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Selected indicators of the range and use of printed resources in Polish academic libraries

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Keywords

Poland, Statistics, University libraries

Abstract

Reports the results of a survey rating the amount and degree of the utilisation of printed materials in Polish academic libraries. The results which are presented by type (for example chemical, biological, technical libraries etc.) as well as by function (research libraries and libraries of educational institutions), concern the number of materials, including both books and periodicals. The authors include the amount of material in English as well as in other foreign languages. Figures illustrating the annual increase of these materials are also included. In addition, the article offers data which cover a number of issues, including the range of materials which were ordered at the request of users, the time of cataloguing, the number of loans, the number of unfilled orders, the extent of the utilisation of the collections, the number of interlibrary loans, as well as the relegation of outdated materials. Finally, the survey reveals information on the number of libraries which research into user needs, the number of libraries which are open on Saturdays and Sundays, and the number of libraries which provide special services such as weekend loans.

Introduction

The goal of this research was to establish the amount of printed materials in Polish academic libraries and the extent to which they are utilised. It was decided to conduct the research by means of a questionnaire and to include all academic libraries in Poland. The survey examines data relevant to 143 libraries that were gathered by distributing questionnaires by post in 1995. The questionnaires were sent to libraries that had been divided into three groups:

- (1) university libraries (11 questionnaires were distributed, and eight completed questionnaires were returned);
- (2) special libraries - libraries of the institutes (e.g. institutes of chemistry, of computer science, of biology etc.) of the Polish Academy of Sciences (75 questionnaires were distributed, and 43 were returned);
- (3) libraries of institutions of professional higher education - technical universities, medical schools, academies of physical education, academies of music, agricultural universities, academies of economics (57 questionnaires were distributed, and 46 were returned).

The survey covered research goals noted above, and the questionnaire touched upon the following areas:

- the state of library collections in 1994, with respect to Polish, foreign and English language publications and Polish, foreign and English language periodicals;
- library acquisitions during the years 1990-1994 (divided as above);
- the average processing time for each item (the average length of time from arrival at the library to the time it becomes available to borrowers);
- the number of borrowers in the years 1990-1994 (divided into on-site use and take home loans), the average processing time for orders, and the number of orders which were not filled, were also included;
- interlibrary loans for the years 1990-1994 (divided into loans to other Polish libraries, loans to foreign libraries, loans from other Polish libraries, loans from foreign libraries, percentage of orders filled for other libraries and by other libraries) and also the average processing time for a typical loan;
- the percentage of the library's collection in permanent use (estimated);

- percent of annual acquisitions, which were requested by borrowers;
- the number of hours a week the library is available for users (including Saturdays and Sundays);
- special forms of loans (24 hour loans, weekend loans etc.);
- removal of outdated materials (relegation);
- a survey of user needs.

The results were elaborated in terms of area and functional groups, that is they were divided into the following groups of libraries:

- independent libraries of scientific or research institutions (including physics, biology, chemistry, technical and humanities libraries);
- libraries affiliated with education institutions (including university, polytechnic, medical, agricultural, educational and fine arts libraries).

The numerical results are presented as arithmetic means and it was ultimately decided, for practical reasons, not to present the standard deviation as a measure of diffusion. The relatively narrow extent of the data, which rarely included more than ten units, is undoubtedly better characterised by giving the extreme and arithmetic mean values and medians, especially for readers who do not use statistics on a regular basis. The data were placed in tables. Dashes in some places indicate that it was not possible to obtain the data in question.

Collections

Monographs

The results of the survey are shown in Table I. The data concerning the number of volumes and also the extent of annual increases are highly credible, with respect to the ease with which they were obtained. In only a few cases could it be suspected that only the resources of the main library were given (although it was stressed in the questionnaire that data concerning the size of the collections of departmental libraries were also to be given).

It was much more difficult to determine what sort of role the collections in foreign languages play. In most cases the data are estimated, and in university libraries it was completely impossible to obtain these data.

