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UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS: MUSEUMS AT UNIVERSITIES. GUARDIANS OF ACADEMIC HERITAGE, IN THE LIGHT OF LEGAL REGULATIONS AND PRAXIS

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University museums undoubtedly rank among the most numerous and most dynamically developing institutions in Poland. Over the last two decades these organisations have assumed an important position among the museum community worldwide. Associating themselves in smaller or bigger networks, they co-create a new quality in the discourse on cultural activity. The intensified activity of this museum group can also be attributed to ICOM's focus: in 2000, ICOM established UMAC: International Council of Museums Committee for University Museums and Collections as well as Universeum: European Academic Heritage Network. Holding numerous conferences and meetings, the two committees associating organisations active in the field of academic heritage, have created space for experience sharing and platform for debate.

Since 2004 members of Universeum have been meeting regularly at annual conferences and networking sessions. Among the most crucial ones let us name the following conferences titled: 'Inventorying and Preserving University Collections – What for?' (Strasbourg, France 2006); 'Arranging and Rearranging. Planning University Heritage for the Future' (University of Padua, Italy 2011); 'University Heritage Today: Beyond Public Engagement?' (University of Valencia, Spain 2013); 'Working Together: Partnerships, Co-creation, Co-curation' (University of Glasgow, Great Britain 2017); and 'University Museums & Collections as Networks for Understanding the World: Shaping Narratives of Knowledge for the Past, Present, Future' (Masaryk University, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic 2019).

In 2010, in order to raise awareness of the importance of university heritage, Universeum together with the Council of Europe declared 18 November a European Academic Heritage Day. It is actively celebrated worldwide, popularizing the role and impact of the academic heritage.

In Poland since 2012 the Association of University Museums (SMU) has been active, promoting knowledge of academic heritage and Polish university museums, supporting the sharing of best practices and of community experience in thematic sessions as well as at academic conferences.¹

The present paper aims at defining university museums, demonstrating their varied structural formats, outlining those institutions' aspirations, and pointing to their needs and to the potential systemic, as well as legislative changes necessary for the support of their activity.

University museums and the act on museums

University museums are museum and museum-like organizations placed within structures of tertiary-education institutions. They continuously formulate new principles of their activity, e.g., by working out missions, defining goals, establishing policies of amassing collections. They have at their disposal a solid base and an interdisciplinary team of researchers and practitioners who preserve millions of objects including extremely precious collections of art pieces, scientific apparatus, medicine-related specimens, as well as archaeological ones, or nature specimens. These museums fulfil many tasks related to preserving and conserving collections, while also creating venues for their interpretation and application in a further research process through exhibitions, museum classes, or scientific projects. One of the most important intentions of the university-museum circles is the attempt to make university collections be considered as components of the national heritage that would be regarded as public goods requiring particular care and preservation.

The definition of a museum in the Polish legal system reads that a museum is *a non-profit organizational entity which collects and preserves natural and cultural heritage of mankind, both tangible and intangible, informs about the values and contents of its collections, diffuses the fundamental values of Polish and world history, science and culture, fosters cognitive and aesthetic sensitivity and provides access to the collected holdings. Museums may be created by ministers and heads of central offices, local government entities, natural persons, legal persons and entities without legal personality.*²

The problematic question that results from the currently valid regulations and their interpretation for university museum circles is the fact that they are treated as a group of private museums. All the museums which are not state or local-government institutions, thus those which are not organized by a minister, head of a central office or a local government entity, are considered private museums. It is among the latter group that museums operating within the structures of tertiary-education institutions are ranked.³ From the point of view of this group of museums the challenging issue is the lack of a clear distinction between public and non-public institutions and of a plain stipulation that organizers of public museums do not have to be either bodies of central or local governments, but can also be central or

local-government legal persons, thus universities, too. Such provisions would create the possibility to better and more securely incorporate university museums and their collections into the processes connected with heritage preservation. Moreover, this would authorise employees of such institutions (curators, collection guardians) to rightfully participate in the life of Polish museum circles.

