

## Public libraries<sup>1</sup> in 2022

19.06.2023

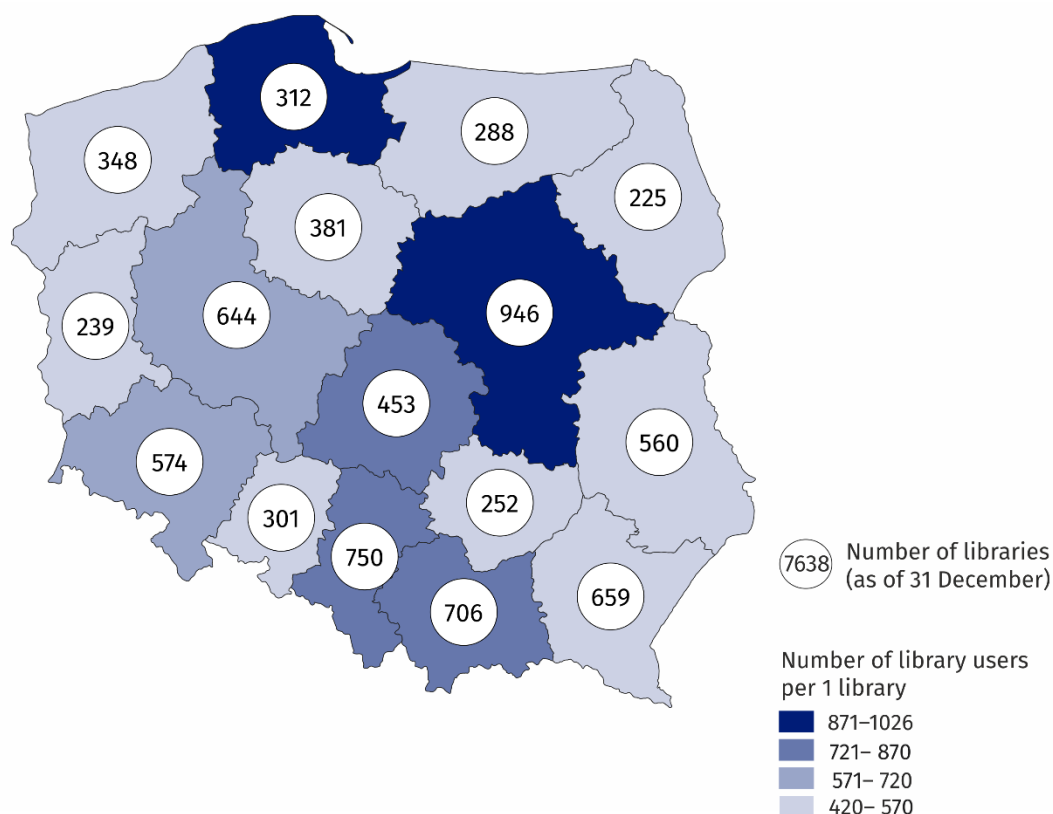

**51.1%**

Increase in number of loans of collection in reading rooms in comparison to 2021

As of the end of 2022 7,638 public libraries and branches operated, which conducted 875 branches for children and youth and 805 library service points. Public libraries had 124.4 million volumes of collection, which was borrowed by 5.1 million library users.

Out of 7,638 public libraries, 64.8% conducted their activities in the countryside. The largest number of public libraries were operating in Mazowieckie Voivodship (946), and the least in Podlaskie Voivodship (225). During the considered year, 359 public libraries conducted 805 library service points – the most were located in Lubelskie Voivodship (129), and the least in Świętokrzyskie Voivodship (4). On average, there were 4,945 people per one public library. The highest value of this indicator was reported in Pomorskie Voivodship (7,559 people), and the lowest in Opolskie Voivodship (3,131).

