

Slavic Literary Bibliographies as a Challenge in the Digital Age

The literary historian surveys the field of scholarship in its historical, intellectual, and ethnographic development, examining it critically. Following the progress of learning in these same directions, the bibliographer does not derive general principles but rather accepts the established premises provided by literary history and, on their basis, arranges the works under consideration.

Literature generalises, whereas the bibliographer attends to particulars; the former is like a bee transforming the sweetness of flowers into honey, while the latter resembles a diligent ant, gathering raw and unprocessed material.

Karol Estreicher. *On Bibliography*. Address delivered
at the Main School in Warsaw on 22 March 1865,
at the opening of a Course on this discipline, p. 5.
(source: <https://tinyurl.com/2u2xtvjh>)

The latest issue of “Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne” [“Poznań Slavic Studies”] is devoted to Slavic literary bibliographies, with special emphasis placed on their position in an increasingly digitalised scholarly environment. Literary bibliography, as one of the disciplines of the humanities, currently finds itself (much like linguistics and literary studies) at a crossroads. This situation is an evident consequence of the widespread process of digitalisation, which confronts humanities documentalists with the challenge of conducting research in a landscape shaped by the information technology revolution. The rapid development of digital tools and artificial intelligence has created a pressing need for careful observation of the transformations taking place in the compilation, organisation, and dissemination of literary bibliographies and bibliographic metadata. The articles gathered in this volume demonstrate that

the study of literary bibliographies provides an opportunity to reflect upon a broad spectrum of scholarly inquiries, from synchronic and diachronic perspectives alike. Literary bibliographies, as conceived in the present issue, reveal their potential to shape the landscape of contemporary humanities research, particularly within literary studies, a field that requires scholars from different Slavic countries to take into account the distinctive historical and cultural conditions underlying the development of their respective national literatures.

When referring here to literary bibliographies, we mean the compilation of bibliographic records (whether in printed or digital form) of literary writings (or, more broadly, cultural texts), as well as the scholarly research devoted to them and produced by specialists in the humanities: linguists, literary scholars, historians, art historians, cultural studies scholars, researchers in the social sciences, theologians, and others. In our view, the digital transformation of scholarly paradigms, especially in forms of research that relies upon the analysis and management of large datasets, creates a unique opportunity for a twofold reflection. First, it invites consideration of the role and current condition of literary bibliography and, more broadly, of bibliographic methodologies and practices in the age of digital challenges. Second, it encourages reflection on the achievements, contemporary implementations, and future bibliographic projects undertaken by philologists and literary scholars across the Slavic world, whether in Western, Eastern, Northern, or Southern Slavic countries. It is in this spirit that we present below an overview of the contributions included in this bibliographically focused issue of *“Poznańskie Studia Slawistyczne”*.

A comprehensive survey of the bibliography of the contents of the *“Rocznik Towarzystwa Literackiego im. Adama Mickiewicza”* [“Yearbook of the Adam Mickiewicz Literary Society”] is provided in the article by Aleksandra Błańska (Institute of Literary Research, Polish Academy of Sciences). The author examines the bibliographic documentation of the journal across two periods of its publication history: 1966–2007 and 2008–2025. As the successor to *“Pamiętnik Towarzystwa im. Adama Mickiewicza”* (‘Memoirs of the Adam Mickiewicz Society’), the ‘Yearbook’ continued the 19th-century tradition of literary scholarship and literary criticism rooted in, and directly engaging with, the works and reception

of Adam Mickiewicz. The separation of the second part reflects the structural transformations that affected the journal's development. These changes are exemplified by the modification of its title to "Wiek XIX. Rocznik Towarzystwa Literackiego im. Adama Mickiewicza" ("The 19th Century: Yearbook of the Adam Mickiewicz Literary Society"), signalling an expansion of its thematic scope towards the study of 19th-century Polish literature and culture. Błasińska focuses on a detailed bibliographic analysis of the section "Articles and Studies", including a discussion of the bibliographic methodology employed in its compilation.

In their jointly authored contribution, Zofia Dambek-Giallelis and Elżbieta Lijewska (both affiliated with the Faculty of Polish Philology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań) present the latest state of research on the presence of Cyprian Kamil Norwid's works in 19th-century bibliographic compilations. The authors trace the gradual process through which Norwid's oeuvre entered the awareness of Polish readers, critics, and literary scholars: from its near absence from the book market in the mid-19th century to its first appearances in the monthly *Bibliografia Polska* published by Brockhaus and in Karol Estreicher's *Bibliografia polska*. The results of their examination of booksellers' catalogues and 19th-century bibliographies provide valuable insight into the slow reintegration of Norwid's writings into the Polish literary circulation, as well as into the subsequent revival of scholarly and readerly interest in his work.

