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Policy

Since early Nineties most of the efforts have been put into the construction of satisfactory technological infrastructure, including networking and data processing.

A complementary program on creation of scientific knowledge repositories was funded by the Polish State Committee for Scientific Research (KBN), main governmental sponsor of IT infrastructure development. Within this program, a few substantial components of digital libraries for academic community and general public have been developed. At the same time, a number of contents-related initiatives of various scales have been set up by individual libraries and library networks. Among them, projects on metadata creation and development of library catalogues have reached a very advanced state, partly thanks to the governmental funding.

Copyright Law and Intellectual Property Rights

In order to build successful digital libraries the copyright law issues must be resolved and clearly presented to the creators and users of digital libraries. A lot has been done in that respect. IPR issued in February 1994, revised in October 2002, is based in general on the *Bern Convention* (1886) and *Geneva Conventions* from 1952, both signed by Poland. Practice and interpretation, however, still require some significant regulations in particular in the area of digital libraries.

Co-operation activities

At the beginning, the creation of digital libraries took place mainly as local initiatives conducted by particular

libraries on an experimental basis. This led to duplicating the same activities by almost all institutions. Majority of them, for example, prepared a digital copy of Nicholas Copernicus work *De Revolutionibus Orbium Caelestium* duplicating efforts. With time, many more plans for digitising old publications, full electronic versions of journals (foremost scientific and medical journals), books, etc. have been carried out. An additional dimension is represented by a variety of interactive data and knowledge repositories that have been built by academic, public, and commercial organisations. A number of cultural heritage institutions considered it important to create links forming virtual libraries.

The issues of integrity and security of digital resources, although addressed by few organisations involved, are still awaiting co-ordinated actions that will contribute to harmonised standardisation (at least, on de facto level). As digitisation is a time- and effort-consuming activity and a costly initiative, some co-operation ideas have been presented as a much more effective way of building digital libraries. Co-operation took place on a variety of levels, that is local, regional or international; these took place mainly between libraries, but there were some broader initiatives where a variety of cultural heritage institutions decided to collaborate. Some co-operation has been initiated between libraries and scientific institutions, some between libraries, archives and museums. In spite of a variety of new problems which arose as a result of the co-operation, the effect of these common actions was positive and appreciated in particular by users who mostly benefited from the co-operation obtaining access to the meta-data created and several collections digitised already. However, only co-ordination of challenging and new activities ensures greater



Central Europe by Mikolaj
from Kuza corrected by Bernard Wapowski
edited by Ptolemeus,
Roma 1507 - 1508



success. Some trial of co-ordination has been made by an electronic library journal EBIB (<http://ebi.b.oss.wroc.pl/digitalizacja/index.php>) but this is based on the assumption that libraries will be proud displaying their achievements (already done and planned digitisation) by making visible the information delivered. It is only a case for 9 libraries. In this group the Jagiellonian University Library and others are not included. The page was prepared in October 2002 and updated only once in January 2003. It is obvious that only a dynamic database of digitised resources appears to be reasonable. This should be a part of central catalogue NUKAT either as information attached to the records of catalogued books or as a special collection. National policy in digitisation should be undertaken to speed up the process and to prevent mistakes and re-digitisation, which can be costly when expensive equipment is used.

Examples of local co-operation

Co-operation between libraries started in early Nineties during the implementation of the Database Management Systems. In order to achieve this goal, libraries formed consortia based either on the same system chosen for library computerisation or on the proximity. Among the systems chosen, the most important ones were VTLS, Horizon, Aleph, to mention just the top choices. Local consortia were created in some cities like Krakow, Poznan, Lodz and included all types of libraries. The first national initiative was based on authority files creation. Libraries decided to join forces and work together in making crucial decisions concerning standards selection. In early Nineties, taking such a decision was fairly difficult; this is why several trials

started before any decision had been taken. It then was decided that for metadata creation and exchange USMARC, (recently replaced by MARC21), TCP/IP, Z39.50 should be used. Authority files for the catalogue records were also included as an obligatory standard especially for libraries interested in co-operation. For the subject identification of the document Library of Congress Subject Headings were chosen. Thus customised into Polish KABA via French RAMEAU because of local reasons. Authority files were created by a continuously growing number of libraries and librarians included into a common effort supervised by the Warsaw University Library Centre for Formats and Authority Records. This brought the library community towards another initiative concerning the central catalogue NUKAT, which was funded by the Mellon Foundation on the condition of including three main actors on the Polish scene: consortium of VTLS libraries, (27 libraries), Coalition for Library with Horizon (52 libraries), and the National Library with the Innopac system. Till 2002, the central catalogue NUKAT had not been available, so temporarily its role was played by a local initiative KARO (<http://www.bu.uni.torun.pl/>) in Torun where with the use of the Z39.50 protocol applying a variety of criteria it is possible to search over 50 Polish library catalogues. In digitisation some co-operation has already started as well. The Co-operation Agreement between the National Library and Warsaw University Library signed in January 2003 may serve as an example of local, narrow co-operation concerning digitisation of journals and old newspapers published in the years 1661-1945. The results of this agreement are available in tiff format at <http://www.buw.uw.edu.pl/zasoby/ckcp.htm>. The foundation of the Program is the already collected

