

THE PROCESS OF SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION: AN EASTERN EUROPEAN ANGLE

Ewa Krysiak

Edited version of a paper presented at the Third European Serials Conference, Ireland, September 1996

Financial support from foreign and domestic foundations has been important in enabling librarians in Central and Eastern Europe to maintain the required quality of service to the scholarly community, through increased use of electronic systems, coordinated purchasing and union listings. Although a questionnaire, designed to show the state of scholarly communication in Central and Eastern Europe, only drew responses from Polish institutions, reports on other countries, produced by the European Commission, have been consulted in order to supplement the detailed coverage of the information scene in Poland.

*Ewa Krysiak is Head of Union Catalogs and the Electronic Information Center, The National Library, Warsaw, Poland.
ekrysiak@biblnar.bn.org.pl*

The title of the paper implies not only the presentation of the status quo of the process of scholarly communication in Eastern European countries but also some solutions to meet the needs of scholars. Not being an expert in serials acquisition, but rather someone trying to facilitate the dissemination of information, I decided to improve my knowledge by distributing a questionnaire to readers of electronic discussion lists. Two versions of the questionnaire were prepared, an English version for non-Polish librarians, and the Polish version for Polish librarians, subscribing to the Polish electronic discussion list aibibl@plearn.edu.pl.

Several Polish librarians have answered the questionnaire, so the Polish scene can be reliably portrayed. Unfortunately, and much to my surprise, no responses were received from colleagues in Eastern European countries and the former Soviet Union. I wonder why. There could be many answers: not subscribing to these electronic discussion lists; not having straightforward answers to difficult questions, etc. However, thanks to Monika Segbert of the European Commission DGX111-E, I have been able to collect some data from which to draw a picture of the situation in other Eastern European countries

Situation in Eastern Europe

In general there is no difference in the attitude towards scholarly communication between Western and Eastern Europe. We, librarians, do our best to satisfy the users of our libraries. The increase in serial prices is definitely an obstacle, but the need is so important and urgent that we have to find manageable solutions. Without a doubt, the only solution at this stage, is cooperation: coordinated purchases and giving access to electronic sources and resources available on the Internet, whilst trying not to be too restrictive towards our users demands.

The economic condition of our countries, similar in each case, is still far behind the rest of Europe, but we are slowly but gradually improving. A good example of this improvement is the telecommunication boom and massive access to the Internet. Our telecommunication links are improving (physical layers are usually fibre optics), becoming faster (in order to achieve this we prefer the state-of-the-art technology, eg: ATM), and more widespread throughout our countries. The larger libraries in Eastern Europe (primarily - national libraries, major university, research and special libraries) are computerizing their tasks and are increasingly networked, eg: Czech and Slovak libraries with their ALEPH system in CASLIN, Hungarian libraries using both, ALEPH and ENDEAVOR. Polish libraries use several systems: VTLS Consortium of academic libraries; HORIZON libraries; ALEPH libraries, and the National Library implementing the INNOPAC system from Innovative Interfaces Inc).

The need for coordinated purchasing is well understood by all libraries. We maintain union catalogues of foreign serials and books to facilitate the location of the required title within the home country. If this fails, librarians have at their disposal the most relevant and up-to-date information sources (both electronic, and printed) to locate the title, in order to place an ILL order with the appropriate ILL center. Eastern European librarians are becoming more and more knowledgeable in the use of electronic sources, due to frequent visits to foreign libraries, frequent participation in conferences devoted to these topics, and frequent visits of foreign instructors and tutors to our home institutions.

A lot has been done in this field by various foreign and domestic foundations. The most actively involved are:

- George Soros Foundation - offering three-month long Soros-LC internships in the Library of Congress, organizing conferences devoted to library automation, providing special grants to promote the development of libraries,
- Andrew W. Mellon Foundation - making big grants for library automation in Eastern Europe,

- British Council - its Know-How Fund promotes short visits to libraries in the UK and many, many others.

I wish to draw attention particularly to one project of the Open Society Institute/Regional Library Program, sponsored by George Soros Foundation. This project is focused on helping libraries in Eastern Europe in document delivery, interpreted in the widest sense, eg: support for traditional interlending operations; facsimile transmission of documents; subsidy for electronic document delivery via one of the international document supply centers; provision of document delivery services operated by commercial subscription agents; purchase of equipment to facilitate document delivery services in national or regional centers. George Soros Foundation has provided the sum of \$250,000 for this purpose. Of course, competition for grants is fierce, and only the best proposals making a contribution to the provision of information regionally or nationally, or which contribute to the development of library-to-library document delivery services, will be favourably received. We are very much looking forward to using this opportunity to support the process of scholarly communication.