Currently the regulations and assumptions, regardless of the differences between organizers, stipulate that private museums should be treated in the same way as public ones.⁴ This, evidently, is important from the point of view of university museums.

Creating a museum and managing university collections

Establishing a private museum (analogically: a university museum), occurs through the declaration of will of a legal person. This declaration is regulations of the founded institutions (regulations of a university museum), and their provisions can be arbitrarily formulated by the organizer. However the stipulation is for the regulations to comply with Art. 6.1 of the Act on Museums.⁵ Despite no clear statutory provision for a charter of a museum of no legal personality to be created in agreement with the minister responsible for matters of culture and national heritage, such a procedure should be adopted. This allows the Ministry to gain knowledge of the existence and operations of university museums, and for them to make their operations more professional.

The Act of 20 July 2018 on Higher Education and Science stipulates that one of the basic tasks of higher-education institutions is disseminating and multiplying scientific and cultural achievements, including through the collection and provision of library, information and archival collections.⁶ It is on the grounds of this provision and internal regulations that universities establish museums, centres, rooms of remembrance or traditions, etc., thus becoming organizers and owners of those facilities. In brief, the decision to establish a university museum is up to the university and it is its internal project. The principles of founding one and the regulations that accompany the process are stipulated in the charters of higher education institutions (...) *organizational autonomy of a university allows flexible adjustment of museums' regulations to the existing organizational conditions, actual capacity and needs of the given university.*⁷

Collections of the museums that do not have legal personality, which are the property of the organizer, should be managed abiding by the valid laws, rules, and good practices. The museum objects should be entered in the museum inventory, thus placed among the university assets in compliance with the provisions of its accountancy policy.

In the light of the valid regulations, university museums as private organizations, have more liberty in managing their resources. They are not expected to apply for authorization from the Ministry of Culture, National Heritage and Sport (further on MKDNiS) to remove an object from their inventory or for its deaccessioning. In this respect, university museums are obliged to respect their internal regulations and follow the professional ethics, e.g., with respect to an appropriate preservation of the collection. However, the general rule applicable to all museums is to manage the collection in compliance with the director's or organizer's instructions and authorisations and provisions of

adequate resources to maintain the museum and fulfil its tasks. Not having a legal personality, university museums as private institutions cannot benefit from subsidies allocated in the grant programmes of MKDNiS.

This is an appropriate moment to emphasize another museum type: registered museums. University museums can also be classified as registered. The Act on Museums specifies that in order to guarantee the factual quality of the collection, *the minister responsible for matters of culture and national heritage protection shall enter a museum in the Register subject to several requirements, which include, in particular, the significance of the collections held by a museum, a team of qualified personnel, the premises and stable sources of funding which warrant the implementation of the statutory goals of the museum.*⁸ The decisive factor is thus a high factual quality of the owned collection.

It would seem logical that if the institution has entered the Register, thus acquired this special qualification, it should hope for additional financial support, or an identical treatment. Regrettably, registered university museums cannot rely on this type of privileges and benefits. The fact of having been registered does not alter their status, the support they are provided seems to be but symbolic, while grants are impossible to apply for. The problem is thus in the person of the organizer, namely the university for whom the respective ministry is the Ministry of Education and Science (thereafter MEN). Thus, universities, and therefore their museums, too, are not eligible to participate in the programmes of MKDNiS.⁹ Moreover, it is impossible to interfere directly in the matters of the museum unit structurally located in this way.

From among Polish university museums only the Jagiellonian University Museum in Cracow complying with the above requirements has been entered in the State Museum Register. Additionally, few universities have agreed the regulations of their respective museums with MKDNiS.¹⁰

University museums: an attempt at the definition

University museums are neither state nor local-government institutions. In view of their organisers,¹¹ neither are they cultural institutions in the meaning of the Act on Organizing and Running Cultural Activity. Thus, in brief, this group of organisations is not defined in either regulation. Let us, therefore, quickly characterize university museums which remain outside the valid statutory regulations related to museums and cultural institutions.

