*Book studies communication in selected communication systems and their influence on the location of the discipline in the current obligatory classification of fields and scientific disciplines – an outline of the research problem*) discusses the individual components of book studies communication and show its place in contemporary communication systems and changes occurring in this area of research.

- Hanna Batorowska (*Information science context of security culture*) shows the interdisciplinary nature of security and information sciences and the relationships that exists between them in the area of threats generated by digital civilization. Attention is paid to the importance of selected components of the information security culture in shaping the security culture. It is pointed out that these components are a permanent subject of information science research.

In the second part, the authors tackle the problems of museum libraries and the role of libraries, museums, and archives to preserve cultural heritage.

- Katarzyna Źák-Caplot (*An unexplored phenomenon on the border of two worlds. An introduction to the issue of museum libraries in Poland*) discusses the main concepts and sources of information about museum libraries in

Poland, moving towards their definition and place in the native library system. Her article provides an opportunity to reflect on how museum libraries operate on the border of the “museum” and “library” worlds.

– Robert Kotowski (*The role of the museum library*) presents the principles of organization and operation of the museum library in the context of the history and changing rules of specialized libraries, as well as similarities in the program assumptions of libraries and museums on the example of the National Museum in Kielce. The article is an attempt to look at how not only the role but also the function of the museum library has changed over the decades in the local space – this pertains also to its readers and public perception.

– Elżbieta Barbara Zybert (*The role of libraries, archives and museums (LAM) in the preservation of cultural heritage: the example of the Polish Catholic Centre in Martin Coronado in Argentina*) presents activities directed to the preservation of the Polish cultural heritage undertaken by the library, archive, and museum functioning in the Polish Catholic Centre at Martin Coronado in Argentina. Particular attention is paid to the legacy of the soldiers fighting on the fronts of World War II, mainly associated with the 2nd Polish Corps commanded by General Władysław Anders.

The text contained in the third part draws attention to the relationship between international regulations and the possibilities of applying them in local circumstances of the country.

– Dorota Grabowska: (*International guidelines on youth libraries and the Polish reality*) analyzes the IFLA guidelines for youth libraries and compares them with Polish reports, statistical data and articles published in a professional librarian periodical. She attempts to answer the question whether and to what extent Polish public libraries implement the recommendations contained in the guidelines.

In the special issue we also publish an overview of the most important Polish books in the field of library science that appeared in year 2018 and 2019. (Barbara Koryś: *An overview of Polish literature in the field of information and book studies (selection)*).

We believe that the formula for publishing a special issue, intentionally addressed to foreign readers, showing the Polish point of view, will create an additional opportunity to discuss the condition and the future of librarianship in the world, will show its strengths, identify and implement strategic priorities corresponding to ongoing transformations and aiming at developing a Global Vision on the role of libraries in the modern world. It will allow for modernizing academic education programs and taking actions to integrate libraries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. We are convinced and we claim that libraries should be leaders in ongoing changes and advocates for improving the conditions in which we live.