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Libraries in Poland in Transition on the Turn of the 20th Century

It is great pleasure and honor to me to a be speaker on Annual Meeting 1998' of The International Council for Theological Libraries, especially that it was organized in Kraków, my family town. Thanks for invitation to Dr Jan Bednarczyk, Director of the Library of the Pope Academy of Theology (acronym PAT).

I would like to introduce the main goals of transition of Polish librarianship regarding theological libraries:

- Background of transition of Polish libraries: from the past to the nineties
- Present days: brief statistical information regarding theological libraries
- New law, standardization, automation - road to demo-cratization of libraries
- Growing globalization of professional education

1. Background of transition of Polish Libraries

Specific geographic, political and cultural situation of Poland brings influences for ideas of Polish nation. It is necessary to look at it from historical point of view and in the present context.

Historical point of view:

The most important in the world's eyes were three types of Polish performance in our history:

- Leading role of Poland as the bulwark and defender of Christian Europe, for example: invasion of the Tartars, Mongols, Turks from 12th to 18th century, victory in the Polish - Bolshevik war of 1920, major role in the breakup of Soviet domination after World War Two.
- Strong democratic tradition in the organization of Polish State as well as of Polish - Lithuanian Commonwealth 1569-1791, democratic king's elections, the famous Polish Constitution of the 3th May 1791 - first written in Europe, patriotic Polish insurrections beginning from Kosciuszko's in 1794 through 19th century to Free Poland (1918-1939), and after that till 1989.
- Strong professional experience: the development of catholic ecclesiastical libraries from the end of 11^{th}C.; rich convent libraries from 13th C.; growing academic libraries beginning from 1364 when was established the Jagiellonian University Library - one of the oldest in Europe. This university has always attracted students from all over the world, among them the most illustrious students were Nicolaus Copernicus and Pope John Paul II; parallel with foundation of private collections of books; The Commission for National Education with the school-net libraries in 18th C.; the establishment of public libraries from 19th C.; university sources of bibliography beginning in 1811 in Kraków, the formation of the professional association of librarians from 1917 y.; full - master and doctoral education in librarianship and information science after World War Two (1951 in Warsaw, 1956 in Wrocław, 1974 in Kraków).
- The losses of Polish culture in the World War Two regarding to destroyed about 15 millions books from libraries in our country [Bieńkowska 1994].

For more historical information in English you can look in a "Chronological table of the most important facts about books and libraries in Poland (10 C. to 1994 y.)" - list printed by Maria Kocójowa in the book "Modern libraries and librarianship in

Poland" ed. by M. Kocójowa, A. Altenberger. Kraków 1995, p.75-85; or to book "History of Polish libraries" [Kocójowa 1993].

The present context:

Present day of Polish librarianship must be considered in the light of the last political and economic changes initiated by the victory of "Solidarity" in 1989 and creation of free 3th Polish Republic - without censorship, free from forty-five years of Soviet domination and all central autocratic control.

The main directions of library development depends from:

- Free market economy with new libraries focused on management and marketing processes with development of promotion and public relations, business information, etc. It teaches us how to spend the money we have effectively.

- Access to higher Information Technology Communication (ITC) by libraries and librarians based on the Internet, World Wide Web, networks, multimedia. It helps us to be a member of international community and gives us information restricted by "Iron Curtain".

- Automation of library processes and the conception of digital (virtual) libraries. New work is now being done in the area of online document access [Woźniak, Miller eds 1998].

- Free editorial market with private sector. It gives us the access to global literary output.

- Application of modern library and information services in education: advanced educational IT, changes of the profile of librarians (more creative), democratic organization of new professional associations and scientific boards [Layzell, Weingand eds. 1997]. We are learning how to build new lobby for the profession and libraries including participation of ecclesiastical and theological libraries and librarians.

- Moral and financial assistance of Western Europe and the United States for Poland as well as Polish help and co-

operation with other Eastern countries. It helps us to become members of world library community [Kocójowa, Zalewski 1996].

