



Central Statistical
Library



**Central Statistical Library
Past, Present and Future**

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Photographs used in the publication come from the following sources:

- Centralna Biblioteka Statystyczna 1918–2018 (Central Statistical Library 1918–2018)
Bożena Łazowska – Warszawa, Centralna Biblioteka Statystyczna, 2018
- 100 GUS website – 100latgus.stat.gov.pl
- Histmag.org service – histmag.org

**Dear Visitor,
Dear Reader,**

It is our utmost pleasure to invite you to the Central Statistical Library in Warsaw, the main scientific library in the area of statistics and related fields in Poland.

The Library has always been an important spot on the map of Polish official statistics.

We offer to you our unique collection consisting of more than half a million volumes, dating back as far as the second half of the 18th century, the birth of public statistics in Poland. We give you a complete insight into the 19th and 20th century statistics of the Polish territory, including the I and II world wars' statistical documentation. We guide you through the difficult period of communist reign in Poland to the moment of systemic transition and up till now. We provide you with the full report on national censuses from 1921 to 2021.

Since its origins dating back to 1918, the year Poland regained independence, until now, our Library has been providing professional tools to support the scientific work, creating a friendly space for work and academic debate, facilitating the free exchange of ideas and knowledge, educating on the achievements of Polish statistics and promoting its core principles.

In the course of its centennial history, the Library has been changing along with the technological progress, developing and modernizing its tools, growing so as to meet the needs of the contemporary scientific environment.

Today we welcome you in our Library of the year 2024. In the spirit of our times, you can either visit us *in personam* or virtually, using digital services available on our website – cbs.stat.gov.pl.

You can also pay a virtual visit to our premises at stat.gov.pl/wirtualny-spacer/cbs/cbs_start.html

The door of the Library is open to all!

Agnieszka Komar-Morawska,
Director of the CSL



The Central Statistical Library

Its past, present and future

The Library of Central Statistical Office in 1918–1968

The establishment of the Library took place at the same time as the organisation of the Central Statistical Office (CSO) of Poland, i.e. in November 1918. The library constituted a scientific base necessary for the functioning of the CSO. In August 1915, as the Russian authorities were leaving Warsaw, they evacuated the office of the Warsaw Statistical Committee to Saint Petersburg. Fortunately, the collection of books and archive materials was left behind and remained intact. These materials made up the foundation of the Library of the CSO. The collection was entrusted to the custody of an outstanding Polish scientist, economist and statistician, Professor Ludwik Krzywicki of the Committee of the Citizens of Warsaw, who later contributed to the organisation of the Central Statistical Office and the Institute of Social Economy. The collection Ludwik Krzywicki saved from dispersion and robbery amounted to about 3,000 volumes.

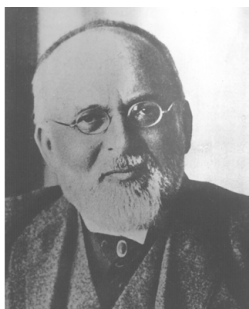


Ludwik Krzywicki

In 1919, the first president of the CSO, Professor Józef Buzek, a renowned economist, statistician and politician of Galicia region in Poland, recognised the need for establishing a proper scientific base for the CSO. He brought along the heritage of the Lviv National Division. Those materials included a multivolume Austrian statistical series “*Österreichische Statistics*”, “*Statistical Yearbooks of Galicia*” („*Roczniki statystyki Galicji*” from 1873), statistics prepared by Cracow and Lviv statistical offices (among others, “*Statistical Review of the City of Lviv*”/ „*Wiadomości Statystyczne o mieście Lwowie*”), a multivolume Prussian statistical series: “*Statistik des Deutschen Reichs*” (together with the results of German

censuses taken in 1871, 1880, 1890, 1900, 1910), "Preussische Statistik", "Statistisches Jahrbuch für den Preussischen Staat", as well as the full series of statistical periodicals entitled "Monatshefte" and "Vierteljahreshefte".

The collections were promptly catalogued and made available to readers – at first only to employees of the CSO then, from early 1920, also to the other users. In his letter of 18th February 1920, Józef Buzek notified this fact to the government of the Republic of Poland, announcing that on 1st March 1920, a scientific reading room was to be opened at the CSO's library. In the same letter, Buzek defined the thematic scope of the CSO's Library collection as "works in the field of statistics, law, in particular administrative law and fiscal law, economy and related fields".



