

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Publisher's Note (*Elżbieta Stefańczyk*)

Editorial (*Elżbieta Barbara Zybert*)

Articles

EWA GŁOWACKA: Social Benefits of Library Performance. Approaches and Methods of Analysis and Evaluation

BAIBA SPORĀNE: Digital Cultural Heritage and Memory Institutions Within the Structure of National Identity: Philosophical Discourse

ŁUKASZ OPALIŃSKI: „Annual Aging Factor” as a Tool in Literature Obsolescence Analysis

Research reports

MAGDALENA PRZYBYSZ-STAWSKA: The Library of Łódź Theological College: selected issues

Reports

„The librarian as an open profession - deregulation or degradation?” Fourth National Scientific Conference (Białystok, June 12-14, 2013) (*Halina Brzezińska-Stec, Hanna Kościuch*)

Principles of editing and publishing scientific journals. A seminar for publishers and scientific journal editors (Warszawa, July 16, 2013) (*Bogumiła Warząchowska*)

„Future libraries: infinite possibilities”. IFLA World Library and Information Congress and 79th IFLA General Conference and Assembly (Singapore, August 17-23, 2013) (*Elżbieta Barbara Zybert*)

„Time for change - time for challenge. The role of libraries and information centers in the process of shaping skills of the contemporary man”. National Scientific Conference (Warszawa, October 10-11, 2013) (*Justyna Jasiewicz, Małgorzata Kisilowska*)

Reviews and literature surveys

Hanna Batorowska: Od alfabetyzacji informacyjnej do kultury informacyjnej. Rozważania o dojrzałości informacyjnej (From information literacy to information culture. Pondering information maturity) (*Jacek Wojciechowski*)

Janina Kosman: Z dziejów bibliotek w pruskiej prowincji Pomorza w XIX i początkach XX wieku. (The history of libraries in Prussian Pomerania region in the 19th century and early years of the 20th century) Szczecin 2013 (*Zdzisław Gębołyś*)

Biblioteki. Tożsamość. Kultura. Praca zbiorowa. (Libraries. Identity. Culture. A collection of essays) Ed. Iwona H. Pugacewicz, Elżbieta Barbara Zybert. Warszawa 2013 (*Adrian Uljasz*)

Emilia Ohar: Dytáča knyga w ukraïns'komu sociumi (dosvid perechidnoï doby). Monografijâ. L'viv 2012 (*Bogumiła Staniów*)

Polish literature survey (*Barbara Koryś*)

Foreign publications (*Jacek Wojciechowski*)

News from SBP (Polish Librarians Association) Guidelines for Authors

ABSTRACTS

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SOCIAL BENEFITS OF LIBRARY PERFORMANCE. APPROACHES AND METHODS OF ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION

KEYWORDS: Libraries. Social impact. Research methods.

ABSTRACT: **Objective** – Libraries play various important roles in the contemporary society. They contribute to the advancement of intellectual and social capital and offer economic benefits to their surroundings. The paper provides an overview of the main approaches to research on the library impact on the community which are: information exchange and information literacy impact, research, education, cultural, economic outcomes and impact on social inclusion. The paper presents

methods and tools that currently are tested and used to evaluate the issue in question. **Research methods** - The following methods were used: the critical analysis of the literature, the description of methods and results of research on social impact of libraries on their surroundings, the analysis of world research initiatives related to the development of methods and tools used for the evaluation of the impact of libraries on the community. **Results and conclusions** – Research on social benefits of library performance has recently gained considerable attention in the world and the research methods in this field evolve, too. More investigation is needed to identify methods that could be used to show libraries' overall impact or to develop measures that would permit benchmarking between institutions.

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**DIGITAL CULTURAL HERITAGE AND MEMORY INSTITUTIONS
WITHIN THE STRUCTURE OF NATIONAL IDENTITY:
PHILOSOPHICAL DISCOURSE**

KEYWORDS: National identity. Postmodernism. Cultural heritage. Collective memory. Digitization. Memory institutions. Library.

