

**WYZWANIA**

**WSPÓŁCZESNEGO**

**PUBLIKOWANIA**

**CHALLENGES**

**OF CONTEMPORARY**

**PUBLISHING**



WYDAWNICTWO  
POLITECHNIKI  
LUBELSKIEJ

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# WYZWANIA WSPÓŁCZESNEGO PUBLIKOWANIA

# CHALLENGES OF CONTEMPORARY PUBLISHING

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## EVOLVING FROM TRADITION: *THE PROBLEMS OF LITERARY GENRES* AS A CONTEMPORARY SCHOLARLY JOURNAL

**Abstract:** This article analyzes the scientific journal *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich / The Problems of Literary Genres* (ISSN 0084-4446, e-ISSN 2451-0335) with respect to the transformation of its publishing model from a traditional framework to an open access paradigm. The necessity of adapting to the evolving publishing landscape in Poland and globally, coupled with the advancements in open science, compels journal publishers and editors to implement measures aimed at enhancing the visibility of published content, ensuring data security, and adhering to international standards, including metadata enrichment. Over the past several years, driven by the initiative of the editorial board and with the approval of the publisher, a series of modifications have been implemented in *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich / The Problems of Literary Genres* – encompassing the migration of the journal's website to the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform, the provision of archival issues within an institutional repository, the adoption of open licenses, and the standardization of metadata. The analysis presented herein elucidates the developmental trajectory of the journal, with a particular focus on the collaborative efforts among the editors, the Łódź Scientific Society (primary publisher), the University of Lodz Publishing House (co-publisher), and the University of Lodz Library (repository administrator). The case of *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich / The Problems of Literary Genres* demonstrates the capacity of a humanities journal, sustained for 65 years, to fulfill the exigencies of contemporary scientific periodicals within the context of open science and digital transformation.

**Keywords:** Polish scientific journals, open access, open science in Poland, *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich*, Stefania Skwarczyńska

## SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS IN THE 21ST CENTURY – A CURSE OF ABUNDANCE?<sup>1</sup>

Writing a scientific article is often considered the most challenging aspect of a scientist's work cycle, after the completion of research. However, science communication is now heavily influenced by evaluative metrics, such that the measurement of science (Kulczycki, 2023) has become critical, significantly impacting the market for scientific publishing. Consequently, the foremost difficulty today is not the preparation of a scientific dissertation, but rather the identification of an appropriate journal for publication.

Determining the precise number of active scientific journals in Poland is challenging. Data are volatile, with new ISSNs and e-ISSNs registered daily, journals undergoing suspension and relaunch, and internationalization necessitating a broader question: how many active scientific journals exist worldwide? Ministry of Education and Science registry dated July 18, 2023, lists 34,318 periodicals (MEiN, 2023). The 2023 CiteScore, published in June 2023, Elsevier's CiteScore Metric 2022 (a measure of the citation impact of scientific periodicals), identifies over 28,100 active journal titles (Scopus, 2023), representing solely those journals indexed in the Scopus database. Relevant to the context of a Lodz-based journal, the University of Lodz Publishing House issued 40 scientific periodicals in 2021, ranking second in Poland among all entities and first among public sector entities.<sup>2</sup> The Faculty of Philology at the University of Lodz currently lists approximately 22 affiliated active scientific journals on its website,<sup>3</sup> constituting solely one faculty within a single Polish university.<sup>4</sup> A literary scholar from Lodz could potentially publish several papers annually within these institutional periodicals alone.<sup>5</sup>

The researcher must select from a surfeit of titles those that align with their expectations across multiple dimensions. Ideally, the selected journal should be scored by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, a salient factor for employers (i.e.,

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<sup>1</sup> The article was written in 2023 and refers to the social and legal situation prevailing at that time. Some elements of reality described in the article have changed (e.g., the ministry responsible for science and the National Science Center's open access policy), but the journal's website has also been modernized (content layout) and the licensing rules have been changed (default license: CC BY; new publishing agreement template from 2025) – these changes confirm the direction of the journal's development presented in the text.