Professor Józef Buzek



Building of the Central Statistical Office 1920–1939

With the assistance of the first head of the CSO, the Library contacted numerous domestic and foreign institutions in order to initiate an exchange of publications with, to name just a few: the British Museum in London, the Library of Congress, and the Bureau of the Census in Washington. The exchange contributed to a rapid growth of the collection during the interwar period: in 1939 it reached 60,000 volumes.



Reading room, the 1920s

In 1919, Professor Józef Buzek entrusted the task of managing the library to an outstanding young statistician Stefan Szulc, who quickly established numerous contacts with domestic and foreign institutions, which led to the fast development of the book collection, especially in terms of international statistical publications. They also enabled the CSO to conduct its own research in the area of international statistics, allowing for such publications as international comparisons for “Statistical Yearbooks of the Republic of Poland” („Rocznik Statystyki Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej” 1921–1930), or the monthly, and later quarterly, review “International Trade” („Handel zagraniczny”, first published in 1924), and the “International Trade Yearbook of the Republic of Poland” („Rocznik Handlu Zagranicznego Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej”, published as of 1927).

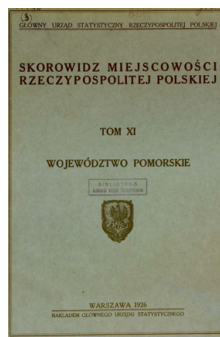


Professor Stefan Szulc

In 1939, the collection reached 60,000 volumes, with yearly acquisitions of 3,000 books. During the interwar period from 1937, the Library began to publish lists of acquired titles grouped by subject, which significantly facilitated the search for statistical information. Research projects were initiated and supervised by Irena Morsztynkiewicz, a young and extremely ambitious member of the Polish Librarians' Association, who managed the works of the CSO's Library from 1928, under the guidance of Stefan Szulc. Apart from managing the Library for 30 years, Irena Morsztynkiewicz volunteered in library associations in Poland and participated in the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). In 1925, she joined the Polish Librarians' Union in Vilnius.



Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland 1924



Population Census of 1921

During the Second World War, the mission of the employees of the CSO was to protect the collections from destruction and robbery, which they succeeded at. When the German authorities occupied Warsaw in 1939, the entire collection of books was transported from the CSO's Library to Cracow, more precisely to the Collegium Novum of the Jagiellonian University, which housed the German statistical office. Following the German evacuation in 1944, the CSO's book collection was left behind in Collegium Novum, which was taken by the Wehrmacht. The employees of the Library started working at the Wehrmacht's kitchen. Stefania Zdrodowska, who was not formally employed by the Library, had keys to the Collegium Novum building and took care of the collection. In 1948, Stefania Zdrodowska was awarded the Golden Cross of Merit for protecting the CSO Library's collection.

At the end of February 1945, the Library's collection and the staff were temporarily kept by the Cracow Voivodship Office; after the Central Statistical Office's reinstatement in Warsaw in 1945, the books could be transferred back. The head of the CSO Stefan Szulc himself supervised the transports, which took several months. In 1989, in recognition of his merits and his outstanding dedication to the Library, the head of the CSO Franciszek Kubiczek named the institution after Stefan Szulc. The estimation of losses caused by the war in 1945, showed the library collection did not suffer much. The first post-war stocktaking (inventory) indicated a loss of about 5,000 volumes. In 1953, when the new headquarters of the CSO, designed by Romuald Gutt, were commissioned to meet the Library's needs, the scientific activity could restart, along with the preparation of central catalogues of foreign acquisitions of the National Library and the Central Planning and Statistics School (today the Warsaw School of Economics). The Library activated the so-called alert service for articles published

in important domestic and foreign periodicals, improved the layout of bibliographic information on new acquisitions “Acquisitions Bulletin Quarterly” (kwartalnik „Biuletyn Nabytków”), and implemented an inter-library lending programme.



Irena Morsztynkiewicz



Building of the Central Statistical Office 1953

The CSO owes the post-war relaunch of Library’s work and the national position of the central research library in the fields of statistics and demographics to the long-term head of the Library, Irena Morsztynkiewiczowa PhD, a renowned activist of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), president of the Polish Librarians’ Association 1953–1956, and author of numerous scientific and popular science works in the field of bibliography and library science.