2. Present days: brief statistical information

Global statistical information about Poland

In Europe, Poland appears as ninth in size country (312 685 km2) with more than 39 million habitants (seventh place in Europe). Boundary - 3582 km: open sea line - 528 km and on rivers (mainly rivers "Odra" and "Bug") - 1285 km. Current capitale is - Warsaw (Kraków was to 1596/1611- old capital), principal river - "Wisła" (it crosses the country from the south (the Beskid Mountains) to the north (the Baltic Sea). Countries - neighbours: from the west - Germany, from the south - Check Republic, Slovakia, from the east - Ukraine, Belorussia, Lithuania and Russia.

Global statistical information about Polish libraries and users

Polish readers - only ca.7,5 millions; libraries - ca.33 thous. at the beginning nineties - more then 40 thous. but some of the smallest and weak - have been closed), collections of the books - ca. 400 millions volumes, library and information workers - ca. 100 thous. About 21 percent of the adult population uses public libraries, only 14 percent read more than twenty four books yearly. It means that the majority of the adult population do not read even a book per year. The most important book and library centres are in Warsaw (National Library founded in 1928 y.) and Kraków (the oldest academic library of 14th C.), as well in Wrocław, Poznań, Łódź, Gdańsk and Lublin, mainly in academic libraries.

In comparison to West European countries - Polish librarianship is on a middle level. Now, the development of libraries and information services, as well as development of readers and users need, IT applications - have been in our country in strong priority [McCook et al. 1998; Aparac et al.1999].

Unfortunately social opinion about the librarians profession is rather not high because of bad lobby, small salaries and deformations of opinions about the job as well as the traditional mentality of the big part of librarians.

Brief information about theological libraries in Poland

There are total ca. 14 thous. libraries with 16 millions volumes. Special strong centres are in Kraków, Lublin, Warsaw and Poznań, each library contains 100-250 thous. volumes. There are many kinds of these libraries [Bednarczyk 1994]:

1) It is specially necessary to remember the eight main libraries of higher theological education schools in:

- **Kraków**

- **The Main Library of Papieska Akademia Teologiczna [The Papal Academy of Theology - acronym PAT]**, established in 1981, before 1954-1980 part of The Papal Theological Faculty; other books of Jagiellonian Library because foundation Theological Faculty at Kraków Academy at 1 January 1397 by Saint Polish Queen Jadwiga [Hedwig] of Anjou [Przybyszewski 1997]. This Theological Faculty in Kraków was removed from Jagiellonian University by communists 11 August 1954 and in thus time part of the books was sending to Library of The Academy of Catholic Theology in Warsaw.

The Main Library of PAT created in 1995 editorial board and new scientific journal "FIDES. Biuletyn Bibliotek Kościelnych" [FIDES. Bulletin of Ecclesiastical Libraries]. Number 1-2 1997 contains bibliography of publications relating to this type of libraries from XVIII C. to 1997 including 855 records compiled by Małgorzata Janiak and Krystyna Bednarska-Ruszajowa.

- **Library of Paters of Societas Jesu [Jesus Society],** convent established 1579 in Kraków, reactivated after cassation in 19 C. and organized this library.

- **Lublin**

- **The Main Library of The Catholic University in Lublin (acronym KUL)**, established 1918. This university produces the oldest Polish journal of theological libraries: "Archiwa, Biblioteki i Muzea Kościelne" [Ecclesiastical Archives, Libraries and Museums] from 1959 to present 72 vol.

- **Warsaw**

- The Main Library of Akademia Teologii Katolickiej (acronym ATK) [The Academy of Catholic Theology], established in 1954 (the books partly from Teological Faculty of the Jagiellonian University and Warsaw University) ; it received (from 1th October 1999) university level and the name of the famous Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński.

- The Main Library of Chrześcijańska Akademia Teologiczna (acronym ChAT) [The Christian Theological Academy], established in 1954.

- The Library of Papieski Wydział Teologiczny [The Papal Theological Faculty] in Warsaw, established in 1973, 2nd February.

There are also libraries of The Papal Theological Faculties in **Poznań** and in **Wrocław,** both established in 1974.

ALSO we must know that:

2) The power of Polish Catholic libraries is determined by **40 libraries of Polish Catholic Dioceses**.

3) Middle level of education is represented by **Training College of Priesthood** (Ecclesiastical Seminars) **with its libraries in 15 Polish towns**, each library over more than 100 thous. volumes, total near 1,4 millions volumes; the oldest libraries in Olsztyn and Poznań.

