

Sofia University, Faculty of Philosophy, Department LISCIP

Review

by Prof. Dr. Boriana Vladimirova Hristova

about the scientific writings

by Docent, Dr. Sc. Zvetanka Hristova Pancheva

In the declared by Department LISCIP of Faculty of Philosophy competition for professor in scientific direction 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Book science, Library science, Bibliography – Digitization of National Cultural Heritage, Regional Information Systems) in State Gazzete № 93/26.XI.2019 appeared only one candidate – Docent, Dr. Sc. Zvetanka Hristova Pancheva.

#### Competition Information. National Requirements.

Docent Dr. Sc. Zvetanka Pancheva enclosed 18 documents for admission in the competition. They are correct, detailed and justify considering all conditions for taking part in the competition fulfilled in accordance with all requirements of Law for Development of Academic Staff in Republic of Bulgaria, article 29; Rules for its Application, article 60, and Rules of Terms and Order for Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and Ranks in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, article 115.

Docent Dr. Sc. Zvetanka Pancheva fulfills all national minimum requirements to occupy the position „Professor“. She is „Doctor“ (1994) and Doctor of Sciences (2018), Senior Research Fellow 2 grade (Docent) by decision of the Higher Attestation Commission (1999) and acquired the scientific rank „Docent“ for the second time in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (2016).

All presented publications for this competition (26 overall) have not been used for participation in other scientific procedures. All points of the required scientometric indicators are fulfilled and she has reached overall 837,5 by a required minimum of 550 points.

#### Information about the candidate.

Zvetanka Pancheva is a renowned Bulgarian bibliographer, local historian and researcher of local letters with a long and successful career. Big part of her professional live she has spent in the National Library Sts. Cyril and Methodius – docent Pancheva has worked there from 1981 till 1993 and from 1996 till 2014. In the pause between these two periods she has been deputy director of Sofia City Library.

In the National Library she started as methodologist in the Scientific Methodological Centre, afterwards she worked as Department Head of Department for Retrospective Bibliography, Head of Centre for National Bibliography, Scientific Secretary of the National Library and the Specialized Scientific Council for Library and Information Sciences by the Higher Attestation Commission, Head of Department Digital Library. This way she developed as a paramount specialist and expert – bibliographer and metadata organizer, a keen researcher and as all great bibliographers is inclined towards perfection in her work.

Today she is long since well known Bulgarian researcher and expert in the fields of bibliography, local history and digitization of written cultural heritage. She combines successfully the scientific and practical sides of library, bibliography and local study problems and reaches important generalizations and contributions in her research. Those are great help in her work as lecturer as she teaches basic subjects needed by today librarians and information specialists.

In 1994 Zvetanka Pancheva defends her thesis *Contemporary state and problems in the organization of local history library and bibliographic activities* and receives educational and scientific degree "Doctor". In 1999 she habilitates and becomes Senior Research Fellow 2 ("Docent") degree with scientific research *Tendencies in development of scientific auxiliary bibliography* and almost twenty years later and enough research experience comes her PhD thesis *Local studies in Bulgaria – bibliographic and local literature approach* (2018) which summarizes enormous empirical material for the first time in our science cumulated and analyzed in one place.

From september onwards after wining a competition Zvetanka Pancheva is full-time lecturer in Department Library and Information Science and Cultural Policy.

It is worth of mentioning that Zvetanka Pancheva is participant in 12 big international and national projects and manages some of them. In the moment she is included and is working actively in two subprojects of Sofia University big project for building a supreme achievements center Heritage BG. She is a registered participant in more than 80 national and regional scientific forums in the fields of local history, digitization and bibliography. She has penned a lot of serious scientific works (overall over 130).

#### Activity as lecturer

Docent Pancheva did start her activity as lecturer in 1995 when she became part time lecturer in Sofia University, Department LIS and worked in this position until she became full time docent. She is reading courses in Local Studies Bibliography, Digitization and Digitalization, Regional Cultural Policy and the Libraries. From 2004 untill 2008 she lectures also in SWUBIT (now UniBit) courses Local History Electronic Resources and Local Studies and Local History Bibliography.

Main themes in today's lecturer activities of Zvetanka Pancheva are Digitization in Libraries; Digitization of Cultural Heritage; Standards for Information Disclosure of Digitized Resources; International Digital Libraries and Portals; Local History and Local Studies Bibliography; Retrospective National Bibliography; Personal Bibliography.

