

DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS OF UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES PROVIDING ACCESS TO SCIENTIFIC E-RESOURCES FINANCED FROM NATIONAL AND EU FUNDS

Projekty rozwojowe bibliotek akademickich
w zakresie udostępniania e-zasobów naukowych finansowane
ze środków krajowych i unijnych

JACEK WILLECKI^{A,B,D,E,F}

Poznan University of Technology in Poznań
University of Technology Library

A – przygotowanie projektu badania | study design, B – zbieranie danych | data collection, C – analiza statystyczna | statistical analysis, D – interpretacja danych | data interpretation, E – przygotowanie maszynopisu | manuscript preparation, F – opracowanie piśmiennictwa | literature search, G – pozyskanie funduszy | funds collection

SUMMARY

Scientific libraries at universities are interested in transforming traditional scientific resources in the print form into their digital equivalents and also in providing, when possible, a free access to these resources via the Internet. The development of digital versions of scientific work and research and providing access to them can be financed from sources other than the university budget. An overview of main external sources of funding and an analysis of project documentation indicate availability of funds within the scope of activities popularising knowledge, Regional Operational Programmes and Operational Programme Digital Poland, scheduled for implementation in the years 2014–2020. The above-mentioned national and EU funds remain at the disposal of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Development and Marshall's Offices. They serve the implementation of small, medium and large projects concerning the development of

scientific e-resources by universities in cooperation with their libraries with the subsidy level of 100% of eligible expenditure of the project. The scale of the project being implemented should match the experience of the participating entities held in project management to date, and its execution should contribute to the development of knowledge-based economy and open science resources. It is therefore advised that universities and libraries which do not have enough experience in obtaining and implementing library projects financed from external sources apply for projects with uncomplicated structure and low budget. Whereas universities and libraries experienced in applying for external, national and European project grants, and the implementation of small, medium and large project, should create their own project portfolios for the funding of the development of digital scientific resources.

Keywords: scientific e-resources of libraries, financing of library projects, national funds, EU funds

STRESZCZENIE

Biblioteki naukowe szkół wyższych są zainteresowane transformacją tradycyjnych zasobów naukowych w formie drukowanej na ich elektroniczne odpowiedniki, udostępniane w miarę możliwości w wolnym dostępie poprzez sieć internetową. Przygotowanie elektronicznych wersji prac i badań naukowych oraz ich udostępnienie, może zostać sfinansowane z innego źródła niż budżet uczelni. Przegląd głównych, zewnętrznych źródeł finansowania oraz analiza dokumentacji projektowej, wskazuje na dostępność środków w ramach działalności upowszechniającej naukę, regionalnych programów operacyjnych i Programu Operacyjnego Polska Cyfrowa, zaplanowanych do realizacji w latach 2014–2020. Wspomniane środki krajowe i unijne pozostają w dyspozycji Ministerstwa Nauki i Szkolnictwa Wyższego, Ministerstwa Rozwoju oraz urzędów marszałkowskich. Służą one realizacji małych, średnich i dużych projektów dotyczących tworzenia e-zasobów naukowych przez uczelnie we współpracy

z ich bibliotekami, a poziom dofinansowania wynosi do 100% wydatków kwalifikowalnych projektu. Skala realizowanego przedsięwzięcia powinna odpowiadać doświadczeniu podmiotów w dotychczasowym prowadzeniu projektów, a ich realizacja winna przyczynić się do rozwoju gospodarki opartej na wiedzy i otwartych zasobów nauki. Wskazane jest zatem, by uczelnie i biblioteki, które nie posiadają wystarczającego doświadczenia związanego z pozyskiwaniem i realizacją bibliotecznych przedsięwzięć projektowych finansowanych ze środków zewnętrznych, aplikowały o projekty mające prostą strukturę i niski budżet. Natomiast szkoły wyższe i biblioteki, posiadające doświadczenie w zakresie aplikowania o zewnętrzne, krajowe i europejskie dotacje projektowe oraz doświadczenie w zakresie realizacji projektów małych, średnich i dużych, powinny tworzyć własne portfele projektów służące finansowaniu rozwoju cyfrowych zasobów nauki.