In a very general approach, a university museum is an organization of museum character, possessing a collection and amassing it according to definite criteria in order to study it and disseminate; placed within the university structural scheme and financed with the university resources, it can be a university- or department-related unit. This group of museums deals with collecting and studying objects related to the history of their university, preserving of tangible and intangible traces of the institution's past, promoting the state of research into them, preserving academic traditions, interpreting and narrating academic and cultural heritage of Polish universities.

University museums as a category also include university teaching and research centres collecting historical objects

and scientific collections, interpretation centres, halls of memory, faculty collections, and even botanical gardens. Frequently having in their possession thematic collections, as well as those related to art, nature, medicine, etc., including those relating to the activity of the organizer, they implement a basic museum activity, additionally focusing on research and social aspects. University museums vary as for their institutional, financial, and personnel background. Most often they are small teams, in some cases single individuals, inversely proportional to the thematic range or the volume of the possessed collection.

Nonetheless, there are also organisations profiled in such a way that their major goal is not amassing and preserving thematic collections, since they concentrate on interpreting intangible heritage and on narrative focused on memory and identity. They, nevertheless, exert a didactic function (by organising museum classes on e.g. history of science, for university students)¹² or make their holdings available (mounting permanent or temporary displays).

Aspirations and directions of the changes: summing up

How many university museums and collections are there in Poland today? This question can most likely be answered in different ways, depending on the variety of the museums' organizational structures, but also task orientation.

The verification of the number of museum organisations operating within the framework of Polish public and non-public higher-education institutions has to-date been verified on several occasions. Their number in 2009 was assessed at 31,¹³ while in 2016, it rose to 62.¹⁴ Subsequently, in 2018, a new summing up was made, identifying 68 university museums and collections.¹⁵ At present, the Association of University Museums (thereafter SMU) is cooperating with 102 organisations who comply with the criteria of a university museum, fulfilling tasks assigned to such.

The situation looks slightly differently in the case of foreign university collections and museums. They are included in the statistics or collection lists only when they are applicable to research or teaching.

The table below presents a group of 76 museum organisations. Among them 31 have been distinguished as university-wide, this meaning such organisations whose structure has been isolated from faculties, and which most often have their own regulations and a separate budget. A substantial proportion among the list contains faculty units, 36 of which have been included in the list (covering 3 institute organisations, 10 within departments, and one within a laboratory). In their case, the museum is a component of a unit, often without a specialized structure, under the guidance of educators. Additionally, nine units which form part of the structure of libraries, archives, or promotion offices, have been identified.

Out of the organisations on the list as many as 63 have a permanent exhibition, three are being organized, one is being re-organized, and one operates only online.

On the discussed list only the museums and academic centres which have an isolated organizational structure have been pointed to, yet firstly those which boast shaped collections, regardless of their affiliation, collection volume, staff employment format, etc.

An additional indicator was the tasks they fulfil, including the preservation and studying of the collections, the latter being applied in teaching, as well as displaying. What has remained outside the statistics are faculty and institute collections not defined as museums, interpretation centres, cabinets, rooms and halls of memory, botanical gardens, herbaria, libraries, and archives.¹⁶

Despite being located within the structure of a higher-education institution, university museums aim at consolidating their position amidst the museum circles by activities related to the preservation of tangible and intangible national heritage. What remains the main challenge in this respect is thus an appropriate shaping of the policy of the preservation of Polish academic collections, working out the format for the operation of university museum organisations, and working out communication channels with the remaining representatives of Polish museology whose essential part is, after all, constituted by university museums.

What matters, however, is for university museums, regardless of their formula and scope, affiliation with and support of specific sectors, to be active participants in the discourse on the preservation, academic studying and interpretation of the national heritage and new tendencies in museology. University museums, apart from other museum and cultural institutions, are active subjects defining cultural and academic heritage, while also fulfilling collecting activity. In their case, particularly owing to the interdisciplinary researchers' background as well as comparative materials and documentation they can boast, the collections are a purpose and output thanks to which history is recreated and its understanding is reached.

