

The Polish Book Market

2023

BOOK INSTITUTE



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The general state of the Polish publishing market

The volume of book sales in Poland at retail prices is almost PLN 4 billion (around EUR 0.87 billion) per year. Meanwhile, the total turnover of the book market in Europe is EUR 37-38 billion (data from the Federation of European Publishers). Poland's share is therefore less than 3 per cent, while its share of the European population is 5 per cent.

There are many factors to imply that the extremely demanding creative sector represented by the Polish book market has significant potential for growth. However, it is struggling with a relatively low level of readership and the strong role of prices as the primary tool of competition between market segments. It needs a consistent increase in the activity of institutional programmes and financial outlays from the state budget for the development of readership and support for the publishing sector. Many internal market factors are limiting growth potential. The most critical of these include: over-exploitation of the sale

price of books to the end user as a basic tool for promotion and marketing, unequal commercial margins and sales wars between individual distribution channels, and also the low profitability of entities in the retail sector resulting from the aforementioned policy.

In 2022, high inflation and Russia's brutal war against Ukraine continued to negatively impact the Polish book market.

The market is highly concentrated. A group of almost 300 entities holds almost 97 per cent of it. Approximately 600-700 firms publish more than 10 books per annum. According to estimates produced by Biblioteka Analiz, approximately 300 firms achieved a turnover of or above 1 mln zlotys (€ 215,000), and approximately 40 of them achieved a turnover exceeding 5 mln € (€ 23,5 mln zlotys) in 2022. Most of the other registered publishers have only issued a very limited number of books and do not take part in the publishing market.

Market share in 2022

	Number in group	Market share in %
Large publishers annual income > € 5 million	40	80.0
Medium-sized publishers annual income from € 215,000 to € 5 million	206	16.5
Small publishers annual income < € 200,000, publishing at least two titles p.a.	Over 1,600	3.0
Irregular publishers producing occasional publications	Over 4,000	0.5

Biblioteka Analiz

// The Polish Book Market 2023

In 2022 the value of the Polish book market totalled 3 bn zlotys in wholesale prices (at which publishers sell books to their distributors). Compared with 2021, the market grew by 1.6 per cent.

Since autumn 2021 the publishing market has been in one of its biggest crises. Significant increases in the cost of paper have pushed up the price of books. Prices will continue to rise and the situation is further exacerbated by high inflation. Economic uncertainty is so far translating into more cautious consumer spending.

In 2022, we have seen a significant increase in the cost of printing materials and the printing itself, which has contributed to an increase in the cost of producing a book.

The sharp increase in paper and printing costs forced a change in the retail prices of the books produced and, in some cases, led to the cancellation of planned books. The higher prices only partially offset the increase in production costs.

The war in Ukraine has also had a severe impact on the book market, and in the first few months book promotion had to be severely curtailed as the media and the Polish public focused primarily on the course of the war and aid to the people of Ukraine.

In addition, the high exchange rate increases the cost of acquiring rights to publish foreign books.

Income from book sales

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Income from book sales at publishers' market prices (in zloty mln)	2,250	2,340	2,550	3,009	3,057
Percentage growth	-3%	4%	9%	18%	1.6%
Income in € mln	523	532	553	638	658

Biblioteka Analiz

In 2022 employment in the publishing sector remained steady at a total of 4,677 employees.

Income from book sales by category (%)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Mainstream literature	14.5	18.0	21.1	21.7	21.8
Children's / young adult books	13.5	16.0	20.0	23.2	24.4
School textbooks	27.5	25.0	25.2	24.9	25.0
Academic and professional books	31.2	28.3	22.4	21.1	19.7
Illustrated books	5.6	5.7	4.5	4.3	4.3
Religious books	4.2	3.8	3.6	3.6	3.6
Other (including musical scores and maps)	1.5	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2

Biblioteka Analiz

The last few years have seen the growth of the commercial book sector, including (broadly understood) belles-lettres. In recent years, the commercial book sector has developed, including (broadly understood) fiction. The number and value of sales of books for teenagers and children grew dynamically. The value of non-fiction sales also increased by several percentage points.

Number of copies sold

The average print run decreased by 3.7 per cent, from 2,208 to 2,126 copies.

Book production (number of titles)

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
36,260	33,919	36,138	30,391	33,957	32,408

Polish Publishing in Figures 2022, National Library

From year to year there is strong growth in the popularity of self-publishing, now that book publishing has become accessible to the wider public in terms of both cost and technical requirements.

Belles-lettres (number of titles)

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Adult	Children's	Adult	Children's	Adult	Children's	Adult	Children's	Adult	Children's
Published titles	6,970	2,819	6,814	2,717	6,747	3,098	7,512	2,809	7,633	3,315

Polish Publishing in Figures 2022, National Library

The range of publications is ever wider and more diverse. There is no lack of foreign literature, and domestic literature also enjoys a very strong position.

Original books and translations (total)

	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	Original	Translated	Original	Translated	Original	Translated	Original	Translated	Original	Translated
Published titles	23,007	6,914	23,279	7,068	22,890	6,855	23,541	6,643	21,887	7,148
Belles-lettres for adults	3,780	3,190	3,758	3,056	3,988	2,549	4,687	2,619	4,559	2,840

Polish Publishing in Figures 2022, National Library

Average book prices

Retail price	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Zlotys	43.9	44.03	44.52	45.07	51.7
€	9.59	9.62	9.24	9.49	11.14

Biblioteka Analiz

The last few years have been a period of rising retail prices, the result not just of objective increases in production costs (printing, paper, logistics, etc.) and rising inflation, but also of a strong tendency to offer high discounts in retail sales, including the sale of new publications being issued for the first time.

Cover prices are artificially inflated due to the almost inevitable discounts that very quickly appear at retail outlets. At the same time, the supply of so-called cheap books is huge (copies sold at a reduced price by publishers or wholesalers). In 2014 publishers' and booksellers' organisations alike were involved in taking action to introduce rules for the uniform pricing of books.

Act was prepared, foreseeing the introduction of fixed prices for books, modelled on regulations that exist in

France and Germany. In 2015 the draft was debated in the Sejm (the Polish parliament), but did not gain approval. The topic returned in the second half of 2016, underwent wide public consultation conducted by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, and in the first half of 2017 was submitted to parliament again, but has not proceeded to debate.

Recently, the suggestion has once again been firmly proposed to the government because of the need to find solutions to the critical situation prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The proposed act would primarily protect independent bookstores by increasing their competitiveness compared with other sales outlets. Its assumptions include selling each title at a single price, whatever the outlet, for a period of six months from the original publication date.

Poland's 10 largest book publishers

1. Nowa Era / nowaera.pl
2. Wydawnictwa Szkolne i Pedagogiczne / wsip.com.pl
3. Wolters Kluwer Polska / wolterskluwer.pl
4. Wydawnictwo Naukowe PWN / www.pwn.pl
5. Grupa MAC / grupaedukacyjna.pl
6. Dressler / dressler.com.pl
7. Story House Egmont / egmont.pl
8. C.H. Beck / beck.com.pl
9. Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal / gwfoksal.pl
10. Grupa Znak / wydawnictwoznak.pl

Biblioteka Analiz

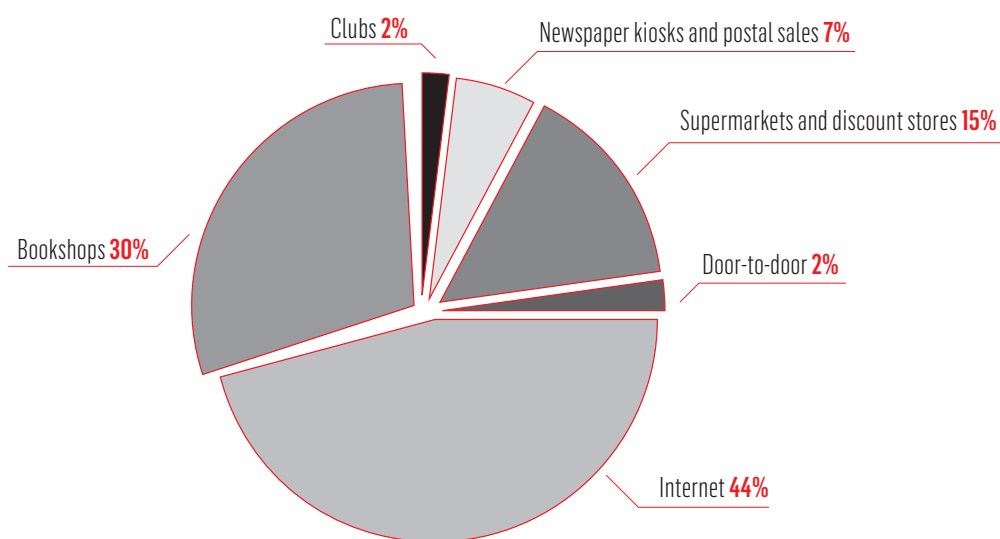
In 2022 the share of the five largest publishing entities on the market (Nowa Era, WSiP, Wolters Kluwer, Dressler and Grupa MAC) totalled 42 per cent. A year earlier the figure was 40.9 per cent.

Distribution

Wholesalers have a large, approximately 46 per cent share of the market. The total number of wholesalers is falling. The big-

gest firms with national scope are Ateneum, Platon, Dressler Dublin, Azymut, and Edu Książka.

