Polish government documents

INTRODUCTION

What follows is a selection only of the main categories of material. Always check the catalogues - for some of the titles mentioned, we have incomplete holdings.

Some other British Library holdings of Polish government materials are recorded in Explore the British Library, our main catalogue [http://explore.bl.uk/].

However other material has to be traced through a range of manual records and published indexes. If you do not find what you are looking for in Explore the British Library, please contact the Enquiry Desk in the Social Sciences Reading Room, where expert staff will check further on your behalf.

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1. PARLIAMENTARY PUBLICATIONS

According to the 1997 Constitution, the Republic of Poland is a democratic state ruled by law, whose system rests on the principle of the separation and balance of powers. The Constitution vests legislative power in the two chambers of the Parliament, i.e. the Sejm and the Senat, executive power in the President and the Council of Ministers, and judicial power in courts and tribunals.

The Sejm (Lower Chamber) is composed of 460 Deputies, elected in universal, equal, direct and proportional elections, conducted by secret ballot. The Senat (Upper Chamber) consists of 100 Senators, elected in universal and direct elections, conducted by secret ballot.

1.1 Parliamentary publications

Verbatim reports of the Parliamentary proceedings are published in two separate weekly series:
Proceedings of the Senat and Proceedings of the Sejm. These proceedings consist of full text reports of the sittings, discussions and debates, results of voting on bills and resolutions, and texts of interpellations and questions. Cumulative indexes to these are published irregularly.

Sprawozdanie stenograficzne z posiedzenia Senatu Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
(Proceedings/debates of the Senat)
BL holdings: 1922-1938 (no indexes)
BL shelfmark: SK 41/3
BL holdings: 1989-1994
BL shelfmark: SK 41/5
BL shelfmark: SPR.Mic.E.885

The Senate did not exist under the Communist regime which took power after the Second World War and continued until 1989. The proceedings are also available online at: http://www.senat.gov.pl/prace/senat/posiedzenia/ from 1991-

Sprawozdanie stenograficzne z posiedzenia Sejmu Ustawodawczego (Debates of the Lawmaking Sejm)
BL holdings: 1919-1922
BL shelfmark: SK 42/3 (no indexes)

Sprawozdanie stenograficzne z posiedzenia Sejmu Rzeczypospolitej (Debates of the Sejm.)
BL holdings: 1922-1938
BL shelfmark: SK 42/4 (no indexes)
1.2 Parliamentary papers

These are printed papers covering texts of bills presented before the Parliament, reports of parliamentary committees, texts of reports and statements submitted to the Parliament by the Government and individual ministers.

Druk Senat Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Senate parliamentary papers)

BL holdings: 1922 only
BL shelfmark: SK 41

BL holdings: 1922-1938 (1930 missing)
BL shelfmark: SK 41/2

BL holdings: 1989-2004(2003 missing)
BL shelfmark: SK.41/6

Free online access to Druki Senatu is available at http://www.senat.gov.pl/prace/senat/druki/
2. CONSTITUTION

Poland is a democratic state ruled by law, implementing the principles of social justice. The Constitution (Konstytucja) of 2 April 1997 regulates the system of government for what it calls “the common good of all its citizens”.

BL shelfmark: YD.2005.a.3738
The Constitution is available online in five languages at

Earlier Polish constitutions in the British Library can be traced through Explore the British Library, our main catalogue. Constitutions and supporting documents can also be found in the microfiche compilation Constitutions of the World held by the BL at SPR.Mic.A.271.

3. LEGISLATION AND COURT REPORTS

Dziennik Ustaw (DU) (Journal of Laws) is the primary official source of Polish legislation. It publishes laws, administrative regulations and other decrees. It contains:

- Texts of all legislation
- Presidential decrees
- Ordinances of the president and prime minister, Council of Ministers and other ministries and departments
- Acts of ratification and texts of international treaties and agreements,
- Verdicts of the Constitutional Tribunal

Full text issues of the Dziennik Ustaw from 1918 can be retrieved, using keywords in title or text, or by date of publication, from the government legal portal at http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/VolumeServlet?type=wdu

It has appeared under slightly varying titles from 1918, when Poland became an independent state:

Dziennik Praw Państwa Polskiego (Journal of Laws of the Polish State)
BL holdings: 1918 no. 1-1919 no. 65.
BL shelfmark: S.K.35/4

Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland)
BL holdings: 1919-1944
BL shelfmark: S.K.35/4

During World War 2 the Journal was issued by the Government in Exile. Issue no. 100 (1939) was published in Paris, issues no. 101(1939)- no.10 (1940) in Angers, and 1940, no. 11 to 1944 no. 15 in London.

