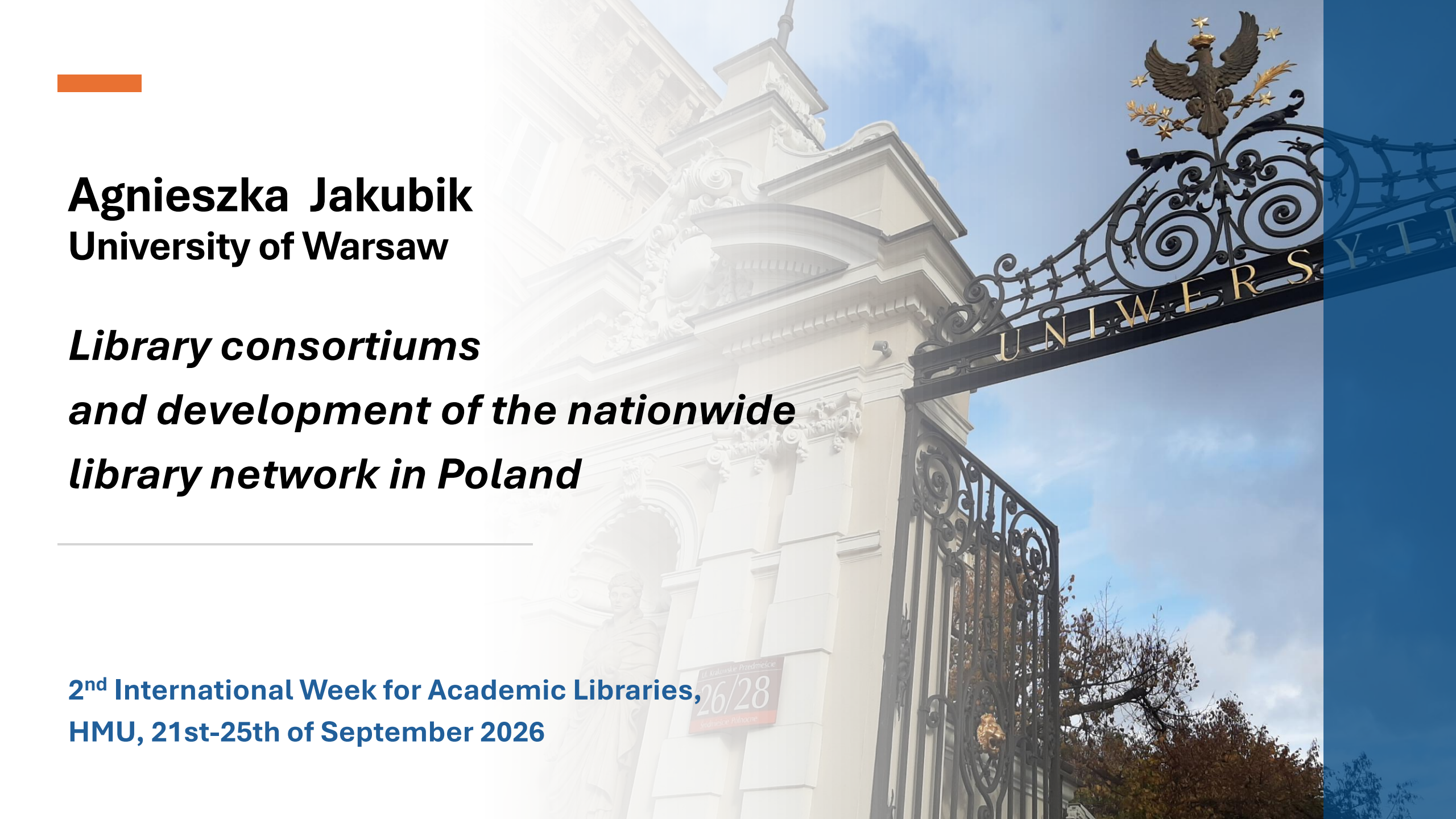




Agnieszka Jakubik
University of Warsaw

***Library consortiums
and development of the nationwide
library network in Poland***

2nd International Week for Academic Libraries,
HMU, 21st-25th of September 2026

University of Warsaw

founded in 1816

located in the very heart of Poland,
in its capital city, Warsaw

25 faculties, 30 research units

over 40 000 students

