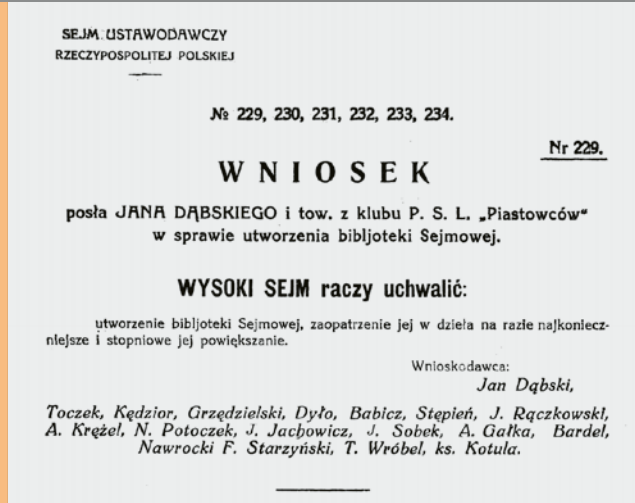


# About us

The establishment of the Sejm Library was connected with the regaining of Poland's independence in 1918 and the election to the Legislative Sejm in 1919. The Library was founded at the request of Deputies at the end of 1919. Following a number of organisational changes, it functioned as the Sejm's and the Senate's library and archives in the interwar period.

In 1939, the Library's collection of publications on law, social sciences, economics and history, constantly enriched by the Sejm's and the Senate's publications and by official publications, reached 78,000 volumes. In September 1939, during a fire that broke out in the Sejm building, a part of the collection was destroyed, while the remaining 48,000 volumes of books were transported by the German occupants to Berlin, where they disappeared in circumstances that have not been explained until now.

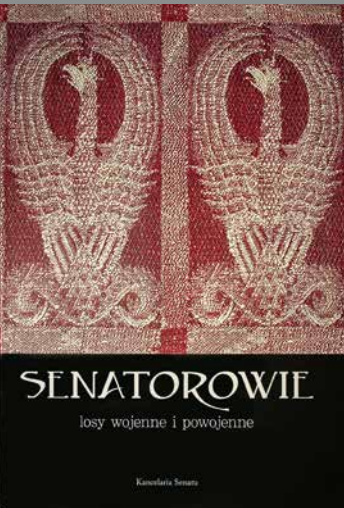


After World War II, the library of the parliament, which was then unicameral, was called "Sejm Library". It began to build its collection practically from scratch. In 1991, the Sejm Library took over the library collection of the former Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party consisting of 145,000 volumes. In 1993, the Sejm Archives were incorporated into the Library.

The Sejm Library is an organisational unit of the Chancellery of the Sejm. Since 1989, it has also served the re-established Polish Senate. The collection and services of the Library are available to external users, especially to the staff of government units and other central institutions, to academics and persons interested in parliamentary matters.







The Sejm Library is a research library; it also functions as separate archives and a museum of the Polish parliamentary system.

## Profile of the Library

- law, especially constitutional, parliamentary, administrative, local, international, EU law, as well as philosophy and sociology of law, rules of the legislative process and of interpretation of law
- state and political systems
- international relations and organisations
- political sciences
- economics
- history

## The Sejm Library's mission

- to assist the legislative process** by providing library and information services to the Sejm and its bodies, to its research and advisory staff, and to other parliamentary administration employees,
- to document the legislative process** by collecting and preserving all sorts of documents produced in the course of the Sejm's legislative activity,
- to collect and keep documents** related to the Sejm's activities and to the history of the Polish parliamentary system.