Distribution market share



There is dynamic growth in online sales, the value of which is rising above all at the cost of sales at physical outlets, especially independent bookshops, which since 2014 have been deprived of the opportunity to distribute a major part of their stock of school textbooks.

However, online sales are mainly driving competition on the basis of price, offering discounts on new publications equal to as much as 35-40 per cent of the retail price.

Stable sales are also being generated by newspaper kiosks and shops, which offer titles from the bestselling genres of women's literature and crime fiction, in cheaper, pocket-sized editions, and other top-selling books. Sales in the supermarket sector have dropped slightly, primarily thanks to the commercial activity of discount chains, and are driven by a combination of an attractive range of topics (popular fiction, non-fiction, manuals, educational books, children's books) at lower prices than the mainstream, on average 25-35 per cent lower. The largest contribution is being shown by the Portuguese firm Jeronimo Martens' Biedronka chain, whose permanent product range now includes cyclical promotional campaigns de-

voted to individual types of publications available on the market. The chain has recorded its best results in sales of publications for children, self-help books, bestselling fiction (popular, crime and thriller, and romantic fiction) and non-fiction (mainly biographies and history books).

A new phenomenon is the sale of books at sales points where they were not previously on offer, e.g. at post offices. The Polish Post Office is filling gaps in the publishing market in many places where there are no competing shops representing the book industry. The Polish Post Office has more than 7,500 sites, including post office branches and agencies in very small towns and villages. In 2021 these outlets sold around 3 mln books.

Sales of books at press outlets and discount stores are also growing (the Biedronka chain of supermarkets annually sells approximately 13.5 mln copies, i.e. slightly more than one of the largest online bookshops, Taniaksiążka.pl).

Traditional bookselling is suffering a decline in comparison with other sales outlets.

Bookshops

The number of independent bookshops is steadily decreasing as a result of various factors. As well as a general decline of interest in books, economic factors such as high rents for premises, strong competition from large

retail firms (not just bookshop chains but also supermarkets) are having a notable effect, as are the price wars initiated by the largest market players. The decline increased distinctly in 2020, when online sales increased.

Number of bookshops

2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1,890	1,914	1,815	1,748	1,705

National Bookshop Database, obk.pik.org.pl

The Polish Book Chamber is carrying out a long-term project to develop a National Bookshop Database, financed by the Polish Book Institute. At the end of 2022 1,745 bookshops were registered on the database by the end of 2021. As a result of the increasing problems affecting traditional physical bookshops, in the course of 2022, 67 bookshops disappeared from the database.

Unfortunately, in 2020, because of the COVID-19 crisis more bookshops closed down, including stores that belonged to large chains located in shopping malls where visitor numbers have dropped, as well as small family-owned bookstores.

The present crisis on the retail market has forced many independent bookshops to set up online stores and to expand their product lines to include stationery.

The years 2016-2019 were a period of intense change in the chain store sector. Alongside the collapse of the Matras chain, there was dynamic growth for entities such as Świat Książki Bookshops, Book-Book and MoleMole (which is financially associated with Empik, the market leader among physical bookshops). However, in May 2020 Empik decided to close the MoleMole bookshops, on the principle that in the present economic situation it could see no potential for the growth of this chain.

The BookBook chain also disappeared from the market.

The pandemic and now the effects of the war in Ukraine and the accelerated inflation have had an impact on the number of independent bookshops, which has fallen dramatically, and the growing role of chain bookshops and other distribution outlets such as supermarkets, discount stores and post offices. Small

towns lack bookshops and access to these venues or the internet. However, as these entities are tied to others in terms of capital and organisation, there is progressive narrowing of sales in favour of the products offered by selected publishing firms and the gradual limitation of a product range fully representative of Polish book production.

Wholesale discounts average approximately 42-55 per cent. Bookshop chains work at discounts ranging from 42-50 per cent, yet in some instances direct cooperation is burdened by extra costs. Independent bookshops work at a discount of 27-35 per cent in the case of so-called colour books, and 15-20 per cent for textbooks. Booksellers supplied directly by publishers buy at a discount of up to 35-47 per cent (apart from large bookselling chains such as Empik), on top of which the publisher may offer a higher discount in exchange for an increase in the sales of their books and greater commitment to promoting their titles. In addition, where there is direct cooperation between the publishers and the leading chains, the discount on the cover price for the retail bookseller can be as high as 60 per cent.

In 2017 the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage launched a grant programme called "Partnership for a book", focusing inter alia on support for bookshops and libraries through the development of professional skills via training, and also on activities aimed at promoting bookshops and developing readership at public libraries. Since 2021 the Polish Book Institute has been implementing the "Certificate for Small Bookshops" programme. The aim of the programme is to support small independent bookshops. The maximum grant available is € 8,600.

The grant can be used for promotion, operating costs, purchase of equipment, necessary licences and bookshop equipment.

Main bookselling chains

Empik / empik.com

Empik is one of the best-known Polish brands. It has been on the market for 75 years. Is also Poland's biggest bookselling chain and omnichannel leader, which now has more than 315 physical stores and the Empik.com online store. The company's complete range of goods includes 2.5 mln products, and the number is rising (books, CDs, DVDs, beauty products, computer games, stationery, electronics and household goods). The average number of books on offer is 435,000, with 23 mln copies sold in 2020.

Empik is rapidly developing its own marketplace (Empikplace) with offers from thousands of third-party retailers. In 2019 the company started developing Empik Premium, a subscription service that reduces the cost to customers by providing free delivery, seasonal offers and permanent discounts on a wide range of products. Over 9 mln users are already taking advantage of the Premium.

Towards the end of 2017, the company launched an app called Empik Go, which makes it easy to select and use e-books, audiobooks and podcasts, including Empik Go originals.

A total of 130,000 audiobooks, e-books and podcasts are available for subscription.

Sales are offered in B2C and B2B models (subscription to employees) and B2G (sale of subscriptions to libraries).

In the first half of 2020 Empik introduced Empik Music, a new streaming service, which has further strengthened its position on the Polish music market.

Empik has also launched a platform for self-publishers. Self-publishers can upload their books to Empik.com and Empik Go - as e-books, audiobooks or paper books (in the print-on-demand model). In the future, selected titles will find their way into Empik's bricks-and-mortar stores.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to significant changes in consumer habits, including a major shift to e-commerce. Empik initiated The Virtual Book Fair, combining the convenience of online shopping with the exclusive offers and meetings with authors that are traditional features of physical book fairs. Seven editions of the virtual fair have already been held, during which 2.34 million copies of books were sold.

Świat Książki / swiatksiazki.pl

This is one of the most rapidly developing bookshop chains. The owner of the chain is a company called Dressler, which in 2013 acquired 36 bookshops from Weltbild. In the years that followed it opened further stores; at the end of 2022 it had 105 outlets. The new bookshops are situated in shopping centres as well as on the main commercial streets in their localities. Every year Świat Książki's bookshops are given high marks for the best customer service in the booksell-

ing industry on the Daymakerindex survey measuring customer experience. The company also runs its own online bookshop, Swiatksiazki.pl. Its customers can collect their orders free of charge from the chain's bookshops. The chain's marketing policy involves two rotating promotional campaigns, one offering "A second book at half price" and the other "3 for the price of 2".

Książnica Polska / ksiaznica.pl

This firm operates mainly in north-eastern Poland where it runs retail operations and owns 54 bookshops, as well as an online bookshop called Czytaj.pl. The company performs 1.2 mln transactions annually and is visited by 5 mln customers. For several years the company has been developing a partnership

programme aimed at independent bookshops, which in exchange for a percentage of income offers to modernise the shops, supplement their product range, guarantee their orders and support their marketing and promotion efforts.

Online book sales

Online book sales have noted a steady rise in value in recent years. Online bookshops offer not only new titles, but also a large selection of books from publishers' backlists, which are harder to find and often not available in physical bookshops. At the same time, e-commerce in books is the arena for the fiercest price competition, which has an extremely strong effect on the entire book retail sector and the general state of the publishing industry in Poland.

One of the major trends typifying retail book sales in Poland is the rapid and progressive migration

of customers from the physical sales sector (traditional bookshops) to online bookshops. At the same time, customers whose purchasing decisions continue to be guided primarily by price do not show loyalty to any particular website, but migrate between the various firms, choosing the best offers as and when they arise, based on the cost and conditions of delivery as well as the price of the book. Online sales, via the bookseller's own website, are now also run by publishers, which gives them a source of direct income and an opportunity to sell their backlisted books.

Online bookshops that package and deliver books abroad

// Allegro.pl

// Bonito.pl

// Gandalf.com.pl

// Empik.com

// Amazon.pl

// Taniaksiążka.pl

// Swiatksiazki.pl

Online book sales

According to a survey entitled "E-commerce in Poland 2022. Gemius for E-commerce Poland", which describes the online sales market, the best-known brand involved in online book sales is Empik (63 per cent), followed by the Allegro platform (24 per cent) and Taniaksiazka.pl (9

per cent). Three other brands are recognised by no more than 4 per cent of those canvassed: Amazon, Swiatksiazki.pl and OLX; and two others by 3 per cent: Bonito and Merlin.

Allegro.pl

This is Poland's leading auction website and online platform for the book trade. Allegro is used on a monthly basis by 20 mln Poles. In autumn 2020 the company launched on the Warsaw stock exchange. Many market analysts now regard the Allegro.pl service as the country's biggest online bookseller too. However, its sales involve the primary market (new books) as well as the secondary one (used books). In recent years income totalling an annual 200 mln zlotys has been achieved from book sales via the Allegro platform.