Map 1. Public libraries in 2022

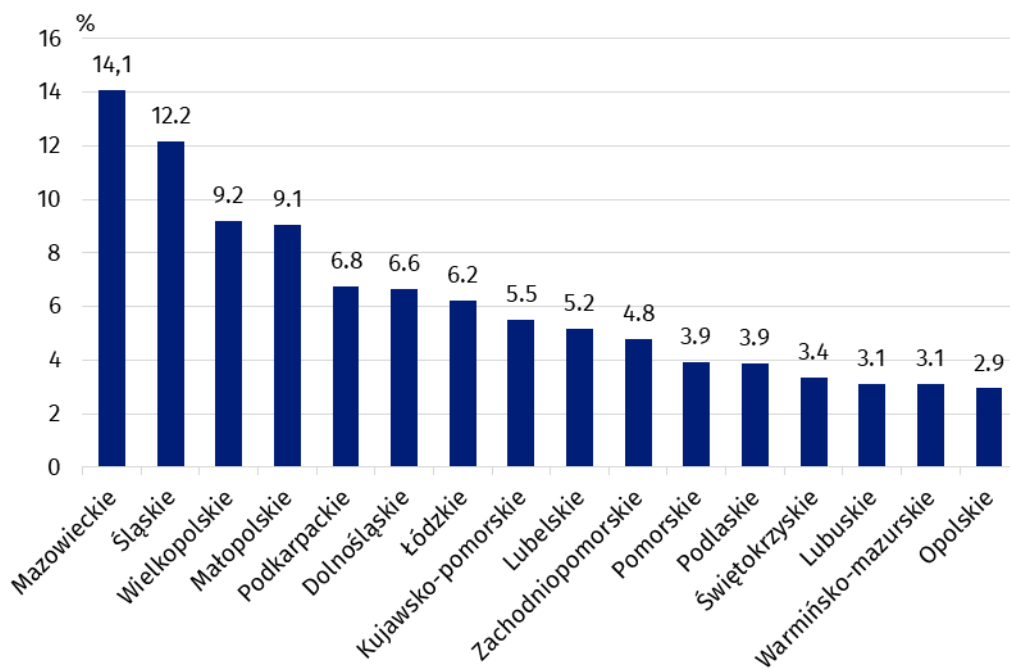


<sup>1</sup> Including branches.

## Library collection

As of the end of 2022, public libraries had 124.4 million volumes of collection, of which books constituted 98.5%. Libraries had also nearly 6 million library materials forming special collection, among which the largest category was audio-visual materials (3.4 million). On average, one public library offered 8 titles of current magazines. Most public libraries and branches had collection consisting of 10 to 50 thousand volumes (49.5%).

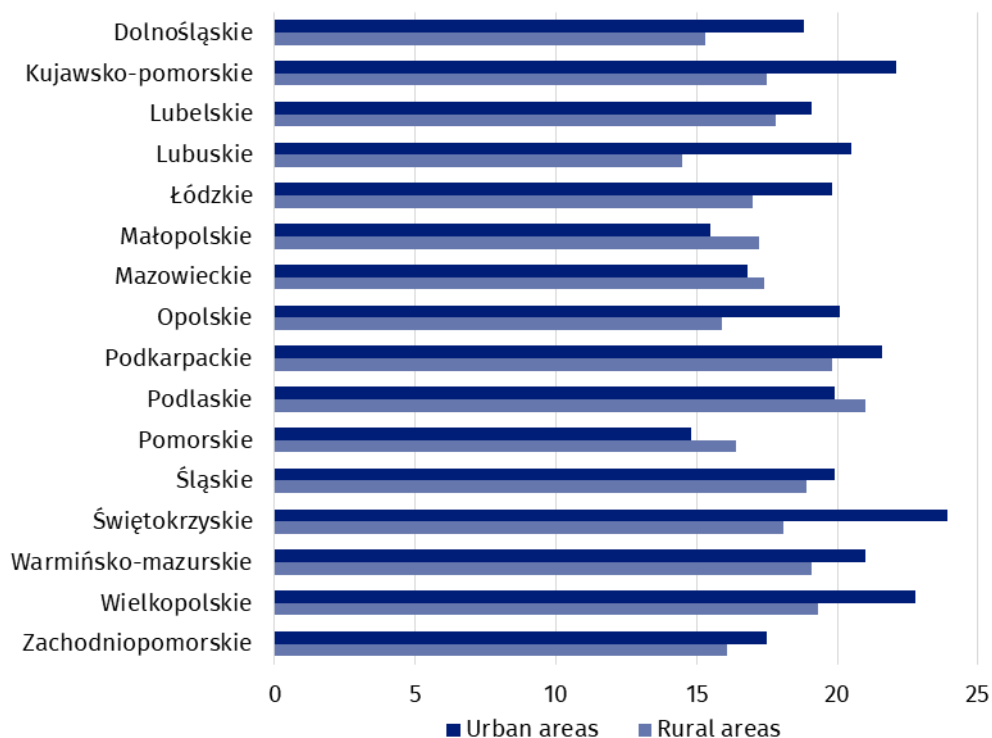
**Chart 1. Collection in public libraries by voivodships in 2022**



