

## Libraries and Museums in the Modern Educational and Socio-cultural Environment: Preservation of Traditions and Prospects for Development: A Conference Report

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The international conference «Libraries and museums in the modern educational and socio-cultural environment: preserving traditions and prospects for development» was held on 24–26 September, 2019 at the Information and Document Communications Division (hereinafter – IDCD) of the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts (hereinafter – BSUCA). It was dedicated to the 75th anniversary of the higher library and information education in the Republic of Belarus and establishment of the IDCD.

The conference was attended by leading researchers and specialists in the library and information field, museum business from Belarus, Russian Federation, Ukraine, the United States, Poland, Lithuania, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, and Iraq. The conference program

included over 100 reports that showed achievements and identified problems in the development of library and information education, library and museum businesses in Belarus and abroad.

At the plenary session, the Director of the National library of Belarus Roman S. Motulsky, the Vice-rector for research of the BSUCA Viktor R. Yazykovich, Dean of the Library and Information Faculty of the St. Petersburg State University of Culture Valentina V. Brezhneva, Dean of the IDCD Yulia N. Galkovskaya, professor of the Pedagogical University (Krakow, Poland) Grzegorz Nech, PhD in Library Science Sarah Duval (USA), the Chairman of the Council of the Belarusian Library Association Inna N. Yurik greeted participants and made presentations.



Speakers expressed their views on the following topics: requirements for librarians and librarianship in the current context; trends in the library and information education in Russia; training on the course entitled «Library and Information Activities» at the IDCD; trends in the development of libraries of educational institutions in the United States; the essence and significance of the Czechoslovak Law on Public Libraries, 1919; activities of professional associations in shaping the future of library information education.

Further discussion of the conference topics continued in 5 sections.

Participants of section 1 «Library-information and museum education: history and modernity» discussed the formation and development of the continuous library education system in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine; pedagogical activities of the first lecturers at the IDCD; main directions of international cooperation of the IDCD and contribution of its professors to study of reading problems and formation of specialists' bibliographic competence; specifics of teaching source studies and the experience of current museological education in Poland.

Reports were presented on the section 2 «The role of libraries and museums in preserving and updating historical and cultural heritage» related to the role of museums in preserving cultural memory, ethnic culture and intercultural dialogue, the role of library museums in visualizing the cultural heritage of the region, creation of book museum expositions, activities of book museums and literary museums in libraries of Ukraine and Belarus.

Section 3 «Library and information support for science, culture and education» was devoted to such topical issues as the assessment of scientific activity, the role of libraries in infometric, bibliometric, scientometric research of scientists' publication activity, ways of development of publishing in the institution of higher education.

The work of section 4 «Socio-cultural and educational discourse of the library and the museum» was focused on the issues of digital reading, innovative approaches of libraries to

socio-cultural activities, use of communicative practices in the activities of libraries and museums, cultural and educational forms of popularization of museum collections of libraries.

Participants of section 5 «Cultural space of the library and the museum» considered the transformation of conceptual approaches to serving library users, mobile technologies and remote access to information resources of libraries, the network of libraries in Belarus as an element of the public intellectual environment,



project activities as a means of developing libraries and museums, issues of professional growth, competitiveness and motivation of library specialists, methodological support for evaluating the effectiveness of innovative activities in libraries and museums.

Students of the IDCD and representatives of the library community, most of which are graduates of the faculty, were actively involved in the conference. A series of master classes of library and information specialists was held for them.

Master-classes of Valentina V. Brezhneva, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor, Dean of the Library and Information Science Department of the St. Petersburg State University of Culture (Russian Federation), were devoted to such topics as «Public libraries: limitless opportunities and the danger of remaining beyond the boundaries of the possible», «Information support of science: the classic foundation and the possibilities of modern information technologies». The participants got acquainted with the activities of the best libraries of St. Petersburg, discussed innovative approaches to providing user services and exchanged views on the possibilities of libraries in the field of advancement of results of scientific activity of scientists and their teams, assist in research projects and increase publication activity of the authors.

Sarah Duval, Phd, an expert in library education from the United States, a teacher of library and information science at Shivaji University (India), during the master-classes «ALA center for the future of libraries: trends analysis» and «TED: the use of video streaming in education», held in an interactive format, introduced students and professors to the activities of the center for the future of libraries at ALA, its work on identifying new trends and promoting future technologies in the library sector, with the TED youth educational initiative, thanks to which young people have the opportunity to present their ideas and research using short animated videos. At the same time students of the IDCD discussed

the existing trends and tried to predict future ones in the library field, prospects for their implementation and the possibilities of TED for promoting their ideas.

Olga O. Borisova, Doctor of Pedagogical Sciences, Professor, Head of the Library and Information Department of the Oryol State Institute of Culture (Russian Federation) facilitated a master-class «Strategy for building a career of a young librarian». It made students to think about the need to build competitive strategies for their career, the importance of personal professional knowledge and skills for this, taking into account the resource capabilities of the library.

At the round table «Librarian of the digital age» students, young library staff and professors discussed the impact of the digitalization process on library staff. Participants identified seven key qualities that are necessary for a librarian of the digital age, tried to identify the professional competencies that professionals should have in order to be stress-resistant, communicative and able to adapt to changes in the profession. It was a productive exchange of views between students and the professional community. Moderator – Zhanna L. Romanova, Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Head of the Department of Information Resources and Communications of the BSUCA summing up the past discussion drew attention of its participants to the need for library professionals to respond to changes in the external environment in a timely manner, extrapolating them to the library profession.

The conference program also included both the guests' acquaintance with the leading libraries of the city of Minsk – the National Library of Belarus, Presidential Library of the Republic of Belarus, the scientific library of the Belarusian National Technical University and the presentation of «Last day of summer...» BSUCA's Literary and Creative Association «BUCet», performance of creative collectives and artists of the university, visits to Minsk's attractions and to the National Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve «Niasvizh».