**2nd International Week for Academic Libraries,
HMU, 21st-25th of September 2026**



University of Warsaw

largest university in Poland

and top research centre in Poland

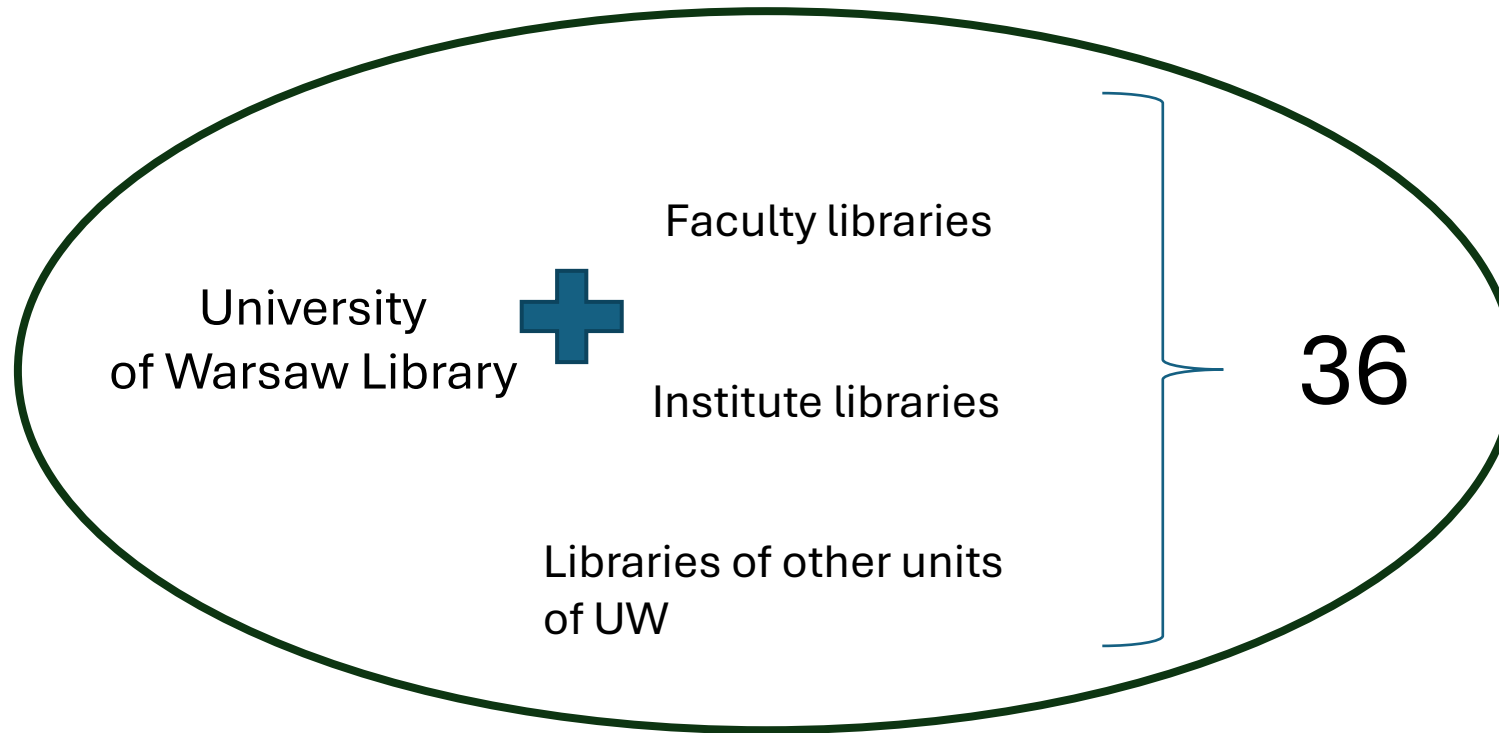
awarded “**HR Excellence in Research**”
by the European Commission

among 3% top universities in the world
according to Times Higher Education,
Quacquarelli Symonds, ARWU rankings;
Shanghai’s Global Ranking **2023 with physics**
and mathematics ranked highest (101–150)