Słowa kluczowe: e-zasoby naukowe bibliotek, finansowanie projektów bibliotek, środki krajowe, fundusze unijne

(*PU-HSP 2016*; 10, 1: 32–34)

Background

Scientific libraries functioning as organizational units of universities should themselves actively search for external funding to implement projects which serve the development of new e-services for academic, social and economic environment. Rendering scientific and research achievements freely accessible via the Internet is an indispensable basis in terms of laying strong foundations for the open science in Poland. Actions aimed at transformation of traditional scientific resources into electronic ones, involving mainly their development, digitization and providing access to them, often require high expenditure. Potential financing sources for the aforementioned undertakings may be external funds, coming from outside the university budget and remaining at the disposal of regional and national institutions.

Main funding sources for library projects

With a view to identify the most important and up-to date funding sources for projects, which serve the development of scientific e-resources at university libraries, an analysis of research material in the form of project documentation developed by relevant ministries and marshal's offices was performed, followed by a synthesis indicating types of projects that could be financed or co-financed from national or European funds.

Scientific libraries focused on the execution of small projects (potential subsidy up to PLN 1 million), whose goal is to make scientific library resources available in the electronic form, are eligible to apply for funds allocated to projects connected with knowledge popularizing activities. The Administrator of these funds is the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, which opens the calls for applications for funding once or twice per calendar year. It ensures financing of projects focused on development or providing access to unique resources, which are crucial for science and its heritage, or characterized by a high level of scientific expertise, while ensuring free and common electronic access to

the items developed. The above-mentioned ministerial initiative is financed from national resources, connected with science financing, up to 100% of the value of the undertaking. Applications are evaluated by an interdisciplinary Team responsible for science popularizing activities and the project duration cannot be longer than 24 months [1].

University libraries which prefer to implement medium size projects (potential subsidy amount up to PLN 4 million), involving construction and modernization of ICT systems for digitization of resources, digitization of scientific papers, building and extension of digital repositories, creating open access platforms for resources made available within the scope of digital services, should apply for funding from Regional Operational Programs for 2014–2020. Funding for the implementation of this type of projects remains at the disposal of Marshal's Offices, acting as a Managing Authority for EU funds deriving from the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund [2]. The above-mentioned institutions organize calls for applications for funding of projects in individual provinces, by the publicly announced deadlines. An entity applying for project funding may obtain financial support of up to 95% (funding from the European and national resources) of eligible expenditure of the project and the portfolio of the co-financed undertakings varies between individual provinces. Application forms are subject to formal and substantive evaluation, and the project duration is specified in the documentation of each particular contest.

University libraries prepared to implement large projects (potential subsidy amount over PLN 4 million), concerned with developing and providing access to scientific resources in the digital form via the Internet by preserving them in the electronic form and adding metadata in a machine readable format, are afforded an opportunity to apply for EU funds within the scope of priority axis 2 of Operational Program Digital Poland for 2014–2020. The Administrator of the project funds for providing a wide and comprehensive access to scientific e-resources is the Ministry of Development, which designated Digital Poland Project Centre as an

Intermediary Body, responsible for the organization of public calls for applications, as well as supervision of implementation and financial settlement of projects financed from the European Regional Development Fund. An entity applying for funding may be awarded a subsidy of up to 100% (obtained from European and national funds) of eligible costs of the project and the portfolio of eligible expenditure includes the purchase of IT equipment, digitization equipment and the remuneration of program staff. Applications are subject to a formal and substantive evaluation, and the maximum project duration time is 36-months [3].

Conclusions

An overview of the most important potential funding sources for development activities of university libraries within the scope of electronic accessibility of scientific resources, which has been presented, indicates availability of national and European funds. Therefore, universities, in consultation with their libraries, should apply for external funding, depending on their development strategy, current needs and experience in obtaining grants. It is advisable that universities and libraries having no or little experience obtaining and implementing projects financed from outside the university budget should apply first for funds to realize small scale, simple projects with low budget. This will allow them to gain necessary skills in project management, implementation and financial settlement. On the other hand, universities and libraries which are experienced in project implementation can build their own

portfolio of projects composed of complementary small, medium and large undertakings connected with digitization of research results and scientific papers, which will be financed from external funds. This will allow universities and related libraries to develop dynamically in the area of e-resources, which will be an impulse for cooperation of open science and knowledge-based economy.

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The conflict of interests

The author does not report any conflicts of interests.

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Correspondence address:

Jacek Willecki, D.E.
Poznan University of Technology
Poznan University of Technology Library
Piotrowo str. 2
61-138 Poznań
phone: +48 61 665 3522
e-mail: jacek.willecki@put.poznan.pl

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