4) Numerous **ecclesiastical libraries** (ca. 13,500 with collections near 14 millions volumes) divided into two kind of libraries:

- Parish Church Libraries in 9352 parishes. These libraries are now in process. There are non-profit organizations run by catholic volunteers, mainly women. We should expect that these libraries with a catholic centre of culture will be complementary to government public libraries in the nearest future.

- The Libraries of Collegiate and Libraries of Churches - ca. 3740, the oldest in Gniezno (11th C.), and in Kraków (12th C.)- where there are two the earliest manuscript-inventories kept in the Eastern Europe: one from 1101 y. and second from 1110 y.

5) **Convent libraries** - ca 3500, established with *scriptoria* (coping rooms) from 13th C. and later by Paters Benedictine, Cistercian, Franciscan, Dominican, Paulite (in Częstochowa established in 14th C. - famous because of the picture of the Black Our Lady, and others.

Now in Poland, we have 837 houses for catholic monks with libraries and 2746 houses for nuns - mainly with libraries. The oldest established in 14th C. to 17th C. The most known are: in Staniątki (Saint Benedict SS), in Kraków (different kinds) and in Stary Sącz (Saint Clara SS).

In Poland, we have very rich literature about Catholic Church in Poland connected with ecclesiastical libraries, for example: "Słownik polskich teologów katolickich" [Dictionary of Polish Catholic Teologians], ed. Hieronim Wyczawski 1981-82, Ludwik Grzebień 1983, vol. 1-7. Warsaw: ATK 1981-1983; "Encyklopedia katolicka" [Catholic Encyclopaedia], vol. 1-8. Lublin: TN KUL 1973-2000. The most of these information sources were published after 1989 y.:

- „Leksykon zakonów w Polsce" [Lexicon of Convents in Poland] by Bogumił Łoziński, Warsaw:KAI 1998;

- „Kto jest kim w kościele" [Who is who in the Roman Catolic Church] by Grzegorz Polak. Warsaw: KAI 1999;

- „Biskupi kościoła w Polsce 965-1999 słownik biograficzny" [Bishops of the Catholic Church in Poland 965-1999 a biographic dictionary] 2nd ed. by Piotr Nitecki. Warsaw: Pax 2000;
- „Encyklopedia instytutów życia konsekrowanego i stowarzyszeń" [Encyclopaedia of the institutes and associations of consecrated] by Mirosław Daniluk. Lublin:KUL 2000.

3. New law, standardization, automation - road to the democratization of libraries

New Third Polish Republic opens new possibilities and conditions to the development of libraries. The special role is being played by more democratic law. Everything began in 1988/1989 when "The Round Table Agreements" brought freedom also for libraries.

New situation was stabilized by numerous very important Polish Law Acts:

- 1989 7th April - New law about free organization of the public associations
- 1990 11th April - This Act means the end of censorship in Poland and new press law
- 1990 19th July - The Act of the Protection of the National Heritage
- 1994 4th February - Copyright Law and Neighbouring Rights: **no legal barriers to the access to information and collections**
- **1994** 19th March - Letter of His Holiness John Paul II **Commission of Culture about ecclesiastical libraries**
- 1996 7th November - Act of Legal Deposit
- 1996 21 November - Act about museums
- 1997 2nd April - New Polish Constitution
- 1997 25th April - Act about Polish Academy of Science
- 1997 27th June - The Library Act

- 1998 - Act of new administrative organization and partition with date of realisation: 1st January 1999 (from 49 to 16 provinces).

In practice, it means: librarians and users of libraries should increase the skills of adaptability compatible with democratic ideas: not more political restrictions and propaganda in library collections (before 30-40 percent of public library collections had it obligatory) and connected with access for users without closed special bookstores, freedom of the press and publishing, privatization of the book market, private schools, respect for the needs of minorities, etc.[Kocójowa, Bobiński 1996].