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Library and Information System of the University of Warsaw 2025



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HMU, 21st-25th of September 2026**

Higher education institutions in Poland

352 higher education institutions in Poland

(as of the end of academic year 2024/2025)

135 public

source of data (here and on next slide): GUS, see: stat.gov.pl/obszary-tematyczne/edukacja/edukacja/szkolnictwo-wyzsze-w-roku-akademickim-20242025,8,11.html

List of them you may find here:

[/radon.nauka.gov.pl/dane/instytucje-systemu-szkolnictwa-wyzszego-i-nauki](https://radon.nauka.gov.pl/dane/instytucje-systemu-szkolnictwa-wyzszego-i-nauki)

The list contains the entities of the higher education and science system in Poland, including public and non-public higher education institutions, church higher education institutions, and scientific institutions.

Scientific libraries in Poland and their collections (as of end of 2024)

- circa 1300 scientific libraries
- book collections that included over 100 million volumes
- at least 1/5 are special collections (non-electronic collections such as manuscripts, old prints, microforms, and audio-visual materials)

According to the ***Act of 27 June 1997, on libraries***, the scientific libraries include academic libraries but also:

- The National Library, the biggest public and scientific library in Poland
- libraries of the Polish Academy of Sciences (Polska Akademia Nauk)
- libraries organised by research and development units
- some other libraries, like e.g. Ossoliński National Institute (Ossolineum), founded 1817

Libraries of higher education institutions and their consortia

Libraries of higher education institutions are organisational units within higher education institutions and they operate mainly on the basis of the ***Act of July 2018 – The Law on Higher Education and Science***.

As scientific libraries they undertake numerous activities, aiming at increasing the availability of library services and scientific information.

They may establish consortia, foundations or other agreements.

Important drivers of these activities are both content-related (better access to collections) and economic considerations (reducing costs).

source: National Library of Poland, *Libraries in Poland*, Warsaw 2016

The ***Act of 30 April 2010 on the Principles of Financing Science*** regulates the rules governing the operation of consortia. It states that:

CONSORTIUM *is a group of entities undertaking joint scientific research, development work, or investments serving the needs of scientific research or development work.*

Polish library consortia and main reasons for their formation

Library consortia in Poland may coordinate shared cataloging, digital archiving, and electronic resource licensing among academic and research institutions.

The formation of consortia can be driven by factors such as:

[1.] the purchase and/or implementation of a new system

[2.] collaboration among universities in a specific region

[3.] joint cataloging efforts and collaborative work on union catalogues



[1.]

1992 – the University of Warsaw Library, the Main Library of the University of Gdańsk, the Jagiellonian Library, and the Main Library of the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków decided to purchase the integrated VTLS system.

Consortia and the purchase and/or implementation of a new system

[1.] the purchase and/or implementation of a new system

In the years that followed, other systems appeared, such as **Horizon, Aleph, Tinlib, and Innopac**, and library consortia began to form around the implementation of integrated library systems (**ILS**).

Implementation created **numerous technical and organizational challenges, as well as various theoretical issues (like standardization of formats)**.

Bodies established during this period included the **Inter-University Coordination Team for VTLS Implementation (1993)** or **the Library with Horizon Agreement (1997)**. Groups of libraries using the Aleph system and Upper Silesian libraries using the Prolib system also organized themselves.

source: Danuta Dąbrowska-Charytoniuk (2004):
ebib.pl/publikacje/matkonf/med23/dabrowska.php