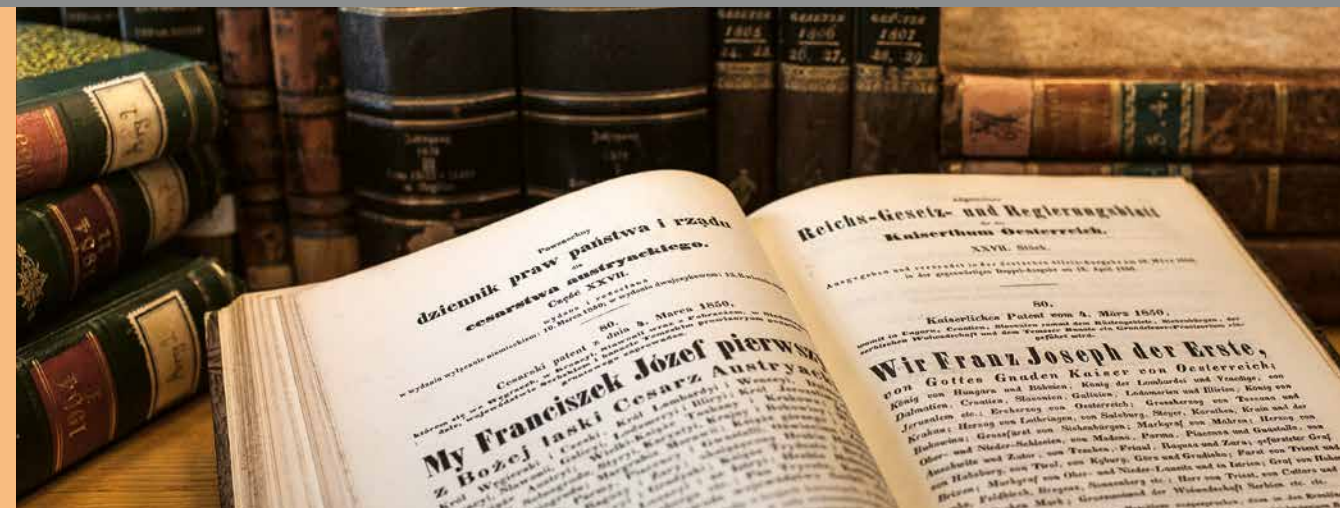


# Our collections

## Main collection

The Sejm Library collects parliamentary and official publications, as well as literature which serves as the theoretical and methodological basis for legislative work.

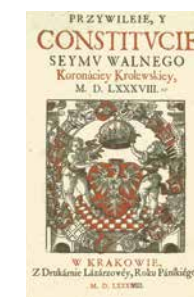
The main collection contains the full set of documentation of the Sejm and the Senate starting from 1919 (papers, verbatim reports, bulletins from the sessions of the parliamentary committees, etc.) as well as Polish official publications (journals of laws, official journals of ministers, central offices and voivodeships) and publications of the same type from about 30 other, mainly European, countries.



The Sejm Library offers official publications of the European Union, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and NATO, including EU law, texts of conventions, treaties and other international agreements produced by these organisations. Since 2003, the Library has become an electronic deposit library of the United Nations.

**The size of the main library collection is 391,300 items in total** (as at December 2016), including, *inter alia*:

- **parliamentary and official publications** – ca. 88,500 vol.
- **publications of international organisations** – ca. 21,560 vol.
- **books** – ca. 201,300 vol.
- **journals** – ca. 76,800 vol.





**Solidarność**, wspólna porę-  
ka, wspólne zobowiązanie, wspól-  
na odpowiedzialność jednych za  
drugich.

**Solidarny**, *n.-ł.* (*f.* *solidaire*;  
od ł. *sólidus*, całkowity) odpo-  
wiedzialny, jednozgodny; obo-  
wiązujący każdego z osobna do  
odpowiedzialności za wspólne  
przedsięwzięcie.

**Solidaryzm**, *n.-ł.* doktryna gło-  
sząca zbieżność interesów mię-  
dzy klasami społecznymi; zorga-  
nizowanie ekonomiczno-gospo-  
darczo-społecznej solidarności  
w państwie.

**Solidaryzować się**, łączyć  
się z kimś, zgadzać się, poczuwać  
się do wspólnej odpowiedzial-  
ności.



Warszawski  
Komitet Obywatelski



### Social History Collection (ZHS)

The Social History Collection (ZHS) is based on the library collection of the former Central Archives of the Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party (PZPR), taken over by the Sejm Library in 1991, including publications on PZPR's activities, source publications on the history of Polish labour, people's and trade union movements, Polish press before 1939, underground and insurgent press from WWII, emigration press, a collection of underground publications 1970-1989.