bank of microfilms of about 3000 Polish journals completed by the National Library from a number of dispersed collections. At the moment, the database serves as a testing source where conversion of variety of formats, as well as a search of navigation methods is checked. The digitisation in Poznan may also be a local co-operation example, but more complex; a Digital Library project is underway. dLibra software is used on purpose, it provides full text in XML, with dynamic conversion into PDF or HT. Pictures exist in .jpg and .tif formats. For metadata description the Dublin core and MARC 21 were chosen. The software allows also distance learning. At the end of 2003, 345 publications are available including rare books, handbooks, and regional materials at: <http://www.wbc.poznan.pl/>. Digitisation has been also found as an important issue by the Polish government. The Prime Minister opened the Polish Internet Library (Polska Biblioteka Internetowa) on the 21st December 2002 and allocated substantial funds to its creation. After a year it includes 263 items, the majority of which are old books where copyright issues are not problematic. There are plans to digitise also modern literature, handbooks, scores, maps, graphics, etc. The Polish Internet Library is available at <http://www.pbi.edu.pl/index.php>. This initiative was found as a very popular among internauts who visited this place within one year about 7 million times spending there half an hour on average. In order to foster the involvement of libraries, closer co-operation with their counter-parts in other countries and international projects, in particular those launched by the subsequent Framework Programs of the EU, will be of high value.



Stanislaw Wyspianski
Artist's wife with son
1904

Co-operation through participation in European projects

CULTIVATE

Under the CULTIVATE project, one step further has been made as librarians met with archivists and museum custodians to discuss the possibilities of common metadata creation. In spite of common interest in this field, no real progress has been made due to lack of co-ordination going top-down across the sectors to which the institutions report.

<http://www.icimss.edu/cultivate>

PULMAN

The Public Provincial Library in Olsztyn participated in the PULMAN project (contributing to the Digital Guidelines). The PULMAN guidelines were a success in Poland, as the Management Board of the Polish Librarians Association in Warsaw plans to publish its second edition available at:

<http://www.wbp.olsztyn.pl/>

<http://www.pulmanweb.org/DGMs/DGMs.htm>

DELOS

The DELOS project has already offered librarians and archivists training in digitalisation issues in addition to translation of some important materials in the area of digitisation including the Lund Report. Within DELOS-CEE, the Digital Libraries module taught at ICIMSS was enriched by the organisation of additional workshops, training and tutorials run together with DELOS members. These activities were offered to librarians and archivists. Workshops, tutorials, and training possibilities were also opened to participants from the cultural heritage sector from CEE countries not counted as NAS partners, such as





Albania, Ukraine, Byelorussia and others, in order to disseminate the achievements of the DELOS project and to help them to learn about recent developments in the area of digital libraries before joining in such activities. Some of the topics discussed and delivered on DELOS conferences and seminars can be reached at <http://www.icimss.edu/delos/publications.html>

MINERVA

One of the most important issues appears to be the inclusion of the Polish Ministry of Culture into the MINERVA project, with the goal of co-ordinating digitisation in Europe. This happened thanks to the offer of the Italian Ministry of Culture at a conference held by the International Centre for Information Management Systems and Services (ICIMSS) in Torun as one of the DELOS project events.

eIFL

The Electronic Information for Libraries (EIFL) <http://www.eifl.net/> is an Open Society Institute initiative. It started in partnership with EBSCO Publishing, it provides low-cost access to several thousands full-text academic, medical, and business journals in electronic form to libraries in 40 countries in Eurasia and Africa. Since 2002, eIFL has been transformed into an independent foundation, which is only partly supported by OSI. Polish copy of the database is hosted with the Super-computer Network Centre in Poznan responsible for the installation and archiving in addition to creation of special access points. 50% of the costs of this initiative are covered by Committee for Scientific Research, remaining 50% have to be financed by the 79 libraries, which are the members of consortium. Through eIFL there are accessible about 10 000 journal titles.