Insight into the censorship of Czech bibliographic compilations after 1945 is provided in the article authored by Anna Gnot of the Institute of Czech Literature of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Drawing upon the analytical framework proposed by the authors of the monograph *In the Public Interest: Censorship and the Social Regulation of Literature in Modern Czech Culture, 1749–2014* (*V obecném zájmu: cenzura a sociální regulace literatury v moderní české kultuře 1749–2014*), and making extensive use of available archival sources, the author identifies instances of censorship intervention in bibliographic works produced primarily within the Bibliographic Department of her home institute during the second half of the 20th century.

Within this context, special attention is devoted to three key moments in the reception of bibliographic activity in Czechoslovakia: the

establishment of the Czech Literary Bibliography Department in the 1940s; a comparative analysis of bibliographies published as supplements to histories of Czech literature issued during the 1950s; and the commemorative edition of the bibliography of Jaroslav Hašek's works published in 1983.

Tea Rogić Musa, representing the Miroslav Krleža Institute of Lexicography in Zagreb, presents a selective bibliography of articles devoted to Polish topics, compiled on the basis of extensive searches in Croatian and Yugoslav periodicals published from the second half of the 19th century until 1945. To a lesser extent, the bibliography also incorporates material from periodicals published in Serbia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. In compiling this bibliography, the author drew upon the subject catalogue developed within her home institution. The scope of the compilation encompasses literature, politics, public life, and culture. Rogić Musa offers a critical reassessment of the collected material, much of which had already been assembled during the 1950s, and evaluates its contemporary usefulness for research into Polish–Croatian cultural and social relations, as well as for broader comparative studies within Slavic scholarship.

Marcin Rosołowski presents a retrospective bibliography of literary and cultural studies articles published in Polish and European journals as well as in edited volumes. In addition to documenting Polish periodical production within the specified scope, the author provides insight into journals and serial publications from Germany, the former Yugoslavia, Hungary, and the United Kingdom. Rosołowski's work builds upon his earlier experience gained during the preparation of the *Bibliography of the Contents of Warsaw Periodicals, 1795–1831* (*Bibliografia zawartości czasopism warszawskich 1795–1831*). Drawing on this experience, he reflects on the significance of such bibliographic undertakings for literary and cultural studies research, while also addressing the contemporary challenges they pose.

Wacław Walecki and Stanisław Siess-Krzyszkowski, affiliated with the Chair of Old Polish Literature and the Estreicher Centre for Research on Polish Bibliography at Jagiellonian University, present the current state of the digital development of the retrospective Polish bibliography commonly known as the *Estreicher Bibliography*. Their contribution is

enriched by a methodological discussion of retrospective bibliographies as specialised scholarly publications, taking into account historical, geographical, linguistic, and terminological contexts, to name a few. The authors subsequently offer a detailed overview of the activities undertaken by the research centre they represent. These include the continuation of bibliographic work, archival and library research conducted abroad, educational and training initiatives, and the gradual digitisation of bibliographic resources. The latter area encompasses the operation of the *Electronic Estreicher Bibliography Database* (EBBE), the various search functionalities available within the database (illustrated through practical examples) and plans for the project's future development. These plans include the refinement of search criteria and the integration of additional catalogues into the database.

An overview of the contemporary activities of the Czech Literary Bibliography (*Česká literární bibliografie*) research infrastructure is provided in the article entitled *Czech Literary Bibliography 2025: Research Infrastructure in the Era of Digital Humanities*. Its authors, Kateřina Zajíčková and Vojtěch Malínek, who also serves as coordinator of the bibliographic infrastructure operating at the Faculty of Czech Literature, present its activities and examine its contribution to the development of Czech literary studies and digital humanities. The article focuses primarily on the infrastructure's key areas of activity, including international cooperation, methods of bibliographic data management, methodological innovation in the context of current Open Science guidelines, and prospective directions for future development at both national and European levels.

The transformations of bibliographic practice in the digital age are examined by Karolina Przysiecka of the Department of Current Bibliography at the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences. The author and researcher, whose monograph *From Print to Database: The Polish Literary Bibliography in the Process of Remediation and the Evolution of Polish Literary Studies* addresses these issues in depth, presents her observations on the changing nature of sources used in bibliographic compilation, the reciprocal influence of digital literary studies and bibliographic practice, and the challenge of documenting scholarly and literary activity in virtual environments. A common denominator of the issues discussed is the fact that they represent core activities

undertaken within the *Polish Literary Bibliography* (*Polska Bibliografia Literacka*). As such, they provide the author with a unique opportunity to observe the confrontation between nearly eighty years of documentary and bibliographic tradition and contemporary digital tools, legal frameworks, and the need to respond to rapidly changing societal demands.