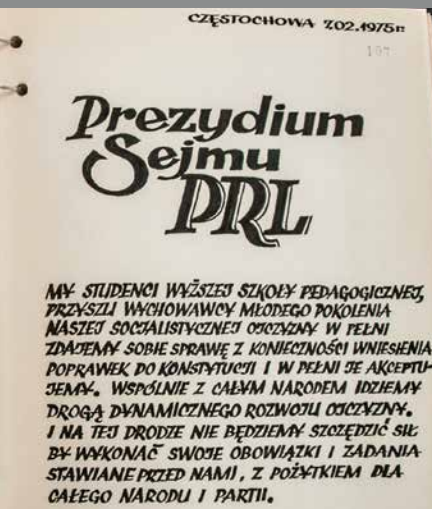
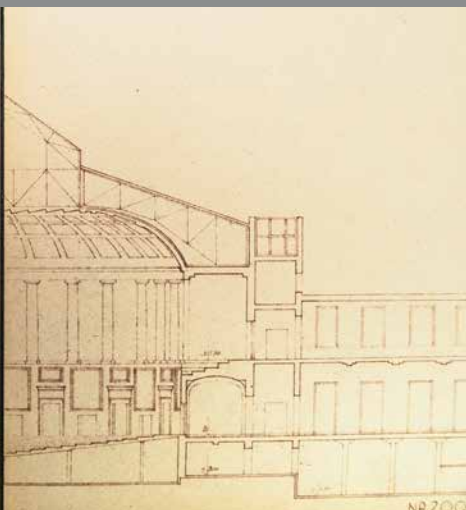
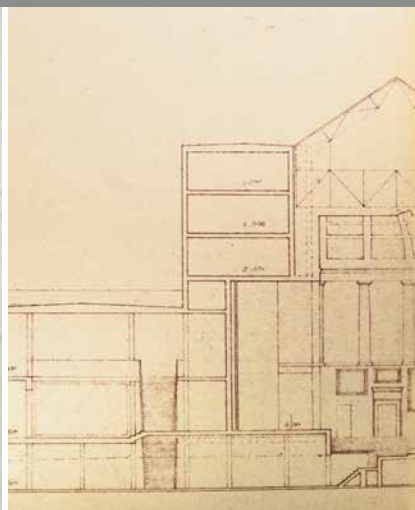
Since 1991, that collection has been supplemented with literature concerning sociopolitical history of Poland and transformation in Central and Eastern European countries. One can also find there editions of works of the classics of leftist thought as well as studies on philosophy and history of ideas.

A separate subcollection consists of a set of documents illustrating Polish political life after 1989, especially the activity of political parties.

**The size of the ZHS collection amounts to 172,600 items in total** (as at December 2016), including, *inter alia*:

<b>books</b>	111,290 vol.
<b>journals</b>	38,000 vol.
<b>collection of documents of political life</b>	19,300 documents



## Sejm Archives Collection

The Sejm Archives were created as a separate state archive in 1991. At present, they have the status of separate archives. In 1993, they were incorporated into the Sejm Library as one of its divisions.

The Sejm Archives collect documentation produced in the course of the work of the Sejm and its bodies, including the minutes of sessions of the Sejm, Presidium of the Sejm and Sejm committees, materials produced in the course of work of Sejm subcommittees, documentation of decisions of the Council of Seniors, documentation of the legislative process, verbatim reports of Sejm sessions, Deputies' questions and interpellations, as well as audio and video recordings of the sessions of the Sejm and Sejm committees and audio records of Sejm subcommittees' sessions.

Moreover, the Sejm Archives maintain, as a deposit, the archival documentation developed by parliamentary clubs and Deputies' groups, Deputies' offices and by the Polish Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

The Sejm Archives gather also the archives of the Chancellery of the Sejm.

Another task of the Sejm Archives is to collect and prepare editions of archival sources documenting the history of the Polish parliamentary system.

In December 2016, the Sejm Archives collection included:

- **files from 1956-2016** – 1,467 running metres, including 996 running metres of category A files
- **audio recordings from 1962-2016** (tapes and cassettes) – 69,000 items
- **video recordings from 1981-1982 and 1991-2007** – 5,128 items (cassettes)
- **photographs from 1919-2008** – 2,478 items (thematic sets)
- **documents on microfiches from 1919-1939 and 1982-1984** – 1,691 items







## Museum Division

The collection of the Museum Division consists of about 8,000 items, including pieces of art (paintings, graphics, drawings, posters, numismatic items), documents (early printed books, manuscripts, election flyers, etc.), as well as items illustrating the history of the Polish parliamentary system since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, including a collection of photographs from the interwar and post-war period.