<sup>2</sup> The first place went to DeGruyter/Sciendo, publishing 141 titles. See *Biała księga* (2021), 15.

<sup>3</sup> Data as at 14.08.2023, see <https://www.filolog.uni.lodz.pl/strefa-pracownika/czasopisma-wydzialowe>.

<sup>4</sup> The OPI report for 2022 mentions 608 scientific institutions making up the "sphere of science," including 369 universities (*Science in Poland...* 2022: 14). Of course, not all of them publish scientific journals, but it is enough for half to do so for the number of periodicals to be high.

<sup>5</sup> Which, of course, would not be advisable – but the example shows the scale of the problem.

universities/research centers assessed by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education) and scientists evaluated via scoring. Moreover, the journal should be recognized by funding agencies (if the research is externally supported) and indexed in reputable and visible databases (citation rates), especially in light of the increasing prevalence of so-called predatory journals,<sup>6</sup> in addition to being aligned with the researcher's discipline and maintaining high scientific rigor (credible editorial board and review process). Further considerations include publication costs (article processing charges and other potential costs) and copyright (ensuring the preservation of intellectual property rights and appropriate licensing), increasingly salient factors within open access models (Brzozowska, Piestrzyński & Zatora, 2021).

Today's demanding paradigm for publishing scientific texts presents challenges not solely for authors, but also for publishers and journal editors. Maintaining market presence (or presence within the "sphere of science," when refraining from purely economic considerations) is difficult, and balancing the preservation of high scientific quality and historical legacy with contemporary exigencies necessitates judicious consideration. This article profiles one of Poland's oldest periodicals in literary studies, one that has exerted a considerable influence upon research within literary genealogy for over sixty years.

## **THE PROBLEMS OF LITERARY GENRES: FORMS OF CULTURE AND THEORY**

The title *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich*<sup>7</sup> (*The Problems of Literary Genres*) may appear somewhat archaic and hermetic to contemporary readers, including the journal's intended audience – literary researchers/passionate readers. Literary genres remain an ongoing area of inquiry; however, in 1957, doubts were already circulating within Polish scholarly circles regarding the narrow thematic focus of *The Problems of Literary Genres* and its potential negative impact on interest in the periodical, causing the problems to – nomen omen – exhaust themselves after a limited number of publications (Hübner, 2019). Concerns were expressed with relation to both the limited scope (literary genealogy failing to attract sufficient researchers) and the title (potentially deterring literary historians or theorists), as well as the foundational rationale for establishing another literary periodical (given the existing avenues for publishing texts on literary genres).

<sup>6</sup> On the problems with so-called predatory journals/publishers (see Grudniewicz et al., 2019).

<sup>7</sup> Year of foundation: 1958. ISSN: 0084-4446, e-ISSN: 2451-0335. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26485/ZRL>. Website: <https://journals.ltn.lodz.pl/index.php/Zagadnienia-Rodzajow-Literackich/index>. E-mail: [zrl@uni.lodz.pl](mailto:zrl@uni.lodz.pl).

Despite these adversities and conceptual changes, Stefania Skwarczyńska spearheaded the establishment of a new periodical through the Łódzkie Towarzystwo Naukowe (Łódź Scientific Society), reactivated subsequent to the Second World War. The origins of *The Problems of Literary Genres* have been detailed by Irena Hübner; rather than reiterating those important findings, the focus here will be on the changes observed in the periodical in recent years.