The new independent professional associations introduce these ideas and follow the latest organizational and operational forms in accordance with the current European tendencies. Among the most important such new organizations there are [Kocójowa 1995]:

- Polskie Towarzystwo Bibliologiczne - acronym PTB (The Polish Bibliological Association) established in 1989 as experts organization;
- Polskie Towarzystwo Czytelnicze - acronym PTCz (The Polish Readers Association) established in 1991;
- Polskie Towarzystwo Informacji Naukowej - acronym PTIN (The Polish Association of Scientific Information) established in 1992.
- Federacja Bibliotek Kościelnych FIDES (Federation of Ecclesiastical Libraries FIDES) operated since 1991, confirmated at 1995 [Bednarczyk 2000, p.108].

Libraries sponsored by the Roman Catholic Church are now officially recognized and allowed to grow and develop. However, since over 90 percent of Poles are catholic, their impact must be important. This Church has acknowledged their importance and they have been opened up for wider access and use. New libraries have been established in local parishes and by catholic organizations. Foreign catholic libraries, Polish catholic

community abroad and His Holiness Pope John Paul II himself contributed significantly to these changes.

Another recent development of Polish libraries in the nineties has been caused by the acceptance of international standards, particularly in library automation. The use of international standards concerning bibliographic description, bibliographic format, or international cataloging rules triggers new view on international cooperation with respect to knowledge organization improvement. It started in the eighties, but has proceeded at rapid pace in recent years, especially in academic libraries. Cooperative ventures was crowned by Council of Academic Library Directors established in 1997. Foreign firms negotiated with Poland the cost of library integrated systems and organized trainings for librarians. The Melon Foundation made financial help. New Polish Komitet Badań Naukowych (acronym - KBN) [State Committee for Scientific Research] and Fundacja na Rzecz Nauki Polskiej [Foundation for Polish Science] co-ordinated all-Polish efforts connected with modernization and automation of libraries.

The most popular foreign integrated systems in Poland were implemented in huge, mainly academic libraries [Maj, Nahotko, Szczęch 1996; Woźniak, Miller eds.1998]:

- VTLS - Virginia Tech Library System (more than 54 libraries in Poland). Inter-university consortium was created in 1992 in Gdańsk, Lublin (including Catholic University), Warsaw, Wrocław and Kraków. In Kraków local network was planned by 14 libraries together with the Main Library of PAT [Czermiński ed.1998];
- HORIZON, formerly known as Dynix Marquis (more than 44 libraries in Poland) - implementations from 1994 in Toruń, Warsaw, Łódź, Poznań;
- ALEPH - Automated Library Expanable Program (more than 11 libraries in Poland) - 4 libraries and their network in Białystok, Olsztyn, Warsaw;
- TINLIB - (more than 11 libraries in Poland), first Main Library of Cracow University of Technology in Kraków 1993,

after that to 1997 in Kielce, Bydgoszcz, Częstochowa, in Warsaw - 3 libraries;
- INNOPAC - National Library in Warsaw, started about 1997.

Polish software was more interesting for special initiative (national bibliography) and rather for middle and small libraries:
- National Library provided MAK system for the needs of Polish national current bibliography. It was chosen by more than 340 libraries including 80 theological libraries of all-Polish FIDES Federation gathering ecclesiastical, convent as well as theological school libraries;
- PROLIB - 30 libraries from 1994 (14 in Silesian Region: Higher Schools in Katowice, Sosnowiec, Gliwice); public libraries (Tarnowskie Góry, Tychy, Jastrzebie Zdrój) and information centers;
- School libraries prefers the system MOL/LIBRA (ca. 250 libraries);
- Public and pedagogical libraries use mainly the system LECH (name of a Polish prince) - 87 libraries, or SOWA (means: owl) - 235 libraries.

Implementation of these systems, the new model of work in libraries and the role of librarians, the needs of users, facilities of Internet and World Wide Web and other technological progress caused the development of international contacts [Kocójowa, Zalewski, eds.1996]. So in Poland, we know how useful is moral and financial assistance of the United States and Western Europe, for example:
- Participation of west librarians in international conferences in Poland and Polish librarians abroad;
- Consultations;
- Research grants, scholarship, exchange programs;
- Joint research or educational projects;
- Joint publications and conferences;
- Foreign professional visitors (scholars, experts);

- Participation in international professional associations for example membership in: International Federation of Library Associations - acronym IFLA, Federation International for Information and Documentation - acronym FID, American Library Association - acronym ALA, American Theological Library Association - acronym ATLA, Bibliotheques Europeennes de Theologie - acronym BETH, and in other scientific boards.