## Library users and visits, out-of-library loans, loans in reading rooms

5.1 million library users were registered in public libraries, who borrowed 94.5 million volumes of collection (increase of 5.9% and 6.0%, respectively, compared to the previous year). 4.5 million volumes of collection were made available on site (increase by 51.1% in comparison to 2021).

**Chart 2. Loans of collection in volumes per 1 library user in public libraries in 2022**

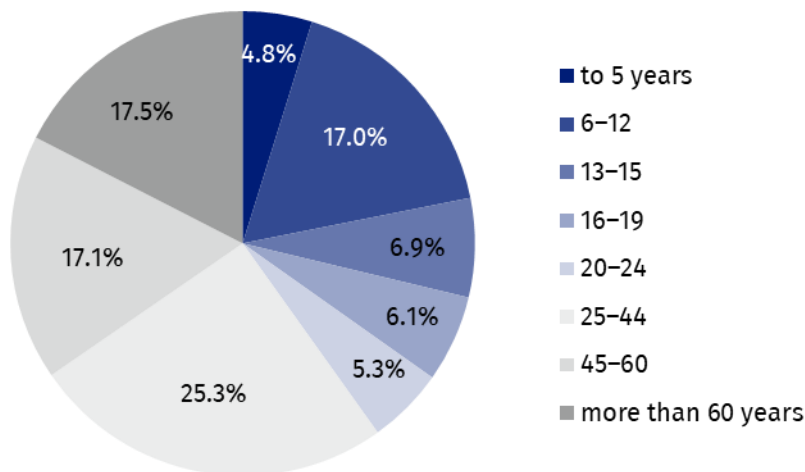


There were almost 19 volumes of loans of collection per one library user. The highest indicator was recorded in Świętokrzyskie Voivodship (22), and the lowest in Pomorskie Voivodship (15).

The largest group of library users in public libraries were people aged 25-44 (1.3 million). Among library users, the percentage of working people was 38.8%, and of studying people – 34.3%. During the year 54.4 million people visited libraries to use their resources (increase of 17.9% in comparison to 2021). This was undoubtedly influenced by the opening of the reading rooms after the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

The largest group of library users were people aged 25-44

**Chart 3. The structure of library users in public libraries by age in 2022**



**Other forms of libraries activity**

In addition to their statutory activity, which is to make collections available to library users, public libraries conducted also various cultural and educational meetings. In 2022, 202.5 thousand stationary meeting were organised, in which 5.5 million participants took part (51.2% and 56.7% more, respectively, in comparison to 2021). Conferences and seminars were also very popular (640). There were almost twice as many of them compared to the previous year (329). 26.1 thousand participants took part in them (17.6 thousand in 2021).

On average 27 people were participated in one event organised by library, and 41 people attended a conference and seminar

**Facilities for people with special needs**

As of the end of 2022 public libraries had 605 specially adapted places for disabled people. In addition, blind, visually impaired people and seniors could use devices enabling the playback of spoken books, so-called audiobook players. In 2022 libraries had 1,337 audiobook players (13.3% more than in comparison to 2021).

In the case of quoting data from the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Statistics Poland data source", and in the case of publishing calculations made on data published by the Statistics Poland, please provide information: "Own study based on Statistics Poland data".

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