In spite of this, it can be assumed that the information obtained is accurate. Evidence for this is the fact that very similar results were

obtained after establishing the share of the collections in foreign languages in the annual increases. (In the table the arithmetic mean of the annual acquisitions for the years 1990-94 is given.) The collected data form the basis, upon which the completeness of Polish libraries' collections in relation to world resources particularly in terms of annual increases, can be estimated. It is necessary, however, to establish both the degree of duplication of resources, in particular in acquisitions, and the number of different titles already in the collections and being acquired, and not just the number of volumes. Here, however, the researcher is confronted with extreme difficulties, because only a small part of Polish library collections is listed in computer catalogues. The only option is an expensive statistical analysis of appropriately selected samples of collections and acquisitions.

Serials

Estimating the size of periodical collections turned out to be the most difficult task in the entire survey. To a certain degree this is the fault of the authors of the present paper, who did not formulate clearly enough whether individual issues, or titles were to be counted. Although titles are most important for the overall evaluation of collections, it should be realised that library statistics operate on the basis of volumes and that it is easier for library personnel to fill out the questionnaires by giving data that refers to volumes. In effect, most questionnaires provided data that concern volumes. All the same, a certain number of respondents decided to give the number of titles.

Great difficulties were caused by the evaluation of the extent of foreign, especially English language, periodicals in the collections. In Table II, size refers exclusively to volumes. At times, however, it was possible to establish the number of titles. These data are referred to in the text, since they apply to only a few cases and are obtained on the basis of a smaller amount of data than those which refers to volumes.

Polytechnic libraries have 1,320 periodical titles (the average for four libraries) of which 42 per cent are foreign periodicals, 17 per cent of the titles are in English. According to the annual increase in volumes, the amount of titles acquired does not exceed 600. From the comparison, it turns out that for one title, there are about three volumes per year. This is not, however, information obtained on the basis of a large enough sample and it should only be treated as an estimate.

Table I Size and language of collections (monographs) and their annual increase

Type of library	Number of libraries	Collections in 1994 in volumes (1) average (2) minimum (3) median (4) maximum	Collections in 1994-percentage of collections (1) in foreign languages (2) in English	Annual increase in the years 1990-94 (1) average (2) minimum (3) median (4) maximum	Increase in collections in the years 1990-94 percentage of collection: (1) in foreign languages (2) in English
Physics libraries	3	(1) 21,000 (2) 15,000 (3) — (4) 26,000	(1) 88 (2) 88 (data from one library)	(1) 140 (2) 12 (3) 141 (4) 267	(1) 68 (2) 61
Chemistry libraries	7	(1) 9,500 (2) 2,500 (3) 7,600 (4) 27,400	(1) 89 (2) 80	(1) 119 (2) 67 (3) 108 (4) 219	(1) 85 (2) 79
Humanities libraries	10	(1) 50,000 (2) 3,000 (3) 37,000 (4) 145,000	(1) 28 (2) 15	(1) 813 (2) 54 (3) 715 (4) 3,100	(1) 25 (2) 14
Technical libraries	6	(1) 10,000 (2) 611 (3) 5,410 (4) 24,400	(1) 58 (2) 48	(1) 124 (2) 84 (3) 84 (4) 165	(1) 53 (2) 40
Biology libraries	17	(1) 17,779 (2) 403 (3) 9,766 (4) 114,489	(1) 76 (2) 72	(1) 200 (2) 31 (3) 88 (4) 1,295	(1) 64 (2) 56
University libraries	9	(1) 1,043,000 (2) 410,000 (3) 796,000 (4) 2,530,000	—	(1) 14,500 (2) 4,972 (3) 17,261 (4) 27,600	(1) 15 (2) 4 (one library)
Polytechnic libraries	12	(1) 370,000 (2) 111,000 (3) 251,000 (4) 937,000	(1) 25 (2) 7	(1) 6,500 (2) 2,000 (3) 4,300 (4) 16,200	(1) 13 (2) 9
Agricultural libraries	6	(1) 243,000 (2) 114,000 (3) 190,000 (4) 430,000	(1) 30 (2) 20	(1) 3,720 (2) 1,800 (3) 2,000 (4) 8,000	(1) 16 (2) 9
Fine arts libraries	6	(1) 200,000 (2) 14,000 (3) 16,000 (4) 28,000	(1) 30 (2) 10	(1) 317 (2) 180 (3) 270 (4) 620	(1) 23 (2) 12
Medical libraries	8	(1) 200,000 (2) 56,000 (3) 170,000 (4) 326,000	(1) 28 (2) 23	(1) 3,654 (2) 2,000 (3) 3,300 (4) 6,600	(1) 26 (2) 23
Pedagogical libraries	9	(1) 331,000 (2) 141,000 (3) 241,000 (4) 489,000	(1) 11 (2) 4	(1) 8,000 (2) 4,000 (3) 7,200 (4) 15,000	(1) 6 (2) 5
Physical education libraries	5	(1) 77,000 (2) 37,000 (3) 85,000 (4) 113,000	(1) 16 (2) 12	(1) 2,027 (2) 1,300 (3) 1,400 (4) 2,795	(1) 6 (2) 5

