



A BIBLIOTECA DA UNIVERSIDADE

PERMANÊNCIA E METAMORFOSES

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Tendo como pano de fundo as Comemorações dos seus 500 anos, a Biblioteca Geral da Universidade de Coimbra organizou um Congresso Internacional subordinado ao tema “A Biblioteca da Universidade: permanência e metamorfoses”, que teve lugar nos dias 16, 17 e 18 de janeiro de 2014, no auditório da Reitoria da Universidade de Coimbra.

O objetivo maior desta reunião científica foi o de refletir sobre o presente e o futuro das bibliotecas que servem públicos universitários. Numa outra vertente, procurou chamar-se a atenção para a importância de que a Biblioteca se reveste, tendo em vista o progresso do conhecimento técnico e científico. Por último, o Congresso pretendeu instituir-se como oportunidade de reflexão prospetiva e como lugar de encontro entre as sensibilidades de todos os que trabalham profissionalmente com livros e com outros suportes de natureza bibliográfica.

Nesse sentido, foram apresentadas Conferências, Mesas Redondas e sessões de Testemunhos em torno de temas como o valor das bibliotecas universitárias, a biblioteca universitária em contexto; as mudanças e os desafios; a biblioteca universitária e a sociedade da informação e conhecimento; o impacto do acesso aberto na comunidade científica, e as bibliotecas digitais.

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**ACADEMIC LIBRARIES IN SERBIA:
CONTINUITY AND METAMORPHOSIS**
BIBLIOTECAS ACADÉMICAS NA SÉRVIA:
CONTINUIDADE E METAMORFOSES

ABSTRACT: Academic libraries are the determining factor for the establishment of a national information infrastructure that can meet the requirements of the open market, intellectually provocative, free and technologically advanced society. All libraries, including academic, within the library network of Serbia, formed under the Law on Libraries, branching hierarchically by affiliation function, through the museological and archival access to the library fund rather than through information services, although well organized, show the characteristics of uncoordinated and traditional library activities, where one cannot recognize a national policy for the development of the library system, and thus for the system of scientific information. Only recently there are some activities within academic libraries that can contribute to an improved dissemination of scientific information and to the acknowledgment of the scientific communication's specifics in different scientific fields, such as: production of conspectuses, that is comparing the current in respect to the required purchase in order to form a balanced fund, adjusted to the needs of users; development of user education in order for them to be able to master the system of catalogs in traditional and electronic form, search databases, citation indexes and electronic books and journals partly or in their entirety; evaluation of librarian skills as intermediaries in scientific communication; analysis of user needs for scientific information and development of new models of scientific communication; thorough comprehension of the organization of information and knowledge in e-learning environment; evaluation of KOBSON's usage.

Key words: academic libraries, library network of Serbia, national information infrastructure, dissemination of scientific information, e-learning, KOBSON.

RESUMO: As bibliotecas académicas são o fator chave no estabelecimento de uma infraestrutura de informação nacional que vá ao encontro dos requisitos de uma

sociedade de mercado aberto, intelectualmente desafiante, livre e tecnologicamente avançada. Todas as bibliotecas da rede das bibliotecas da Sérvia, criadas sob a Lei das Bibliotecas, incluindo as académicas, ramificam-se hierarquicamente através da afiliação museológica e o acesso por arquivo de inventário da biblioteca, e não através de serviços de informação. Embora bem organizadas, refletem as características não coordenadas das atividades das bibliotecas tradicionais, em que é irreconhecível uma política nacional para o desenvolvimento do sistema de bibliotecas e, assim, do sistema de informação científica. Só recentemente é que algumas atividades foram desenvolvidas, nas bibliotecas académicas, que contribuem para a melhor divulgação de informações científicas, reconhecendo a natureza específica da ciência da comunicação nos diferentes ramos científicos. Estas atividades incluem: produção de sinopses, comparando materiais disponíveis com aquisições necessárias, criando um balanço de inventário que reflete as necessidades dos utilizadores; a educação dos utilizadores, permitindo aos indivíduos dominar o sistema de catálogo, tradicional e eletrónico, e pesquisar bases de dados, índices de citações, livros eletrónicos e jornais, parcialmente ou na íntegra; uma avaliação das competências dos bibliotecários como intermediários na comunicação científica; análise das necessidades dos utilizadores de informação científica e do desenvolvimento de novos modelos de comunicação científica; uma compreensão abrangente da organização da informação e do conhecimento no âmbito e-learning; uma avaliação do uso do sistema KOBSON.

Palavras-chave: bibliotecas académicas, rede de bibliotecas da Sérvia, infraestrutura nacional de informação, divulgação de informações científicas, e-learning, KOBSON.

Systematic approach to modeling the development of library-information system involves methodical study of academic library network, its structure and functions, research on information needs, especially within the scientific community, as well as defining mechanisms for meeting those needs through organizing appropriate technical, software and communication support. Research on the contribution of the library network to the improvement of the scientific communication, whose parameters are included in the review of the validity of the university library system organization in accordance with the Bologna Declaration, consist of the following issues: the problem of information resources and services structure in Serbia; understanding the framework and specificities of science communication in different scientific fields; analysis of information needs, as well as the model of information retrieval from local and international databases and the model for the evaluation of information

found in databases, marketing and management of scientific information, contribution of library networks in creation of new knowledge. Projects such as *The Virtual Library of Serbia* and KOBSON have a remarkable effect on the work of academic libraries.