In 2022 Allegro sold a total of 23 mln books. Customers show the biggest interest in publications from the following categories: school textbooks, books for children and young adults, belles-lettres, popular literature, nonfiction and popular science books. There was also a 25 percent increase in second-hand books. The most popular are used textbooks, science and popular science books (especially: history, archaeology) as well as fiction, popular and non-fiction.

Amazon.pl

The Polish version of Amazon officially launched at the beginning of March 2021. The American giant's debut in Poland had been expected for a few years already – in autumn 2017 Amazon Germany started operating in Poland. Since spring 2021 users have been able to buy and sell on the Polish version of the platform.

Amazon is developing gradually and methodically, analysing the situation in the market. By the end of 2021 the Amazon.pl website was visited by 7.3 mln users. Amazon launched in Poland with an offer of around 100 million products. It now offers 400 million products divided into 30 categories. The most popular product categories among Polish customers are electronics and books.

Bonito.pl

This is one of the biggest polish online bookshops, which has been in operation since 2006. It offers a range of 270,000 products. In addition to books, these include toys, records, puzzles, games and school supplies, children's items and electronics. It has the fastest growth in gross income, from 2 mln zlotys in 2009 to 208 mln in 2022. The company owes its growth to its aggressive pricing policy and the large range of services that it provides.

Its customers can receive their orders via the Polish postal service and courier firms, as well as 46 company delivery points located in 13 cities, including Warsaw, Kraków, Bielsko-Biała, Katowice, Poznań, Lublin, Łódź, Gdańsk, Rzeszów and Wrocław. Apart from its basic sales outlet, the owner of Bonito.pl.

Taniaksiazka.pl

This is one of the most dynamically developing e-commerce companies, operating in north-eastern Poland. In its 17 years of activity this e-store has changed from a small family firm based in one little room into a thriving bookshop with income of over 300 mln zlotys (€ 65 mln). It has more than 400,000 products (books and games,

toys, electronic products and stationery) on offer. The bookstore is constantly expanding its network of collection points for online orders. The company continues to expand its network of physical collection points for online orders. There are currently 45 of them across Poland, including 12 bookshops under the TaniaKsiazka.pl brand.

Tanis.pl

This online bookshop has been operating since 2007. In the beginning it specialised exclusively in the sale of books, including textbooks. Currently, it also offers toys

and stationery. In 2022 it processed nearly 3 mln orders, with a turnover of 200 mln zlotys.

E-books

The share of digital publishing sales is estimated at 11.5 per cent of the total market value expressed as revenue at publishers' selling prices. Subsequent waves of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2021 helped to sustain increased interest in e-reading; platforms selling e-books recorded a significant growth in sales. Increasing activity by publishers and a change in the habits of readers, who now have a bolder attitude to e-books, are having major significance for e-readership.

Towards the end of 2019 there was a long-awaited reduction in the rate of VAT on e-books, from 23 to 5 per cent. However, the overwhelming majority of publishers have not changed the prices of their e-books, which has allowed them to achieve greater income from digital products and encouraged them to broaden their range and to invest in new e-book catalogues.

According to research by the National Library, e-books and audiobooks do not compete with traditional printed paper books, but are supplementary to them. Readers choose the form in which they wish to receive a publication according to their current needs and preferences.

New publications with the highest sales potential are issued in three formats simultaneously: paper, e-book and audiobook. Most publishers have adopted the principle that all new publications are issued as e-books (as long as the licence allows for it, and not including illustrated publications), whereas on average 1 in 12 titles is also issued as an audiobook.

The estimated value of e-book sales in 2022 totalled 370 mln zlotys (80 mln euro), representing growth of 65 per cent compared with 2020. Thus the sector maintained its two-figure growth trend. Publishing houses recording the highest value for digital product sales noted a rise in income of even 200 per cent.

The burden of market development lies on the one hand with the publishers, who are responsible for growth in the number of titles available in digital form in the Polish language, and on the other with retail vendors, whose marketing activities create demand and generate higher sales.

A sales model for digital books through subscriptions has been gaining ground in Poland since 2012. This form of distribution is an alternative to the traditional model, through which the reader becomes the owner of the digital book via a sales transaction. By contrast, the subscription model provides temporary access to the relevant title in exchange for a fixed payment (e.g. for 30 days). Since 2020 there has been a dynamic change, with more and more Poles using subscriptions.

The leader in this sector is a platform called Legimi, which since 2015 has also sold e-books in a package together with an e-reader for one zloty, within a subscription model that provides access to a database of more than 180,000 titles (e-books and audiobooks). The service is also available from Poland's biggest mobile phone operators (Orange, T-Mobile and Play). A similar service providing e-books and audiobooks on subscription is also now offered by Empik Go. In Poland the distribution of e-books via subscription models (e.g. Legimi, Empik, Ebookpoint) to institutional customers, above all public libraries, is also gradually but consistently growing.

The biggest e-material providers are Empik (Empik.com, Empik Go), Legimi, Publio.pl (which belongs to Agora), Woblink (part of the Znak group), Ebookpoint.pl (part of the Helion group), Nexto.pl, (an e-Kiosk digital press distributor) and Ibuk.pl (part of the PWN group).

Audiobooks

Audiobooks accounted for 8 per cent of the entire market in 2022. Interest in audiobooks is growing, which is clearly the result of an ever-wider choice of audio publications. Publishers are choosing to produce audiobook versions of their new publications more and more often and are also recording titles from their backlists. This is also a result of the increasingly popular subscription model, which includes audio services. Platforms are distributing audiobooks with increasing commitment and successfully implementing their own productions.

Growth in this sector of the book market in recent years is the result of dynamic competition between three companies in the audiobook online segment (Audioteka, Empik and Storytel) in their efforts to add new titles to their range.

There are now four main players on the Polish market – Audioteka, Storytel, Empik and BookBeat.

Audioteka, a platform and an app offering audio products, was founded in Poland in 2008. It now functions in 11 countries. It is a leader in audiobook sales in Poland, the Czech Republic, Lithuania and Slovakia. It offers individual titles, its own productions, podcasts, and also the possibility to subscribe. More than 19,500 titles in total. Last year alone the company

released 70 new audio productions, comprising super productions, original audio content and podcasts. Audioteka has opened its own recording studio. Audiobooks and podcasts are being created there, with radio dramas and high-budget super productions to be created in the future.

Under the Empik Go subscription programme, Empik offers two types of subscriptions for e-books and audiobooks): Go Mini and Go Max. The platform focuses on developing its own production offerings. In 2022 32 super productions and 20 original podcast series were produced. The application with audiobooks, e-books and podcasts is used by over 330,000 users every month.

The Storytel platform has been operating in Poland for seven years, using the classic subscription model. It is also worth mentioning a project launched in 2017 by Storytel Polska called Storytel Original, which aims to produce original projects in the form of 10-part audio serials.

The BookBeat app is coming to Poland in May 2020. On offer are two different types of subscriptions: Basic and Premium. The company has been operating on the Polish market for a short time and has undertaken extensive marketing activities.

Top literary publishers

Albatros / wydawnictwoalbatros.com

(121 published titles)

Albatros was founded in 1994 by Andrzej Kuryłowicz, a passionate book lover. This company is known as a “bestseller factory”. It publishes contemporary fiction and non-fiction, predominantly in translation from English, French and Spanish. It mainly publishes foreign bestselling authors such as Harlan Coben,

Nicholas Sparks, Stephen King, Graham Masterton, Ken Follett, Guillaume Musso, B.A. Paris, Mario Puzo, Frederick Forsyth, Ian McEwan, Marc Levy, and Nobel Prize winners Kazuo Ishiguro, Doris Lessing and Toni Morrison.

Czarne / czarne.com.pl

(84 published titles)

Founded in 1996, Czarne publishes European fiction and non-fiction and is a leading reportage and travel writing publisher. Already well-known for publishing the work of new Central and Eastern European authors, a wide range of non-fiction, essays and memoirs as well as first-rate fiction, Czarne is now adding history and social science to its range.

Its authors include Andrzej Stasiuk, Krzysztof Varga, Serhiy Zhadan, Yurii Andrukhovych, Herta Müller, Paul Theroux, Jean Hatzfeld, Jacek Hugo-Bader, Wojciech Tochman, Paweł Smoleński, Mariusz Szczygieł, Svetlana Alexievich, Lidia Ostałowska, Liao Yiwu, Colin Thubron, Karl-Markus Gauss, Martin Pollack and Thomas Bernhard.

Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal / gwfoksal.pl

(575 published titles)

This group was formed in 2012 from the merger of three publishing houses: W.A.B., Buchmann and Wilga (children’s literature). In recent years the group has expanded its range by establishing several new imprints, including Uroboros (fantasy books), YA! (young adult literature), Lipstick Books (erotica), and FoxGames (board games for children and young adults). Although its list includes many well-known

foreign authors, it also publishes Polish authors (including Jacek Dehnel, Zyta Rudzka, Witold Szabłowski and Zygmunt Miłoszewski). W.A.B. has promoted most of the newer names in Polish literature.

Books published by Grupa Wydawnicza Foksal have been nominated for the most important Polish awards.

Muza / muza.com.pl

(160 published titles)

Founded in 1989, this firm publishes fiction and essays, and is a major buyer of foreign rights. It publishes a large number of leading foreign authors including Roberto Bolaño, Haruki Murakami, Carlos Ruiz Zafón, Daniel Silva, Vladimir Nabokov, Gabriel García

Márquez and Arturo Pérez-Reverte. Muza also publishes the work of bestselling crime writer Katarzyna Bonda. It launched the You&YA brand in early 2022, and the books it publishes are hitting the bestseller lists.