Table II Size and language profile of periodical collections and their annual increase

Type of library	Number of libraries investigated	Numbers of periodicals in volumes in 1994			Annual increase of periodicals in the years 1990-94		Increase in collections in the years 1990-94	
		(1) average	(2) minimum	(3) median	(1) average	(2) minimum	(1) in foreign languages	(2) in English
		(4) maximum	(1) in foreign languages	(2) in English	(3) median	(4) maximum		
Physics libraries	3	(1) 12,000 (2) 5,700 (3) - (4) 17,700 (data from two libraries)	(1) 98	-				
Chemistry libraries	7	(1) 13,850 (2) 4,189 (3) 9,357 (4) 27,824	(1) 93 (2) 83		(1) 214 (2) 89 (3) 179 (4) 372		(1) - (2) 82	
Humanities libraries	10	(1) 17,538 (2) 998 (3) 1,866 (4) 40,000	-		(1) 326 (2) 50 (3) 85 (4) 1,242		(1) 54 (2) 44	
Technical libraries	2	(1) 9,062 (2) 552 (3) - (4) 17,572	(1) 64 (2) 36		(1) 179 (2) 110 (3) - (4) 247		(1) 63 (2) 35	
Biology libraries	17	(1) 11,959 (2) 57 (3) 6,641 (4) 34,130	(1) 86 (2) 69		(1) 345 (2) 61 (3) 220 (4) 925		(1) 80 (2) 67	
University libraries	9	(1) 341,892 (2) 70,777 (3) 444,742 (4) 100,610	-		(1) 6,807 (2) 1,343 (3) 6,135 (4) 14,541		(1) 33 (2) -	
Polytechnic libraries	12	(1) 94,349 (2) 4,729 (3) 75,222 (4) 214,030	(1) 28 (2) -		(1) 1,710 (2) 293 (3) 1,784 (4) 2,599		(1) 54 (2) 37	
Agricultural libraries	6	(1) 90,037 (2) 46,259 (3) 67,000 (4) 189,853	(1) 44 (2) 20		(1) 1,608 (2) 886 (3) 1,390 (4) 3,155		(1) 42 (2) 24	
Fine arts libraries	6	(1) 2,219 (2) 943 (3) 1,378 (4) 4,335	-		(1) 67 (2) 19 (3) 52 (4) 129		(1) 40 (2) -	
Medical libraries	8	(1) 49,810 (2) 11,526 (3) 44,510 (4) 81,999	(1) 59 (2) 54		(1) 650 (2) 269 (3) 495 (4) 1,059		(1) 61 (2) 54	
Pedagogical libraries	9	(1) 28,525 (2) 11,560 (3) 24,633 (4) 41,200	(1) 24 (2) 12		(1) 938 (2) 405 (3) 952 (4) 1,728		(1) 19 (2) 9	
Physical education libraries	5	(1) 14,988 (2) 5,660 (3) 17,631 (4) 21,672	(1) 26 (2) 9		(1) 609 (2) 144 (3) 593 (4) 624		(1) 20 (2) -	