Although the role of the library is highly valued in educational and scientific papers, its social status is determined by a number of parameters derived from the *Law on Libraries, Law on Higher Education, Academic Libraries Standards and Accreditation Standards for Higher Education Institutions*.

By writing the theoretical studies, which can be undertaken only by experienced librarians, the establishment and development of a national strategy can be achieved that will contribute to broad and open access to scientific information; support the development of open universities; improve expertise, democracy and personalization of services offered by librarians; develop a new paradigm of learning and scientific reasoning. Automated Library Information System of Serbia represents the infrastructural basis for the development of science, although its potential has not yet been identified by the librarian or research community. The key relationship that should be scientifically studied and evaluated is the relation between library information systems and scientific and technological information. In theoretical studies of academic librarianship the emphasis should be on redefining and reengineering the concept of library-information centers as vibrant, dynamic institutions of information era adjusted to the needs of the scientific research community. Definition of librarianship as “organization of knowledge” or “knowledge management” aims at better understanding the language of communication processes and its role in the transfer, dissemination and use of scientific information and development of relevant and effective procedures for finding the recorded knowledge. In this way, the following will be achieved: intensification of international cooperation; formulation of the theoretical foundation for many new projects, particularly the establishment of digital repositories with open access within the libraries of scientific institutions in Serbia, so that the results of various research financed by the budget could be available to all potential users; planning the reor-

ganization of library networks in higher education institutions with the idea of combining electronic catalogs, digital library funds, standardize operations and establish an organizational model of library services that could meet the requirements of the modern level of scientific communication development.

In the years of an immense number of specializations university libraries are probably the last bastion of general education and deserve recognition, such as those expressed in the book *Ancient aesthetics* by Anica Savic Rebac.

In the sixties of the 20th century Karl Jaspers called the university – community of teachers and students united in the search for truth, whose character and efficiency, as previously concluded, can be assessed by their treatment of its central organ – the library, which is necessary as the primary and most vital element of the university structure, as it supports all of its functions, educational, research and creative activities, as well as transfer of present and past knowledge and culture in general to new generations.

Nowadays, scientific research papers, that also had sources in academic libraries, have a much better starting point than this was the case even in the time of our immediate predecessors:

- Digital recording makes available cultural resources that previously could only be used under special circumstances.
- Search for knowledge in databases (Knowledge Discovery in Databases/KDD) implies the request for appropriate content, quality and presentation of data.
- KDD is a manifestation of the expansion of search tools, which do not reach the sophistication that could exclude the help of librarians.
- Bibliographic and all other sorts of information are bridging temporal, spatial, political and economic barriers.
- At website of any prestigious academic institution the user can read the instructions on the methods that should be applied in the process of scientific research, as well as on the techniques of bibliographic citations.

Each scientific discipline has its limits that could be exceeded depending on the practical and intellectual adventurism of its members.

Information disclosure via electronic libraries, intellectual property protection and specific form of evaluating scientific results through SCI, opened many questions for our contemporaries, and, therefore, for academic libraries as well, that often cannot offer satisfactory answers, due to the fact that, in the process of creating and profiling content structured in this way, we lack systematic and clear legislation that complies with the requirements of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific papers. Nowadays, scientific paper is directly dependent on technological progress. A variety of current and relevant information is offered via the Internet, but at the same time their full access is not available to all users, therefore it is only possible to find bibliographic information and abstract, but not the full text. The result is often superficiality. The user can exploit benefits provided by academic libraries: finding information through mutual library catalogs and databases available through projects of coordinated procurement of libraries and take advantage of interlibrary loan. SCI, SSCI, A&HCI provide clear and relevant searchable information – in classical catalogs it would be treated as a subject analysis, cross-catalog, collection of descriptors or developed thesaurus – and they certainly represent general relationships between concepts. Olle Persson designed the Bibexcel – the tool created for the purpose of analyzing large quantities of bibliographic data or data in any text format adapted for subsequent processing and analysis. One of the main objectives of this program is to prepare the files to be imported into Excel or any other application that uses a tab-separated data, while it performs following tasks: bibliometric analysis, citation analysis; cocitation analysis, analysis of bibliographic pairs, cluster analysis, preparation of bibliometric maps, mapping (Pajek, NetDraw). Bibexcel uses records from standard ISI databases (SCI, SSCI, A&HCI) for the analysis, providing data conversion of other standard formats as well (WinSpirs/SilverPlatter, EndNote ShowAll, Scopus-ris ...).