The Polish Government-in-Exile (Rząd Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej na uchodzstwie), continued to meet in London and produced an alternative Official Gazette to that coming out in Warsaw.

Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (London, England)
BL holdings: 1981-1984
BL shelfmark ZK.9.a.5374
Skorowidz Dziennika Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej za czas od 1 stycznia 1918 roku do 1 stycznia 1926 roku. (Chronological and alphabetical Index to Dziennik Ustaw for years 1918-1926)
BL shelfmark: S.K.35/4(2)

Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland)
BL holdings: 1944-1952 (no32)
BL shelfmark: S.K.35/5

Dziennik Ustaw Polskiej Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej (Journal of Laws of the People’s Republic of Poland)
BL shelfmark: S.K.35/5

Dziennik Ustaw Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej (Journal of Laws of the Republic of Poland,)
BL holdings: 1991, Nr. 69-1996, Nr.17
BL shelfmark: SK.35/37
BL holdings: 1995-2011 (2009 mostly missing) (microfiche)
BL shelfmark: SPR.MIC.E.884

Various cumulative and annual indexes are shelved with the above sets

From January 2012 this publication is available online only at http://www.dziennikustaw.gov.pl/

Monitor Polski (Official Gazette of the Republic of Poland)

The official administrative gazette includes ministerial decisions and orders, official announcements from government agencies, judicial notices and public speeches of cabinet ministers and secretaries of state. A free online version is available at from 1930 onwards at http://isap.sejm.gov.pl/VolumeServlet?type=wmp

During the German Occupation of Poland two Official German Gazettes were issued for the occupied territory:

Amtlicher Anzeiger fu¨r das Generalgouvernement = Dziennik urzêdowy dla Generalnego Gubernatorstwa (Official Gazette for the General Government)
BL holdings: 1940-1944
BL shelfmark: O.G.P.110/2

Verordnungsblatt des Generalgouverneurs fu¨r die besetzten polnischen gebiete = Dziennik rozporządzeń Generalnego gubernatora dla okupowanych polskich obszarow (Official Gazette of the Governor General for the occupied Polish territories)
BL holdings: 1940-1943
BL shelfmark: SK. 35/6
A reprint of Dziennik Ustaw and Monitor Polski was published in Warsaw in 1995. It presents a complete set of legal documents of the Republic of Poland during the years 1939-1945:

BL shelfmark: O.G.P.110/2

An edition of the Monitor Polski was published by the Polish government in exile during the Second World War:

Monitor Polski Dziennik Urzędowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
BL holdings 1939-1940 (issued in Paris and Angers)
BL shelfmark: O.G.P.110/5
BL holdings: 1939-1940
BL shelfmark: PB Mic C 13239 (please use microfilm in preference to printed volumes)

Monitor Polski Dziennik Urzędowy Rzeczypospolitej Ludowej
BL holdings: 1948-1989
BL shelfmark: O.G.P.110.

Monitor Polski Dziennik Urzędowy Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej
BL shelfmark: O.G.P.110
BL holdings: 2002-2007; Index only for 2009; 2010-2011 (microfiche)
BL shelfmark: SPR.MIC.E.887

From January 1st 2012 the Monitor becomes available online only at http://www.monitorpolski.gov.pl/ where you can also search an archive back to 1946.

Skorowidz obowiązujących przepisów prawnych.(Index of current legislation covering both Monitor Polski and Dziennik Ustaw)
BL holdings: 1997-2009
BL shelfmark: ZF.9.a.3930

3.2 Court Reports

The Polish legal system is influenced by the French and German systems. The courts in Poland fall into three categories: provincial courts (Sądy okręgowe), district courts (Sądy rejonowe) and courtsof appeal (Sądy apelacyjne). They are competent to hear criminal cases, civil cases, family and custody cases, employments cases and social insurance cases. The administrative system is regulated by Naczelny Sąd Administracyjny (The High Administrative Court). This court has judicial oversight of public administration and operates through 10 delegated centres. Sąd Najwyższy (Supreme Court) is highest central judicial organ in the Republic of Poland and thus the highest court of appeal.

Sąd Najwyższy (Supreme Court) has a website at
This has information on decisions of:

- Izba Cywilna (Civil chamber)
- Izba Karna (Criminal chamber)
- Izba Pracy, Ubezpieczeń (Security and Public Affairs chamber)
- Izba Wojskowa (Military chamber)

Decisions are also published in:

*Orzecznictwo Sądu Najwyższego, Izby Cywilnej i Izby Karnej,* (Judgements of The Supreme Court)
BL holdings: 1958-1961
BL shelfmark: S.K.61

*Orzecznictwo Sądu Najwyższego. Izba Karna i Izba Wojskowa.* (Criminal and Military chambers)
BL holdings: 1962-1988
BL shelfmark: S.K.61/3

*Orzecznictwo Izby Cywilnej Sądu Najwyższego.* (Civil chamber)
BL holdings: 1962-1988
BL shelfmark: S.K.61/2

BL holdings are very incomplete.