Tasks of the Museum Division

- collect items related to the history of the Polish parliamentary system
- conduct research and promote knowledge about the Sejm's history
- protect historical items and make them available for visitors
- develop the collection for the future permanent exhibition
- produce exhibitions commemorating historical anniversaries (42 own exhibitions since 1989)
- arrange space for temporary exhibitions (376 exhibitions since 1989)







# European Information and Documentation

European Information and Documentation Centre (OIDE) is a division of the Sejm Library assisting parliamentarians and the staff of the Chancellery of the Sejm in searching for European information. It helps to find documentation on both EU activities and, particularly, on the Sejm's activities in matters relating to Poland's membership of the EU. The main tool in this regard is the OIDE Internet service.



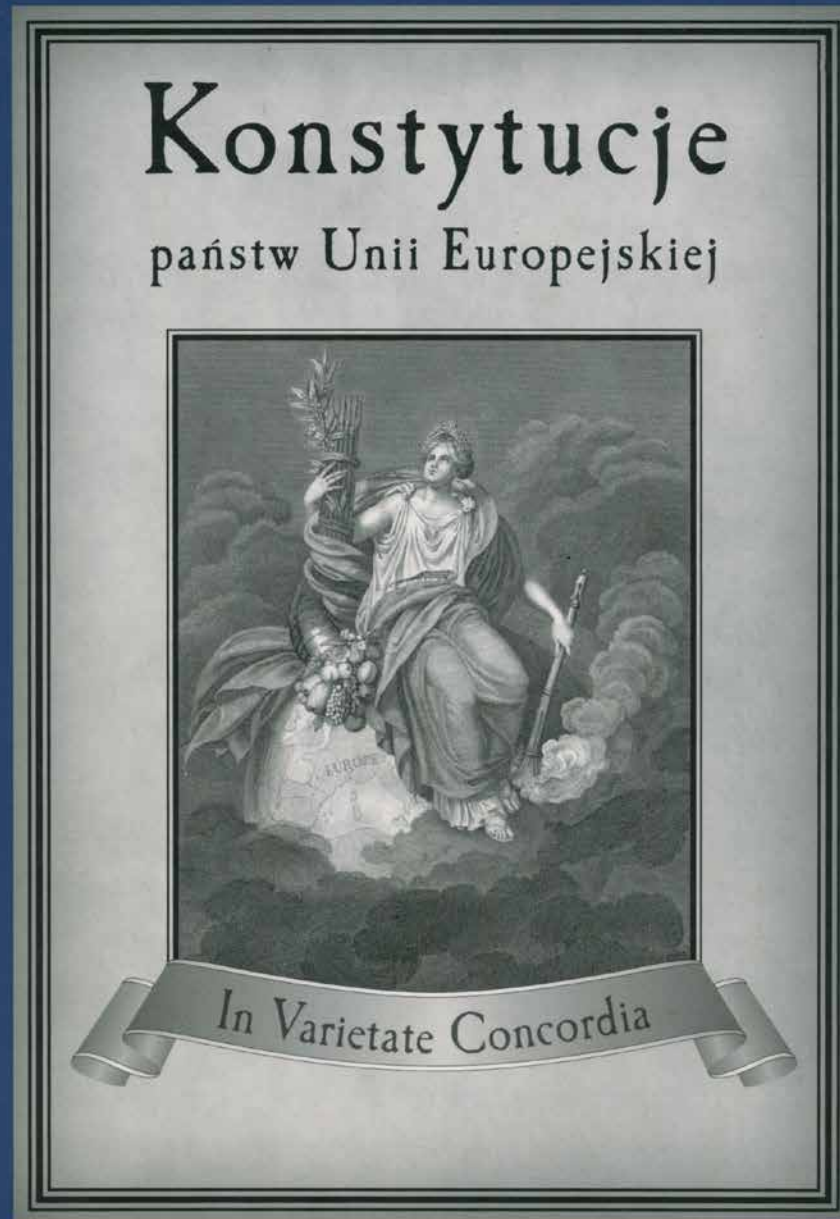
Presentation of the European activities of the Sejm includes the information on:

- Sejm **debates** and **resolutions** related to EU affairs,
- work of the European Union Affairs Committee, especially on draft legal acts and other documents – section **EU Documents in the Sejm** including the **EDL-S database** (European Legislative Documents in the Sejm),
- interparliamentary cooperation of the Sejm in European matters – section **Interparliamentary Cooperation**,
- implementation of EU law in legislative work of the Sejm – **Statutes Implementing EU Law – UST database**.