The Central Statistical Library in 1968–1996

On 10th December 1968, by order no. 75 issued by the President of the CSO, Professor Wincent Kawalec, the library received a new charter, which transformed the Library of the CSO into the Central Statistical Library (CSL) that served as the main Polish library for statistics (both theoretical and practical), demographics, mathematical statistics, statistical technique and related fields. The rank of the library was raised, as it was incorporated into the national library network, and, under resolution no. 269 of the Council of Ministers of 20th August 1968, on making a list of research libraries, the library was entrusted with the execution of scientific and research tasks contributing to the development of science and answering scientific imperatives. The long-term head of the Library Andrzej Jopkiewicz established the bibliography division and the statistical information division, which started working on a multivolume series entitled “Bibliography of CSO Publications” („Bibliografia Wydawnictw GUS”), “Bibliography of Demographic Works” („Bibliografia piśmiennictwa demograficznego”) and “Bibliography of Statistical Works – CSO not included” („Bibliografia Piśmiennictwa

Statystycznego (bez wydawnictw GUS)"). The Library periodically published "Acquisitions Bulletin" („Biuletyn Nabytków CBS"). Directories entitled "Statistical Yearbooks in the World in CSO Collection" („Roczniki statystyczne świata w zbiorach CBS") were periodically prepared and published. Furthermore, several articles were published in scientific periodicals on the book collections and work of the Central Statistical Library.



Reading room, the 1960s



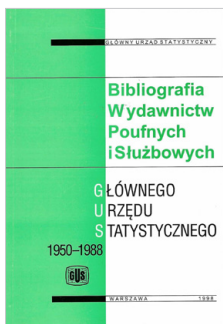
Library catalogue, the 1960s

Beginning from 1968, with a pause between 1973 and 1976, the statistical competition was organised by the Library to promote statistics in secondary schools. For many years, the competition, which became very popular, was arranged by Zygmunt Peuker, a long-term employee of the CSO and author of questions for the first competition questionnaire, elaborated together with Andrzej Jopkiewicz, head of the CSL and chairman of the competition's jury. The first competition was organized under the auspices of the President of the Central Statistical Office, Professor Wincenty Kawalec. The goal of the competition was to develop young people's skills and knowledge of statistics based on the "Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland" („Mały Rocznik Statystyczny Polski").

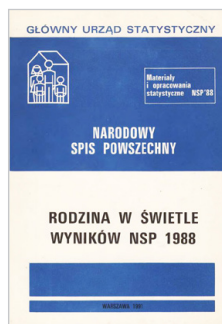


Andrzej Jopkiewicz

In the 1990s, the Central Statistical Library undertook the task of ordering, cataloguing and preparing scientific descriptions of an extensive collection of books that had not been made available to the general public until 1989, because of their status as classified documents. It was now possible due to a decision taken in 1989, by the then-President of the CSO, Franciszek Kubiczek PhD, to declassify the collection of over 20,000 publications of the CSO from the period from 1950 to 1988, labelled as “confidential”, “official use only”, or “for internal use”. Allowing for access to this so far unavailable collection was of critical importance for a regular user conducting economic or statistical research, especially long-term comparative research. In 1997, the Library started putting an order in the entire, unique in the scale of the country, collection of books and issued the missing links in its bibliography. The works were completed by the publication of the two-volume opus “Bibliography of Confidential and for Internal Use Publications of CSO 1950–1980” („Bibliografia wydawnictw poufnych i służbowych GUS 1950–1988”). From now on, the Library’s entire main collection and information acquired thereon has been available to all readers.



Bibliography of Confidential and for Internal use Publications of CSO 1950–1980



Population Census of 1988

The CSL’s achievements in the area of book gathering and description, as well as making them available to the public, were recognised on the national level. In 1998, by a decision of the Minister of Culture and Arts, the CSL collection was admitted to the National Library Resources.

Automation of the CSL in the period from 1997–2004

In October 1996, the CSO decided to digitalize the Central Statistical Library, a project made possible by the PHARE funds assigned by the European Union. The modernisation's aim was to incorporate the CSL into the domestic and international system of information exchange via the Internet, facilitate the librarians' work and increase the efficiency of user service. The framework modernisation programme was developed with the assistance of a PHARE expert, Mr Guido Badalamenti, head of the University Library in Siena. In a document prepared in May 1997, Guido Badalamenti proposed the new mission of the Library, outlined the required working conditions subject to re-organisation due to the automation of the CSL, and set the main task of the Library, which was to open it to its users' needs. The PHARE expert defined the CSL's mission as follows: "The Library's doors must be open to all." The Library should not be an office nor a warehouse, but a modern institution open to the needs of its users, providing a full information service on its collections and the collections of other libraries. Following expert advice, the Library was restructured and the model of work was changed.