The journal would not have originated were it not for the preceding concept of compiling a *Dictionary of Literary Genres*, a comprehensive endeavor whose authors intended to define (in extensive entries) concepts pertinent to global literature, in addition to popular works and literature (Hübner, 2019, p. 139). To some degree, Stefania Skwarczyńska's intention was realized by the *Dictionary of Literary Genres and Genres* edited by Grzegorz Gazda and Słownia Tynecka-Makowska (2006),<sup>8</sup> but in 1958, instead of forming a team responsible for entries within the realm of genology, the then-head of the Department of Literary Theory, alongside Jan Trzynadlowski and Witold Ostrowski, established a scientific journal.<sup>9</sup> The history of *The Problems of Literary Genres* is pertinent, given that throughout its history, until recently, the journal functioned as an international publication, but one principally focused on Central and Eastern Europe, given the prominence of authors publishing from those regions. In recent years, there has been an increase in contributions from Western scholars in *The Problems of Literary Genres*, while most publications stem from Polish scholars in literature and culture. An important evolution has been the expansion of the thematic scope: The tenure of Jarosław Pluciennik<sup>10</sup> as editor-in-chief has broadened the journal's scope to include cultural studies (now encompassing cultural and religious studies, as per MEiN guidelines) and publications in the arts. A new segment, "Forms of Culture and Theory," has been added to the title, providing both an aesthetic embellishment to the journal's vignette from 2021 onward and informing readers and authors regarding the theoretical (traditional) and cultural (modern) orientation of the published works.

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<sup>8</sup> As Roma Sendyka writes: "The idea, formulated in 1947, was implemented over the years by an impressive group (in terms of output, scale of interests, field of operations, and finally: number of collaborators). Accounts from 2006 enabled Grzegorz Gazda to determine the number of entries prepared at nearly 600. The collected material is the result of the hard work of outstanding researchers, and in its potential entirety encompasses a portion of information incomparable to any similar terminological lexicon; one can probably safely speak of a rarity here on a global scale" (Sendyka, 2009, 152).

<sup>9</sup> The position of editor-in-chief of the journal was held by Stefania Skwarczyńska (1958–1988), Jan Trzynadlowski (1989–1995), and Grzegorz Gazda (1996–2010). Since 2010, the editor-in-chief has been Jarosław Pluciennik.

<sup>10</sup> <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-6984-7734>.

*The Problems of Literary Genres* has been published by the Łódź Scientific Society since its inception (1958), initially in collaboration with the Ossoliński National Institute in Wrocław (1958-1982) and subsequently with the University of Lodz Publishing House (since 2016). The core of the editorial board comprises staff from the Department of Literary Theory at the University of Lodz. The subsequent paragraphs will address aspects pertaining to the journal's management and the collaborative efforts between the editorial board and the publishers, focusing on modifications that have been and are necessary for *The Problems of Literary Genres* to maintain its standing among scholars of literature and culture as a viable publication venue.

## OPEN JOURNAL SYSTEMS – AN (ALMOST) END-TO-END SOLUTION

Like numerous scholarly journals, *The Problems of Literary Genres* utilizes the Open Journal Systems (OJS) platform. Discussing this tool, Ewa Rozkosz posits that: “[...] a comprehensive digitization of a scholarly journal can be predicated solely upon the ‘networking’ of both resources (making full texts accessible on the website) and processes (recording all activities within the system)” (Rozkosz, 2014, p. 1). The premise of OJS is to enable editors and other contributors – reviewers, proofreaders, graphic designers – to operate within a shared digital environment, thereby eliminating the need for multiple off-site file transfers. The development of OJS software mirrors the development of open science and addresses the needs of publishers and editors of scientific journals, while also reducing the costs of maintaining a publishing platform as an open-source solution.<sup>11</sup> OJS Publishing initiated the implementation of OJS for the journals it publishes as early as 2015, providing editors with a test version and training. In 2020, the Łódź Scientific Society also provided OJS training, and the resources of *The Problems of Literary Genres* were uploaded to the publisher's platform. Why then, following Ewa Rozkosz's definition, can a full digitization not be claimed?