As yet there are no EDD or EDI services in our market but I am absolutely convinced that it is only a matter of time because our library automated systems can easily handle electronic document delivery (eg: Ariel for Windows by RLG), and some of these are already used by our libraries.

As far as bibliographic control is concerned, all national bibliographic centers in our region compile national bibliographies of serials (and monographs), both current and retrospective. They are regularly published in printed and electronic formats simultaneously. There are numerous bibliographic and catalogue databases covering serials, many of them available online via the Internet. There will be more of them in due course. The only problem is whether to give access to them free of charge or for a fee. Perhaps colleagues from Western Europe, with more experience, could recommend to us the right solution.

There is another *signum temporis* in our libraries. In previous years the acquisition of foreign serials was primarily via exchange and donation. Nowadays, however, an increase in purchases is to be observed. This change occurred after the decline of the communist economy and the introduction of the market economy. We know the needs of our users and can plan our purchases in a more appropriate way. Of course, there are always shortfalls in the budget of individual institutions, but we do have sponsors (domestic, foreign and international foundations) that wish to support the most important cultural activities.

I wish to share with you information on The East and Central Europe Journal Donation Project. "Recognizing that free access to current ideas and information is the hallmark of a democratic and open society, librarians, professors, and students in East and Central Europe, the former Soviet Union, and the Baltic Republics have made clear to those who will listen the serious need for direct, timely exposure to the research of their international colleagues"¹.

The Project began in 1990, thanks to the Mellon Foundation, that provided the project with its first substantial grant. That was only the beginning, later on many other foundations and institutions entered the project. Its goals include 'the provision of much-needed scholarly journals to national, university, and academic libraries throughout the region, to help rebuild the research bases of those communities, and to ensure that the chosen locations are either those where the greatest number of students and scholars will have access to the journals or where access will be to a smaller number of students and professors for whom the material is essential'.

In 1994 the project included over 600 different journals, sent to more than 200 libraries in over 20,000 copies. Those serials covered such fields of knowledge as social sciences, humanities, arts, law, medicine, business, cultural commentary, and current events. Shortly afterwards followed the expansion to such fields as natural sciences, environmental sciences, and technology. The following countries participated the project in 1994: Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Croatia,

Hungary, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, the Baltic Republics and Belarus, Georgia, Russia, and Ukraine. The list of journals included in the project has been given in the quoted article by Ariën Mack², one of the founders of the project.

The charts received from Monika Segbert show "jumpy figures", for serials acquisition by the national, research and public libraries of the region. Some of them (eg. Bulgaria, Slovak Republic) have reduced their serials acquisition since 1990, whilst others have increased their intake of serials (Poland, Slovenia), but some have not changed their serials acquisition at all (the same figures in Romania, Lithuania).

Numbers of loans also have a tendency 'to jump' from decreasing at the beginning of the nineties to increasing in the mid-nineties. This situation can be explained with the crash of the market after the decline of the communist economy, difficult years following this decline, and the beginning of the recovery in mid-nineties. Let us hope that this tendency will proceed! For those wishing to analyse the figures in detail, I would like to recommend a visit to the homepage of Library Cooperation with Central and Eastern Europe at the WWW URL, <http://www.echo.lu/libraries/en/cee/homecee.html>, where you can find interesting data on Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Poland, Slovenia and Slovakia.

In response to my questionnaire, I have received a very interesting letter from Alan Pollard, University of Michigan, who deals with serials acquisition, especially from our region. Let me quote a few lines from his letter, as symptomatic of the situation. "The use of exchanges may be declining; Harvard College Library has abandoned theirs, and the University of Chicago Library has reduced theirs by half. Cancellations are common. There is a movement towards increased cooperative acquisitions through existing and new consortia; I cannot cite any concrete results as yet. Electronic resources of all types are deeply affecting the libraries' acquisition, storage and distribution of information; electronic journals are as yet a relatively small part of this. A point seldom made is that these resources are very expensive and their adoption may lead to reductions in staff and cuts in the budget for

print materials. Document delivery is very important. The University of Michigan uses the nearby UMI, but there are several other firms in this business. The main role of electronics here is that the user can command a terminal to print an article. There must be research on how scholars access serials, but I am not familiar with it. For the foreseeable future, there will be a mix of print and electronic serials."