Digital Libraries and Regional Cooperation

[2.] collaboration among institutions of specific region

**Poznań Foundation of Scientific Libraries (founded 1996)
and Wielkopolska Digital Library (2002) – first in Poland:**

using homegrown software **dLibra**, or digital library framework;
joint initiative of the Poznań academic community, involves public libraries in Poznań;
regional materials (literature concerning Poznań and the Greater Poland region);
educational resources, and items constituting cultural heritage (selected historical documents and literary works from the collections of Poznań libraries);

see: wbc.poznan.pl

In the first decade of the 21st century the development of digital libraries in Poland (...) was a bottom-up process led by scientific and public libraries. It was not initiated by any central organizations or government authorities. Instead of following obligatory regulations or policies (because such regulations and policies did not exist), libraries willing to create their digital branches were looking for case studies (...)

source: Werla, Mazurek (2011), *Network of Digital Libraries in Poland*, IATUL Proceedings, see: cs.lib.purdue.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1919&context=iatul

Digital Libraries and Regional Cooperation

[2.] collaboration among institutions of specific region

Kraków Library Group (Krakowski Zespół Biblioteczny): kzb.krakow.pl

A long-standing regional alliance of **15 academic libraries** facilitating local interlibrary cooperation and resource management (**from 1994**)

Scientific Libraries Consortium of Kujawsko-Pomorski Region and Kujawsko-Pomorska Digital Library (from 2004): kptbc.umk.pl

Links scientific and academic libraries across the Kuyavian-Pomeranian Voivodeship for joint cataloging and licensing.

The main aim of the project is to create a regional digital library with access to regional materials, especially old prints and manuscripts, and educational resources.

2011: around 30 regional digital libraries

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Digital Library Polona and Patrimonium project

national portal POLONA

Cooperation of the National Library and the Jagiellonian Library

the flagship national digital library, offering free access to millions of digitized cultural texts, see: www.polona.pl

more information: bn.org.pl/en/digital-resources/cbn-polona/

Patrimonium project [2025-2028 edition]:

bn.org.pl/projekty/patrimonium/

ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/projects-database/making-polands-heritage-accessible-to-everyone_en

Upon completion of the project, 145,500 new items will be made available – items that could not previously be released digitally due to conservation or copyright reasons.

Total project value: PLN 98,980,840.62

EU funding: PLN 78,897,628.05

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Polish academic libraries and the idea of union catalogues

[3.] joint cataloging efforts and collaborative work on union catalogues

A significant portion of the collections held by Polish academic libraries **remains invisible online**. Many of these institutions still do not have fully catalogued collections, or this data has not yet been digitised.

Therefore, a **key objective of the Polish digital strategy until 2035 is to ensure access to information** about these collections via **publicly accessible central catalogue systems**.

The strategy was published on 18 June and adopted by the Council of Ministers and signed by Prime Minister Donald Tusk. It sets out the direction of Poland's digital transformation in the nearest future, covering public administration, business, science and culture.

source:

www.cenl.org/national-library-tools-highlighted-in-polands-digital-strategy-to-2035



wer. 3.02

ZAZNACZ KATALOGI

- ☐ ogólne
- ☐ artystyczne
- ☐ ekonomiczne
- ☐ humanistyczne
- ☐ medyczne
- ☐ muzyczne
- ☐ pedagogiczne
- ☐ przyrodnicze
- ☐ rolnicze
- ☐ ścisłe
- ☐ techniczne
- ☐ wych. fiz.
- ☐ cyfrowe

LOKALIZACJA KATALOGU

Polska

MAKSYMALNY CZAS WYSZUKANIA

30 s

LICZBA OPISÓW NA STRONIE

5

☒ Pokaż nieaktywne

Katalog Rozproszony Bibliotek Polskich

- Pomoc
- Profil użytkownika
- Zmień tryb pracy
- O KaRo

Od 14.03.2024 KaRo pracuje na nowym serwerze. Parametry wydajnościowe będą jeszcze dopasowywane. Gdyby występowały problemy, albo ktoś chciał się podzielić uwagami, proszę pisać na adres: umk@karo.umk.pl

Autor/tł./red.