A team of authors affiliated with the Institute of Literary Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the University of Warsaw: Tomasz Umerle, Patryk Hubar-Kołodziejczyk, Katarzyna Jarzyńska, Renata Rokicka, and Cezary Rosiński contributed an article entitled *Analysing and Tracking Digital Transformation in the Humanities through Software Mentions Detection*. The aim of the article is to examine the transformations occurring within contemporary humanities scholarship as a consequence of its increasing digitalisation. The authors investigate how the use of software and digital tools is progressively signalled in the abstracts of humanities research articles. To conduct their analysis, the research team employed the Sofcite application and compiled metadata from scholarly articles published in journals representing literary studies, linguistics, and digital humanities. Although the study revealed a growing tendency to include information concerning the software used in scholarly research within article abstracts, it also demonstrated that abstracts do not yet represent a paratextual form capable of providing comprehensive information in this regard. Automated data retrieval, while useful in traditional humanities disciplines and increasingly implemented by research infrastructures within disciplinary databases, remains insufficient unless supplemented by the verification of search results obtained through such procedures.

The co-authored contribution by Irina Budimir (University of Mostar) and Fra Ante Marić (Library of the Franciscan Monastery in Mostar) addresses the subject of Polish–Croatian linguistic contacts through the example of the activities of the Croatian Franciscan Didak Burić. The authors trace the trajectories of the university education of Croatian Franciscans who pursued their studies at European academic centres in the early 20th century. As a graduate of Polish universities in Krakow and Lviv, and the future author of a Croatian–Polish dictionary, in this context Burić emerges as a particularly noteworthy figure, deserving scholarly attention as an educator, lexicographer, and linguist. Accordingly,

the authors devote special attention to compiling the *Croatian–Serbian–Polish Dictionary* (*Hrvatskosrpsko-poljski rječnik*) and to Burić's role as a mediator between Polish and Croatian culture in the 20th century.

Natalia Matorina of the Donbas State Pedagogical University undertakes an exploration of the theoretical and methodological foundations underlying the compilation of a reference dictionary of Bruno Schulz's anthroponymic terminology. The proposed dictionary project is based on an innovative application of comparative analysis to the authorial lexical resources of the Polish and Ukrainian languages, while taking into account the literary traditions of both nations. The lexicographical undertaking presented by the author offers opportunities for the study of the language of Schulz's own writings, but also for the investigation of the critical, literary-scholarly, and multidisciplinary reception of his work. The article additionally includes a description of the structure of individual dictionary entries, with particular emphasis placed on their interactive functions within intercultural scholarly communication, aimed at highlighting the qualitative dimension of research into the vocabulary of individual authors and the significance of its modelling.

Danijela Marot Kiš of the University of Rijeka examines the novel *Three (Tri)* by the Croatian writer Drago Glamuzina in the context of identity transgression and the semiotics of space. The literary scholar critically confronts the text with concepts of transgression developed by Jacques Derrida and Georges Bataille, employing them in an analysis of the erotic triangle that represents both the title and a central motif of the novel. These reflections are presented within the broader context of research into the spatial dimension of literary works and the elusive and unstable meanings generated by space within literary-theoretical discourse, particularly in light of the concepts proposed by Patrick Califia and Nancy Duncan.

In his article, Bojan Minić of the University of Montenegro analyses similarities and differences between the Polish and Montenegrin languages, taking into account the distinctive features of Montenegrin dialects. The author provides an overview of existing descriptive studies devoted to this subject, both at the level of the standard language and its dialectal variants. The similarities identified between the two languages

are found primarily in the toponyms and colloquial language, particularly its more archaic forms, which attest to analogies within the older strata of both languages. The comparative perspective adopted in the article serves as a point of departure for future, more detailed investigations into the shared structures of Polish and Montenegrin.

The volume concludes with a review by Bogusław Zieliński of Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań of the publication by the Norwegian Slavist Svein Mønnesland, *Magična Crna Gora očima stranaca / Magical Montenegro. Seen by Foreigners*.

The 30th issue of our journal has become a platform for reflection on the tradition, current condition, and future of literary bibliographies from both theoretical and practical perspectives. The articles published in this volume provide an overview of the state of bibliographic research and practice across the countries of the Slavic world. In this sense, the original objective of this thematic issue and its editors has been fulfilled: namely, to offer a comprehensive reflection on bibliography in its broadest sense, understood both as an indispensable auxiliary practice in scholarly research and as an independent and autonomous academic discipline. The scholarly approaches presented herein represent a step towards a better understanding of the challenges involved in consolidating the activities of documentalists working on the languages, literatures, and cultures of Slavic nations, particularly those engaged in the preparation of bibliographies of various types, genres, and formats, employing both traditional and digital tools.

Jerzy Borowczyk, Anna Gnot