Effective Solutions

for Accessing Electronic Resources – Based on Experiences of Warsaw University of Technology Main Library

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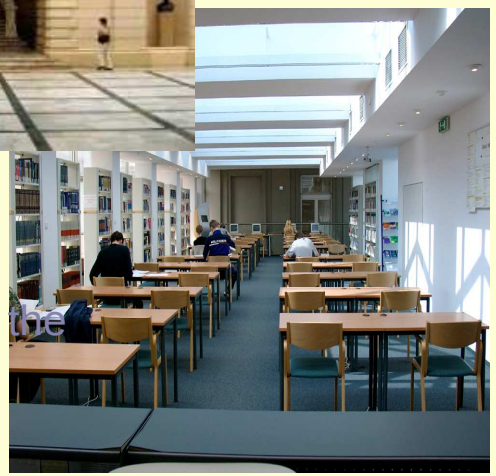
Warsaw University of Technology (WUT)

- the origins of Politechnika Warszawska – Warsaw University of Technology date back to 1826
- the largest technical university in Poland, ranked as the best engineering university
- 30, 000 students, over 2, 000 professors and lecturers
- 17 faculties covering almost all fields of engineering and applied sciences

WUT Main Library

- the oldest technical academic library in Poland
- the Library is integrated with all branch libraries, student hostels libraries, faculties and institutions libraries (WUT library network)
- the Library's staff of 87 includes professionals with M.A in librarianship and information science and technical experts with M.Sc in engineering



- the central site in the WUT Main Building
- the modern library construction has been added to the 19th century building

Main Library holdings

- books: 1, 500 000 volumes of printed books and access to over 2, 000 electronic books (CRC Press, Knovel, Referex Engineering)
- journals: 200, 000 volumes of printed journals, 270 titles of current printed journals (subscriptions) and access to about 12, 000 titles of electronic journals (ScienceDirect Elsevier, Springer/Kluwer, Wiley InterScience, IEEE/IEE Electronic Library, IoP, AIP/APS, RSC
- special collections: 40, 000 volumes of Polish and European standards, the National Heritage Library Collection, CD ROM databases, access to bibliografic worldwide databases (Compendex, Chemical Abstracts, SCI-Ex, Scopus, CSA TRD, EbscoHost Web, CINDAS and other), multimedia
- the WUT Digital Library- 4 collections: History of Education, History of science and Technology, History of WUT, Texts and Handbooks

Practical aspects of the WUT Main Library management

- users' needs oriented
- winning new users group, analysing their demands, promoting library activities
- changing librarians' habits – "users guarantee library existing"
- identifying negative effects of the library activities and eliminating errors and losses
- applying new information technology in the library processes
- using statistical and analytical tools to increase the quality of library services