This is an opportune moment to point out that there is a need to introduce changes in definitions and legislation. For some unclear reasons in the to-date interpretation the museums organized by public universities have been regarded as private museums. It would be appropriate to stipulate in the Act on Museums that the organizer of public museums does not have to necessarily rank among central government organs or those of a local government, but can also be a central or local-government legal person. Just this very provision would allow an essential alteration of the status and the fulfilment of the aspiration to: firstly, approve of the academic collections as component of the national heritage, as a public good that requires exceptional sensitivity and protection; secondly, to admit that the group of their guardians are full members of the museum-related circles.

As much as the operation of university units within the scope of competence of another ministry could continue to hamper the use of direct targeted subsidies for the purchase or maintaining of the collection, or benefitting from other programmes, there might exist a list of parameters whose fulfilment would allow also these organisations to acquire funding from MKDNIŚ. Particularly if it were to be allocated to guardianship of artistic heritage.

It would seem justifiable to carry out a discourse between the Ministry of Culture and Science and emphasize that preservation of a part of national heritage is also a responsibility of the science sector. The approval of this fact and its verbalizing would allow to support scientific collections and enhance the dissemination activity based on them. This relatively minor formal move could constitute a milestone in making the hard daily existence of university museums and collections easier.

Just to sum up, university museums are guardians of the tradition and heritage of Polish sciences and universities. Together with museum organisations in the understanding of the Act on Museum, they take care of objects, historic ones including, of particular importance for the national heritage and cultural history that serve as the source of national identity. *Through fulfilling this role, serving as guardians of the most precious components of heritage they become institutions of public trust.*¹⁷ However, what seems the most important is the fact *that next to the preservation function for the sake of future generations, an important aspect in museum operations is being in direct contact with objects and their history.*¹⁸ It is precisely the objects that are carriers of meanings thanks to which we are able to interpret the past and the present. It is them that mark out the direction and range of the museums' activity.

The task of museums is to amass collection and permanently preserve the goods of natural, scientific, and cultural heritage both in the tangible and intangible format, as well as securing direct access to them through displays, preliminary research, study results, and programmes: educational, popularizing, and academic.

Regardless of their legal status, structure, and assigned role, university museums accomplish these tasks successfully, and are an important entity in the debate as well as a partner for the museums in the understanding of the Act on Museums. Furthermore, they are those institutions which manage the essential part of heritage that academic heritage constitutes.

Abstract: Establishing and organising university museums at higher-education institutions demonstrates an increased interest in the history of the given institution, its bonds with the region, yet first and foremost it points to the need to preserve traces of academic heritage constituting an important component of national heritage. To-date, university museums in Poland have been dedicated neither an unequivocal definition, nor specific legal regulations. These organizations are characterized by differentiated management modes, formulation of goals, as well as varied

policies of amassing collections. An attempt at defining university museums and their legal status, as well as their positioning in tertiary-education institutions' structure has been made. Moreover, the nuances resulting from the failure to have included university museums in the Act on Museums of 21 November 1996 have been clarified. Additionally, a list of university museums for 2020, put together as a result of the research conducted by the paper's Authors and based on the documents available in the archive of the Association of University Museums (SMU), has been presented.

Keywords: university museums, academic heritage, higher-education institutions, legal regulations, Association of University Museums (SMU).