The difference was probably caused by the fact that some libraries gave the number of titles in their collections, and not those that were subscribed to in a given year. An attempt was made to establish whether the number of collected periodicals in 1994 deviated from the arithmetic mean of the number of collected periodicals in the years 1990-94. In the case of polytechnic libraries the result indicated that, in 1994, 24 per cent fewer volumes of Polish periodicals were obtained (there was an average increase of ten titles); 21 per cent fewer volumes of foreign periodicals (about 65 fewer titles on average were purchased) and 15 per cent fewer English language volumes (on average there was an increase of 77 titles).

In medical school libraries, there are, on average, about 1,517 periodical titles (currently about 200-250 titles are collected; one library gave the number as 731). In 1994, 22 per cent more volumes of Polish periodicals than the average from the years 1990-94 (an increase of 81 titles); a 4 per cent increase in volumes of foreign periodicals (30 more titles); and a 16 per cent increase in the number of English language volumes (60 more titles).

The average university library had 2,349 titles (34 per cent foreign and 17 per cent in English) and currently has 2,270. There was a fall in the number of volumes acquired of foreign periodicals of 7 per cent (a 28 per cent increase in titles), and an increase in the number of volumes of Polish periodicals (a 22 per cent fall in the number of titles).

In college of education libraries, the number of collected titles is currently about 300-350 (one library indicated that it has 431 titles in its collections). There was a fall in the number of volumes acquired in the case of Polish periodicals of 19 per cent, of foreign periodicals 28 per cent, and of English language periodicals 20 per cent.

In agricultural college libraries, collections currently contain about 500 to 550 periodical titles. There was a decrease in the number of volumes acquired of 29 per cent in the case of Polish periodicals, of 26 per cent in the case of foreign periodicals, and of 39 per cent in the case of English language periodicals.

In physical education libraries, there are currently about 200 to 220 titles (two libraries gave exact numbers of 166 and 194). There was a decrease of volumes acquired of Polish periodicals of 26 per cent and of foreign periodicals of 16 per cent.

Special technical libraries currently have on average about 60 titles. In three libraries during the years 1990-1994, a decrease in the number of volumes acquired of 68 per cent was

observed: of 21 Polish titles and 38 foreign titles, and one English language title.

Special biology libraries had collections of 100-120 titles on average (in the collection of an average library there were issues of 234 titles). In the years 1990-94, the number of English language volumes declined by 4 per cent, the number of other foreign language volumes by 5 per cent while there was a 2 per cent increase in Polish periodicals. Three libraries indicated a decrease in the number of Polish titles acquired of 1 per cent, of foreign titles of 13 per cent, and English language titles of 18 per cent during the above mentioned period.

Special chemistry libraries had an average of 70 periodical titles in their collections. In the years 1990-94, the number of volumes increased by 37 per cent, according to data from three libraries.

Humanities libraries had on average between 100 and 250 titles. In the years covered by this investigation, the number of collected Polish volumes fell by 19 per cent, English language volumes by 25 per cent and other foreign language volumes by 20 per cent. An increase of ten titles for Polish periodicals was noted, as were an eight-title increase of English language periodicals and a decrease of ten titles among other foreign language periodicals.

Percentage of collections based upon user requests and the degree of use of the library collections

Table III contains data concerning the share of collections based upon user requests, an evaluation of the percentage of collections used, and also data concerning research on user needs.