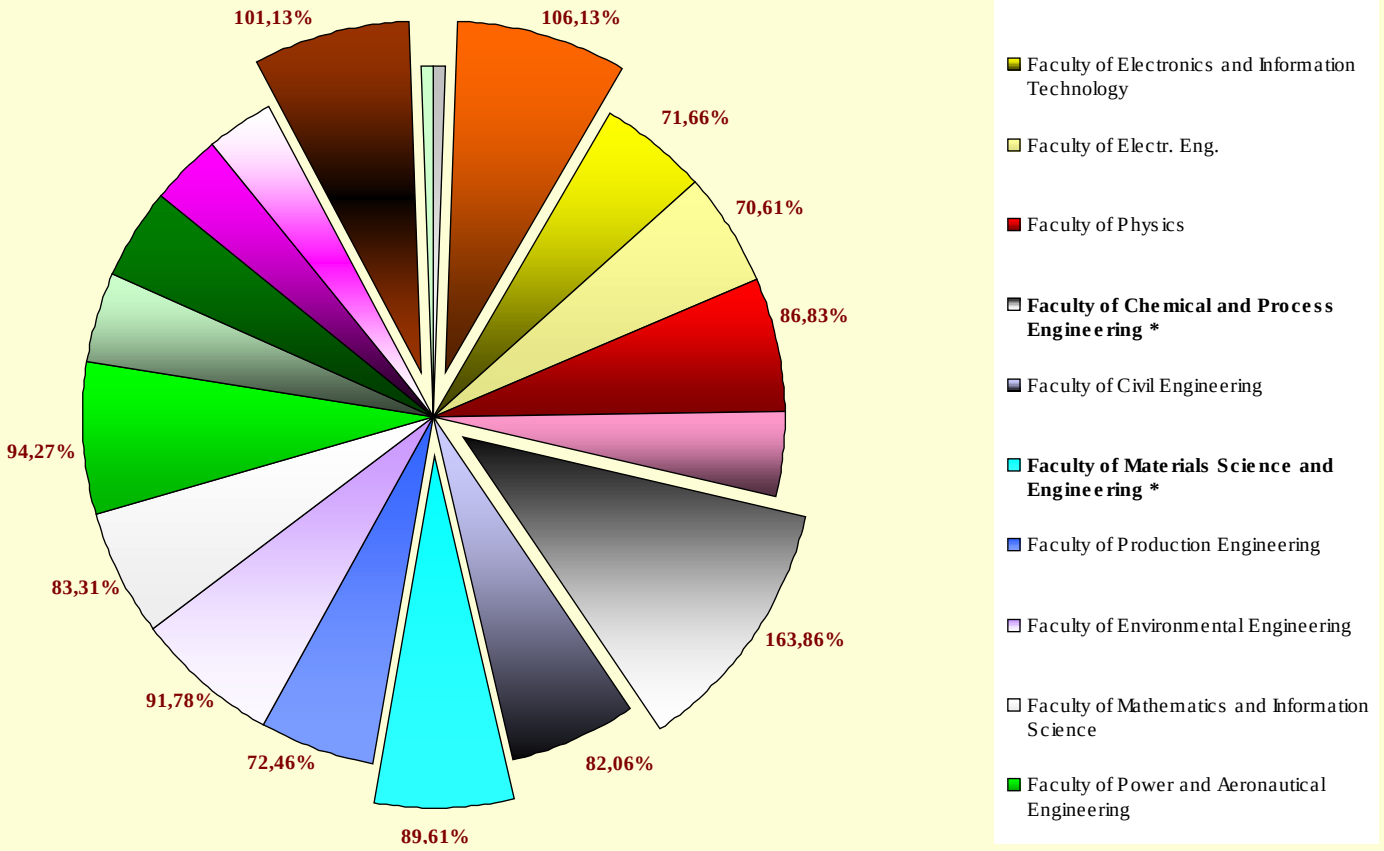
WUT Main Library resource management

- the Library automation (started in 1999) is still being introduced and now its resource management is based on the following systems:
  - Aleph integrated library system (printed resources)
  - HAN Hidden Automatic Navigator (on line commercial resources)
  - dLibra Digital Library Framework (digital collection)
- all these systems support the Library acquisition, resource management and the increase of information services quality
- all of them can be integrated with each other

The Aleph system

- the Aleph can integrate and manage all of WUT printed resources
- makes current and periodical usage reports
- enables making combinations of users group, circulations, the most popular titles
- shows which time is the most popular after the Library opening hours
- shows that users need a 24-hour access to the Library (books orders via Internet are made between 9 p.m and midnight)
- enables making ranking of the most popular documents and performance indicators for the Library printed collections

The users activity of specific WUT faculties – the Aleph report in 2006



Hidden Automatic Navigator (HAN)

- manages and controls the access, supports integration of the applications and presents them on-and off- line
- helps the users and supports librarians
- enables entitled users' access to a legal use of commercial resources from any computer
- users can log in with a library card without additional authorisation