Table 1. University museums in Poland, as in 2020

Item	City	University	Unit	Position within the structure / type	Display
1	Białystok	University of Białystok	Prof. Andrzej Myrcha University Nature Centre	University-wide	Yes
2	Białystok	Medical University	Museum of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Medical University	Independent Laboratory of the History of Medicine and Pharmacy	Yes
3	Bydgoszcz	Kazimierz Wielki University	Museum of Polish Diplomacy and Emigration of the Kazimierz Wielki University	Faculty of History	Yes
4	Bydgoszcz	Kazimierz Wielki University	Museum of the Kazimierz Wielki University	Library	Yes
5	Bydgoszcz	University of Economy	Museum of Photography	University-wide	Yes
6	Bydgoszcz	Jan and Jędrzej Śniadecki University of Science and Technology	Museum of Technology and Design	Faculty of Engineering	Yes
7	Gdańsk	University of Gdansk	Museum of the University of Gdansk	University-wide	Being organized
8	Gdańsk	University of Gdansk	Museum of Amber Inclusions	Department of Invertebrate Zoology and Parasitology, Faculty of Biology of the University of Gdansk	Yes
9	Gdańsk	University of Gdansk	Forensic Museum	Faculty of Law and Administration	Yes
10	Gdańsk	Medical University of Gdansk	Museum of the Medical University of Gdansk	University-wide	Yes
11	Gliwice	Silesian University of Technology	Czesław Poborski Museum of Mineral Deposit Geology	Faculty of Mining, Safety Engineering and Industrial Automation of the Silesian University of Technology	Yes
12	Gliwice	Silesian University of Technology	Museum of Technology, Silesian University of Technology	Library	Yes
13	Katowice	Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music	Museum of Silesian Organs	Department of the Organs and Church Music	Yes
14	Kraków		Museum of the AGH University of Science and Technology	University-wide	Yes
15	Kraków	AGH University of Science and Technology	Geological Museum of the Faculty of Geology, Geophysics, and Environmental Protection of the Stanisław Staszic University of Science and Technology	Faculty of Geology, Geophysics, and Environmental Protection	Yes
16	Kraków	AGH University of Science and Technology	Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow	University-wide	Yes
17	Kraków	Academy of Fine Arts in Cracow	Museum of the Cracow University of Technology	extra-departmental	Yes
18	Kraków	University of Economics	Museum of the Cracow University of Economics	University-wide	Yes

19	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Museum of the Jagiellonian University	University-wide	Yes
20	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Nature Education Centre	University-wide	Yes
21	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Anatomopathological Museum of the Faculty of Medicine, Jagiellonian University, Medical College	Faculty of Medicine	No
22	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Pharmacy Museum of the Medical College, Jagiellonian University	Pharmaceutical Faculty	Yes
23	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Anatomy Museum of Medical College, Jagiellonian University	Department of Anatomy	Yes
24	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Museum of Dentistry, Dental Institute, Jagiellonian University, Medical College	Institute of Dentistry	Yes
25	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Faculty of Medicine Museum,	Faculty of Medicine	Yes
26	Kraków	Jagiellonian University	Forensics Museum	Department of Forensic Medicine	No
27	Kraków	Pedagogical University of Cracow	Centre for the Documentation of Deportations, Expulsions, and Resettlements of the Pedagogical University	University-wide	Yes
28	Kraków	Pedagogical University of Cracow	Road to Freedom – General Władysław Anders Museum	University-wide	Being organized
29	Kraków	Pedagogical University of Cracow	Textbook Museum	Main Library	No
30	Kraków	University of Agriculture in Cracow	Soil Education Centre – Soil Museum of the University of Agriculture	Faculty of Forestry	Yes
31	Kraków	University of Agriculture in Cracow	Museum of the University of Agriculture	Main Library	No
32	Lublin	John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin	Museum of the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin	University-wide	Yes
33	Lublin	Lublin University of Technology	Museum of the Lublin University of Technology	University-wide	Yes
34	Lublin	Marie Curie-Skłodowska University	Museum of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University	University-wide	Yes
35	Lublin	Marie Curie-Skłodowska University	Museum of the Institute of Physics of the Marie Curie-Skłodowska University	Institute of Physics	Yes
36	Łódź	University of Lodz	Museum of the University of Lodz	Archive and Museum of the University of Lodz	Yes
37	Łódź	University of Lodz	Jan Ziomek Geological Museum	Faculty of Geographical Sciences	Yes
38	Łódź	University of Lodz	Museum of Natural History of the University of Lodz	Faculty of Biology and Environmental Protection	Yes