I can wholeheartedly endorse these words. Alan has summed up the most common troubles with serials acquisition and providing access to up-to-date information in Eastern European countries. Firms, such as UMI, Faxon, EBSCO, Swets, have been present on the market for several years, with EBSCO services predominant. There are also some hopes pinned on OCLC Europe's FirstSearch service.

The situation in Poland

As a representative of Polish library circles, and at the same time the National Library in Poland, I would like to share some thoughts, based on available literature and on responses to the questionnaire.

In order to help Polish scholars to access relevant information, the Committee for Scientific Research was founded in 1990, with responsibility for the promotion of access to up-to-date information through computer networks, and through supporting serials subscriptions. These responsibilities are fulfilled through the activity of the Polish Foundation for the Advancement of Science.

Polish Foundation for the Advancement of Science (<http://www.buz.net.pl/PFUN>)

The Polish Foundation for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1990 by five acknowledged leaders in the promotion and popularisation of science: the Polish Academy of Sciences; the Society for the Advancement of Science and the Arts; the Society of the Free University; ORPAN (the Distribution Centre for Scientific Publications) and the Polish Scientific Film Association. To promote science at home and abroad and to spread and popularise world science in Poland are the basic aims of the Foundation.

These aims are achieved by:

- carrying out research into the methods of promoting science;
- organising and sponsoring publishing activities;
- promoting educational films and audiovisual materials;
- organising lectures scholarly competitions and various levels of study aimed at improving professional qualifications;
- helping to promote and sponsor the scholarly activities of academic agencies and associations;
- awarding grants.

In accordance with an agreement between the Foundation and the State Committee for Scientific Research, the Foundation has been providing Polish scientists with the latest information about scientific journals and computer databases currently being imported into Poland. Another of the Foundations activities has focused on sponsoring, ie, funding serials subscriptions in Poland, and the coordinating these subscriptions. Through the Foundation the 'Inventory of scientific journals and other sources of scientific information imported into Poland 1992-1996' is accessible to all who are interested in it. Since June 1995 this database, annually updated has been made available over the World Wide Web. Users of the Internet can search the database to identify foreign scientific journals and their location in Poland (<http://wwwtech.net.pl/PFUN> and, <http://www.biz.net.pl/PFUN>).

At the moment the database contains 20,117 records of foreign scientific journals records, 296 records of foreign databases purchased or obtained through exchange between the years 1992-96 by the 528 research and scientific institutions participating in the project. The numbers have grown slowly but gradually since 1992. This tendency seems to be very optimistic, and Polish libraries can only hope that the fund for this purpose will be continued.

For anyone interested in details on the import of serials at a time of economic change in Poland, *Polish Libraries Today* contains two articles in English on this topic.

National Library union catalogues

There is a further source of information of foreign serials preserved in Polish libraries, namely Union Catalogue of Foreign Serials Held by Polish Libraries, which is updated each year, and which at the moment comprises 38,318 records of foreign serials and databases. Each year some 2,000 new titles records are added to the database, and some 22,000 amendments are made to the existing database. This database is maintained in non-MARC format.

Figure 1: National Library Union Catalogue

1. Union Catalogue of Foreign Monographs, 1801-1996
 - Holdings of 800 Polish libraries
 - Database, 1975 - 1986 containing 300,000 in ARKA format to be converted into USMARC
 - Card catalogue, 1801-1974, 1987-1996, containing 4,000,000 catalogue cards to be converted into machine-readable form
2. Union Catalogue of Foreign Serials 1801-1996
 - Holdings of 800 Polish libraries
 - Database, 1986-1996, containing 38,318 records in ARKA format to be converted into USMARC format
 - Card Catalogue, containing entries for 450,000 titles with 1,800,000 catalogue cards to be converted into machine readable form
3. Union Catalogue of Polish Serials
 - Holdings of 450 Polish and a few foreign libraries, 1801-1950
 - Database, 1801-1950, containing 31,000 records in POLARKA format to be converted into USMARC format.