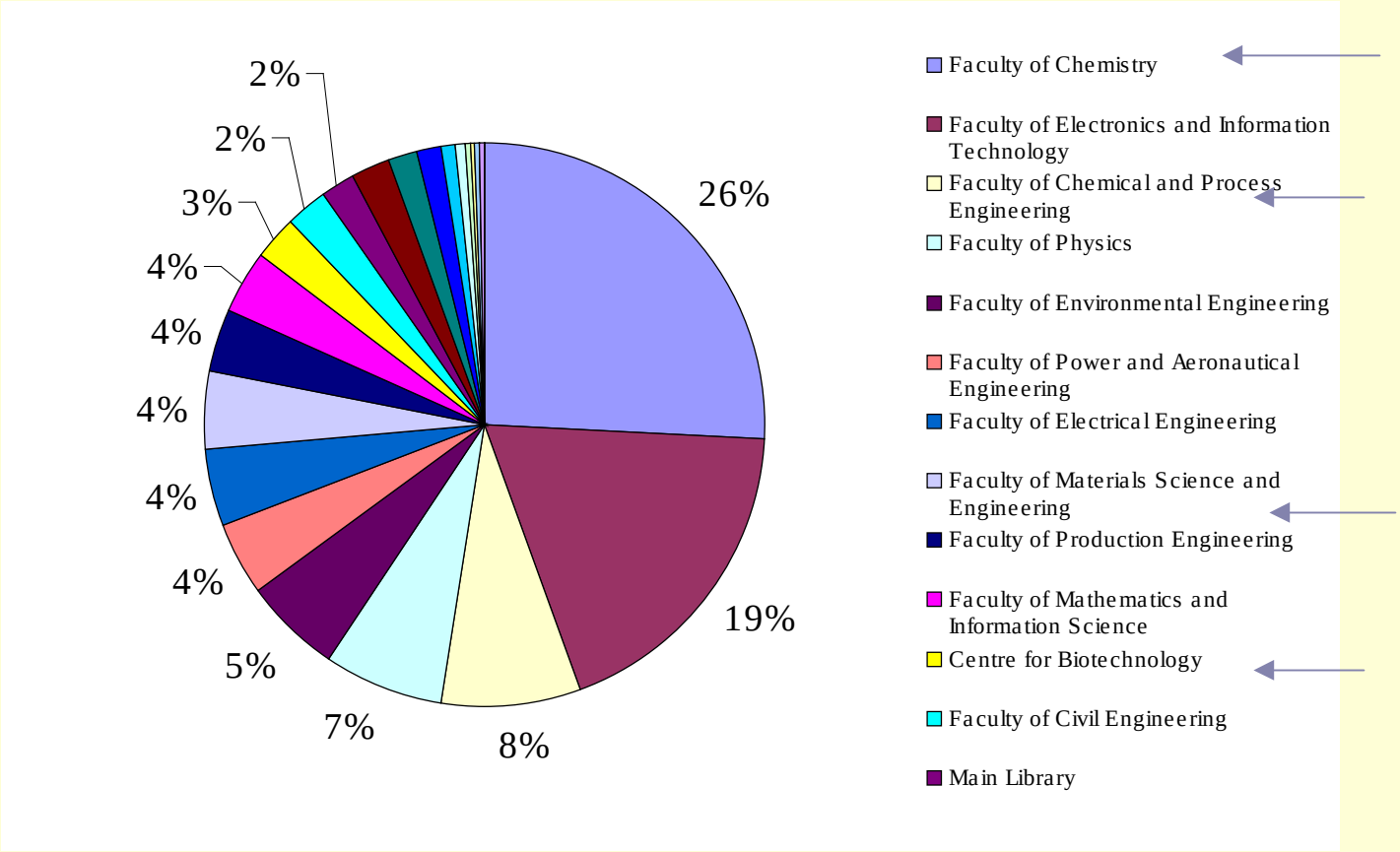
HAN gives options to conduct the following analyses:

- the most popular time of using databases (not limited by the Library opening hours)
- which database was used during a period of time
- which databases were used the most by specific group of users
- how long users navigated through a chosen database

HAN generates data which guarantee a possibility of making statistical analyses depending on the Library needs

- the 2006 statistics report showed that INSPEC database was used the least
- It showed that it was uselessness or it was purposeful to continue some licenses (sources which are used by small group of users but during long time and oft)
- other analyses showed that the most active group of users were chemists, and it justifies chemical databases subscriptions

The most active group of users (chemists)



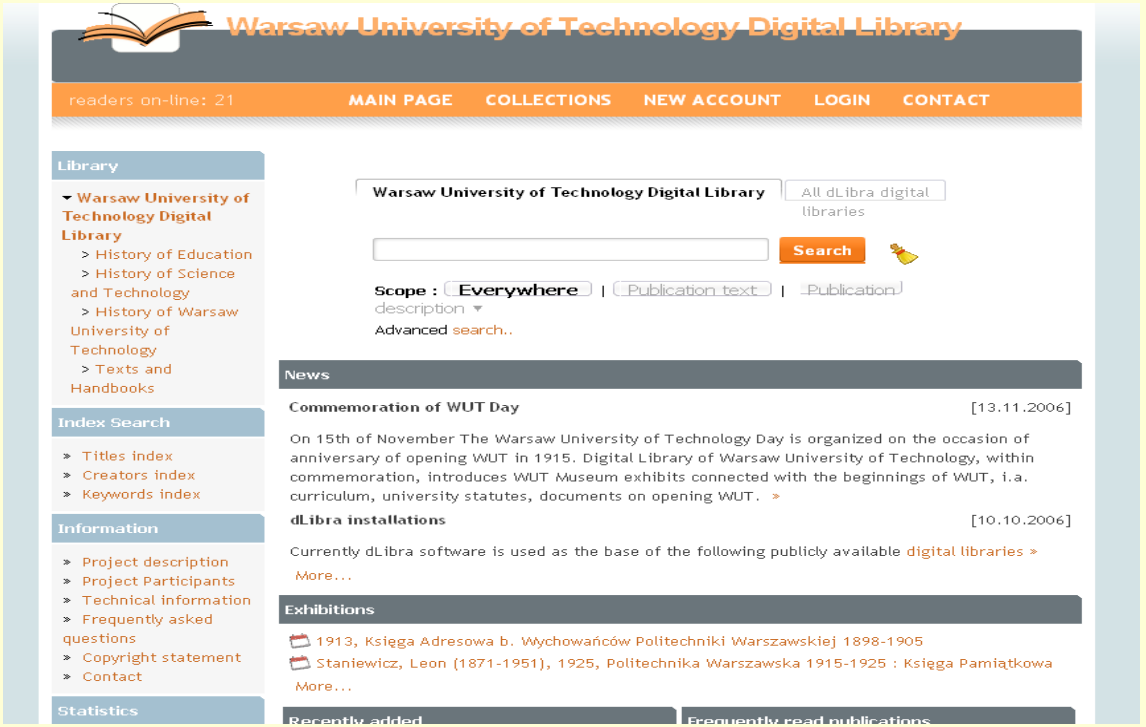
the Aleph report also showed this group as the most active
(see: slide no.8)

HAN allows the Library

- count simultaneous users (what license the Library should purchase)
- improve the management of electronic resources
- implement the license policy consciously

The WUT Digital Library and Digital Library Framework (dLibra)

- dLibra – the first Polish software for building digital libraries (Poznań Supercomputing Centre 1999)
- enables libraries to create professional repositories of digital documents



The WUT Digital Library (the WUT DL)

- the Collection of Local Electronic Holdings was launched in 2005
- in 2006 the WUT Main Library started implementing a new program dLibra and the collection has changed the name to the WUT Digital Library
- the WUT DL publications are grouped in four collections:

  History of Science and Technology
  History of Education
  History of WUT
  Texts and handbooks (published by WUT and other editors)

The WUT Digital Library

- the main tasks of the WUT DL is creating digital resources and providing open access to the educational sources and scientific output of the WUT,
- the structure and content of WUT DL can be based on the Aleph statistics reports to prove which printed books are the most popular, which other books do not have enough copies,
- these data help to create a list of publications planned for digitalisation in our DL (collection of texts and handbooks)

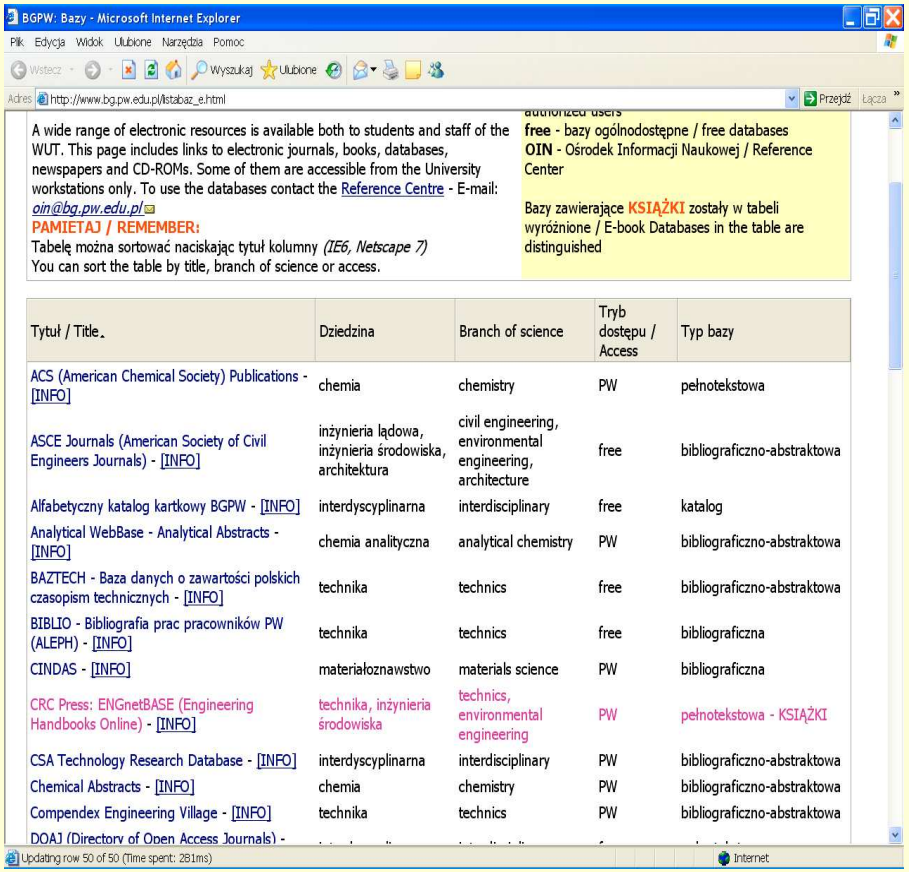
- WUT DL digital books are also described in the WUT catalogue as bibliographic records and it allows users to link information (about the same title) with each other

Search tools

- the WUT Main Library Web Site
- interactive table of e- databases
- A/Z list of e- journals
- A/Z list of e – books
- MyiLibrary Platform