Academic, and particularly university libraries, which nowadays have a demanding task of citation analysis, in addition to their function of

preparing bibliographic information, should contribute to the humanization of the statistical parameters' basis, since their collection does not necessarily reflect the scientific contribution of researchers, leaving the direct consequences on their further participation in scientific research projects, evaluation of achieved results and therefore their funding. We believe that academic libraries would, through analysis of collected data, confirm the following findings:

- Implicit quotes are a collection of ideas and results that have become an integral part of public knowledge and as such they are neither attainable nor countable.
- Review articles are cited more often than the original.
- Methodological papers have disproportionately more citations than theoretical or empirical work.
- Not everything is quoted that was read during the writing of a scientific paper and not everything is read that is quoted. What is quoted is usually a small part of what is read.
- The contribution of what is cited to the value of the paper should be judged by examining the original document. The problem lies in the fact that it does not automatically mean that the paper (author, journal) that is not cited is not worthy or good. Therefore, “counting citations may at best be a rough indicator of quality, and small differences should not be interpreted as significant.”
- In the process of citation the access to the document is often very crucial, which is determined by:
 - a) Coverage by indexing and compression services; availability of the source document through libraries or by personal engagement (even self-interest to quote an author).
 - b) The results obtained by citation analysis can be considered experimental.
 - c) Determination of the belonging of a particular scientific discipline to one group of sciences, depending on: whether the citation can more often be found in books or in articles within periodicals (books being closer to social sciences and periodicals to natural

sciences); consider what is treated as modern and what as current publication and information; whether the publication aged 20 or 5 years is considered to be contemporary or not; conditionality of use of certain citation databases depending on the scientific discipline to which it relates to;

- Citation analysis can reveal: relevance of databases depending on a group of sciences – natural, social, humanistic; importance of the cited sources together with the analysis of different type of papers, languages, periodicals, authorships; availability of scientific results to the wider audience; communication channels; key authors, key periodicals, key institutions.

The reasons that lead to question the authority of citation analysis among others are:

- The strong influence of the English-speaking researchers, 30% higher than others – SSCI, for example, indexes papers published in English in about 95% of cases, 2% to 3% of papers are in German, 1% in French and 2% in all other languages.
- Self-citations regularly appear in the bibliography of scientific papers, with the main aim of connecting previous and present work (continuity of scientific research) and with possible corrections of previously published results.
- Authors of scientific articles cite their work more often than work of any other author. Plomp suggested that papers cited at least 25 times should be treated as an indicator of the scientific success of an individual researcher.
- It cannot be said that the papers that have never been cited do not have scientific value.
- A survey of opinion of 45 professors employed at British universities found that most thought that citation analysis “would not be an accurate measure of the quality of a particular faculty or university department, and that, even worse, it could be abused by directing scientific processes in a completely wrong direction.” According

to American scientists the citation analysis, as an indicator of the publication value, is a “disturbing trend”.

- Low level of citations of authors originating from small countries, even when they are published in internationally recognized scientific journals.
- Quotations are only quantitative indicators and should be confirmed by competent reviews.
- The average age of the cited literature is 39 years; minimum expectation for quotations is 5 years, bearing in mind that the original must be covered by metadata (date and place of publication, number of pages); humanities develop more slowly than natural sciences and papers are cited only 3 to 4 years after publication.
- Scientific productivity and relevance of researchers depend on: a comparison of international and local parameters of the study, availability of information coming from the international scientific community, existence of parallel texts, especially of abstracts in native languages and in English and the ability to find them through network services.

Benefits coming from using electronic academic library, increase in the level of information and implementation of scientific papers evaluation through citation analysis are results of technological advances, but it must not be forgotten that they are conditioned by economic, linguistic, and even personal reasons, and therefore, as a result of the scientific paper evaluation cannot be completely objective indicators. In order to achieve objectivity there should be a constant, or at least frequent, communication between teachers and librarians, especially with the university's or faculty's administration, which affects greatly the efficiency of libraries. From the interviews conducted by David R. Dowell and Jack A. Scott with deans of various universities derives the conclusion that if the occasional, rather than regular, communication between the Dean and librarians is to be reduced solely to the issues of a financial nature, this will result in dean or rector not only overlooking the role and importance of the library, but completely forgetting the fact that the library exists as an

academic-scientific unit¹ whose mission and vision is of great importance for the development of scientific research and educational processes within a particular higher education institution. In the nineties certain regional agencies for accreditation of university institutions demanded, within the United States, the submission of appropriate documents on mission statement for libraries that are part of the university structure in order to successfully complete the accreditation process, which is why individual experiences exposed in the publication *Mission Statements for College Libraries*² are raised to the level of general recommendations. The process of accreditation of universities in Serbia has recognized the character of library as a scientific-educational base, but the parameters related to the funds, their processing and library personnel remained unadjusted in currently valid documents in the field of librarianship, particularly within the academic and university life. Academic libraries are scientific-educational units of the university and their functionality depends on all participants in academic life.

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¹ What community colleges need from their libraries/David R. Dowell, Jack A. Scott// *Academic libraries: their rationale and role in American higher education*/ed. by Gerard McCabe, Ruth J. Person. – Westport: Greenwood Press, 1995. – p. 15-48.

² *Mission Statements for College Libraries*/Larry Hardesty, Jamie Hastreiter, David Henderson. – Chicago: ACRL, 1985.

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