Prószyński Media / proszynski.pl

(223 published titles)

This firm has been active since 1990 and has successfully launched a large number of new authors of popular Polish literature. It also publishes some of the best-known science fiction, crime fiction and non-fiction, as well as popular science books. Its authors include Virginia C. Andrews, Orson Scott Card,

Diana Chamberlain, Jeffery Deaver, Ursula K. Le Guin, John Irving, Henry James, Dennis Lehane, Stephen King, Jodi Picoult, Terry Pratchett, Nora Roberts, John Steinbeck, Amy Tan and Anais Nin. The company's publication list includes crime novels by Katarzyna Puzyńska and Arabic saga by Tanya Valko.

Rebis / rebis.com.pl

(291 published titles)

This publishing firm has achieved success by continuously broadening its range. Fiction accounts for about 60 per cent of its output, but in recent years it has published an increasing amount of non-fiction, self-help books and popular science. Rebis has been consistently building its position as one of the lead-

ing players in the history book sector. Like other publishers of fiction, it produces most of its books in extensive series. Its authors include Salman Rushdie, Amos Oz, José Saramago, Frank Herbert, Elizabeth Gilbert, Robin Cook, Graham Masterton, Jay Asher, Carla Montero, Bernard Minier and Mons Kallentoft.

Sonia Draga / soniadraga.pl

(82 published titles)

This company has been on the publishing market since 2000. Its list mainly consists of a broad range of literary novels (novels of manners, historical fiction, historical romance, crime and thrillers), and it also publishes non-fiction. It owns several imprints including Non Stop Comics (graphic novels), Post Factum (non-fiction), Debit (children's books) and Młody Book! (young adult books). It has built its market po-

sition on the long-term success of the biggest best-sellers of the past decade, including the novels of Dan Brown and E.L. James's erotic series. Its authors include Charlotte Link, Chris Carter, Lisa Gardner and James Ellroy. It also offers ambitious, award-winning literature, by authors such as Elena Ferrante, Jonathan Franzen, Patrick Modiano, Jeffrey Eugenides, Hans Fallada and Javier Marías.

Świat Książki / wydawnictwoswiatksiazki.pl

(139 published titles)

Founded in 1994 by the Bertelsmann media corporation, Świat Książki was later incorporated into the German group Weltbild. It now belongs to Dressler Dublin. It publishes books by some of the most popular Polish authors (Manuela Gretkowska, Jakub Żulczyk, Łukasz Orbitowski), but its entire list has

a much wider range, covering different genres in fiction and non-fiction. It publishes the work of authors including Julian Barnes, Paul Bowles, Oriana Fallaci and Carlos Fuentes. This firm's most popular books in recent years have been novels by Paula Hawkins, Jojo Moyes, Kristin Hannah and Virginia C. Andrews.

Wydawnictwo Literackie / wydawnictwoliterackie.pl

(105 published titles)

Founded in 1953, this company is connected with the international publishing firm Libella. It publishes many leading Polish authors and promotes new titles by foreign and Polish writers including Stanisław Lem, Witold Gombrowicz, Jacek Dukaj and Ignacy Karpowicz. As well as serious literature it also publishes history books, popular science books, young adult literature, children's literature, thrillers, crime

novels and women's romantic fiction. Wydawnictwo Literackie's authors include winners of all Poland's top literary prizes, such as the NIKE Literary Award, the Kościelski Foundation Prize, the Janusz Zajdel Polish Fandom Prize, the "Polityka" Passport, the Gdynia Literary Prize and many others. It also publishes the work of Olga Tokarczuk, who won the 2018 Nobel Prize in Literature.

Wydawnictwo Poznańskie / wydawnictwopoznanskie.pl

(267 published titles)

The history of Wydawnictwo Poznańskie dates back to 1956. The publishing house owns four brands: Wydawnictwo Poznańskie (fiction, history, non-fiction), Czwarta Strona (crime fiction), We need YA (young adult literature) and Zygzaki (children's literature). It publishes outstanding and award-winning authors

such as Annie Proulx, Douglas Stuart, Bernardine Evaristo and Elif Shafak. Czwarta Strona publishes books by Remigiusz Mróz, currently the most popular writer in Poland. Readers appreciate its Scandinavian series and reportage series, which have both been published for many years.

Znak / wydawnictwoznak.pl

(318 published titles)

Founded in 1959, this company publishes literary fiction and non-fiction, as well as children's literature. It publishes some of Poland's most famous authors, including Czesław Miłosz, Wisława Szymborska, Wiesław Myśliwski, Paweł Huelle, Magdalena Tulli and Małgorzata Szejnert. Znak is known as "the Nobel stable". As well as the work of Czesław Miłosz and Wisława Szymborska, it has published books by writers including Joseph Brodsky, J.M. Coetzee,

Mario Vargas Llosa and Samuel Beckett. Its bestselling novelists include Wiesław Myśliwski, Zadie Smith, Eduardo Mendoza and Marek Krajewski. It has several different imprints, including Znak Literanova (fiction), Znak Emotikon (children's books), Znak Horyzont (history books) and Znak Koncept (non-fiction, self-help, cookery). It has established a separate publishing house called Wydawnictwo Otwarte.

Zysk i S-ka / zysk.com.pl

(158 published titles)

This company makes about 80 per cent of its income from adult fiction. It also promotes Polish writers, including Małgorzata Kalicińska, Elżbieta Cherezińska and Jacek Pańkiewicz. It is one of the leading publishers of fantasy on the Polish market. Its foreign authors include George R.R. Martin, Chimamanda Ngozi

Adichie and Peter Ackroyd. About 30 per cent of its entire range of publications are popular or specialised science books, by authors including Stephen Hawking, Allan Bloom, Saul Bellow, Francis Fukuyama, Alvin Toffler, Edward O. Wilson, Roger Penrose, Carl Sagan and John Gribbin.

Polish Literature Abroad

The tradition for translation of Polish literature into foreign languages goes back to the sixteenth century. In that era the works of Poland's Renaissance poets were translated. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries some classic Polish novels enjoyed popular success abroad.

Translations from classic Polish literature include the oeuvre of Henryk Sienkiewicz (5,038 whole books and 138 works in anthologies), Adam Mickiewicz (661 and 259 respectively), Władysław Reymont (605 and 89 respectively), Józef Ignacy Krasiński (397 and 46 respectively), Bolesław Prus (361 and 95 respectively), and Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz (160 and 48 respectively).

Of the modern authors, the most frequently translated include Stanisław Lem (1,709 translations of whole books and 145 works in anthologies), Andrzej Sapkowski (1,300 books), Ryszard Kapuściński (710), Witold Gombrowicz (666 and 76 respectively), Czesław Miłosz (570 and 277 respectively), Janusz Korczak (497), Olga Tokarczuk (476), Wisława Szymborska (425 and 262 respectively), Sławomir Mrożek (406 and 149 respectively), Bruno Schulz (247 and 73 respectively), Zbigniew Herbert (235 and 203 respectively), Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz (234 and 268 respectively), Tadeusz Różewicz (212 and 274 respectively), Karol Wojtyła (171 books), Andrzej Stasiuk (165), Tadeusz Konwicki (146), and Hanna Krall (119).

The satirical crime novels of Joanna Chmielewska (622 books) are popular in Russia, where they achieve high sales figures.

The most popular authors by the number of languages into which their works have been translated are Wisława Szymborska (54 languages), Czesław Miłosz (53), Janusz Korczak (51), Tadeusz Różewicz (49), Zbigniew Herbert (48), Olga Tokarczuk (48), Jarosław Iwaszkiewicz (46), Stanisław Lem (45), Sławomir Mrożek (45), Jerzy Andrzejewski (42), Ryszard Kapuściński (42), Witold Gombrowicz (40), Bruno Schulz (40), Karol Wojtyła (37), Andrzej Sapkowski (36), Adam Zagajewski (35), Andrzej Stasiuk (30), Andrzej Szczypiorski (29), Tadeusz Konwicki (28), Paweł Huelle (25), Antoni Libera (24), and Marek Krajewski (22).

In the period from 2013 to 2022 the largest number of translations of Polish literature were into Russian (853), English (653), followed by Ukrainian (551), German (476), Chinese (455), Spanish (449), Czech (414), French (379), Italian (319), and Slovak (271).

In recent years Polish books for children and young adults have become increasingly popular around the world and have been translated into 47 languages. Of the modern authors, the most frequently translated include Aleksandra and Daniel Mizielewski (289 books and 39 in cooperation with other authors), Przemysław Wechterowicz (99), Piotr Socha (85) Iwona Chmielewska (66), and Grzegorz Kasdepke (57).

Foreign Literature in Poland

Foreign publications account for a large share of the market. In 2022, of a total of 32,408 published titles, translated books accounted for 22 per cent (7,148).

Translations published in 2021

Original language	Titles	Including belles-lettres for adults
English	4,383	1,589
French	695	398
German	433	61
Japanese	380	364
Italian	250	60
Swedish	118	54
Spanish	116	44
Russian	108	55
Latin	50	0
Greek	48	4

Literary Awards

The Kościelski Foundation Prize / koscielscy.org

Awarded annually since 1962. Based in Geneva, the Kościelski Foundation is one of the oldest Polish cultural institutions. The prize is given to writers under the age of 40, for their entire output to date or for a specific work.