Benchmarking

Those measurement patterns have not been implemented in the endeavours undertaken by Polish institutions engaged in digitisation activities. However, participation in the MINERVA project should help in implementation of such measures as performance indicators, performance standards, benchmarking, etc. It should be possible to set up a working group of representatives of such institutions as libraries, museums, archives, and scientific institutes interested in the area of measuring performance of digital libraries in time of their rapid development at a variety of places.

Inventories and resource discovery

One cultural portal with information about cultural events and cultural heritage institutions is run by Adam Mickiewicz's Institute. <http://www.culture.pl/>

The Ministry of Culture created the Polish Art Lost Register in 1987. It contains up-to-date information on 7 000 stolen objects. This database serves as an internal source of information for those interested in regarding the cultural artefacts stolen.

On the main Polish portal one can find information about treasures of Polish Literature and Polish Archives including images of some Polish cities location documents issued since the Medieval Ages. <http://www.polska.pl/skarby/index.htm>

Museums offer mostly simply information about themselves. As an exception can be listed one



of the most professionally prepared Website of Modern Art Museum in Lodz.

<http://www.muzeumsztuki.lodz.pl/strona%20ang/muzeumi.ang.htm>

Sponsored by KBN access to the purchased from a number of leading agents international databases, and access to full-text collections are available for Polish institutions at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Mathematical and Computational Modelling. <http://vl.s.icm.edu.pl/>

One of the most important is the national catalogue NUKAT.

<http://www.nukat.edu.pl/katalog/>
Data published for NUKAT at the end of December 2003 include: 931 351 authority records, 188 131 bibliographic records of books and 26 046 records of periodicals. It is clear that just cooperation in creation of authority files goes well while bibliographic records number are still lower than those prepared by single libraries (for example the NCU Library in Torun has over 270 000 records available in MARC format) therefore KARO <http://www.bu.uni.torun.pl/> search is still a solution for searching library catalogues.

Good practice and skills

Only pioneers know how difficult an implementation of technological changes, which have occurred since early eighties may be. There is no need to "re-discover America" at all new activities therefore good practice guides should be prepared and published to allow a broad use. As one of the DELOS activities *Unesco Guidelines for the Preservation of Digital Heritage*, *Lund Report* and several other publications were translated.

Competence centres in order to delivered short-term or long-term courses, seminars, and conferences should also be established. Some of the examples of good practice can be enumerated though even these are still far away from the expectations.

For the libraries with the computerised systems implemented where cataloguing process is in line with accepted national standards there have been run a number of short courses organized mainly by the Centre of Formats and Authority Files <http://www.nukat.edu.pl/nukat/pl/szkolenia> Cataloguers are equipped with the publications where in detailed way are presented formats used for cataloguing. There were also issued publications devoted to the users of VTLS, Horizon and ALEPH systems. Each of the publication issued by different centre.

It looks too early and premature to list similar activities in the area of digitalisation. However some initiatives can be named here.

ICIMSS <http://www.icimss.edu> working on a number of European Commission programs delivered a good number of courses available both internationally and nationally. Among them there are courses on basic issues of creating a digital library, preserving a digital library. Moreover, regular Professional Development Courses with modules devoted to digital libraries and electronic publishing have been organized in a combined mode of residential sessions followed by distance education. In Poznan several short courses for librarians planning digital libraries creation have been also delivered. In a near future as the best practice should also serve libraries in Kraków, Warsaw, Poznan which have been already developing digitalisation programmes.

European added value and contact framework

Polish institutions took part in some of the European projects listed above. European contacts between cultural institutions involved in digitisation, even on a limited scale till now, bring awareness of direction and future plans for digitised culture. Apart from that one of utmost importance is the programme "Reconstitution of the Memory of Poland" initiated by the Head Office of State Archives in order to prepare information about archival resources important for Polish history and culture dispersed in the world. Digitisation at least of some documents would be required. It was agreed that for material description ISAD(G) and ISAAR (CPF) standards would be used customised according to the needs and constraints of the Programme.

Also another idea initiated by the archivists in connection with the Unesco "Memory of the World" program deserves attention. Archivists in co-operation with librarians chose the most important of the "Memory of Poland" materials to be added to the Unesco "Memory of the World" list. However, digitisation of this type of collections requires better equipment and material than the one we own at the moment. In the Open Society to which Poland aspires borders of the European Union are marked mainly by telecommunication operators. In the cyberspace where cultural heritage institutions offer their services on Websites each citizen should be able to find, from any place, at any time, information about culture of different nations and countries therefore cultural heritage institutions have a lot of tasks ahead.



Madonna from Krużłowa
sculpture
Kraków, XV century
unknown artist