### 3.3 Constitutional Tribunal

The **Constitutional Tribunal** is competent: 1) to decide if legislation complies with the Constitution, 2) disputes between organs of central administration about their remits; 3) compliance of political parties with the Constitution; and 4) to hear constitutional complaints filed by citizens. The English version of the Act establishing the Constitutional Tribunal and other related Acts are available on its web page at [http://www.trybunal.gov.pl/eng/index.htm](http://www.trybunal.gov.pl/eng/index.htm)

The website also contains summaries and English translations of selected judicial decisions:

The BL holds print copies of its decisions at:

*Orzecznictwo Trybunału Konstytucyjnego* (Judgements of the Constitutional Tribunal)
BL holdings: 2000-2003
BL shelfmark: OPK.9.x.100
4. DEPARTMENTAL PUBLICATIONS

The BL has some official bulletins of Polish ministries and government agencies containing administrative orders and instructions. The title is usually “Dziennik urzędowy” followed by name of the ministry or agency eg Dziennik urzędowy Ministerstwa Nauki, Szkolnictwa Wyższego i Techniki. (Ministry of Education) held at BL Shelfmark S.K.12/9. Holdings are patchy and not current. Look online for current versions.

5. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The National Strategic Reference Framework in support of growth and jobs (NSRF) is the document defining development measures that are to be undertaken by the Polish government in the period of 2007-2013 in terms of promoting sustainable economic growth, increasing competitiveness and raising employment levels. At the same time the NSRF serves to ensure effective assistance for regions and vulnerable social groups, and assistance in restructuring sectors and regions with problems.

National Strategic Reference Framework 2007-2013 in support of growth and jobs

6. NATIONAL BANK PUBLICATIONS

Narodowy Bank Polski. (NBP) (National Bank of Poland) is the central bank of the Republic of Poland. Its tasks are laid down in the Constitution of the Republic of Poland, the Act on the National Bank of Poland and the Banking Act. The fundamental objective of the NBP is to maintain price and financial stability.

It has a website at http://www.nbp.pl/

The most important areas of activity of the NBP are:

- monetary policy,
- issue of currency,
- development of payment system,
- management of official reserves,
- education and information,
- services to the State Treasury.

Raport roczny (Annual Report for...)
This annual publication contains information on the overall economic and financial performance of Poland and on the development of the banking sector, together with the balance sheet of the NBP and the banking system, and the balance of payments of the Republic of Poland. Reports are available online since 1997 at:

Biuletyn Informacyjny (Information Bulletin)
This is a monthly publication containing basic information on the overall economic and financial performance of Poland and on the policies of the central bank. Each quarterly edition contains an additional narrative section, with a concise outline of general trends relating to macroeconomic developments, the money supply and comments on changes in money stocks, Poland's balance of payments, and key monetary policy instruments. Bulletins from 1999 onwards are available at:


7. BUDGET

The Polish budget and other supporting documents are available at the website of Ministerstwo Finansow (The Ministry of Finance) under the heading Finanse publiczne/Budżet państwa. The latest Budget called Ustawa Budżetowa na rok 2013 is available at http://www.finanse.mf.gov.pl/pl/web/bip/ministerstwo-finansow/.Pages/finanse-publiczne/budzet-panstwa/ustawy-budzetowe/2013/ustawa

Previous budgets from 2001 can be found under the Archiwum (Archive) tab.

The national budget is also published in the Dziennik Ustaw under the heading Ustawa Budżetowa

8. WEBSITES

This is a selective list of useful sites

8.1 Government portals

The Chancellery of the Prime Minister (Kancelaria Prezesa Rady Ministrów) (http://www.premier.gov.pl/en.html) contains information about the composition of the government in power and the Prime Minister

The President (Prezydent) (http://www.prezydent.pl/) offers news and information about the Polish president

8.2 Parliament websites

It contains information on the history and structure of the Senat, a guide to how a law is passed; information on legislative initiatives of the Senate, an archive of proceedings and biographies of the Senators.