The information in Table III is composed of individual estimates given by librarians. The results therefore are more a picture of the opinions of the librarians themselves, than the true situation. All the same, if the experience of library personnel is taken into consideration, it should be expected that the data do not significantly differ from the true state of affairs. The small range of variation of the mean, which characterises the degree to which collections are utilised in all libraries, is interesting. Perhaps this results from the inclination to avoid marginal evaluations. It should be clarified here that the concept "collections continually utilised" was not exactly defined. It was felt that precise numeric parameters could not be utilised, and that all respondents would understand the idea behind the expression in a similar manner.

Book selection (relegation)

Exact information is given in Table IV.

Table III Percentage of collections acquired due to user requests and the degree of use of collections

Type of library	Number of libraries in study	Percent of collections on order for users in the general increase of collections	The use of collections (estimate of librarians)	Research of the needs of readers (a) number of libraries, which conduct systematic research (b) number of libraries, which conduct sporadic research
Physics libraries	3	(1) 66 (2) 25 (3) 50 (4) 100	(1) 59 (2) 30 (3) 60 (4) 80	(a) 1
Chemistry libraries	7	(1) 99 (2) 95 (3) 100 (4) 100	(1) 52 (2) 10 (3) 40 (4) 80	(b) 1
Humanities libraries	10	(1) 53 (2) 1 (3) 70 (4) 100	(1) 53 (2) 20 (3) 60 (4) 80	(a) 3 (b) 3
Technical libraries	6	(1) 82 (2) 40 (3) 90 (4) 100	(1) 45 (2) 35 (3) 40 (4) 60	(b) 1
Biology libraries	17	(1) 71 (2) 3 (3) 80 (4) 90	(1) 52 (2) 5 (3) 50 (4) 100	(a) 3 (b) 7
University libraries	9	(1) 32 (2) 1 (3) 20 (4) 90	(1) 34 (2) 12 (3) 35 (4) 50	(a) 2 (b) 6
Polytechnic libraries	12	(1) 65 (2) 15 (3) 75 (4) 95	(1) 48 (2) 30 (3) 60 (4) 80	(a) 3 (b) 6
Agricultural libraries	6	(1) 41 (2) 5 (3) 30 (4) 80	(1) 46 (2) 39 (3) 40 (4) 60	(b) 3
Fine arts libraries	6	(1) 43 (2) 20 (3) 35 (4) 70	(1) 60 (2) 25 (3) 40 (4) 80	(a) 1 (b) 2
Medical libraries	8	(1) 40 (2) 23 (3) 34 (4) 60	(1) 55 (2) 19 (3) 60 (4) 70	(a) 2 (b) 4
Pedagogical libraries	9	(1) 22 (2) 5 (3) 25 (4) 50	(1) 45 (2) 30 (3) 45 (4) 60	(a) 2 (b) 5
Physical education libraries	5	(1) 21 (2) 10 (3) 15 (4) 40	(1) 60 (2) 50 (3) 60 (4) 75	(b) 3

Table IV Removal of outdated materials (relegation)

Type of library	Number of libraries in study	Number of libraries conducting material removal	Share of material removed as a percentage of total collection (1) average (2) minimum (3) media (4) maximum	Share of removed materials in annual turnover
Physics libraries	3	none	—	—
Chemistry libraries	7	2 sporadically	—	—
Humanities libraries	10	1+6 sporadically	—	—
Technical libraries	8	1+3 sporadically	—	—
Biology libraries	17	2+5 sporadically	(1) 1 (2) 0.5 (3) 0.5 (4) 2	one library indicated 10, one library indicated 110
University libraries	9	6	(1) 0.4 (2) 0.1 (3) 0.2 (4) 1.2	(1) 34 (2) 5 (3) 10 (4) 90
Polytechnic libraries	12	11	(1) 2 (2) 0.02 (3) 0.9 (4) 5	(1) 37 (2) 1.2 (3) 33 (4) 95
Agricultural libraries	6	5+1 sporadically	(1) 1 (2) 0.1 (3) 0.3 (4) 3	(1) 27 (2) 10 (3) 20 (4) 63
Fine arts libraries	6	3+1 sporadically	one library indicated 0.3	one library indicated 18
Medical libraries	8	6	(1) 1.2 (2) 0.3 (3) 1 (4) 2	(1) 67 (2) 50 (3) 50 (4) 100
Pedagogical libraries	9	8	(1) 0.7 (2) 0.2 (3) 0.6 (4) 1.5	(1) 28 (2) 7 (3) 20 (4) 55
Physical education libraries	5	3	(1) 0.5 (2) 0.3 (3) 0.3 (4) 0.9	(1) 15 (2) 7 (3) 10 (4) 30