1997 marked the next step towards automation of library processes, with the installation of a new operating system. The Automated Library Expandable Program ALEPH computer catalogue database was released on 12 January 1998. It could be accessed not only from a computer in the CSL's network, but from any computer with an Internet connection. The Library's modernisation process was managed by the statistician and editor Janina Pawlik, then-head of the Library. After launching the CSL online, the Library and its readers were able to use all the databases available



Janina Pawlik

Aleph catalog

within this system in Polish and foreign libraries, as well as statistical databases located on foreign servers. The digitalisation of workflow allows for effective, fast and easy preparation of bibliographical sets and directories, and contributes to the development of domestic and international cooperation with libraries, as well as documentation and information centres. The modernisation conducted at that time enabled the CSL to participate in the International Conference of Aleph Users (ICAU).

Establishment of the digital statistical library in 2004–2023

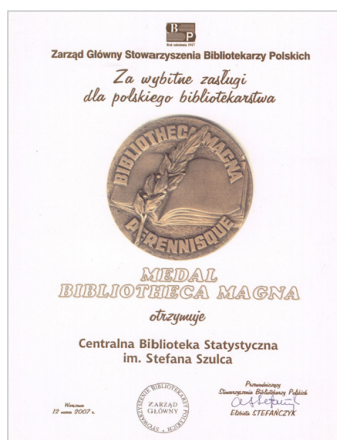
The mission of the Central Statistical Library that Bożena Łazowska, the head of the Library from 2004 to 2023, declared, was to digitalise all catalogues and collections, and to establish a digital library embedded in a virtual environment that serves the purpose of building a knowledge-based information society. In 2004–2005, the Central Statistical Library digitised the traditional, alphabetical card catalogue of the Library, covering the Library's collections from 1918–1997, as well as the bibliography on internal CSO publications from 1950–1988. Thanks to these efforts, the Library could make both its traditional and OPAC catalogue available online (statlibr.stat.gov.pl), significantly streamlining users' work. In 2005, the Library joined the International Group of Ex Libris Users (IGeLU), which helped the Library develop and enhance its organisational and technical environment. As of 2004, representatives of the CSL systematically take part in national scientific conferences organised by the Institutes of Information and Library Science of the Jagiellonian University and the University of Warsaw, which resulted in many popular science articles and studies, mostly published in the "Wiadomości Statystyczne. The Polish Statistician", and in a series of post-conference publications on the on-going activities of the Library, its history, development plans and international cooperation.



Bożena Łazowska

In 2004, the Central Statistical Library also modernised the annual secondary school competition based on the knowledge of the “Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland” („Mały Rocznik Statystyczny Polski”), From that year on the competition has been known as the Nationwide Statistical Competition. The new formula of the competition has been focused on individual achievements of students and rewarded independent thinking and creativity. The jury praises first of all statistical skills and knowledge, originality of the essay, contents arrangement and the way of interpreting data from “Concise Statistical Yearbook of Poland”.

On 12th March 2007, the Central Management Board of the Polish Librarians’ Association awarded the Central Statistical Library the “Bibliotheca Magna-Perennisque” medal for its general activity contributing to the Polish library science and the popularisation of reading, as well as for the excellent execution of the duties of the CSL as a central public statistical library and a public research library.



Bibliotheca Magna-Perennisque

In 2009, the CSL opened its digital statistical library, which currently encompasses several thousand volumes. The digital library offers all the yearbooks and statistical publications issued by the CSO in 1919–1939, digitalised in 2004–2015, including the results of the First General Census of the Republic of Poland (1921), the Second General Census of the Republic of Poland (1931), the most valuable rare statistical and economic prints from the CSL’s collection of the 19th and 20th century, and some items from the cartographic collection dating the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. Since 2010, the Library files and makes electronic publications of

the CSO available to readers exclusively on the websites of the CSO and 16 statistical offices in voivodships. To promote statistics, the Central Statistical Library organises exhibitions presenting its collections both in the CSO building and in other locations. The exhibitions accompany scientific conferences organised in the CSO and Statistical Offices in memory of outstanding, deceased Polish statisticians or anniversary celebrations. In 2011, the Library subscribed to the electronic librarian database (at first to the databases of the World Public Library and IBUK, and since 2014, to the OECD iLibrary). This decidedly increased the scope in which the Library's readers are using the electronic publications that could be accessed remotely.



