



Poland:

“The network model”

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**For Conference "A New Kind of
Access,,**

**Copenhagen 20-21 January
2005**



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Separate networks of:

- ❖ Libraries
- ❖ Archives
- ❖ Museum



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■ Some statistics

– 33 632 libraries:

- 1180 research,
- 8700 public
- 20879 schools,
- 350 pedagogical
- 2523 special

– 10.250 archives:

- 32 central and regional
- 5635 – institutional
- 4.583 – local governmental bodies

– 665 museums



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Libraries supervised by:

- ❖ **The Ministry of Culture** : (National Library)
- ❖ **Local authorities**: public libraries
- ❖ **Ministry of Education** – research libraries
- ❖ **Ministry of Informatics and Science** – supports all types of libraries by funded projects
- ❖ **Another ministries**



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Museums supervised by

- the Ministry of Culture
- Local authorities
- Private bodies
- Supported also by the Ministry of Informatics and Science



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Archives supervised by

- **The Ministry of Culture:** The Head Office of State Archives
- **institutions** to which those from the network of archives belong



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Professional Associations supporting the networks of:

Libraries:

- **Polish Librarians Association** (Stowarzyszenie Bibliotekarzy Polskich)
- **Union of Polish Libraries** (Związek Bibliotek Polskich)

Archives

- **Union of Polish Archivists** (Związek Archiwistów Polskich)



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Professional Associations supporting the networks of Museums

- **Union of Polish Museums** (Związek Muzeów Polskich),
- **Association of Polish Museums Workers** (Stowarzyszenie Muzealników Polskich),
- **Scientific Association of Polish Archaeologists** (Stowarzyszenie Naukowe Archeologów Polskich)
- **Polish National Committee ICOM**



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Central bodies supporting the networks:

- In Libraries sector:

- **National Library Council** (Krajowa Rada Biblioteczna,
- **Council for the National Library Stock Creation** (Narodowy Zasób Biblioteczny)

- For Archives

- **National Archival Council** (Krajowa Rada Archiwalna

- For Museums

- **National Museum Council** (Krajowa Rada Muzealna)



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Bottom-up approach in creation library network with the main task of catalogues creation:

- **VTLS Group**
- **Library with Horizon**
- **NUKAT – national catalogue**
- **KARO – distributed library catalogue**



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Bottom-up approach:

- **Conference of Academic Libraries**
(With discussion list and Governing body)
- **Conference of Private schools libraries**



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Bottom-up approach:

- **City networks** of libraries implementing computer systems
 - Kraków
 - Lodz
 - Poznan(not Warsaw surprisingly)



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Tradition of cooperation:

- **1946-1953** – common association of libraries and archives
- **Common projects since nineties:**
 - **COINE**
 - **CULTIVATE**
 - **DELOS**
 - **CALIMERA**
 - **MINERVA**



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Advantages of a network organisation

- **Legal framework** allowing cooperation
- **Exchange of ideas and experience**
- The same **standards** used (more appreciated in computerized institutions)



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Challenges of the network model

- **Difficult consensus**
- **Different levels of experience**
- **Changing standards**
- **Competition within the network?**



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Advantages of cooperation between the independent institutions

- Learning from each other
- New ideas
- Better and faster available final product
- User satisfaction



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Challenges of cooperation between the independent institutions

- Different method of work
- Different standards used
- Problems with understanding each other
- Competitions



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Further perspectives

- Will be discussed in February on a seminar planned by the MINERVA project
- Some ideas of creation a new central coordination body for all cultural institutions – but required bottom-up action from the interested institutions



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Challenges:

- Learning a lot about another partners needs, method of work, and expectations



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Advanced plans for local Structural cooperation

- not include all types of institutions yet but refer to the major libraries applying for the EC structural funds



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Plans for regional structural cooperation include cooperation between local consortia of libraries



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Plans for national structural cooperation are the most complicated but would be most beneficial

Some possibilities exist in such plans as:

- Creation of a central coordination body
- Horizontal funds model in preparation at the Ministry of Culture



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Needs of an international structural cooperation

- Coordination
- Preservation
- Access to the hidden resources of an international value.