Szukaj

Tytuł

ZAZNACZONO KATALOGÓW: 0 spośród 120 aktywnych

- ☐ NUKAT
- ☐ Biblioteka Narodowa
- Uniwersytety
- ☐ Biblioteka Jagiellońska
- ☐ Biblioteki Uniwersytetu Mikołaja Kopernika w Toruniu i Bydgoszczy
- ☐ Uniwersytet Adama Mickiewicza w Poznaniu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Gdański
- ☐ Uniwersytet Jana Kochanowskiego w Kielcach
- ☐ Uniwersytet Kardynała Stefana Wyszyńskiego w Warszawie
- ☐ Uniwersytet Kazimierza Wielkiego w Bydgoszczy
- ☐ Uniwersytet Łódzki
- ☐ Uniwersytet Opolski
- ☐ Uniwersytet Rzeszowski
- ☐ Uniwersytet Szczeciński
- ☐ Uniwersytet Śląski
- ☐ Uniwersytet w Białymstoku
- ☐ Uniwersytet Warmińsko-Mazurski w Olsztynie
- ☐ Uniwersytet Warszawski
- ☐ Uniwersytet Wrocławski
- ☐ Uniwersytet Zielonogórski
- Uniwersytety techniczne i Politechniki
- ☐ Politechnika Białostocka
- ☐ Politechnika Bydgoska
- ☐ Politechnika Częstochowska
- ☐ Politechnika Gdańska
- ☐ Politechnika Koszalińska
- ☐ Politechnika Krakowska
- ☐ Politechnika Łódzka
- ☐ Politechnika Opolska
- ☐ Politechnika Poznańska
- ☐ Politechnika Rzeszowska
- ☐ Politechnika Śląska
- ☐ Politechnika Warszawska
- ☐ Politechnika Wrocławska
- ☐ Zachodniopomorski Uniwersytet Technologiczny w Szczecinie
- Inne szkoły wyższe
- ☐ Akademia Bialska im. Jana Pawła II
- ☐ Akademia Morska w Szczecinie
- ☐ Akademia Muzyczna w Bydgoszczy
- ☐ Akademia Muzyczna w Łodzi
- ☐ Akademia Muzyczna w Poznaniu
- ☐ Akademia Sztuk Pięknych w Łodzi
- ☐ Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego w Poznaniu
- ☐ Akademia Wychowania Fizycznego we Wrocławiu
- ☐ Archidiecezjalne Wyższe Seminarium Duchowne w Białymstoku
- ☐ Biblioteka Akademii Ignatianum w Krakowie
- ☐ Biblioteka im. Jana Pawła II Wyższego Seminarium Duchownego Diecezji Legnickiej
- ☐ Uniwersytet Artystyczny im. Magdaleny Abakanowicz w Poznaniu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny w Poznaniu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Ekonomiczny we Wrocławiu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Jana Długosza w Częstochowie
- ☐ Uniwersytet Medyczny w Białymstoku
- ☐ Uniwersytet Medyczny w Lublinie
- ☐ Uniwersytet Medyczny w Łodzi
- ☐ Uniwersytet Medyczny w Poznaniu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Medyczny we Wrocławiu
- ☐ Uniwersytet Papieski Jana Pawła II w Krakowie
- ☐ Uniwersytet Przyrodniczo-Humanistyczny w Siedlcach

Central Union Catalogue and digital integration

KaRo

2001

karo.umk.pl

NUKAT = Narodowy Uniwersalny Katalog Centralny (National Universal Union Catalogue)

launched 2002, initiative of **several academic libraries** and **National Library of Poland**

financed with the grant from A.W. Mellon Foundation

descriptions of books, journals, sound recordings, printed music, movies, maps, iconographic documents, ephemera and early imprints

shared cataloging, also by libraries situated abroad: e.g. Rome, Paris

offers **access both to bibliographic and authority records**

3 subject headings (SH) systems: KABA (academic libraries), National Library of Poland SH, and Polish version of Medical SH (MeSH)

information on **nearly complete set of titles published in Poland since 2002** and records for some documents published earlier

NUKAT database is supervised by **NUKAT Center of the University of Warsaw Library**

staff of NUKAT center offers help and advice to **more than 1500 catalogers**

blog.nukat.edu.pl/en

[3.] joint cataloging efforts and collaborative work on union catalogues



What you can get from NUKAT

NUKAT provides information. Anywhere in the world where you can get access to Internet you can also search NUKAT database and find information on the collections of many Polish research libraries - where you can borrow them from, browse them onsite or obtain via interlibrary loan service. NUKAT saves your time as a one-click access to many library catalogs.