Reading room

In 2015, the Central Statistical Library was undergoing modernisation related to the implementation of the "Information System of Public Statistics 2" („System Informacyjny Statystyki Publicznej SISP-2") project. The purpose of the introduced alterations was to increase the availability of information resources and services provided to Library users. As a part of the conducted activities, the Library purchased equipment required to create the digital statistical library and store digitised library resources. The library acquired a new server, disc array and new computers. Moreover, the Central Statistical Library got a new website. The expansion of the digital library led to the digitalisation of the collections included in the National Library Resources. The digitalised resources of the Central Statistical Library were made available on the Digital Library Federation's website, which allows the exchange of information and access to e-library collections created by scientific and public institutions throughout Poland. Moreover, the data are transferred to similar international websites, including the Europeana digital library, which facilitates online access resources for foreign readers.



Digitization station

The SISP-2 project also included the modernisation and replacement of equipment in the CSL's premises to increase comfort and to expand the possibility to use both printed and digital publications under free access. The entire reading room and adjacent premises underwent general renovation. New fixed and cantilever shelves, including specialised shelves for electronic collections, and workstations with freely available collections, were installed to store the collection of books and make it available to people. The reading room was redesigned to increase its ergonomics.



Reading room

We separated functional spaces for work with various types of documents: an area for periodicals available directly in the reading room, tables for work with large-format publications, a place where the Censuses may be accessed, and tables for work with reading room publications or volumes ordered from the depository, which is located in the central part of the hall. We also created a space dedicated to work with digital

documents. Twelve computer stations were installed in the room to allow the users to access online resources and services of public statistics and the library collection acting as well as *Academica* digital library terminals.



Warehouse

The Central Statistical Library from 2024 on

Expanding the virtual library further requires digital records produced in the CSL to be available in numerous research tools, such as the Digital Book Index. The Central Statistical Library plans to expand the scope in which the electronic resources and on-line databases are made available using the technology of modules developed by Ex Libris (e.g. PRIMO), allowing for the parallel search of numerous library catalogues operating different systems, electronic databases (subscribed to and available free of charge), and electronic periodicals made available to a given institution, and presents the user with a combined list of results, as well as providing further services, including access to full texts.

In the years to come development plans of the CSL include the full digitalisation of all National Library Resources included in our collection, i.e. about 12,000 volumes, scanning of all statistical yearbooks of the CSO and regional statistical offices that have not yet been available in an electronic version, making all bibliographies of the CSO's publications and topical bibliographies available in the form of online databases, cataloguing all collections currently available in traditional catalogues in the ALEPH system and making them available online, publishing Internet versions of exhibitions, both temporary and permanent, held at the Library. We also intend to fulfil the educational mission of CSL by developing the Nationwide Statistical Competition.



Exhibition of publications

Current resources of CSL contain over 500,000 volumes (monographic publications and publication series); ca. 1,000 titles, including ca. 250 titles of current magazines; the country's richest set of Polish and foreign current and retrospective statistical publications (since the beginning of the 19th century); all publications of the CSO, yearbooks of statistical offices of 16 voivodships; statistical yearbooks of selected countries of the world and international institutions: UN, EU, OECD; collections of materials concerning pre-war operation of various institutions and scientific associations; Polish and foreign theoretical literature related to statistics, demographics periodical collections.

The objective and the most important challenge that defines the future of the Central Statistical Library is the construction of a knowledge-based information society. The team of Central Statistical Library under the direction of Agnieszka Komar-Morawska, take active part in many CSR activities, making the Library's doors open to all interested in the achievements of Polish statistics and its history.

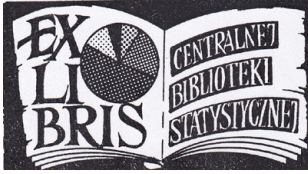


Reading room



Librarian and Libraries Day, 2024

Stefan Szulc Central Statistical Library (CSL)



Website

cbs.stat.gov.pl

Site

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Monday–Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

Reading Room, Room No. 67

Monday–Friday from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

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cbs.stat.gov.pl



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