- 2022 // Bartosz Sadulski
- 2021 // Jan Baron
- 2020 // Małgorzata Rejmer
- 2019 // Aldona Kopkiewicz
- 2018 // Joanna Czeżot
- 2017 // Urszula Zajączkowska
- 2016 // Maciej Płaza
- 2015 // Szczepan Twardoch

Wisława Szymborska Award / nagrodaszymborskiej.pl

An international prize awarded by the Wisława Szymborska Foundation for the best volume of poetry published in the Polish language in the preceding year (including collections written in Polish and translated into it). The award was founded at the bequest of Wisława Szymborska, who won the 1996 Nobel Prize in Literature. Offering prize money of 100,000 zlotys. The prize for foreign poetry in translation includes an additional 50,000 zlotys awarded to the translator.

- 2023 // *Ręka pszczelarza* (Beekeeper's hand) by Tomasz Różycki
- 2022 // *Mer de Glace* by Małgorzata Lebda
- 2021 // *Rośliny mięsożerne* (Carnivorous Plants) by Genowefa Jakubowska-Fijałkowska
- 2020 // *Animalia* by Anna Adamowicz
- 2019 // *Mordercze ballady* (Murderous Ballads) by Marta Podgórnik
- 2018 // *Psalmy* (Psalms) by Julia Fiedorczuk
Przejdź do historii (Turn to History) by Linn Hansén (translated by Justyna Czechowska)
- 2017 // *W* by Marcin Sendecki
- 2016 // *Drożdżownia* (The Yeast Factory) by Jakub Kornhauser
Niespieszna żegluga (Leisurely Navigation) by Uroš Zupan (translated by Katarina Šalamun Biedrzycka and Miłosz Biedrzycki)

The Silesius Wrocław Prize for Poetry / silesius.wroclaw.pl

An award for the best works of Polish poetry and their authors. The prize was founded by Wrocław City Council, and since 2008 has been awarded annually in three categories: for the entire body of a poet's work, for book of the year, and for debut of the year. The prize consists of a statuette and a cheque for: 100,000 zlotys for the entire body of work, 50,000 zlotys for the book of the year, and 15,000 zlotys for the debut of the year.

- 2023 // Entire body of work – Joanna Mueller
- 2022 // Entire body of work – Marcin Sendecki
Book of the year – *Krematoria I | Krematoria II* by Krzysztof Siwczyk
Debut of the year – *Polski wrap* (Polish wrap) by Marta Stachniatek
- 2021 // Entire body of work – Ryszard Krynicki
Book of the year – *Zakaz rozmów z osobami nieobecnymi fizycznie* (Prohibition of Conversations with Physically Absent Persons) by Kamila Janiak
Debut of the year – *Parkingi podziemne jako miasta spotkań* (Underground Car Parks as Meeting Points) by Aleksander Trojanowski
- 2020 // Entire body of work – Eugeniusz Tkaczyszyn-Dycki
Book of the year – *Kalendarz majów* (The Maya Calendar) by Konrad Góra
Debut of the year – *Chyba na pewno* (Definitely, I Guess) by Jakub Pszoniak

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- 2019 //** Entire body of work – Ewa Lipska
Book of the year – *Cele* (Targets) by Adam Kaczanowski
Debut of the year – *wsie, animalia, miscellanea* (villages, animalia, miscellanea) by Maciej Bobula
- 2018 //** Entire body of work – Bohdan Zadura
Book of the year – *Puste noce* (Empty Nights) by Jerzy Jarniewicz
Debut of the year – *Raport wojenny* (War Report) by Agata Jabłońska

The ANGELUS Central European Literary Award / angelus.com.pl

This prize, founded by Wrocław City Council, is given to the author of the best Central European work of fiction to be published in Polish each year. It is one of Poland's biggest literary prizes, worth 150,000 zlotys. It is Poland's most valuable literary award.

- 2022 //** Edward Pasewicz for *Pulverkopf*
- 2021 //** Kateryna Babkina for *Nikt tak nie tańczył, jak mój dziadek* (Nobody Danced Like My Grandfather), translated by Bohdan Zadura
- 2020 //** Goran Vojnović for *Moja Jugostawia* (My Yugoslavia), translated by Joanna Pomorska
- 2019 //** Georgi Gospodinov for *Fizyka smutku* (The Physics of Sorrow), translated by Magdalena Pytlak

The NIKE Literary Award / nike.org.pl

A prestigious prize for the best Polish book of the year. It involves a three-stage competition: at the first stage (May) the jury nominates 20 titles, at the second (September) a shortlist of seven finalists is announced, and then the winner is chosen from this group. The prize is usually awarded in October. The author of the winning book is given a NIKE statuette sculpted by Gustaw Zemła and a prize of 100,000 zlotys. First awarded in 1997, the NIKE prize has mainly been won by novelists.

- 2022 //** *Mondo cane* by Jerzy Jarniewicz
- 2021 //** *Kajś. Opowieść o Górnym Śląsku* (Kajś: The Story of Upper Silesia) by Zbigniew Rokita
- 2020 //** *Baśń o wężowym sercu* (The Tale of the Serpent's Heart) by Radek Rak
- 2019 //** *Nie ma* (Not There) by Mariusz Szczygieł
- 2018 //** *Rzeczy, których nie wyrzucitem* (Things I Didn't Throw Out) by Marcin Wicha
- 2017 //** *Żeby nie było śladów* (Leave No Trace) by Cezary Łazarewicz

Gdynia Literary Prize / nagrodaliterackagdynia.pl

An annual award initiated in 2006 by the Mayor of the City of Gdynia. Presented in four categories (novel or short story, poetry, essay, translation) to the best literary works published within the last year. The award is worth 50,000 zlotys (in each category).

- 2023 //** Fiction – *Zaklanianie węży w gorące wieczory* (Snake charming in hot evenings) by Małgorzata Żarów
Poetry – *Mountain View* by Marcin Czerkasow
Essay – *Gdynia obiecana. Miasto, modernizm, modernizacja 1920-1939* (Promised Gdynia. The city, modernism, modernisation 1920-1939) by Grzegorz Piątek
Translation – Jerzy Koch for *Mój maty zwierzaku* (My Heavenly Favorite) by Marieke Lucas Rijneveld
- 2022 //** Fiction – *Myśliwice, Myśliwice* by Krzysztof Bartnicki
Poetry – *gift. z Podlasia* (gift. from Podlasie) by Justyna Kulikowska
Essay – *Stanisław Lem. Wypędzony z wysokiego zamku. Biografia* (Stanisław Lem: Banished from the High Castle: A Biography) by Agnieszka Gajewska
Translation – Maciej Świerkocki for *Ulysses*, a Polish translation of *Ulysses* by James Joyce
- 2021 //** Fiction – *Pomarli* (The Dead) by Waldemar Bawotek
Poetry – *Karapaks* (Carapace) by Natalia Malek
Essay – *Odmieńcza rewolucja. Performans na cudzej ziemi* (A Misfits' Revolution: Performance in a Foreign Land) by Joanna Krakowska
Translation – Magda Heydel for *Opowiadania* (Short Stories), a Polish translation of selected stories by Katherine Mansfield
- 2020 //** Fiction – *Pustostany* (Empty Houses) by Dorota Kotas
Poetry – *Bailout* by Tomasz Bąk
Essay – *Patyki, badyle* (Sticks and Stalks) by Urszula Zajączkowska

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Translation – Piotr Sommer for *Co robisz na naszej ulicy*, a Polish translation of selected poems by Charles Reznikoff

- 2019 //** Fiction – *Krótką wymiana ognia* (A Brief Exchange of Fire) by Zyta Rudzka
Poetry – *Sny uckermärkerów* (The Uckermärkers' Dreams) by Małgorzata Lebda
Essay – *Wyroby* (Manufactures) by Olga Drenda
Translation – Bogustawa Sochańska for *Alfabet*, a Polish translation of *Alphabet* by Inger Christensen

Conrad Award / conradfestival.pl

The Conrad Award is Poland's most important award for first-time authors of fiction. Qualifying books will have been published in the previous year. The award is sponsored by the Mayor of Kraków and is a joint initiative of the Polish Book Institute, the "Tygodnik Powszechny" Foundation and the Kraków Festival Bureau, which is in charge of Kraków's status as a UNESCO City of Literature. The winner is awarded 30,000 zlotys and a month-long residency in Kraków sponsored by the Polish Book Institute.

- 2022 //** *Miasto bajka* (Fairy tale city) by Paulina Siegień
2021 // *Bestiariusz nowohucki* (The Bestiary of Nowa Huta) by Elżbieta Łapczyńska
2020 // *Pustostany* (Empty Houses) by Dorota Kotas
2019 // *Psy rasy drobnych* (Dogs of Minor Breeds) by Olga Hund
2018 // *Po trochu* (Little by Little) by Weronika Gogola
2017 // *Ma być czysto* (Clean It Up) by Anna Cieplak
2016 // *Dom z witrażem* (The House with the Stained-Glass Window) by Żanna Stoniowska

The "Polityka" Passport / polityka.pl

A prize established in 1993 by the weekly newspaper "Polityka" for artists in six categories: literature, film, theatre, classical music, popular music and the visual arts. Since 2002 there has also been a special prize for achievements in disseminating Polish culture.

