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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### ARTICLES

- MAŁGORZATA FEDOROWICZ-KRUSZEWSKA: The Disabled in Libraries – Research Trends in Foreign and Polish Literature in the Field of Library and Information Science . . . . . 293
- AGNIESZKA CHAMERA-NOWAK: Braille and Non-Tactile Library of the Institute for the Blind in Laski, Poland . . . . . 305
- MAŁGORZATA KOWALSKA: Altmetrics as an Area of Interest in the Field of Library and Information Science . . . . . 324
- KAROLINA PIAŚNIK-KRAKOWSKA: Information Management Models at the Websites of Cracow Academic Libraries. . . . . 342

### REPORTS

- „Libraries in clouds or clouds over libraries?” Scientific Conference (Łódź, June 6-8, 2017) (*Justyna Jerzyk-Wojtecka*) . . . . . 355
- First meeting of the Provenance Workgroup (Wrocław, The Ossolinski Institute, June 7, 2017) (*Maria Kycler, Dorota Sidorowicz-Mulak*) . . . . . 358
- „Money for libraries – library fundraising” – 6th National Scientific Conference (Białystok, June 29-30, 2017) (*Hanna Kościuch, Jolanta Żochowska*) . . . . 361

### REVIEWS AND LITERATURE SURVEYS

- Format MARC 21 rekordu bibliograficznego dla książki (MARC 21 format for bibliographic data: books)*. By: Iwona Leonowicz, Magdalena Rowińska, Paweł Rygiel, Leszek Śnieżko, Małgorzata Wielek-Konopka, Iwona Wiśniewska. Eds Magdalena Rowińska and Iwona Wiśniewska. Ed. 4. Warszawa: Wydaw. SBP, 2017 (*Jerzy Franke*) . . . . . 371
- Aneta M. Sokół: *Polska książka ewangelicka po 1989 roku (Polish Lutheran and Calvin books past 1989)*. Katowice: Wydaw. „Głos Życia”, 2016 (*Zdzisław Gębołyś*) . . . . . 393
- Polish literature survey (*Barbara Koryś*) . . . . . 396
- Foreign publications (*Jacek Wojciechowski*) . . . . . 400

- NEWS FROM SBP (POLISH LIBRARIANS ASSOCIATION) . . . . . 417

TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

MESSAGES

Fourth Book and Information Studies Competition – a report (*Mariola Antczak*) ..... 427

OBITUARIES

Andrzej Paluchowski (26 I 1933 – 17 IX 2017) (*Michał Kozłowski*) ..... 429

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS ..... 437

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## THE DISABLED IN LIBRARIES – RESEARCH TRENDS IN FOREIGN AND POLISH LITERATURE IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**KEYWORDS:** The disabled. Disabilities. Library services. Library information services.

**ABSTRACT:** **Thesis/Objective** – The author intends to present current research trends in the library and information science (LIS) literature focused on the library and information services for the disabled and compare research topics covered by foreign and Polish literature in this field. **Research methods** – The critical literature review was used to analyze the content of foreign and Polish LIS literature published in the years 2010-2015. The literature was found via „Library, Information Science & Technology Abstracts” (LISTA), „Polska Bibliografia Bibliologiczna (Polish Book Studies Bibliography)”, „Przewodnik Bibliograficzny (Polish National Bibliography)”, and Polish LIS journals. **Results and conclusions** – The author identifies 9 main themes in foreign LIS literature referring to the library and information services for the disabled, whereas only 6 such themes appear in Polish LIS literature. The strongest theme in LIS literature covers issues of accessing information by the disabled, including such subcategories as: access to Internet resources, databases and digital libraries and, to a lesser extent, to the resources on non-digital carriers.

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## BRAILLE AND NON-TACTILE LIBRARY OF THE INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND IN LASKI, POLAND

**KEYWORDS:** The Institute for the Blind in Laski. Braille library. Non-tactile library. Visually impaired readers. Braille books. Readership.

**ABSTRACT:** **Thesis/Objective** – Braille and non-tactile library of the Institute for the Blind in Laski are both public and school libraries the services of which are addressed to visually impaired readers. Their users are various types of pupils and students as well teachers, tutors and other staff of Laski Institute (including the retired staff) and their families which results in a very broad coverage of the library resources as regards topics and level of education. The article is intended to present both libraries with focus on the services they offer to visually impaired people and problems they face in the era of Internet, fast development of IT for the visually impaired and decreasing readership, in particular the readership of Braille books. **Research method** – The current activity of both libraries was assessed with the template for the libraries adjusted to the needs of the disabled users including: the facility and the equipment, library resources, assistive technologies, library services and staff skills. The author analyzed primary and secondary sources with focus on the library documentation, in particular meeting minutes and library reports. The article covers a brief history of both libraries and their current activities. In order to assess their services for the visually impaired the author used a template she designed based on the international solutions and IFLA guidelines (Fedorowicz, 2010). **Results/Conclusions** – The activity of both Laski libraries is quite specific as it goes beyond the regular educational activity of Laski schools. Their users are both students and teachers, tutors and other staff, including their families and the retired staff which results in a very broad coverage of the library collection. As a result, they are both public and school libraries, addressing their services mostly to the visually impaired people, which is reflected in their resources, covering vast majority of topics and levels of education. In the era of Internet, IT solutions for the visually impaired and decreasing readership, in particular the readership of braille books, both libraries faced new challenges related to the expectations of their users who are keen on easy access to information unlimited with time and space and available in most convenient format.

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## ALTMETRICS AS AN AREA OF INTEREST IN THE FIELD OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

**KEYWORDS:** Altmetrics. Library and information science. Alternative metrics. Assessment of research input.

**ABSTRACT:** **Thesis/Objective** – The author discusses the significance of alternative metrics in the assessment of research input and attempts to show if this issue is of any interest to the researchers in the library and information science. **Research methods** – Using the analysis of the content of the library and information science journals, the author identifies the most popular topics related to altmetrics. **Conclusions** – The research done by the author proves altmetrics to be very popular issue discussed in the library and information science literature, in particular for the last three years. In the author's opinion the interest in altmetrics will survive and continue to grow and alternative metrics will play an important role in the assessment of the research input.

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## INFORMATION MANAGEMENT MODELS AT THE WEBSITES OF CRACOW ACADEMIC LIBRARIES

KEYWORDS: Academic libraries. Websites. Multi-case study.

ABSTRACT: **Thesis/Objective** – The article is to identify the models of information management used while managing the websites of academic libraries. **Research methods** – The multi-case study approach was used to analyze five selected libraries. In addition the author made partly structured interviews and, as a qualitative research method, in-depth interviews. **Results/Conclusions** – Two dominant models of information management were identified. First was noticed in smaller libraries where only one or two web editors were involved and the processes of information management are running fast, although they are subject to mistake risk. Second was noticed in larger institutions where the website is supervised by a whole team of editors and the content control is on higher level but the whole management process takes much more time.