In the past several input formats have been used but from the beginning of next year all data will be transferred from an old system, MAK, to the new system of the National Library, INNOPAC, which is one of a number of systems currently available in Poland

Figure 2: Selection of the most popular Polish and foreign library software available in Poland

<u>System</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>User base</u>
Polish - mainly supporting automated cataloging, and in some instances interlending		
MAK	Warsaw	over 300
SOWA	Poznan	over 150
MOL	Gdansk	some 100
PROLIB	Zielona Gora	some 10
Foreign		
CDS ISIS & Micro CDS ISIS	UNESCO	over 400
VTLS & Micro	VTLS	22
ALEPH	Ex Libris	2
TINLIB	IME LTD	2
HORIZON	Ameritech	1 (17 interested)
Data Trek	Data Trek	2
INNOPAC	Innovative Interfaces Inc.	1

Union catalogues will form an additional database within the INNOPAC system, and it is hoped that it will be available over the Internet in due course.

The National Library's most popular bibliographic services

The process of scholarly communication in Poland is also supported by other National Library services, linked to bibliographic control of Polish literary output. Some most important sources of information/bibliographies are:

- i. Polish National Bibliography of Monographs, *Przewodnik bibliograficzny*, 1980-1995, 160,000 records
- ii. Bibliography of Polish Serials, *Bibliografia wydawnictw ciągłych*, 1985-1994, 4,000 records
- iii. Bibliography of Polish Serials added to the ISDS Center, 1701-1995
- iv. Polish Monographs and Serials published in Poland Illegally, 1976-1989, 6,500 monographs and 1,000 serials

The good news for librarians worldwide is that colleagues in Torun, notably Rafal Maszkowski, have created the so-called Polish Network Resources (PZS), containing information on Polish OPACs, WWW servers, gophers, electronic discussion groups and electronic journals, of which there are not many on the market, but the number is growing. More and more serials are being published electronically, using hypertext and rich graphics. Information about the updated PZS list is available at the WWW URL: http://www.man.lodz.pl/pzs/pzs_op.html

Legal deposit

Our revised legal deposit law requires all physical forms of documents (including electronic format) to be delivered to the main libraries of the country. Although the law is in force, the publishers still do not understand it fully, and there are some gaps in deposited material. We all hope that this situation improves gradually, as good, quick and reliable information on new publications should be promptly available on the Network through libraries' OPACS, because "Information is business and business means information handling".

Findings from the questionnaire

Generally speaking, the questionnaire revealed that many libraries had to cancel some 30% to 50% of their serials subscriptions largely as a result of rising of prices. The most important and heavily used serials are retained but there is a tendency to coordinate the acquisition. In order to get more for less money the tendency is now for one copy of a serial title to be kept in one library, responsible for giving access to the given field of knowledge, instead of two or more copies of the same title being kept in various libraries. The copy of the record goes to the Union Catalog of Foreign Serials, which is available to the public for information, and soon also for cataloguing purposes (to copy the description). The budget of individual libraries cannot cover all the costs of the subscription, but there support from the Polish Foundation for the Advancement of Science, with its \$14,285,714 budget for this purpose in 1997.

So far, Polish libraries are not ready to use EDI/EDD services in the modern understanding of this service. However, they are preparing to face this problem. Most importantly new systems installed in large research and academic libraries can handle EDI.

Polish libraries, mostly those bigger, in bigger cities, have access to the Internet and can give patrons access to electronic serials. These are read either on monitors, or copied to floppy discs. Printouts are not normally made.

Private contacts and conferences are used by Polish scholars to meet their needs for literature not traced in Polish libraries. They also make heavy use of the ILL services. Several libraries mentioned firms, which handle ILL and document delivery, such as Swets (SwetScan), Faxon, UMI and EBSCO. There is also a possibility of access to FirstSearch as a result of a special grant by the Polish Foundation For Science the Advancement.

The role of the National Library as the centre for ILL and EDI/EDD services, and as bibliographic control centre (prospective, current and retrospective bibliographies) is a major requirement on the part of Polish libraries.

Although all the libraries that responded to the questionnaire assume a slow increase in electronic journals (10%-30%), they all claim that the electronic version is both, cheaper to maintain and easier to access.