Cataloguing

Cataloguing time

The data, are given in Table V, is completely estimated.

Circulation

Circulation in the years 1990-94

The results are collected in Table VI. The greatest doubts are created by the figures concerning on-site facilities. In libraries with open stacks, only estimated numbers can be

given. The results in the table are probably lower than in reality. It would be difficult to establish what percent of requests were not filled. Some libraries gave estimated figures, some gave precise figures, and some did not give any figures.

Figures dealing with services for one year are given in the table, but on the basis of data from five years. During this period the number of users in educational libraries increased by about 50 per cent (medical school libraries are an exception). This notable increase is related to an increase in the number of students.

Table V Cataloguing time

Type of library	Number of libraries in study	Average cataloguing time	Maximum cataloguing time	Minimum cataloguing time
Physics libraries	3	2 days	4 days	1 day
Chemistry libraries	7	2 days	7 days	1 day
Humanities libraries	10	15 days	90 days	1 day
Technical libraries	6	1 day	1 day	1 day
Biology libraries	17	6 days	30 days	1 day
University libraries	9	6 months	15 months	2 months
Polytechnic libraries	12	1 month	6 months	3 days
Agricultural libraries	6	1 month	2 months	5 days
Fine arts libraries	6	1 month	6 months	1 day
Medical libraries	8	10 days	1 month	1 day
Pedagogical libraries	9	43 days	4 months	1 month
Physical education libraries	5	7 days	7 days	1 day

Table VI Number of loans in the years 1990-94

Type of library	Number of libraries in study	Number of on-site loans (in-library use)			Number of take home loans			Percent of requests which were not filled		
		min.	max.	ave.	min.	max.	ave.	min.	max.	ave.
Physics libraries	3	—	—	43,000 (1 lib.)	96	6,450	2,444	—	—	—
Chemistry libraries	7	400	33,000	9,755	13	10,000	4,000	5	5	5
Humanities libraries	10	452	27,600	7,000	127	11,347	2,500	2	20	9
Technical libraries	6	483	8,000	2,706	563	1,625	1,050	1	10	4
Biology libraries	17	81	22,400	3,942	213	9,600	2,677	7	31	17
University libraries	9	116,000	674,000	357,000	5,000	273,000	125,000	2	28	14
Polytechnic libraries	12	56,000	505,000	219,000	20,000	297,000	99,000	2	46	18
Agricultural libraries	6	16,000	134,000	61,000	17,000	134,000	54,000	2	20	11
Fine arts libraries	6	500	8,000	4,000	2,400	25,000	10,000	3	59	21
Medical libraries	8	13,200	160,000	50,000	9,600	131,000	40,000	2	3	2
Pedagogical libraries	9	23,000	293,000	106,000	21,000	209,000	73,000	4	25	11
Physical education libraries	5	17,000	78,000	37,000	8,000	22,000	14,000	2	16	10

Interlibrary loans

The data concerning the degree of requests – given in Table VII – are mostly estimates. The data concerning the processing time for inter-library loans are also primarily estimates. Data on the number of such loans in one year made on the basis of data from five years are also given in the table.