The OJS-based *The Problems of Literary Genres* website,<sup>12</sup> developed and updated (an upgrade to a newer version is in progress), is the journal's sole official website as of 2020. It aggregates basic information and functions to publish and present current issues. However, it is not utilized for the submission, editing, and proofreading process, which will be discussed in subsection *Why Not an Editorial Process?*

<sup>11</sup> For more on OJS: <https://pkp.sfu.ca/software/ojs/>, cf. Rozkosz 2014.

<sup>12</sup> <https://journals.ltn.lodz.pl/index.php/Zagadnienia-Rodzajow-Literackich>; current version of OJS: 3.1.1.4.

## WEBSITE

As a scholarly journal site, *The Problems of Literary Genres* website is designed to cater to both authors seeking publication venues and readers, while also adhering to the international standards promulgated by leading academic publishers. The website, available in both Polish and English, was assessed by the editors of the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ) database, within which the journal is indexed as of 2023.

The core “About the journal” section features the following tabs:

- “Journal metrics” (basic journal information – official names, publisher, foundation year, ISSN, e-ISSN, DOI, format, and frequency of publication),
- “Mission and thematic areas” (thematic scope, disciplines, and structure of the primary sections of the journal),
- “History” (outline of the periodical’s history and a link to more extensive commentary),
- “Indexing, archiving, and visibility” (information pertaining to the availability of current and archived issues and the databases indexing the journal),
- “Open Access policy” (information regarding the open access model adopted by the journal, including licenses and fees for authors),
- “Ethics” (a statement from the journal’s editors on ethical principles in accordance with COPE standards),
- “Review rules” (information on the double-blind peer review process and guidelines for reviewers),
- “Reviewers” (lists of reviewers provided annually, starting in 2016).

Section two, “The editorial team,” presents:

- A profile of the editor-in-chief with a link to their scientific curriculum vitae, a linked ORCID identifier, and an email address,
- The names of the editors with their affiliations and linked ORCID identifiers,
- The name of the editorial secretary with affiliation and a sub-linked ORCID and email address,
- The names of the language editors with their affiliations,
- The names of the website editors with affiliations,
- The names of the editorial board members with affiliations and ORCID or website links,
- The names of the founding editors.

The “Online issues” section features current issues of the magazine and archives from 2011 forward, the section further described below in the part *Online Editions*.

The “For authors” section contains tabs:

- “General information for authors” (information regarding fees, licenses, copyright, article processing times, submission procedures, as well as links to other pertinent sections),
- “Editorial guidelines” (detailed requirements for the preparation of articles and other text types for submission and publication).

The final section – “Contact” – presents contact details for the editors and publisher.

The information deemed particularly relevant by the editors is reiterated on the homepage: in the footer (ISSN, e-ISSN, publisher’s logo, funder’s logo, links to databases) and in the news header (open access format, licenses, access to the archive, copyright, MEiN score). The news section features calls for papers, as well as information regarding events sponsored or organized by the journal. The most recently published issue is featured at the bottom of the page.

## ONLINE EDITIONS

The OJS platform facilitates the creation of a virtual bookshop website. In the case of *The Problems of Literary Genres*, it was determined to present individual issues in order from newest (the current issue is published first in Early View mode, then in full) to oldest (the oldest issue on the platform is the first issue of 2011 – older issues are accessible within the Repository of the University of Lodz (RUŁ), described in the section on digitization and archiving). From 2018 onward, journals have been uploaded by individual articles, while those from 2011–2017 have been completed as full PDF files prepared as a print version (DOI registration for individual texts began in 2017).<sup>13</sup>

Each issue of *The Problems of Literary Genres* featured on the website, including each individual article, is now provided with metadata. This includes a thumbnail of the cover, information regarding volume editors and funding sources, and the date of