### 8.3 Legal resources on the Internet

**Rządowe Centrum Legislacji** (The Government Legislation Centre) looks to coordinate the legislative activities of the Polish Council of Ministers, the Prime Minister, and all administrative bodies which remain under the authority of the Prime Minister. Other equally important tasks of the Centre involve the drafting and editing of legislation and official documents and publishing of the *Journal of Laws* and *Monitor Polski* - the Government Official Gazette. Its website at [http://www.rcl.gov.pl/](http://www.rcl.gov.pl/) offers links to the full text of the legal and administrative gazettes and a public information bulletin about the activities of the Centre. Much of the other information is concerned with drafting laws and improving the qualifications of public officials.


**Internetowy System Aktów Prawnych** (Internet System of Acts) at [http://isip.sejm.gov.pl/](http://isip.sejm.gov.pl/) contains amended versions of legislation published in *Dziennik Ustaw* and *Monitor Polski*. It is not the authoritative source of the law. The only official source of law is *Dziennik Ustaw* and *Monitor Polski*. As well as the consolidated legislation, the site includes archives of *Monitor Polski* from 1930 and *Dziennik Ustaw* from 1918.

### 9. STATISTICS

The Library has a selective set of Polish government statistics. The British Library's collections of foreign government material, including statistics, are stored in Yorkshire. Please contact the Enquiry Desk in the Social Sciences Reading Room for advice on ordering.

Official statistics are published by the **Głowny Urzad Statystyczny (GUS)** (Central Statistical Office). GUS’s statistical publications cover the economic and social life of the...

Statystyka Polski. (Statistics of Poland) was the first series of Polish official statistics and was published from 1919. It contained demographic, social and economic data, including census reports, criminal statistics and elections.

Statistique de la Pologne, (Statystyka Polski) French title vol.1-8, Polish title vol.9 onwards. Volumes published out of order. Contains results of the First Polish Census (1921) in vols. 11-34
BL shelfmark: S.K.60
BL holdings: 1919-32 (vol.1-41)
BL holdings: 1932-1959
BL shelfmark: SK.60/6

Statystyka Polski. seria. A. t. 1, 25-27. 1932-34 .(includes 1931 census, in tom 1)
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6 (1)

Statystyka Polski. seria. B. zeszyt . 1- 24, 1932-35
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6 (2)

BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6 (3)

Statystyka Polski. seria. C. zeszyt . 58-65, 1937-38
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6

Statystyka Polski. seria. D. zeszyt . 1-18, 1947-50
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6(4)

Statystyka Polski. seria. E. zeszyt . 1-9, 1957-58
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6(5)

Statystyka Polski. seria. F. zeszyt . 1-26, 1958-59
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6(6)

Statystyka Polski. Materiały statystyczne. no. 1-5, 7-13, 15-28, 30, etc. 1966- .
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /6(27)

Statystyka Polski. [New series.] nr. 1-140. (includes 1978 census, in zeszyt 128, 139, 140)
BL holdings: 1973-1981
BL shelfmark: S.K.60 /66
9.1 Statistical yearbooks

*Rocznik Statystyki* (Yearbook of Statistics). Published by Główny Urzad Statystyczny, this is a rich source of information allowing a full analysis of changes to the population and economic situation of Poland. It was first published in Polish-French versions in 2 parts in 1921 and 1923 and then issued until 1930. Between 1930 and 1939 it was replaced by *Maly Rocznik Statystyczny*

*Rocznik Statystyki*
BL holdings: 1921-1930,
BL shelfmark: S.K. 60/8

*Rocznik Statystyczny Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej* (Statistical Yearbook of the Republic of Poland)
BL shelfmark: Earlier issues: S.K. 60/8
BL shelfmark: Current edition: OPL.943.800212

The Yearbook is available online (selected tables only) from 2006 at [http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_5222_PLK_HTML.htm](http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_5222_PLK_HTML.htm)

*Statistical Yearbook of Poland* English version was published between 1947-1949
BL holdings: 1947-1948; 1957-1958 in Polish, Russian and English
BL shelfmark: S.K. 60/28

*Maly Rocznik Statystyczny* (Concise statistical yearbook of Poland)
BL shelfmark: S.K.60/37.