Become NUKAT member - why?

Passive or active cooperation with NUKAT union catalog brings many benefits to the library: the possibility of downloading high quality bibliographic and authority records to the local database, access to professional workshops and courses, opportunity of being a member of elite NUKAT librarian community.

Do not wait - learn how to begin cooperation with Polish union catalog!



NUKAT libraries

Browse the list of NUKAT member institutions - maybe your institution can join NUKAT, too? We invite you to consider that! NUKAT is built by the libraries with various collection profiles - libraries of general and technology universities, music, fine arts and physical education universities, medical, military and police universities, church and Polish Academy of Sciences libraries, etc. This results in the multitude of documents recorded in NUKAT database.

Join us

[about NUKAT](#) [Cooperation](#) [NUKAT libraries](#) [Contact us](#)

PL Kontrast Powiększenie

[Learn more](#)

8 446 326

authority records

5 521 112

bibliographic records

24 557 135

downloaded bibliographic records

168

NUKAT member libraries



The University of Warsaw Library
Dobra St 56/66
00-312 Warsaw POLAND

☎ (+48) 22 55 25 351

☎ (+48) 22 55 25 330

✉ nukat@uw.edu.pl

NUKAT Center

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Logotypes

Widgets

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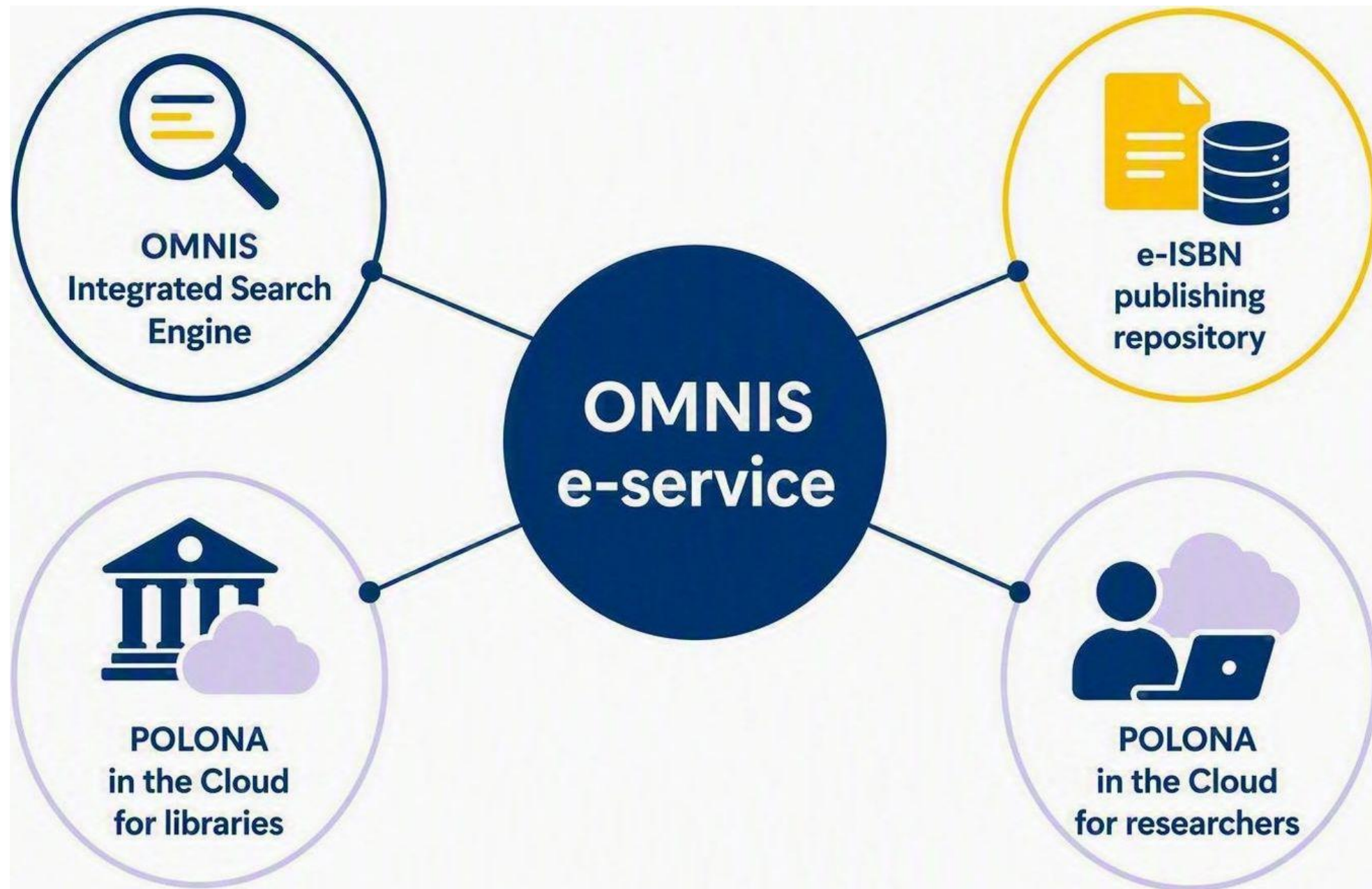
OMNIS and National Library Network