Literature

- 2023 //** Grzegorz Piątek
2022 // Łukasz Barys
2021 // Mira Marcinów
2020 // Dominika Stowik
2019 // Małgorzata Rejmer
2018 // Marcin Wicha

Józef Mackiewicz Literary Award / jozefmackiewicz.com

This is a major prize awarded to Polish authors for books that promote Polish culture, history and tradition in a significant way. The award was founded to commemorate the life and work of the prominent writer, novelist and political commentator Józef Mackiewicz. A shortlist of about 10 nominees is issued during the summer and the winner's name is announced at an award ceremony held each year on 11 November, Polish National Independence Day. The winner receives a prize of \$ 10,000. The award has been granted annually since 2002.

- 2022 //** *Cisza w Pogranie* (Silence in Pogranie) by Marcin Pilis
2021 // *Dogmat i tiara. Esej o upadku rzymskiego katolicyzmu* (Dogma and the Tiara: Essays on the Decline of Roman Catholicism) by Paweł Lisicki
2020 // *Roztrzaskane lustro. Upadek cywilizacji zachodniej* (The Shattered Mirror: The Fall of Western Civilisation) by Wojciech Roszkowski
2019 // *Północ i Południe. Teksty o polskiej kulturze i historii* (North and South: On Polish Culture and History) by Marek Cichocki
2018 // *Nad Zbruczem* (On the River Zbruch) by Wiesław Helak
2017 // *Sarmacja: Obalenie mitów* (Sarmatia. Debunking the Myths) by Jacek Kowalski
2016 // *Biografie odtajnione. Z archiwów literackich bezpieki* (Declassified Biographies: From the Literary Archives of the Secret Police) by Joanna Siedlecka

Identitas Literature and History Award / identitas.pl

This award is for works that belong to the broadly-defined category of humanities. The jury awards one main prize to a single winner, and also from one to three special prizes, one of which may be for work accomplished in a format other than printed book form. The first edition of the Identitas Award took place in 2014, and it is granted annually between September and December. From 2020 this prize has new criteria and is now awarded to authors under the age of 41.

Literary Award

- 2022 //** *Wymazana granica* (The Erased Border) by Tomasz Grzywaczewski
- 2021 //** *Kajś. Opowieść o Górnym Śląsku* (Kajś: The Story of Upper Silesia) by Zbigniew Rokita
- 2020 //** *Miasto wewnętrzne* (Inner City) by Marcin Cielecki
- 2018 //** *Nad Zbruczem* (On the River Zbruch) by Wiesław Helak
- 2017 //** *Palus sarmatica* by Krzysztof Koehler
- 2016 //** *Koniec lata w zdziczałym ogrodzie* (The End of Summer in a Wild Garden) by Jarosław Marek Rymkiewicz
- 2015 //** *Krew z mlekiem* (Blood and Milk) by Marta Kwaśnicka

Marek Nowakowski Literary Award / nagrodanowakowskiego.pl/

This award was established in 2017 by the National Library and honours a short story or a collection of short stories "that shows unconventional views, courage and precision of thought, as well as fine writing". It is named after the Warsaw writer and journalist Marek Nowakowski. The award is granted annually and the winner receives a prize of 100,000 zlotys.

- 2023 //** Aleksandra Majdzińska for *Szalom bonjour Odessa*
- 2022 //** Kazimierz Orłoś for his entire oeuvre
- 2021 //** Wojciech Kudyba for *I co dalej?* (And What's Next?)
- 2020 //** Marta Kwaśnicka for *Pomyłka* (Mistake)
- 2019 //** Rafał Wojasiński for *Olanda*
- 2018 //** Paweł Sołtys for *Mikrotyki* (Microtics)

The Janusz A. Zajdel Polish Fandom Prize / zajdel.art.pl

An annual award for fantasy literature. The prize is awarded by fans of fantasy to the authors of the best Polish titles in two categories: novels and short stories.

- 2022 //** Novel – *Aglą. Alef* by Radek Rak
Short story – *Na granicy* by Michał Cholewa
- 2021 //** Novel – *Płomień* (Flame) by Magdalena Salik
Short story – *Ucieczka* (Escape) by Michał Cholewa
- 2020 //** Novel – *Czerń nie zapomina* (Blackness Does Not Forget) by Agnieszka Hałas
Short story – *Święci z Vukovaru* (Saints from Vukovar) by Krzysztof Matkowski and Krzysztof Rewiuk
- 2019 //** Novel – *Baśń o wężowym sercu* (The Tale of the Serpent's Heart) by Radek Rak
Short Story – *Chomik* (Hamster) by Marta Potocka

The IBBY Polish Section "Book of the Year" Competition / ibby.pl

Awarded to the best Polish children's books, for both their literary and artistic qualities. There are three categories: Best Writer, Best Illustrator and Best Promoter of Children's Literature.

- 2022 //** Best Writer – Justyna Bednarek for *Nasza niegrzeczna mama* (Our naughty mum)
Marcin Szczygielski for *Antosia w bezkresie* (Antosia in the vastness)
Best Illustrator – Jacek Ambrożewski for *Ale odlot. Rysunkowa historia lotnictwa* (BDeparture. A cartoon history of aviation)
Katarzyna Walentynowicz for *Poławiacz cieni* (Shadow catcher)

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- 2021 //** Best Writer – Justyna Bednarek for *Dom numer pięć* (House Number Five)
Barbara Stenka for *Zostań sama w domu* (Stay Alone at Home)
Best Illustrator – Przemysław Truściński for *Andzia*
Katarzyna Adamek-Chase for *Bah. Iran dla dociekliwych* (Bah Bah: Iran for the Inquisitive)
- 2020 //** Best Writer – Justyna Bednarek for *Zielone piórko Zbigniewa. Skarpetki kontratakują!* (Zbigniew's Green Feather: Socks in Counterattack!)
Ewa Nowak for *Orkan. Depresja* (Hurricane: Depression)
Best Illustrator – Anna Kaźmierak for *Turonie, żandary, herody. Wiejska maskarada* (Turons, Pageants, Nativity plays: Country Masquerade)
Maria Strzelecka for *Beskid bez kitu* (Beskids: No Kidding)

Orpheus – Konstanty Ildefons Gałczyński Poetry Award / orfeusz-nagroda.pl

A literary award established in 2011 for authors of the best volumes of poetry written and published in Polish during the preceding year. The award is granted in two categories: Orpheus – for the best volume of the year, and Masuria Orpheus – for the best collection by an author from north-eastern Poland.

- 2023 //** *Furtanie* by Anna Piwkowska
2022 // *2020* by Zbigniew Machej
2021 // *Sonety, ody, wiersze dla Marianny* (Sonnets, Odes, Poems for Marianna) by Andrzej Kopacki
2020 // *Siostra* (Sister) by Piotr Mitzner
2019 // *Basso continuo* by Jarosław Mikołajewski
2018 // *37* by Joanna Kulmowa
2017 // *Matecznik* (The Lair) by Małgorzata Lebda

The Wings of Dedalus Literary Award / bn.org.pl

This prize, founded in 2015 by the National Library, is awarded annually for a single book or for an author's entire oeuvre, with special emphasis on fiction, literary and art criticism, history, or broadly-defined social issues. The winner receives a cash prize sponsored by the National Library.

- 2022 //** Piotr Wierzbicki (for his entire oeuvre)
2021 // Jan Tomkowski (for his entire oeuvre)
2020 // Małgorzata Musierowicz – lifetime achievement award
2019 // Piotr Nowak for *Przemoc i słowa. W kręgu filozofii politycznej Hannah Arendt* (Violence and Words: In the Sphere of Hannah Arendt's Political Philosophy)
2018 // Wojciech Tomczyk (for his stage plays)
2017 // Andrzej Nowak (for his entire oeuvre)

The Zbigniew Herbert International Literary Award / fundacjaherbta.com

Established by the Zbigniew Herbert Foundation, this prize is awarded annually to a living author for lifetime achievement in the field of poetry. The aim of the award is to recognise outstanding artistic and intellectual literary achievements on the world stage, which relate to the ideas that guided the work of Zbigniew Herbert. Judged by a jury of eminent authors and literary experts, the prize is awarded in Poland.

- 2023 //** Tomas Venclova
2022 // Marianna Kijanowska
2021 // Yusef Komunyakaa
2020 // Durs Grünbein
2019 // Agi Mishol
2018 // Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill

The Ryszard Kapuściński Prize for literary reportage /

kulturalna.warszawa.pl/kapuscinski.html

This prize was established by Warsaw City Council in 2010. It aims to distinguish and promote the best works of reportage that address important modern issues, that prompt debate and deepen our knowledge of foreign cultures. It also aims to pay tribute to Ryszard Kapuściński, a Warsaw resident for more than 60 years. A prize of 100,000 zlotys is awarded to the author of the year's best work of reportage, and a prize of 20,000 zlotys goes to the translator of the year's best foreign work of reportage to be published in Polish.

- 2023 //** *Głusza* (Deafness) by Anna Goc
- 2022 //** *Potosí. Góra, która zjada ludzi* (Potosí: A Mountain That Eats People) by Ander Izagirre, translated by Jerzy Wotk-Łaniewski
- 2021 //** *Nomadland. W drodze za pracą* (Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century) by Jessica Bruder, translated by Martyna Tomczak
- 2020 //** *Strup. Hiszpania rozdrapuje rany* (Scab: Spain Scratches Its Wounds) by Katarzyna Kobylarczyk
- 2019 //** *Dom z dwiema wieżami* (The House with Two Towers) by Maciej Zaremba Bielawski, translated by Mariusz Kalinowski
- 2018 //** *Sendlerowa. W ukryciu* (Irena Sendler in Hiding) by Anna Bikont
- 2017 //** *Delhi. Stolica ze złota i snu* (Capital: The Eruption of Delhi) by Rana Dasgupta, translated by Barbara Kopeć-Umiastowska

The Witold Gombrowicz Literary Award / nagrodagombrowicza.pl

Sponsored by the Mayor of Radom, this prize was established in 2015. It is awarded to a debut, defined as an author's first or second work of literary fiction in the Polish language. The winner is given a cash prize of 40,000 zlotys.