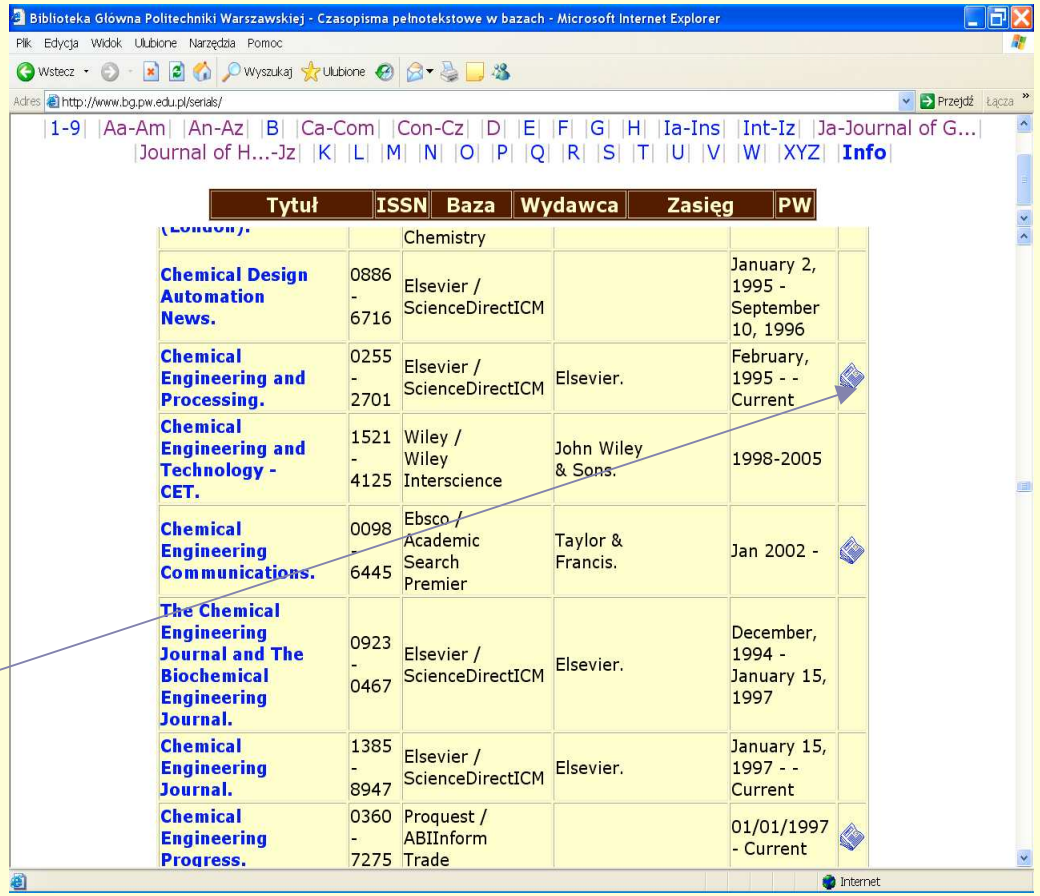
Interactive table of e-databases

- the table allows users to overview all e-resources available through WUT Main Library
- users can choose some database directly, selecting a branch of science or a type of database
- the table provides access to all of them in the same place