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<sup>13</sup> It is worth recalling Ewa Rozkosz’s diagnosis from 2014: “I would call the stage that most Polish magazines are currently at transitional. Many editors are publishing a digital version of the notebook as a single file. I associate this practice with the trends of the first printed books (15th century). Just as incunabula imitated manuscript books, the cited form of the digital edition resembles a paper copy of a journal issue. For this reason, information systems dedicated to journals – and what this entails in making each article available on a separate page with metadata readable by indexing robots (*web crawlers*) – cannot be spoken of using the epithet common. OJS and similar systems are nowadays (in Poland) an added value of a periodical” (Rozkosz, 2014, p. 2). The practice of publishing the entire issue of *Zagadnienia Rodzajów Literackich* (*The Problems of Literary Genres*) was abandoned only with the 2018 issues, so relatively late, but it is worth noting that at the time of the OJS website’s construction, the journal was still on sale in hard copy, despite the publication of online issues (available free of charge, but with the terms of use still undefined at the time). This transitional phase ended in 2022 with the abandonment of regular sales of paper editions and the full transition to the open access model.



publication. A table of texts following the issue's structure (sections and page numbering) is displayed underneath. The index shows the title, author(s), and a tile linking to a downloadable PDF file. Clicking on the title grants the reader access to the metadata for that specific article. The following metadata are entered: title, author details (first name, last name, affiliation, ORCID identifier), DOI identifier, keywords, abstract, bibliography, publication date, license. The article is assigned to a volume and section, with a thumbnail image of the journal cover and a tile linking to a full-text PDF version that can be opened in a browser and downloaded.

Initially, the Lodz Scientific Society posted articles on the platform as a single PDF including the title, author's name, and cover page. Currently, metadata is uploaded in full and registered in the DOI, and both the files and virtual profiles of the articles feature a Creative Commons license.

## WHY NOT AN EDITORIAL PROCESS?

As mentioned above, the OJS platform enables editors and other contributors to collaborate on texts within a shared digital environment. However, there are several reasons why the editors of *The Problems of Literary Genres* have elected not to fully digitize the editorial workflow, foremost among these being the procedure for reviewing articles. Each article within the Dissertations (and Essays) section undergoes a double-blind review process, wherein reviewers remain unaware of the author's identity and authors remain unaware of the reviewers' identities, with two reviews conducted when opinions are concordant and a third reviewer consulted when opinions diverge. In recent years, the journal has averaged approximately seventy reviewers annually. The subject matter of submitted texts varies greatly, necessitating the engagement of multiple experts within a given volume. Within the humanities in Poland, digitally reviewing articles is not a widespread practice, and the significant underappreciation of reviewers' efforts<sup>14</sup> renders the OJS system's requirement for account creation inappropriate

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<sup>14</sup> Undervaluing should be understood in two ways. Firstly, few scientific journals can afford to pay reviewers even token salaries, especially in view of the discontinuity of funding. Diamond journals, which do not charge authors' fees, subsist either on university funds or/and on funding from the Ministry of Science and Higher Education through competitions such as the "Rozwój czasopism naukowych" ["Development of Scientific Journals"]; however, these funds are allocated on a cyclical basis, for one, two or four years, and the contract with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education does not provide for the possibility of funding the process of reviewing scientific papers. The second important issue is the insufficient appreciation of the work of reviewers – work that is, after all, extremely responsible and guarantees a high scientific level of published texts – by employers and decision-makers. Preparing a thorough review takes time that an employee could devote to his or her own research and does not generate the points that

and may increase reviewer refusal rates. The most challenging stage in the publishing process is the search for reviewers: identifying an expert on an often narrow topic, one who will not recognize the author of an anonymized text and who can prepare a pro bono opinion within a reasonable timeframe, often necessitates weeks of correspondence with multiple scholars. Requiring the manual instruction for the OJS platform would make reviewer identification almost impossible within a timeframe that would not significantly delay publication, at least within literary studies and related disciplines.