Cooperation with libraries in member states of the European Union already exists. There is, however, an urgent need to be able to apply for special grants. So far the demands made by the European Commission are too onerous for our libraries (eg: two partner libraries from countries that are full members of EU, filling in long and complicated forms, etc). Let us wait and see. I do hope for a better future for the cooperation not only between institutions, but also between sponsors and governing bodies

Recommended further reading

General

1. Lynch, Clifford A. Scholarly communication in the networked environment: reconsidering economics and organizational missions. *Serials Review*, 1994, 20 (2), 23-30

2. Harrison, Teresa M, Stephen, Timothy D. The electronic journal as the heart of an online scholarly community. *Library Trends*, 1995, 43 (4), 592-608
3. Brooke, Dixon F, Jr, Powell, Allen. EBSCO 1995 serial price projections. *Serials Review*, 1994, 20 (2) 85-94
4. Reich, Vicky, Weiser, Mark. Libraries are more than information: situational aspects of electronic libraries. *Serials Review*, 1994, 20 (2) 31-37
5. Duranceau, Ellen Finnie, et al. Old wine in new bottles?: defining electronic serials. *Serials Review*, 1996, 22 (1) 69-79
6. Crump, Michele J, Freund, LeiLani. Serials cancellations and interlibrary loan: the link and what it reveals. *Serials Review*, 1995, 21 (2) 29-34
7. Griffith, Joan. Electronic Data Interchange: Dartmouth + Faxon + Innopac + SISAC + X12 = Serials claims pilot project. *Serials Review*, 1995, 21 (3) 33-45. URL: <http://mmm.dartmouth.edu/pages/org/tecor/CMsEDlarticle.html>
8. Cochenour, Donnice. Project MUSE: a partnership of interest. *Serials Review*, 1995, 21 (3) 75-81. URL: <http://muse.jhu.edu>
9. Duranceau, Ellen Finnie, et al. Exchange rates and the serials marketplace. *Serials Review*, 1995, 21 (3) 83-96
10. Dannely, Gay N. Resource sharing in the electronic era: potentials and paradoxes. *Library Trends*, 1995, 43 (4) 663-678
11. *The legal deposit of electronic publication*. Report of a CDNL Working Group chaired by Dr Brian Lang, Chief Executive of the British Library

Eastern Europe

1. Collection development and exchanges. A session chaired by Miranda Beaven Remnek. In: *Libraries in Europe's post-communist countries: their international context*. Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference of Slavic librarians and information specialists, Kraków-Przegorzaly, Poland, August 3-5, 1995. Ed Maria Kocójowa and Wojciech Zalewski. Kraków: PTB (Polskie

Towarzystwo Bibliologiczne, Oddział w Krakowie), 1996, pp159-193.
(for orders contact Maria Kocójowa, ikocoj@filon.filg.uj.edu.pl)

2. Ladizesky, Kathleen, Hogg, Ron. Slavonic publications at the British Library Document Supply Centre. *Serials Review*, 1995, 21 (2) 65-68
3. Mack, Arien. The East and Central Europe Journal Donation Project. *Serials Review*, 1994, 20 (2) 7-15
4. Urbanic, Allan, et al. Chaos by subscription: serials in Eastern Europe. *Serials Review*, 1994, 20 (1) 43-58
5. Statistical data on selected national libraries in Eastern Europe.
Received from Monika Segbert,
e-mail: 100344.1225@CompuServe.com -
DGXIII-E of the European Commission
6. The evolving library scene in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Slovenia and Slovakia. URL: <http://www.echo.lu/libraries/en/cee/homecee/html>

Poland

- 1 The evolving library scene in Poland. URL: <http://www.echo.lu/libraries/en/cee/homecee/html>
2. Polish Network Resources. URL: <http://www.fuw.edu.pl/pzs/pzs/html>
3. Polish Foundation for Science Advancement. URL: <http://www.biz.net.pl/PFUN/>
4. Dudzinska, Elzbieta. Import of serials at a time of economic change. *Polish Libraries Today*, 1996, 3 49-71
5. Kaminski, Stanislaw. Contemporary problems of acquisition in Polish university libraries (based on the example of Warsaw University Library BUW). *Polish Libraries Today*, 1996, 3, 35-48

References

- 1 Mack Arien: The East and Central Europe Journal Donation Project. *Serials Review* 20: 1994 no 2, p.8.
- 2 op. cit., p 9