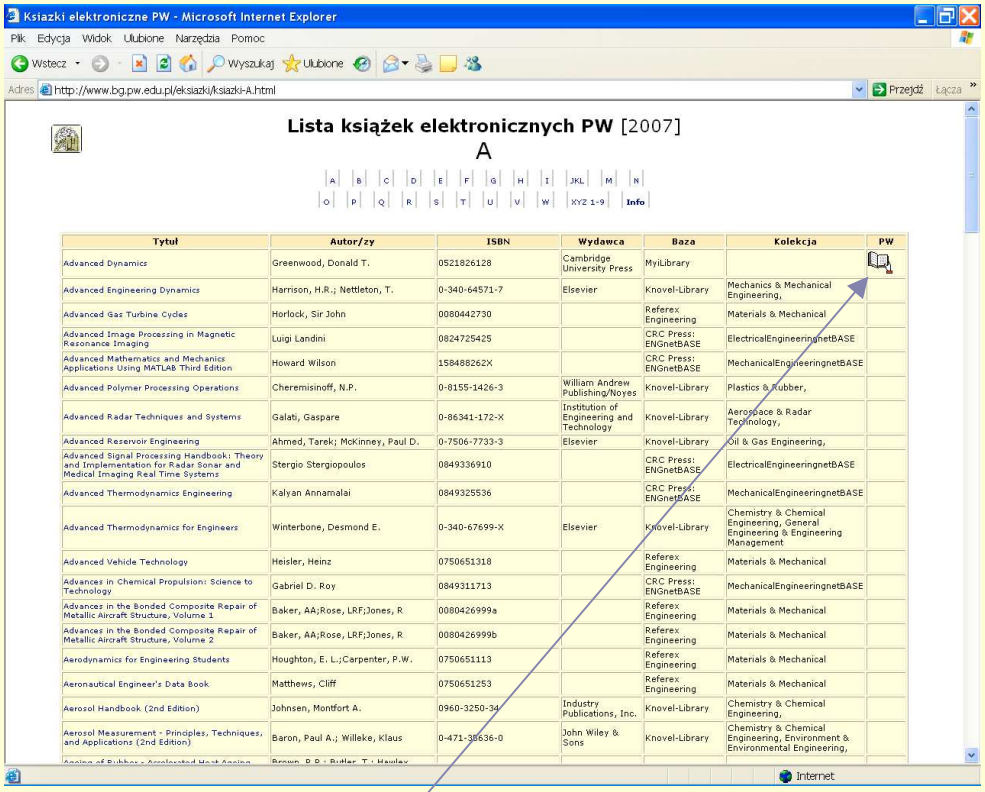
The Main Library A/Z list of e-journals

- the list enables users locate and link to titles they are interested in fast
- this list includes 12 000 titles of e-journals
- the register is updated as often as it is necessary
- the list is integrated with the WUT catalogue and users can link to the same title in printed version if the e-journal has its counterpart



The Main Library A/Z list of e-books

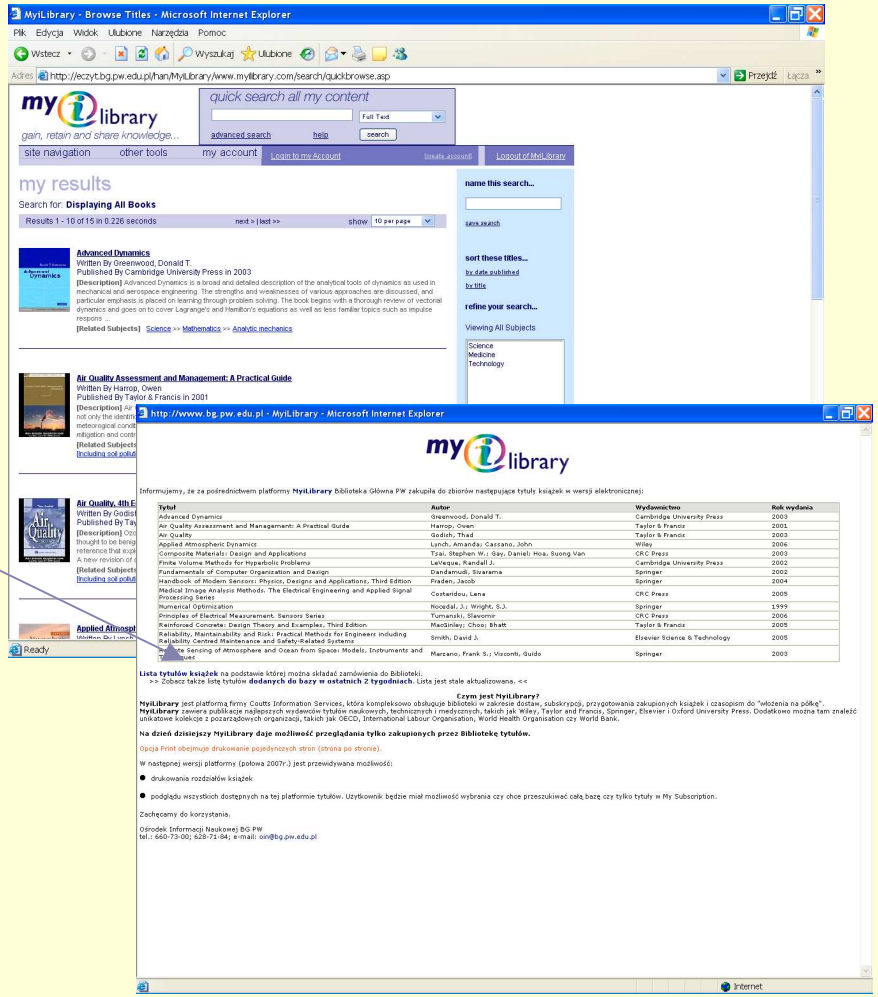
- the list is a navigational tool for researchers who want to get a specific title of e-book (among E-books databases) in a quick way.
- the majority of these books is available as packages in several databases such as: CRC Press, Referex Engineering, Knovel
- the list covers over 2 000 titles, giving access through the title to each URL address.
- the list is now unique in Poland.