The issue of **subsidiarity check** constitutes a separate section on the website, containing information on both the Sejm proceedings (resolutions on non-compliance of EU draft legislative acts with the subsidiarity principle) and the interparliamentary cooperation level (**IPEX database**).

Review of the Sejm's European activities is published every month in the **Biuletyn OIDE**, also in English.





## Biuletyn OIDE

Review of the Sejm's European activities

No 2 (75), 28 February 2017

oide.sejm.gov.pl

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Foreign Affairs Mi

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## Biuletyn OIDE

Przegląd europejskiej aktywności Sejmu

Nr 2 (75), 28 lutego 2017

oide.sejm.gov.pl

### OIDE provides information on the European Union by:

- organising and facilitating **access to information** and documents presented on the official portal europa.eu, including EU legal acts,
- monitoring changes in the information sources,
- presenting, on the website, **OIDE Notes** and information on current issues of the European integration, **bibliographies** of selected topics important from the parliamentary perspective, links to periodicals and publications of research centres as well as to news services.

The OIDE website is also an archive of information on the activity of the Sejm of the previous terms in EU matters (including the parliamentary dimension of the Polish EU Council Presidency in 2011).





# Our in-house facilities

All service sections of the Sejm Library make their collections available and provide reference service in-house. The users can also request copies of chosen documents.

## Reading Room

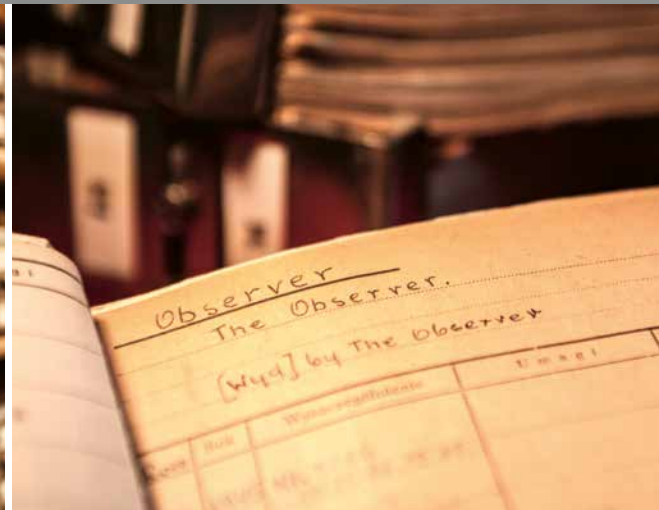
- books and periodicals concerning law, economics, history, social issues and politics
- hard copies of the Sejm's and the Senate's work documentation, including:
  - verbatim reports
  - Sejm and Senate papers
  - Deputies' interpellations and questions
  - committee bulletins / complete records of meetings
- daily newspapers and periodicals

## Information Desk

In addition to typical activities (information services: providing readers with bibliographical and factual information), we assist Deputies and Senators in search for materials necessary in legislative work.







## Catalogues available at the Information Desk and on the Internet

**Main electronic catalogue** – the catalogue of the collection of the Sejm Library and the Library of the Bureau of Research of the Chancellery of the Sejm, including all kinds of library resources, except early printed books:

- books from the main collection of the Sejm Library, published after 1978
- books purchased for the Social History Collection Division (ZHS) after 1993
- serial publications collected in the Sejm Library since 1994
- Polish parliamentary documents since 1820
- Polish official publications since 1807
- foreign parliamentary and official publications
- electronic documents
- collection of the Library of the Bureau of Research

**Scanned card catalogue of books from the main collection of the Sejm Library** – includes publications from before 1979.

**Scanned card catalogue of books from the collection of the Social History Collection Division (ZHS)** – includes only publications from before 1994.

Scanned card catalogues include images of catalogue cards with indexes of authors, titles, reference numbers and issue dates.