- 2023 //** Jakub Nowak for *To przez ten wiatr* (It's because of this wind)
- 2022 //** Barbara Woźniak for *Niejedno* (Not one thing)
- 2021 //** Aleksandra Lipczak for *Lajla znaczy noc* (Lajla Means Night)
- 2020 //** Barbara Sadurska for *Mapa* (Map)
- 2019 //** Olga Hund for *Psy ras drobnych* (Dogs of Minor Breeds)
- 2018 //** Marcin Wicha for *Rzeczy, których nie wyrzuciłem* (Things I Didn't Throw Out)

The High Calibre Award / festiwal.portalkryminalny.pl

Established in 2004, this is a prize for the best crime novel or thriller published by a Polish author in the preceding year. It is awarded at the International Crime Fiction Festival held in Wrocław.

- 2023 //** *Krzywda* (Harm) by Marek Stelar
- 2022 //** *Żadnych bogów, żadnych panów* (No Gods, no Lords) by Grzegorz Dziedzic
- 2021 //** *Wiosna zaginionych* (Spring of the Missing) by Anna Kańtoch
- 2020 //** *Roztopy* (Thaw) by Jędrzej Pasierski
- 2019 //** *Skaza* (Flaw) by Robert Matecki
- 2018 //** *Tylko umarli wiedzą* (Only the Dead Know) by Ryszard Ćwirlej
- 2017 //** *R.I.P.* by Mariusz Czubaj
- 2016 //** *Czytanie z kości* (Reading Bones) by Jakub Szamątek

Readership

Research by the National Library's Book and Readership Institute indicates that reading in Poland has returned to pre-pandemic levels. When asked if they had read at least one book in the 12 months preceding the survey, 34 per cent of respondents answered "yes". This is three percentage points lower than in 2020. Still nearly 60 per cent of adult Poles are not interested in reading.

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Readers [%]	37	39	42	38	34
Buyers [%]	38	40	45	40	36

National Library

The most frequently read books were crime literature (32 per cent) and literary fiction (22 per cent), as well as biographies, memoirs and historical books about the 20th century (17 per cent).

Sources of books

Source of books read	Percentage of readers who named a book from the given source
Purchase (also via internet)	36
Gift	32
Borrowed from friends or family	37
Home book collection	20
Library	20

National Library

The most frequently read authors in 2022 were: Remigiusz Mróz, Henryk Sienkiewicz, J.K. Rowling, Adam Mickiewicz, Nicholas Sparks, Harlan Coben, Jo Nesbø, Stephen King, Aleksander Kamiński, Katarzyna Bonda.

Libraries

The number of libraries in Poland is systematically decreasing. According to data from the Central Office of Statistics, in 2022 there were 7,638 public libraries in operation (about 0.7 per cent less than in 2021), which ran 875 departments for children and young adults and 805 branch libraries (about 7.8 per cent less than in 2021).

According to the Educational Information System there are also 19,784 school libraries. In addition, there are almost 1,480 church libraries and 139 prison libraries active in Poland. Altogether there are about 29,000 outlets providing library services.

Public Libraries

The book collections at public libraries totalled 124.4 mln volumes, which means approximately 330 volumes for every 100 citizens. 5.1 mln users were recorded (about 4.8 per cent less than in 2021). There was an average of 4,159 citizens for every public library. The average borrowing rate was 19 library books per user in the course of the year.

Library activity

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Public libraries	7,925	7,881	7,782	7,693	7,638
Branch libraries	1,083	995	867	842	805
Users [million]	5.9	6.0	4.9	4.8	5.1
Book loans per million volumes	101.9	102.7	77.5	89.1	94.5

Central Statistical Office

Compared to the previous year, the number of users fell by 2.3 per cent and book loans increased by 6 per cent. Most libraries (65 per cent) operated in the countryside. The largest group of users were in the 25 to 44 age group, who are the most professionally active.

Purchases for public libraries (number of volumes per 100 citizens)

2018	2019	2020	2021	2021
8.8	9.5	9.6	9.2	9.35

Central Statistical Office

In 2022, 3,53 mln items were bought, including more than 3.4 million printed books, more than 120,000 audiobooks and e-books, around 800 periodicals and 300 sheet music and cartographic publications, representing 9.3 items per 100 citizens. Expenditure on the purchase of books for public libraries in 2022 totalled 89 mln zlotys (including subsidies – 34.9 mln zlotys). Expenditure on the purchase of books per user in 2022 amounted to 18.5 zlotys.

In Poland public libraries are mainly financed out of local council budgets. In addition, within the scope of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage's programme "Purchase of new publications for public libraries", which is part of the state-funded National Programme for the Development of Readership, libraries receive financial support to increase their collections. The sum earmarked for buying new publications in 2022 totalled 34.9 mln zlotys. In 2021, 2,379 libraries took part in the programme.

From 2021, a programme was launched for the purchase of new publications for pre-school, school and pedagogical libraries. The subsidy in 2022 amounted to nearly 36.7 mln zlotys, 1.46 mln books, audiobooks and e-books were purchased.

Access to collections (electronic books and journals, databases and other electronic collections) was offered by 2,824 libraries. Public libraries have websites where they provide, among others, content, e-books and links to materials from other libraries or network services.

The number of persons employed at public libraries totalled about 22,000.

For many years, the Ministry of Culture has run projects aimed at transforming local libraries into

modern facilities providing access to knowledge and culture by constructing and modernising library buildings, as well as by providing computers, internet access at libraries, librarian training and the implementation of the national cataloguing system MAK+.

A special service has been launched called Szukamksiążki.pl, which is designed to help readers find particular books and the nearest library where they can borrow them. At present, 26 mln copies of books are available from 2,515 libraries.

The budget for the current National Programme for the Development of Readership for 2021-2025 totals 635 mln zlotys (€ 135 mln). Under this programme 228.5 mln zlotys (€ 50 mln) has been assigned to the renovation, rebuilding, expansion, new construction and equipping of public libraries.

Another important programme supported by the Polish Book Institute is IBUK Libra Light, a free internet platform designed to provide access to books for the blind and visually impaired (libralight.pwn.pl). Run in cooperation with PWN Academic Publishers, the Central Library of Labour and Social Security and the Polish Book Chamber, the platform was launched on 1 February 2017.

Since 2007, in cooperation with district public libraries, the Polish Book Institute has been running a Book Discussion Club programme. It is aimed at people who like to read and to talk about books, and to discover new authors and literary genres. The number of clubs operating in Poland has grown successively from 299 in 2007 to 1,841 at the end of 2022. Of these, 625 are for children and young adults and 1,216 are for adults. In 2022, 19,906 volumes were purchased for the use of the clubs. The subsidy for 2022 was 2 mln zlotys.

Book Fairs

Literary fairs and festivals are very popular in Poland. In total, there are around 90 such events. The book fairs in Warsaw and Krakow have been competing for supremacy in this area for years.

Other significant fair events with more than a regional scope are: Poznań Book Fair, Białystok Book Fair, Katowice Book Fair, Wrocław Good Books Fair, Catholic Publishers' Fair, Historical Book Fair and Vivaldi Book and Media Fair.

Previous editions:

The Warsaw Book Fair / targi-ksiazki.waw.pl

Over the years, the event has changed organisers, location and names. In 2023, the Warsaw event returned to its traditional name of the International Book Fair. The fair took place from 25 to 28 May in the middle of the capital, in front of the Palace of Culture and Science, as well as inside the building. Nearly 500 exhibitors participated. Ukraine was the guest of honour. A rich programme of events under the banner of 'Millions of Bridges' was prepared by the Ukrainian Book Institute, in cooperation with the Polish Book Institute, and the Ukrainian Embassy in Warsaw.

The fair was visited by more than 110,000 participants, many of whom were young readers.

International Book Fair in Kraków / ksiazka.krakow.pl

The 25th International Book Fair in Krakow took place in October 2022. It was attended by 470 exhibitors, more than 45,000 visitors and almost 1,000 authors.

The problem of the Krakow fair is - paradoxically - too high attendance on Saturday and Sunday. This year the organiser has announced a reduction in the number of visitors.