Types of services and times of access

University libraries are accessible on average 64 hours a week (maximum 75 hours and minimum 49 hours). Only one library is not accessible on Saturdays. Four libraries are also open on Sundays, although one of them is open on Sundays only during exam periods. Six libraries have special services (although some of

them are only sporadically available); three libraries do not perform any special services.

Physical education libraries are open to their users on average 53 hours (minimum 43 hours, maximum 65 hours). Only one is not open on Saturdays, and two are open on Sundays. Four libraries have special types of services.

Medical school libraries are open an average of 64 hours a week. One is open on Sunday. Five libraries have special services, two have them sporadically and one does not have them at all.

Polytechnic libraries are available to users on average 59 hours a week. All are closed on Sundays, and nine are closed on Saturdays. Four have special services, and four have them sporadically.

Agricultural libraries are open 56 hours a week. One is open on Sundays and one is open

Table VII Interlibrary loans

Type of library	Number of libraries in study	Average number of loans to other libraries	Average number of loans to foreign libraries	Average number of loans from other libraries	Average number of loans from foreign libraries	Percentage of requests filled from outside institutions	Percentage of requests filled from outside institutions	Average turnaround time
Physics libraries	3	595	3 (1 library)	31	—	—	70	—
Chemistry libraries	7	130	—	225	7 (1 library)	84	96	Up to 2 weeks
Humanities libraries	10	263	3 (2 libraries)	70	7 (5 libraries)	92	92	—
Technical libraries	6	71	2 (1 library)	217	3 (2 libraries)	91	96	up to 2 weeks
Biology libraries	17	534	2 (4 libraries)	165	4 (3 libraries)	74	83	—
University libraries	9	1,090	81 (7 libraries)	495	84 (8 libraries)	78	76	4 weeks
Polytechnic libraries	12	841	25 (10 libraries)	756	156 (10 libraries)	77	71	26 days
Agricultural libraries	6	418	3 (5 libraries)	666	14 (5 libraries)	70	68	3 weeks
Fine arts libraries	6	48	10 (1 library)	27	2 (4 libraries)	84	84	17 days
Medical libraries	8	1,122	2 (6 libraries)	1,451	60 (6 libraries)	74	76	16 days
Pedagogical libraries	9	49	2 (2 libraries)	241	8 (7 libraries)	64	56	3 weeks
Physical education libraries	5	43	—	143	3 (2 libraries)	88	86	1 month

on Saturdays. Three libraries have special services, two sporadically, and one not at all.

Libraries in fine arts schools are open 37 hours a week. All are closed on Sundays and one is open on Saturdays. Four libraries have special services.

Specialised libraries were not taken into account here, because they have only a few permanent lenders (in general, their collections are not available to students). And although these libraries usually do have special services, there is usually no special need for their collections to be available on Saturdays and Sundays.

contacts with librarians) most of the surveyed indicators seems to have reached a plateau. Large increases have been recorded only for services (exclude interlending). Libraries are called upon to serve a higher number of students.

Polish libraries need programs of co-operation for more efficient use of library resources. Most of the libraries have joined together in automation projects, but all of them are continuing to allocate materials budgets in a traditional manner.

Further reading

- Dudzinska, E. (1995), "Import of serials at a time of economic change", *Polish Libraries Today*, Vol. 3, pp. 35-49, 71.
- (The) *Inventory of Scientific Journals and Other Sources of Scientific Information being Imported into Poland in the Years 1992-98*. <http://www.tech.net.pl/PFJUN/>
- Kaminski, S. (1995), "Contemporary problems of acquisitions in Polish university libraries", *Polish Libraries Today*, Vol. 3, pp. 35-48.

Conclusion

The findings of this study are based on survey data gathered in 1995. Events are happening quickly. Undoubtedly, the fiscal, technological, and political environment in Polish research libraries has changed since 1995. As far as we know (our knowledge is based on