*Petit annuaire statistique de la Pologne*
BL holdings: 1935; 1937-39; 1962-65
BL shelfmark: S.K.39

*Rocznik Statystyczny Województw* (Statistical yearbook of the regions)
BL holdings: 2000-2009
BL shelfmark: OPK.9.x.255

*Rocznik statystyczny województwa małopolskiego*
BL holdings: 2000-2009
BL shelfmark: OPK.9.x.254
9.2 Other statistical series

Biuletyn statystyczny (Statistical Bulletin)
BL holdings: 1957-
BL shelfmark: SK 60/35
http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_738_PLK_HTML.htm (online version)

Rocznik demograficzny (Demographical yearbook)
BL shelfmark: SK60/91

Rocznik statystyczny demografii
BL holdings: 1993-1997
BL shelfmark: SK60/108

Dziennik urzędowy Głównego Urzędu Statystycznego (Official Gazette of the Central Statistical Office)
BL holdings: 1973-1996; 2001-2010
BL shelfmark: SK.60/105

9.3 National accounts

Quarterly, annual and regional national accounts as well as statistics of the institutional sectors and sub-sectors are available online at:

A summary of the Quarterly national accounts 2007-2011 is available at:

9.4 Censuses

The first numerical information on the population of Polish lands began to appear - as in Western Europe - in the Middle Ages, including in the Chronicle of Gallus Anonymus (ca. 1113-1116), in papal bulls, and from the fifteenth century, in books on bishops’ salaries. A historical account of Polish censuses (in Polish) can be found online at http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_4876_PLK_HTML.htm

The first census of independent Poland took place in 1921. The census form gathered a wealth of information about the population and buildings and even farm animals. The BL holds some historical census data:

Pierwszy powszechny spis Rzeczypospolitej Polskiej z dnia 30 września 1921 roku : mieszkania, ludność, stosunki zawodowe : tablice państwowe (Le Premier recensement general de la Republique Polonaise du 30 septembre 1921 : logements, population,
professions : tableaux relatifs à la Pologne entière; First Polish Census (1921)) in Statistique de la Pologne
BL shelfmark: S.K.60, vol. 1-23 and SK60/6, vol.31

Rzeczpospolita Polska: Atlas statystyczny (La République Polonaise: Atlas statistique)
Polish & French, Warsaw 1930, Based on the first census

Statystyka Polski. seria. A. t. 1, 25-27. 1932-34 includes 1931 census in tom 1
BL shelfmark: S.K.60/6.(1)

Statystyka Polski. seria. C includes 1931 census, in tom 58 (town of Lvov), 62, 64-65
BL shelfmark: S.K.60/6.

Narodowy spis powszechny, 8 XII 1970. Wyniki wstępne.
BL shelfmark: S.K.60/104.

BL shelfmark: S.K.60/103.

Narodowy spis powszechny 1978 in Statystyka Polski.no. 128, 139, 140
BL shelfmark: S.K.60/66

Narodowy spis powszechny 2002, Ludno
2002 BL shelfmark: OPK.2006.x.74
Available online at: http://www.stat.gov.pl/gus/5840_12766_PLK_HTML.htm

National Census of Population and Housing 2011 was conducted from the 1st April to
30th June 2011 and was the first Census after Poland’s accession to the European Union. It was conducted on a similar timescale and range of topics to other EU member states, using a mixed model consisting of merging data from administrative registers with data obtained from direct statistical surveys. Main indicators (Wyniki Narodowego Spisu Powszechnego Ludno

Digitised censuses are available in PDF format at http://statlibr.stat.gov.pl/F including the first census at http://statlibr.stat.gov.pl/F/?func=find-c&ccl_term=WSC=(12345)&sort_option=03---A01---A. The Digital Library (Biblioteka Cyfrowa) can be accessed from the menu. To find the censuses, search using the keywords: narodowy spis powszechny (national census)

Historia spisow ludnosci w Polsce (A history of censuses in Poland) by Bożena Łazowska
Warszawa : Centralna Biblioteka Statystyczna, 2011 is available in Pdf format at
The 1946, 1950, and 1960 censuses of Poland are available in the microfilm collection at the BL Document Supply Centre.
BL Shelfmark: 4544.9663F

10. INDEXES

10.1 General guides and indexes

*Guide to official publications of foreign countries* 2nd ed.
Chicago: American Library Association, 1997
BL shelfmark: OPL 070.595

*Official publications of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, 1945-1980 a select annotated bibliography* edited by G. Walker
London: Mansell, 1982. (It is still very useful for historic material)
BL shelfmark: OPL 947.0043

10.2 Bibliographies and catalogues

There are currently no published bibliographies or catalogues of Polish official publications. However the Sejm Library website and its catalogues at [http://libr.sejm.gov.pl/bibl/](http://libr.sejm.gov.pl/bibl/) can be used to trace:

Polish and foreign legal literature
Polish and foreign parliamentary and official publications (including a complete set of publications of the Sejm and the Senate starting from 1919)
Early printed books, including the so-called Sejm constitutions (i.e. resolutions), reports of proceedings and speeches

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, contact:
[social-sciences@bl.uk](mailto:social-sciences@bl.uk) for British Library holdings
T: +44 (0)20 7412 7676 and ask for Enquiry Desk, Social Sciences Reading Room