The academic background for her activity as lecturer shows 1279 hours from which 600 hours classroom work.

#### Publication activity

Today the overall bibliography of Zvetanka Pancheva encompasses about 130 books, monographs, papers, articles and reports from different forums. Her doctoral thesis *Local History in Bulgaria: Bibliography and Local History Approach* deserves special attention. It sets an ambitious goal to *research the local history in Bulgaria from it beginning during the Revival until the end of 2017 through the prism of works – the most durable and preserved in time sign for local history research and promotion*. In this work the different landmarks of local history have been researched in accordance with the historical and political changes in Bulgarian history. For the first time there has been introduced material with such a broad chronological coverage – from the first attempts in local history even before the Liberation until today. This gave the author a unique possibility to see in real scale the processes

evolving not only in the field of local history but in a lot of other fields of Bulgarian science. The bibliometric analysis is supplemented by a meaningful and meticulous bibliographic analysis of a great number publications and the contribution of all scientists and researchers working in the field of local history even peripheral.

For the competition Zvetanka Pancheva has presented overall 26 publication – 3 books and 23 papers and articles.

### Scientific input

The scientific input of Zvetanka Pancheva is numerous. It is in the field of **local studies** whose history the author is following many years and in many publications she reveals the development and changes in its theoretical platform. Also the practical results from the work of many well known and not so famous local historians; in the field of **local history bibliography** in which she searches for traditions and it's contemporary transformations, gives examples for it's deployment and justifies maintaining knowledge about the region is basic cultural resource; **digitization of written cultural heritage** – achievements, problem zones, future perspectives; in the field of **bibliography and bibliographic research of different persons** like Alexander Teodorov – Balan, Petar Danov, Alexander Stambolijski, Dimitar Ivanchev et al.; in studying the multitude of **local media** where she finds and uses for analysis unknown documents and information.

In my recension I am accentuating on the last work of Zvetanka Pancheva – *Bibliographic and digital dimensions of Bulgarian local studies* because it is in a way a summary of a very important theme in her research until now. It became known that local history and the research in this field do not lose their importance today despite the big information flow which is engulfing us. Exactly the opposite as the author writes: local history research and handbooks *becomes an important peg of identity, based on the values which are passed on in childhood through the close surrounding world*. In this connection there she points out one of the most important tasks of the regional libraries: to be engine and identifier for research and socializing of regional (as part of the national) cultural and historical heritage. Substantial part of the research is analysis of local history bibliography in Bulgaria and the bibliographic and statistical analysis of the whole complex of local studies publications in our country. As it turns out they are a lot and the work is full of specific examples and citations. With many examples, chart and schemes Pancheva reveals the whole picture of our local history and its different platforms born by the requirements of *time*, users and different *audiences* on which they have been oriented.

A good thing is that the regional libraries find ways to include the users in their activities by electronic rubrics like complete, add, develop further and so on which makes the collected materials unique. In this regard I would like to add that it would be nice to see more local history research about Sofia, which is not only capital but home town of many people.

The digital dimension of Bulgarian local history: situations like today show that those processes must play and will play a very important role in the cultural and educational processes in our land and in the whole world. And the faster there will be awareness and finances for it – the better.

The connection between local history bibliography and digitization of local studies documents from different libraries, museums and galleries must be fast rationalized so it could be created digital data bases and collections with long term perspective. Big part in this process will play the retro conversion of local history bibliographic arrays. Advantage will be the provision of electronic access to all local history bibliographic information; creating of a reliable basis for development of all kinds of directories; building of possibilities for offering different innovative information services with a big chronological range in the field of local history;

ensuring a solid information base for digitization of local studies documents and their metadata in internationally compatible format.

It is clear that in combining of digital resources with well produced bibliographic data could be offered to all our communities – regional and national – for additional educational and entertaining services to make you empathetic to history without much clichés which in many cases substitute the real evidence. And to all really significant people in our history we own our development.

As conclusion I will add that in her whole scientific work Docent Dr. Sc. Zvetanka Pancheva has exhibited herself as the leading Bulgarian bibliographer and local historian, has created her own methodology and researched meticulously local history publication from Revival till today.

I propose to the honorable jury to vote for awarding the academic rank "Professor" to docent Zvetanka Pancheva.

25.03.2020

Reviewer

Prof. Dr. Boriana Hristova