39	Olsztyn	University of Warmia and Mazury	Museum of the University of Warmia and Mazury	Archive	Yes
40	Opole	Opole University of Technology	Museum of the Opole University of Technology and of X-ray Tubes	Department of Promotion and Culture	Yes
41	Opole	University of Opole	Museum of the University of Opole	University-wide	Yes
42	Poznań	Adam Mickiewicz University	Museum of the Adam Mickiewicz University	University-wide	Being organized
43	Poznań	Adam Mickiewicz University	Earth Museum	Faculty of Geographical and Geological Sciences	Yes
44	Poznań	Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences	Museum of the Poznan University of Medical Sciences	University-wide	Being organized
45	Poznań	Karol Marcinkowski University of Medical Sciences	Forensic Department Museum	Department of Forensic Medicine	No
46	Poznań	Poznan University of Life Sciences	Museum of the Poznan University of Life Sciences	Main Library	Yes
47	Rogów	Warsaw University of Life Sciences	Museum of Forests and Wood	Centre for Environmental and Forestry Education of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences	Yes
48	Rzeszów	University of Rzeszów	Museum of the University of Rzeszów	University-wide	Yes
49	Sosnowiec	Medical University of Silesia in Katowice	Museum of Medicine and Pharmacy	University-wide	Yes
50	Sosnowiec	University of Silesia	Earth Sciences Museum	University-wide	Yes
51	Szczecin	Pomeranian Medical University	Museum of the History of Medicine. Department of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics	Faculty of Earth Sciences	Yes
52	Szczecin	University of Szczecin	Geological Museum	Department of the History of Medicine and Medical Ethics	Yes
53	Toruń	Nicolaus Copernicus University	Museum of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Torun	Faculty of Physical, Mathematical and Natural Sciences	Yes
54	Toruń	Nicolaus Copernicus University	IT Museum	Main Library	Yes
55	Toruń	Nicolaus Copernicus University	Museum of the Faculty of Chemistry	Faculty of Chemistry	Yes
56	Warszawa	Maria Grzegorzewska University	Museum of the Maria Grzegorzewska University	University-wide	Yes
57	Warszawa	Academy of Fine Arts	Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts	University-wide	Yes
58	Warszawa	Warsaw University of Technology	Museum of the Warsaw University of Technology	University-wide	No
59	Warszawa	Warsaw University of Life Sciences, SGGW	Museum of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences	University-wide	Yes
60	Warszawa	Warsaw University of Life Sciences	Museum of Osteology	Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. Department of Morphological Sciences	No

61	Warszawa	Warsaw School of Economics SGH	Virtual Museum of the SHH Warsaw School of Economics	University-wide	online
62	Warszawa	University of Warsaw	Stanisław Józef Thugutt Geological Museum	Faculty of Geology/ Geological Museum and Faculty Library	Yes
63	Warszawa	University of Warsaw	University of Warsaw Museum	University-wide	Yes
64	Warszawa	Medical University of Warsaw	Museum of the History of Museum	University-wide	Yes
65	Wrocław	University School of Physical Education	University School's History Centre	University-wide	Yes
66	Wrocław	Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Museum of the Wrocław University of Science and Technology	University-wide	Yes
67	Wrocław	Wrocław University of Science and Technology	Behind the Gratings Museum	Faculty of Fundamental Problems of Technology	Yes
68	Wrocław	Wrocław Medical University	Museum of Pharmacy	Faculty of Pharmacy	Yes
69	Wrocław	Wrocław Medical University	Museum of Forensic Medicine	Faculty of Medicine. Department of Forensic Medicine	Yes
70	Wrocław	Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences	Museum of the Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences	University-wide	Yes
71	Wrocław	Wrocław University of Environmental and Life Sciences	Museum of Natural History of the Faculty of Biology and Animal Science	Faculty of Biology and Animal Science	Yes
72	Wrocław	University of Wrocław	Henryk Teisseyre Geological Museum	Institute of Geological Sciences	Yes
73	Wrocław	University of Wrocław	Kazimierz Maślankiewicz Mineralogical Museum	Faculty of Earth Sciences and Environmental Management	Yes
74	Wrocław	University of Wrocław	Władysław Rydzewski Museum of Natural History	Faculty of Biological Sciences	Yes
75	Wrocław	University of Wrocław	University of Wrocław Museum	University-wide	Yes
76	Wrocław	University of Wrocław	Anthropological Museum	Department of Human Biology	Yes