- the titles which are the Library property have link to the WUT catalogue

The MyiLibrary Platform

- this platform is a new solution which enables creating the Library's own collection of e-books which can be register in the WUT catalogue
- users can order single titles of e-books which are published by different editors
- users can look through a list of titles and then they can order chosen titles in the WUT Main Library Acquisition Department
- the chosen titles can be added to the MyiLibrary platform as the Library property



The Main Library and the WUT cooperation

- participating in the meetings of the Senate Commissions, discussing research, didactic and financial systems
- common holdings acquisition policy – accepted by research staff and librarians – members of Library Advisory Board (quarterly committee meetings)
- cooperation with the University Student Parliament - promotion of the Library on student' portal (Polibuda.info), extension of opening hours, list of publications which should to be in the WUT DL as a digital copies, employment of students in the student hostel library, etc.
- supporting the International Student Office activities by providing packages of printed and electronic books for foreign students, and promoting information services and specific/target training
- the option "Purchase Request Form" on the Library Web Site enables students and researchers recommend materials for purchase
- this cooperation corresponds to expectations of the university scientific environment, supports e-teaching and e-learning

Training for users and researchers

- the programme of training courses includes:

  - general training – on how to use the Main Library

  - training on finding scientific information and using e-databases, A/Z list of e-journals, A/Z list of e-books, searching Web sites (for master's degree students, PhD students, researchers)

  - training for specific WUT courses (environmental engineering, chemistry, materials science, etc.)

  - training on using information sources on individual request

Conclusions

- to develop access to e-resources libraries should solve the following problems:
  - limited budget,
  - applying management of e-resources,
  - focusing on users' needs,
  - cooperation with each other to create joint consortia and repositories and to design joint portals
- since 1998, 22 Polish technical university libraries and special libraries have been designed and developed joint subject bibliographic database BazTech – Polish Technical Journal Content;

  - http://baztech.icm.edu.pl/

  - now, the same group of libraries have taken up a new project of a joint portal for engineers BazTol. The idea of BazTol is the Polish subject gateway (technical sciences)
- academic libraries in Poland should aspire to establish a national repository (using dLibra as a joint software) which could develop an access to e-resources on a wider scale
- joint library portals and multi searching could provide users with new possibilities to access local, domestic and international sources
- this is the only way to achieve a success

Thank you for attention

- Contact us:

- Anna Tonakiewicz
  tonak@bg.pw.edu.pl

- Grazyna Komorowska
  graza@bg.pw.edu.pl

Warsaw University of Technology
Main Library, phone/fax: +48 22 628 71 84