Major International Literary Festivals

Name	Profile	City	Website
Big Book Festival	fiction	Warsaw	bigbookfestival.pl
Bruno Schulz Festival	fiction, essay	Wrocław	brunoschulz.dybook.pl
Childrens' Literature Festival	childrens' literature	Poznań, Gdańsk, Kraków	fldd.pl
Conrad Festival	fiction, essay	Kraków	conradfestival.pl
Crime Writing Festival	crime, mystery, thriller	Wrocław	festiwal.portalkryminalny.pl
Capital of the Polish Language Festival	literature	Szczebrzeszyn	stolicajezykapolskiego.pl
Found in Translation Festival	literary translation	Gdańsk	odnalezionewtlumaczeniu.pl
Mountains of Literature Festival	literature	Nowa Ruda	@festiwalgoryliteratury
International Festival of Comics and Games in Lodz	comics	Łódź	komiksfestiwal.com
Izabelińskie spotkania z książką	literature	Izabelin	planetaizabelin.pl
Sopot by the Book Festival	focus country	Sopot	literackisopot.pl
Miedzianka Fest	literary reportage	Miedzianka	@MiedziankaFest
Miłosz Festival	poetry	Kraków	miloszfestival.pl
Non-Fiction Festival	literary reportage	Kraków	nonfiction.pl
Looking East	literature	Buda Ruska	patrzacnawschod.pl
Zakopane Literary Festival	literature	Zakopane	literackifestiwal.zakopane.eu

Representatives of summer literary festivals held all over Poland have formed a Coalition of Summer Literary Festivals. Its main aim is for the organisers of these events to exchange experience and collaborate. This initiative proved its value during the COVID-19 pandemic, when there was a sudden need for

a new approach. Thanks to combined efforts, solidarity and joint promotion, almost all the planned events were successfully run in the open air and broadcast online, with foreign guests taking part remotely via the internet.

The Polish Book Institute

The Polish Book Institute is a national institution established by the Polish Ministry of Culture. It has been running in Kraków since January 2004. The Institute's basic aims are to influence the reading public and to popularise books and reading within Poland, as well as to promote Polish literature worldwide. These aims are accomplished by:

- // promoting the best Polish books and their authors;
- // organising study visits for translators and foreign publishers;
- // increasing the number of translations from Polish into foreign languages with the help of the ©POLAND Translation Programme and Sample Translations ©POLAND;
- // making information on Polish books and the Polish publishing market accessible to foreign consumers.

The Institute organises literary programmes to promote Polish books at international book fairs, appearances by Polish writers at literary festivals, and within the scope of programmes designed to promote Polish culture worldwide, it publishes an annual catalogue "New Books from Poland".

The Polish Book Institute is also the publisher of cultural journals covering mainly literature and theatre (*Akcent*, *Dialog*, *Literatura na świecie*, *Nowe Książki*, *Odra*, *Teatr*, *Teatr Lalek* and *Twórczość*).

Selected Polish Book Institute programmes

The ©POLAND Translation Programme

The Polish Book Institute provides financial support for publishers aiming to publish works of Polish literature in foreign-language translations.

Since 1999, the ©POLAND Translation Programme has provided more than 3,000 grants for translations into 50 different languages published in 63 countries. The average grant was worth approximately € 2,000.

The Polish Book Institute can help cover the costs of publishing the following types of works:

- // literature – prose, poetry and drama;
- // works in the humanities, broadly conceived, whether older or contemporary (with particular regard for books devoted to the culture and literature of Poland);
- // literary non-fiction (literary reportage, biographies, memoirs, essays);
- // historical works (essays and popular history, baring specialist and academic works);
- // literature for children and young adults;
- // graphic novels.

The financial contribution of the Polish Book Institute is designed to support the following publication costs:

- // translation;
- // copyright license;
- // printing.

Sample Translations ©Poland

The aim of this programme is to encourage translators to present Polish books to foreign publishers.

The programme can cover up to 20 pages of the translation. The translator must have published a minimum of one translation in book form before making an application.

Full information on our programmes, including a list of grants awarded to date and a funding application form can be found on the Polish Book Institute's website, www.bookinstitute.pl.

For further information please contact: Beata Górńska, b.gorska@instytutksiazki.pl

The Transatlantyk Prize

Awarded by the Polish Book Institute since 2005 to outstanding ambassadors of Polish literature abroad. Its aim is to promote Polish literature on the world market and to provide a focal point for translators of Polish literature and its promoters (publishers, literary critics, academics and organisers of cultural events). The prize is worth € 10,000.

Recent winners:

- 2023** // Hatif Janabi
- 2022** // Silvano De Fanti
- 2021** // Tokimasa Sekiguchi
- 2020** // Ewa Thompson
- 2019** // Hendrik Lindepou
- 2018** // Antonia Lloyd-Jones
- 2017** // Lajos Pálfalvi
- 2016** // Constantin Geambașu

The Found in Translation Award

Given to the translator(s) of the finest book-length translation of Polish literature into English published in the previous calendar year. The winner receives a prize of 16,000 zlotys and a one-month residency in Kraków. The Polish Book Institute has presented this award in partnership with the Polish Cultural Institutes in London and New York on an annual basis since 2008.

Recent winners:

- 2023** // Anna Zaranko for her translation of *The Peasants* by Władysław Reymont
- 2022** // Jennifer Croft for *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk



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2021 // Ewa Matachowska-Pasek and Megan Thomas for *The Career of Nicodemus Dyzma* by Tadeusz Dołęga-Mostowicz

2020 // Anna Zaranko for *The Memoir of an Anti-Hero* by Kornel Filipowicz

2019 // Madeline G. Levine for *Collected Stories* by Bruno Schulz

2018 // Jennifer Croft for *The Books of Jacob* by Olga Tokarczuk

2017 // Piotr Florczyk for *Building the Barricade* by Anna Świrszczyńska

2016 // Bill Johnston for *Twelve Stations* by Tomasz Różycki

The Translators' College

This programme provides study visits for translators of Polish literature. During their residency, which takes place in Kraków or Warsaw, the translators are provided with suitable conditions for their work and assistance with their translations. The college has been active since 2006. By 2021 more than 120 translators from 38 countries had already taken part.

The World Congress of Translators of Polish Literature

This event has been organised every four years since 2005. Around 250 translators from all over the world attend meetings with writers, critics and academics. The Congress provides an opportunity to find out more about Polish literature, meet colleagues from other countries and exchange information, ideas and opinions.

Seminars for Foreign Publishers

Since 2006 the Polish Book Institute has invited groups of publishers from various countries to Kraków to show them what Polish literature has to offer. During the study visit, they attend meetings with writers, publishers and critics to encourage them to publish Polish literature.

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Deputy Director of the Book Institute **Professor Krzysztof Koehler**

Useful links

Biblioteka Narodowa / bn.org.pl

The National Library

The National Library of Poland is the country's central library and one of its most important cultural institutions. Its mission is to protect the national heritage preserved in the form of handwritten, printed, electronic, recorded sound and audiovisual documents. The primary task of the National Library is to acquire, store and permanently archive Polish intellectual output, including the works of citizens living in Poland, the most important foreign works, and publications related to Poland and published abroad.

The ISBN database (e-isbn.pl) includes information on all the registered publishing companies in Poland. The National Library prepares annual reports on readership and libraries in Poland.

Cyfrowa Biblioteka Narodowa Polona / polona.pl

Polona National Digital Library

Polona was created for all libraries and internet users. Its mission is to provide wide and easy access to the National Library's digital collections, including the most important works of literature and scientific materials, historical documents, journals, graphics, photography, musical scores and maps. Its main aim is to present Poland's cultural heritage, its ancient traditions and achievements, and also to show the wide range of the National Library's collections. At present, Polona is one of the world's most modern digital libraries and also the largest of its kind in Poland. At the end of 2021 its resources included 3,814,571 digital publications.

Narodowy Uniwersalny Katalog Centralny / nukat.edu.pl

The Union Catalogue of Polish Research Library Collections – NUKAT

The NUKAT catalogue includes 5,190,144 descriptions of books, periodicals and e-books, as well as sound recordings, musical scores, cartographic and iconographic documents, and films collected from 179 cooperating academic and scientific libraries.

Polska Izba Książki / pik.org.pl

The Polish Book Chamber

Polska Izba Książki, established in 1990, is a commercial self-governing institution associating publishers and bookshops, book warehouses and printing houses, as well as all other enterprises related to the book market. At present it has 154 associated members.

Culture.pl / culture.pl

Culture.pl is the flagship brand of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute – a national cultural institution promoting Poland and Polish culture worldwide. Featuring over 40,000 articles in Polish, English and Ukrainian, Culture.pl features the best of Polish literature, design, visual arts, music, film and more, with over 6 mln visitors a year across 80 countries.

Elektroniczna Biblioteka / ebib.pl

Electronic Library

The Polish Librarians Association website – the first stop for any librarian. The majority of EBIB's partners are academic, public, pedagogical and school libraries.

Lubimy czytać / lubimyczytac.pl

We like to read

Lubimyczytac.pl is the largest book-related website in Poland aimed at the general reading public. With over 1 mln subscribers, more than 29.5 mln ratings and reviews, and over 3.2 mln individual visitors per month, it provides an open forum for the discussion of numerous topics related to literature. It organises the country's most popular public vote, the "Lubimyczytać.pl Book of the Year", in which readers cast an annual average of 200,000 votes. Its subscribers also have the opportunity to review and rank any book they've read, find book-related news and buy publications. Lubimyczytac.pl has been gaining in popularity and appreciation among both cultural and commercial consumers.

Stowarzyszenie Tłumaczy Literatury / stl.org.pl

Polish Literary Translators Association

STL brings together translators of fiction, non-fiction and audiovisual works. It aims to integrate the community of literary translators in Poland, protect their interests and support their development. It also campaigns for the promotion of literature and reading in general, for high standards in the publishing industry, and for raising language awareness.

Biblioteka Analiz / biblioteka-analiz.pl, rynek-ksiazki.pl

Biblioteka Analiz concentrates all sorts of data about various sectors of the Polish book market. At present it is the only company in Poland with such a large collection of data on the Polish book market. It is also the largest and best-known consulting firm operating in this branch. The site rynek-ksiazki.pl covers archival information about key players on the Polish book market.