Changing the method of journal submissions from the current email-based system to OJS could also negatively impact submission rates. While some authors are conversant with the application format of the journal platform, for others this digitization could be problematic. Until recently, the editors of *The Problems of Literary Genres* received submissions in typescript format, and given the difficulty encountered in prompting authors to create ORCID profiles, implementing an OJS system profile requirement would likely not improve the situation. While rejecting submissions failing to meet the technical requirements could be considered, the journal's principal objective is to publish high-quality content and advance the disciplines it represents; therefore, limiting the impact of papers without assessing their merit would contravene both the interests of the editorial board and those of science. Currently, *The Problems of Literary Genres* recruits texts via email, though texts submitted via OJS are also considered, despite not being the preferred or prominently advertised method on the website.

The editorial process, therefore, is conducted in a largely traditional manner. Conducting a given scientific article from submission to publication entails between a dozen and a few dozen emails with the editorial secretary, a strategy that, for the moment, represents the most effective solution for authors and others involved in the publishing process.

## **DIGITIZATION AND ARCHIVING – SECURITY AND VISIBILITY**

In 2021, the Łódź Scientific Society, via the initiative of the editorial board of *The Problems of Literary Genres* and the editor-in-chief, partnered with the Library of the University of Lodz. The Director of the Library of the University of Lodz agreed to digitize resources held in the library's collection, encompassing all issues of the journal from 1958 to 2010.

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are so important in the evaluation of scientific units. While there is sometimes an appreciation of reviewers in internal evaluation in individual universities, this is a disproportionately small “gain” in relation to the burden on the reviewer and the workload. The system in this matter would definitely need to be reformed.

The digitization of over one hundred issues of *The Problems of Literary Genres* was completed in 2022, and the Repository team at the University of Lodz initiated the deposition of materials, now available on the RUŁ platform.<sup>15</sup>

The materials were digitized using OCR (Optical Character Recognition) software, enabling machine-readable characters. Files were saved in PDF and TIFF formats, and covers were also digitized (JPG, TIFF). The full issues were then divided into individual articles, compressed, and annotated with a Dublin Core metadata set, entered alongside the file into the repository. In addition, issues already accessible as PDFs on the journal's website were deposited. Files from 2011–2017, published as full issues in PDF format, have been divided and uploaded to RUŁ, with missing metadata completed; issues from 2018–2022 have also been transferred. This collaboration with the UŁ Library is ongoing – *The Problems of Literary Genres* maintains an open collection in the UŁ Repository, within which new collections will be created for current issues of the journal. By the end of July 2023, 1773 files had been placed in the collection.

This archiving strategy ensures the security of materials in the digital environment. Materials were not assigned DOI identifiers until 2017; due to the RUŁ, they have since acquired permanent Handle identifiers. Additional security is provided by the UŁ servers and regular backups. Furthermore, depositing journal resources in the UŁ Repository positively impacts their visibility. This repository, based on DSpace software, is indexed in databases and aggregators (e.g., OpenAIRE, CORE, OpenDOAR) and well-positioned in search engines, including Google Scholar. Linking to the ORCID database also allows authors to link to their ORCID identifiers.

## OPENNESS VERSUS TRADITION – TIME FOR CHANGE

Maintaining a competitive position within the scientific journal market, amidst increasing demands and evolving research and regulations regarding publications funding, necessitates the revision of traditional approaches to scientific content publishing. Whereas subscription or gold open access models enable self-funding, journals published within the diamond model must ensure both compliance with funder expectations and the accommodation of authors, who can select from numerous potential publication venues. In the case of *The Problems of Literary Genres* the necessary changes principally concerned the publication policy and journal profile.

