

Бібліотечна, архівна та музейна діяльність в умовах розвитку інформаційного суспільства

Lublin Virtual Library as an Example of Regional Cooperation

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Popularization and protection of the collections of libraries, museums and archives through digitalization has become a part of the canon of responsibilities of these institutions for some time. This goal also applies to the project of Lublin Virtual Library. The text discusses the principles, individual stages of the project and its results.

Keywords – the digital library, regional cooperation of libraries, digitization, Lublin virtual library

The digitalization of national heritage has become the daily reality of many cultural and scientific institutions. Its result is the establishment of many digital libraries and collections. In Poland, they are developing intensively. Their creation was a response to the rapid increase in the number of electronic documents, an attempt to reach the Internet users to show them the collections, and to new technological opportunities. At present, according to the Open DOAR data, there are 87 registered projects (<http://www.opendoar.org/find.php>). The Digital Libraries Federation data list 114 registered libraries and collections (<http://fbc.pionier.net.pl/pro/zrodla/#listsheader>). Many of them are of regional character. One such project is the Lublin Virtual Library.

The Lublin Virtual Library (LVL) is a project which is part of the action aimed to preserve and popularize national heritage. Initiatives of this kind are undertaken by many cultural and scientific institutions. The directions for work and recommendations concerning measures in this field are also developed by the European Commission. Special emphasis should be placed on the provision of wide access and utilization of publicly-owned documents, promotion and strengthening of the role of the European portal as the basic source of information about the monuments and documents of Europe's cultural heritage, on ensuring permanence of digital collections, on financing digitalization in a stable way using domestic and European funds, and on rationalization of public-private partnership in the area of digitalization.

The partners of LVL are the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin, Medical University of Lublin, the Hieronim Łopaciński Provincial Public Library, the Hieronim Łopaciński Municipal Public Library, the “Grodzka Gate – NN Theater” Center, City of Zamość, and the Książnica Zamojska Library. The leader of the project is the Commune (Gmina) of Lublin. The main principles of the project planned for 2010 to 2013 provide for

extensive cooperation between libraries and cultural institutions in Lublin and the Lublin Region, joint creation of digital collections, creation of mechanisms for wide public access to digital collections (local digital libraries), the establishment of the Internet platform to integrate its partners' digital collections (an indexing portal), safeguarding of the cultural heritage in the Lublin Region (cleaning and conservation of collections) and the promotion of the region and the resources of the institutions participating in the project. The project is co-financed with European Union funds. The Lublin Virtual Library was officially started on 19 May 2015. Over three million pages of different types of documents were digitalized: manuscripts, rare antique books, incunabula, books, periodicals, maps, atlases, and post cards; over five thousand bibliographic MARC21-format descriptions were made and entered into databases, and over four million file cards were scanned. Search and presentation of collections is made possible owing to the Primo ExLibris multi-search engine.

To sum up, it should be said that the implementation of the Lublin Virtual Library project enables residents to easily access the stores of knowledge assembled in libraries and culture centers in the Lublin region, thereby enlarging the offer of electronic services to the citizens.

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