ABSTRACT: Objective - This article is to introduce theoretical motivation for the interaction and links joining national identity, collective memory, cultural heritage, digitization and libraries understood as memory institutions, and substantiate memory institutions and digital collective memory as an essential source for national identity. **Research methods** - The author claims that the digital resources

managed by memory institutions, particularly libraries, are the fundamentals of national identity. Therefore she discusses postmodernism as a theoretical basis for the system of concepts of „national identity – collective memory – cultural heritage – memory institutions – digital resources – users”, and presents the structure and individual concepts of this system. The research method used was qualitative research with discourse analysis and a theoretical analysis of information sources such as: J. Baudrillard, I. Hassan, D. Harvey, R. J. Lifton, J. F. Liotard, P. Waugh, A. J. Toynbee, G. E. Veith et al., conventions and resolutions of the European Commission, Committee and Parliament, legal provisions in culture and cultural heritage by the Government of Latvia. **Results and conclusions** - National identity is seen as a totality of meanings the main manifestations of which are the cultural and national heritage as the basis for the personal system of values and experience. National identity is formed by the totality of conceptions on affiliation with something. Conceptions, ideas are formed in the interaction process of personality and the collective memory based on digital resources. The collective memory, i.e. the resources in libraries, museums and archives, particularly the digital ones, is the main element for the construction of national identity. This construction is delivered by memory institutions through collecting, harvesting, saving, arranging and providing access to resources via the digitization process. Digitization should become the main tool for maintenance, inclusion, communication, and identity in the process of globalization. The author introduces theoretical model, based on the discourse of postmodernism ideas, theoretical conclusions of world researchers and philosophers, official conventions, guidelines and declarations - for justifying memory institutions' resources as the basis of national identity. Such a theoretical analysis of the „national identity – collective memory – cultural heritage – memory institutions – digital resources – users” is the first experiment in Latvia to place the important role of memory institutions, particularly libraries, in a system of cultural heritage, digitization, new environment and national identity. The main conclusion is that the philosophical discourse of postmodernism accepts the idea of the leading role of memory institutions in the structure of national/digital heritage and national identity.

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„ANNUAL AGING FACTOR” AS A TOOL IN LITERATURE OBSOLESCENCE ANALYSIS

KEYWORDS: Bibliometrics. Scientific journals. Literature aging. Annual aging factor. Half-life index.

ABSTRACT: **Objective** – The aim of the article is to assess the usefulness and bibliometric features of the results obtained through the application of the annual aging factor in certain areas of the library and science studies. Moreover, some selected properties of annual aging factor and half-life index are compared. **Research method** – The article was prepared on the basis of the literature analysis and key issues were illustrated with sample data collected in accordance with the original methods of processing experimental data outlined in the literature. **Results and conclusions** – The application of annual aging factor and related ‘utility’ idea is possible in the management of library collections, provided that the literature citation distribution follows the pattern of the exponential decline. Furthermore, the index can be used in bibliometric investigations on periodicals and disciplines of study analyzed with focus on their aging characteristics aspect.

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**THE LIBRARY OF ŁÓDŹ THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE:
SELECTED ISSUES**

KEYWORDS: Special libraries. Church libraries. Theological colleges. Łódź. Wincenty Tymieniecki

ABSTRACT: **Objective** - The author presents the Library of Łódź Theological College - the only theological Catholic research library run in the archdiocese of Łódź - discussing its structure, tools, collections and circulation methods. The data collected during the research on this long-lasting institution may be used as a reference source in further research on church libraries in Poland. **Research method** - The article is based on the analysis of source texts (Łódź Theological College website, literature on Polish church libraries, a publication on the College in question, the Library annual reports) and data gathered through interviews with the Library staff. **Results** - Data collected by the author enable her to characterize the Library, its facilities, activities, structure of Library collections and methods of access to the Library resources. **Conclusions** - The Library is in good condition as regards its collections and facilities.