We could observe the technological and pragmatic limits which call for more democratic, new mental and knowledge vision of library work including future information infrastructure, virtual libraries, management of information sources with strong electronic resources, strategic planning and lifelong education for librarians and users- both members of information society of XXI C.

4. Growing globalization of professional education

Global view of the library and information science (LIS) education in Poland

New library policy based on free access to ideas, library collections and services needs a new profile of librarians. Librarians and information specialists will be a vital part of forthcoming epoch named Information Age. Schools of librarianship and information science in Poland must try to establish, implement and promote these new ideas and to require changes in the mentality of future and current workers. An essential turn in the development of the subject of studies and methods of teaching set in the nineties. Transformation of Polish universities after new university law without rules of centralization also provides new, global standards in librarianship and information science education. At first it was happened mainly in two universities (together we have 13 centers of the LIS education) : in Warsaw and in Kraków. Its started with the

modernization of specialization programme offered within master studies (5 years) and postdiploma studies (1 year after MA.). Co-operation in automation of libraries, specially by Institute of Librarianship and Information Science of the Jagiellonian University, was aimed at the implementation of higher Information Technology Communication (ITC) and organization of modern computer laboratories after 1995.The present curriculum was based on analysis of the teaching-programmes of many foreign universities in the context of globalization of librarianship and information and users needs, as well as the international role of English language.

The next step to international level of librarianship and information science studies in Poland was through the introducing of two level studies (Bachelor /Licenciat degree after 3 years of studies and after that master degree - 2 years) in Warsaw University, Toruń University and Jagiellonian University. Working in European exchange program Tempus or Socrates these universities accepted ECTS (European Credit Transfer Standard) and began strong activities in the field of accreditation of yours schools on official Polish way (Uniwersytecka Komisja Akredytacyjna - acronym UKA [Council of Accreditation for Universities].

So, in Poland, in these universities the obligatory programme of studies librarianship and information science is more comparative to other western countries. The Wrocław University, one of the oldest in Poland in LIS education, is in the process of transition. Main subjects of Polish LIS studies, for example in Jagiellonian University, are now: collection development policy, legal issues in LIS, management and promotion in librarianship, public relations, information systems management, multimedia, databases, World Wide Web, Internet, business information, computer networks, thesauruses - indexing, bibliographical description in international standards, information sources, search and retrieval of information, electronic publishing, cultural function of the books and libraries in communication process, methodological studies, readership, users need studies, teaching of information science and others.

Education and research in the field of theological libraries in the LIS Institute of the Jagiellonian University

Librarians from theological libraries are warmly welcome as students as well a teachers of librarianship and information science at The Jagiellonian University because of our specialization in this field education. Specially our students are interested in the theological library as social institutions and current needs of its users. We have very good experiences in both roles - as student and as teachers: for example Rev. Jan Bednarczyk, PhD, one of the best of my individual student. Today, he is a very popular and useful teacher of special theological library programme in the Institut of Librarianship and Information Science of the Jagiellonian University.

Institute of Librarianship and Information Science of The Jagiellonian University with co-operation of the Main Library of PAT in Kraków promoted master's- theses connected with ecclesiastical and theological libraries in Poland. In this case our students completed scientific descriptions of several topics:

- Current foreign journals in ecclesiastical libraries in Kraków (rev. Jan Bednarczyk, 1988);
- Books in ecclesiastical art in Kraków (Monika Rząsa, 1991);
- Books about sacral monuments edited in Kraków 1867-1914 (Jolanta Wilczyńska, 1991);
- Relations of the legal and unlegal press in Kraków about second pilgrimage of Pope John Paul II to Poland in 1983 y. (Ewa Stefańska, 1994);
- Weeks of the Christian Culture in Kraków 1980-1991 (Małgorzata Stanula 1994);
- Library and bibliographical activity of Pater Romuald Gustaw (1911-1976) (Pater Nazariusz - Zbigniew Popielarski, 1994);
- Automation of the Main Library of the Papal Academy of Theology in Kraków (Przemysław Ruszaj, 1996);

- Ecclesiastical libraries in Kraków in 1995 y. (Teresa Kowalska, 1996);
- Cultural, educational and editorial activity of Pastoral Liturgical Services and organization "Light and Life" in Kraków 1967-1998 (Danuta Prokuska, 1998);
- Books collection of Zofia Roszek, PhD in the Main Library of the Papal Academy of Theology in Kraków (Katarzyna Ochał, 1999);
- Main Library of the Papal Acadamy of Theology in Kraków - brief description (Monika Zub, 1999).