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<sup>15</sup> <https://repozytorium.uni.lodz.pl/handle/11089/40698>

## OPEN ACCESS POLICY

As of 2019, texts appearing in *The Problems of Literary Genres* are licensed under Creative Commons. Editions from 2011–2018 have been made accessible by the publisher on the website, but without explicit licenses specifying usage parameters. These materials are, therefore, available under the so-called brown open access. The default license for issues from 2019–2021 remained the Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-No Derivative Works 4.0 International license, or CC BY-NC-ND. In 2022, the editors, in collaboration with the primary publisher, enabled authors to select between two licenses – the existing CC BY-NC-ND and CC BY (Attribution 4.0 International). The desire to resolve copyright matters and include a second, more liberal license was driven by the pursuit of a fully open publishing model with clear rules, and was also linked to the National Science Center's published openness policy (NCN, 2020). Articles resulting from NCN-funded grants must meet certain criteria, with CC BY license being mandatory; texts licensed to restrict commercial exploitation (non-commercial, NC) are ineligible for grant settlements. Therefore, from 2022 onward, authors accepted for publication in *The Problems of Literary Genres* select their open access license. In addition, there is a provision on the website that authors do not cede economic rights to the publisher.

Meeting the expectations of research funders constituted another reason for the editors' decision in 2022 to register the journal in the Directory of Open Access Journals. The DOAJ database and its associated Journal Checker Tool feature in NCN's policy, and visibility within these platforms' search engines can influence authors' decision to submit to a particular publisher. Both the recommendations of the Publishers' Office of the University of Lodz regarding open licenses and registration within DOAJ and the Łódź Scientific Society's prompt action illustrate the publisher's crucial role in the journal's development and increased visibility among recognized open access journals.

## PROFILE AND VERSION OF THE JOURNAL

The registration of the journal in the DOAJ database, alongside its inclusion in the Sherpa Romeo international catalogue of publishing policies in the same year, prompted the substantive assessment of *The Problems of Literary Genres*. The journal now encompasses literary studies, cultural and religious studies, art sciences, and, added by the MEiN in the July 2023 list without prior consultation with the editorial board, Polish studies. The strict genological focus remains central; however, just as literary genology evolves (Grochowski, 2018), so the profile of *The Problems of Literary Genres* has shifted. As such, the editorial board has expanded to encompass researchers specializing in cultural studies and in the relationship between literature and other arts, new media, and digital games.

The evolution of *The Problems of Literary Genres* into an open-access and digitally published journal has provided the editors and publisher with new opportunities, including the publication of texts in Early View. From 2022, articles appear on the publisher's platform immediately following positive reviews, factual and editorial corrections, and submission – the text is not delayed for publication within a full issue. This strategy arose primarily from the need for authors to report their publications (with links to the digital version) for evaluation purposes. Articles appearing in Early View are readable, citable, and accessible more quickly than previously.

Open science is centrally predicated upon online access; consequently, even if a journal has been or is being published, as *The Problems of Literary Genres* has been, in dual format – paper and digital – the primary version for recipients is the digitally accessible one. Acknowledging this and the introduction of Early View, the decision was made to return to the semi-annual publication schedule. The publication of a quarterly journal is no longer justified – texts can be published more rapidly, and publishing two issues yearly represents an economic solution, reducing publication costs. The Łódź Scientific Society also agreed to reduce the printing of the paper version. Currently, copies are solely produced for the publisher's and editorial office's libraries and archives.

Thus, the digital version has become the primary format, necessitating editorial team changes regarding content presentation. The journal layout was adapted for the electronic version in 2023, eliminating QR codes useful in the paper version and highlighting authors' affiliations on a separate tab. In order to comply with indexing database requirements, a requirement for the transcription of non-Latin notations in metadata has been instituted. Further changes are planned, including the introduction of additional file formats (HTML) and metadata.

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The collaboration between the editorial board of *The Problems of Literary Genres* and its publishers – the Łódź Scientific Society and the University of Lodz Publishing House – not only enables the efficient implementation of changes in publication policy and content presentation but also provides the impetus for these changes. Changes are essential for a journal to maintain market relevance and researchers' awareness. Sixty-five years of existence represent not solely a legacy for *The Problems of Literary Genres* but also a responsibility. A traditional image needed to be replaced by a modern editorial and publishing policy.

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