In 2018 the National Library of Poland started a new, **multiyear programme OMNIS**.

In years 2022-2025 the project was continued within the National Reading Development Programme.

Aim of the project is to build a nationwide library management platform basing on Alma and Primo.

The project realized since 2018 covers implementation of Alma and Primo in **885 libraries (153 main libraries and 733 branches) by 2025.**



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OMNIS and National Library Network

The National Library of Poland is integrating libraries into the **Integrated Resource Management System for Libraries [Alma Ex Libris]**, created as part of the development of a **nationwide library network**, in which 153 libraries (academic, regional, and municipal libraries) conduct shared cataloguing, as of September 2025.

Libraries joining the shared catalogue are required to follow the principles for editing and selecting National Library Descriptors, as well as the cataloguing regulations of the National Library.

The National Library makes available training materials as recordings and presentations, but also daily consultations with specialists from the National Bibliographic Institute of the National Library and with subject librarians from the National Library's Subject Cataloguing Department are possible.

more information see: przepisy.bn.org.pl

source:

www.cenl.org/national-library-tools-highlighted-in-polands-digital-strategy-to-2035/

Advantages by category



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ADVANTAGES of the system

ACCESS AND FLEXIBILITY

- **RUNS IN THE CLOUD** = accessible through a web browser on any device
 - **SUPPORTS PROCESSES** for all libraries in the network, regardless of library type, collection size, or number of readers
 - **ENABLES REMOTE WORK** outside library premises

ADVANTAGES of the system

COLLABORATION AND REACH

- **ENABLES REAL-TIME, COLLABORATIVE CATALOGUING**

within a single IT system, directly reducing costs for libraries

- **EXPANDS READERS' ACCESS TO COLLECTIONS:**

70 million items as of September 2025 (with the total growing daily)

PROVEN TECHNOLOGY AND WIDER IMPACT

- **MODERN SYSTEM** adopted by leading university libraries worldwide: Harvard University, the University of Oxford, the national library networks of Denmark and Switzerland, and many others
- Builds on experience with the ALMA and PRIMO systems, now recognised as a **MODEL THAT COULD BE APPLIED TO OTHER AREAS** of cultural heritage.

OMNIS project and its outcome (end of 2025)

• 13 091 704	bibliographic records in total
• 2 952 077	authority records
• 5 325 690	physical books
• 3 825 502	articles
• 2 402 171	electronic books
• 241 111	old prints
• 229 815	electronic journals
• 139 580	notated music
• 100 702	manuscripts
• 102 691	maps
• 52 154	physical journals

source of data: Szymon Cierpisz from National Library of Poland