Other special project of the master-thesis of the LIS Institute of the Jagiellonian University with co-operation of Library of the Liturgical Institute of PAT in Kraków has been bound up with Saint Polish Queen Jadwiga of Anjou (1374-1399) foundress of Jagiellonian University as well with Blessed Michał Giedroyć (about. 1420-1485) from Church St. Mark in Kraków [Kocójowa ed.2000]:

- St. Jadwiga the Queen in literary output 1933-1939 (Maciej Gradowski, 1998);
- Iconography of St. Jadwiga the Queen in editions 1801-1918 (Danuta Rebech, 1999);
- St. Jadwiga the Queen in Polish prose 1793-1918 (Grzegorz Galimski, 1999);
- Cult of St. Jadwiga the Queen in the light of the Catholic books and journals published after the second world war in Kraków (Beata Jasnos, 1999);
- The year of canonization of St. Jadwiga the Queen in the light of Polish publications in 1997 y. (Inga Dziewońska - Leśniak, 1999);
- Cult of St. Jadwiga the Queen on the Polish eastern borderland between 1918 and 1939 in the light of petitions for her beatification (Renata Szczepaniak, 1999);
- Iconography of Blessed Michał Giedroyć in editions 1605-1999 (Anna Sałosz, 2000);
- The prayers to Blessed Michał Giedroyć printed 1615-2000 (Agata Jaśko, 2000).

Scientific research in the field of librarianship and information science which are carrying at the Librarianship and Information Science Institute of The Jagiellonian University are interdisciplinary and humanistic, connected with social communication and concerning the following issues:

-   The books and library in social communication process (information circulation, journals, virtual libraries), information concerning local authorities, management and marketing of institutions of the books and information science, work with readers and users, role of the libraries and the information centers in process of democratization.
-   The issues of theory, methodology and education in the context of the books study and scientific information.
-   Among others, LIS Institute edits two series under my direction: "Prace z bibliotekoznawstwa i informacji naukowej" [Studies in Librarianship and Information Science]from 1985 to2000 - 6 vol. ISSN 1230-70-25; and "Materiały Edukacyjne Bibliotekoznawstwa i Informacji Naukowej Uniwersytetu Jagiellońskiego" [Research Reports of Librarianship and Information Science of The Jagiellonian University] from 1995 to 2000 - 12 vol. ISSN 1505-92-86.
-   There are all-Polish and international conferences organized by our Institute each year and connected with global modern topics of librarianship and information services.
-   We produce studies / databases about books, libraries, information sources, mainly electronic, for example: the list of Polish electronic journals, list of the manuscripts being collected in Vilnius, virtual LIS' library.

There are important place in these topic for various research on theological libraries, specially for observing its new role in the world of modern libraries and social communication. In Kraków, local co-operation of the LIS Jagiellonian University with theological libraries, joint research, conferences and educational programme gathered new, interesting and valuable conclusions,

which can be used to develop Polish librarianship and information science today and in the future.

CONCLUSION

Following, there are the most important achievements of libraries in Poland on the turn of the 20th C.:

Building art of tolerance, compromise, negotiation, integration inter libraries and society;

Protection of safeguard the rights of catholic religion, national minorities, women, children, deaf, blind and infirmity people;

Leave conventional ways of thinking;

- Understand and propagate the necessity of modernizing and standardizing of libraries services;
- Spreading of the LIS long-life education with preference of distance education;
- Development of global research and comparative international librarianship and education;
- Librarians and library must be more visible in society;
- It is necessary to have more information dealing with ecclesiastical libraries and librarians
- Growing role of parishes' libraries and information technology communication;
- Open-mind to challenges facing modern society.

Notes

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