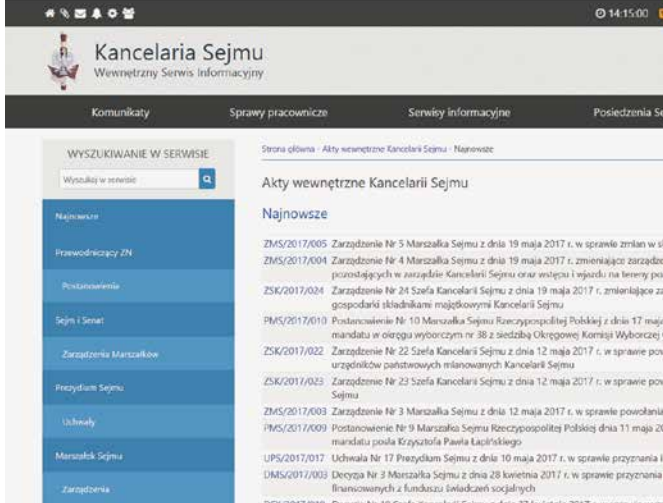
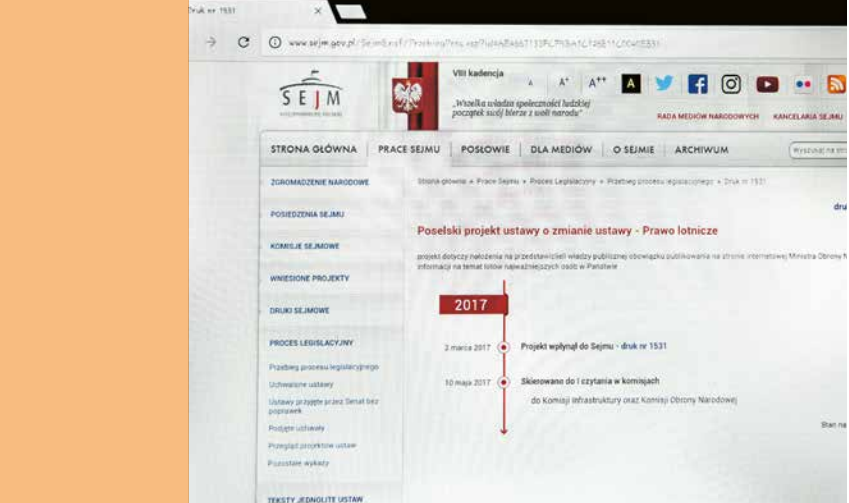
**Early printed books** – a complete catalogue of early printed books (publications from before 1801) from the main collection and from the Museum Division.







Our in-house facilities



Intranet databases available at the Information Desk

- selected periodicals
- PRESSUS database including press releases on the work of the Sejm
- legal databases: Lex, Internal Acts of the Chancellery of the Sejm, The Polish Law Collection

OIDE

Provides information and reference services in the area of European integration, with particular focus on activities and documents of the Sejm.

Media Resource Centre

Produces and provides video recordings of current term Sejm sessions and recordings of selected political and social TV programmes from the last six months.







BIBLIOTEKA SEJMOWA

Zbiory BS Strona BS

Szukaj w zbiorach

Główna | Informator BS | Zbiory | Katalogi i bazy | Zasoby cyfrowe | Prawo | Archiwum Sejmu | Muzealia | OIDE



# Library on the Internet

<http://biblioteka.sejm.gov.pl>

The Sejm Library maintains 17 own databases in the ALEPH system, most of them available online, and several Internet services.

## Catalogues and databases of the Sejm Library

- Main catalogue and scanned card catalogues
- Articles from selected Polish periodicals
- Recordings of the Sejm sessions
- Statutes Implementing EU Law – the UST database
- Parliamentary documents 1919-1991
- Texts of constitutions
- Early printed books
- The Sejm Archives – photographs

Library on the Internet



## Available on the Sejm Library website

- the electronic version of legislative work documentation of the Sejm and the Senate since 1989
- Internet System of Legal Acts – ISAP (full texts of legal acts published in the Journal of Laws (Dz.U.) and Monitor Polski (M.P.))
- the electronic version of official journals: Dz.U., M.P., official journals of ministers, central offices and voivodeships, Official Journal of the European Union and case-law (of the Constitutional Tribunal, Supreme Court and Supreme Administrative Court)

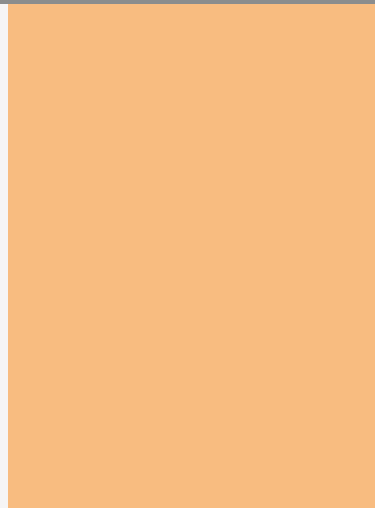
Full information on Sejm and Senate work documentation available at:

**<http://www.sejm.gov.pl/Sejm8.nsf/proces.xsp> – work of the Sejm**

**<http://senat.gov.pl/prace/senat/posiedzenia/> – work of the Senate**







## We recommend in particular

### Parliamentary documents 1919-1991

Complete set of papers and verbatim reports of Sejm, Senate and National Assembly sessions.

### Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly 1992-1997

Complete set of bulletins of the sessions of the Constitutional Committee of the National Assembly.

### Codification Committee of the Republic of Poland 1919-1939

Complete set of the publications of the Committee appointed by the Sejm to prepare drafts of uniform legislation of the reborn Polish state.

### The Round Table Agreement

Complete set of the verbatim reports of the plenary sessions and the sessions of all groups participating in the Round Table Agreement talks.

### Constitutions of the World

Access to the full Polish translations of constitutions published by the Sejm Library; links to texts of constitutions not translated into Polish.

### Polish Deputies and Senators

Biographical entries and images of the Marshals of the Sejm, starting from the First Republic, as well as Deputies and Senators since 1919.

### Underground press 1940-1945

Digital copies of periodicals issued in the occupied territories of Poland during WWII.

### Exhibitions

Photographic documentation of exhibitions organised by the Sejm Library.

### Visegrad – VDPL+

Resources of the Visegrad Digital Parliamentary Library.

### Virtual Museum of the Sejm

Selection of museum exhibits illustrating the history of Polish parliamentarism since the First Republic; arranged chronologically, with descriptions.

### European Information and Documentation Centre

Presentation of the Sejm's activities relating to Poland's membership of the EU, including interparliamentary cooperation, and publication of corresponding documents.







## Publications of the Sejm Library

- Biographical dictionary *Posłowie i senatorowie Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej 1919-1939* [Deputies and Senators of the Republic of Poland 1919-1939]
- Series "Konstytucje Świata" [Constitutions of the World] (e.g. constitutions of EU Member States, of the Kingdom of Morocco, of the Republic of Kenya – full list on the Library website)
- Series "Informacja OIDE" [OIDE Information] (e.g. *Wybory do PE 2014* [2014 European Parliament Election], *Dokumenty Sejmu w bazach IPEX, Komisji Europejskiej i Parlamentu Europejskiego* / *Documents of the Sejm in the IPEX, European Commission and European Parliament databases* – full list on the OIDE website)





# The Sejm Library

## **Information Desk**

e-mail: [biblioteka@sejm.gov.pl](mailto:biblioteka@sejm.gov.pl)

phone 22 694 10 73

fax 22 694 17 78

## **Main Reading Room, Information Desk, Media Resource Centre**

opening hours: Monday – Friday 8:30-20:00

On the Sejm's session days external visitors are not admitted to the Library.

## **Reading Room of the Social History Collection (ZHS)**

ul. Stępińska 22/30, 00-739 Warsaw

phone 22 694 42 69

opening hours: Monday, Thursday, Friday 8:30-15:30

Tuesday, Wednesday 8:30-18:00

## **European Information and Documentation Centre (OIDE)**

e-mail: [oide@sejm.gov.pl](mailto:oide@sejm.gov.pl)

phone 22 694 15 96

opening hours: Monday – Friday 8:30-16:00

## **Reading Room of the Sejm Archives**

e-mail: [biblioteka@sejm.gov.pl](mailto:biblioteka@sejm.gov.pl)

phone 22 694 24 84

opening hours: Monday – Friday 9:00-15:00

On the Sejm's session days external visitors are not admitted to the Reading Room.

Prepared by: Team of the Sejm Library

Design: Darek Kondefor

Photos: Patryk Zduńczyk, Krzysztof Białoskórski

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Biblioteka Sejmowa

Warszawa 2017



## The Sejm Library 2017 in Figures



**546,000** library items

**313,000** books

**115,000** volumes of periodicals

**89,000** volumes of parliamentary  
and official publications

**22,000** volumes of publications  
of international organisations

**7,000** microforms and electronic  
documents

**1,000** running metres of archive  
materials

**3,300** users per year

**7,000** visits in Reading Rooms per year

**600** queries per year

**800,000** connections to the Sejm Library  
databases per year