Endnotes

¹ The first SMU Conference was held in Nieborów n. Warsaw (2016), the subsequent ones were as follows: 'Identity and Heritage' in Cracow (2017); 'University Museums: Challenges, Threats, and Potential' in Lodz (2018); 'Academic Heritage. Forms and Directions of the Participation of University Museums' in Gdansk (2019).

² Act of 21 November 1996, Journal of Laws.2020.0.902 consolidated text. English version available in certified translation at: <https://www.eui.eu/Projects/InternationalArtHeritageLaw/Documents/NationalLegislation/Poland/museumsact1996.pdf>, trans. Dorota Bartz [Accessed: 5 June 2021].

³ Zob. K. Zalańska, *Muzea publiczne. Studium administracyjnoprawne* [Public Museums. Administrative and Legal Study], Lexis Nexis, Warszawa 2013.

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Museums operate in pursuance with the charter issued by the entity referred to under Article 5 Section 1, in agreement with the minister responsible for matters of culture and national heritage protection, subject to Section 5. Act of 21 November 1996, Journal of Laws 2020.0.902 consolidated text.

⁶ Act of 20 July 2018 The Law on Higher Education and Science, Journal of Laws Dz.U.2020.85 consolidated text, English version at: <https://konstytucjadla-nauki.gov.pl/content/uploads/2020/06/act-of-20-july-2018-the-law-on-higher-education-and-science.pdf>

⁷ M. Karcz-Kaczmarek, *Status prawny muzeów uczelnianych – problemy prawne i wyzwania praktyczne* [Legal Status of University Museums: Legal Problems and Practical Challenges], 'Studia Prawno-Ekonomiczne' 2017, Vol. CIV, p. 73.

⁸ Act of 21 November 1996 on Museums, Journal of Laws 2020.0.902 consolidated text.

- ⁹ The Catholic University of Lublin (KUL) and its museum are an exception in this respect. KUL is a Catholic Church University enjoying full rights of a public university; this formula allows to directly participate in MKDNIŚ's programmes.
- ¹⁰ This applies to the Museum of the Jagiellonian University in Cracow, Museum of Earth Sciences of the University of Silesia in Katowice, Museum of the History of Medicine of the Medical University in Warsaw, Museum of the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw, Museum of the John Paul II Catholic University in Lublin.
- ¹¹ Act of 25 October 1991 on Organizing and Running Cultural Activity, Journal of Laws 2020.0.194 consolidated text.
- ¹² The educational role of university museums is emphasized by the fact that operating within the structure of medical universities or universities of technology they conduct a broad educational and research activity in cooperation with their school's students benefitting from their collections.
- ¹³ E. Wyka, M. Taborska, *Muzea uniwersyteckie w Polsce* [University Museums in Poland], 'Opuscula Musealia' 2009, No. 17, pp. 31-35.
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- ¹⁵ See K. Zięba, *Muzea uczelniane w Polsce* [University Museums in Poland], 'Muzealnictwo' 2018, No. 59, pp. 79-85.
- ¹⁶ These organisation have been purposefully left outside the statistics: obviously, they contribute to preserving heritage, however their everyday tasks do not overlap with museums' direct goals and tasks.
- ¹⁷ K. Zalańska, *Muzea publiczne...*, p. 107.
- ¹⁸ *Ibid.*

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Table of contents 2021: <https://muzealnictworocznik.com/issue/13664>