

# Opinion

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in the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "professor" in the field of higher education 3. Social, business and legal sciences, professional field 3.5 Public communications and information sciences (Book science, library science, bibliography - Digitization of cultural heritage, regional information systems), for the needs of the Department of Library Studies, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, announced in SG, issue. 93 of 11/26/2019

## 1. Contest information

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva is the only candidate for the competition for the occupation of the academic position of "Professor" for the needs of the Department of Library Studies, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in professional field 3.5. Social Communications and Information Sciences (Book Knowledge, Library Science, Bibliography - Digitization of Cultural Heritage, Regional Information Systems).

The enclosed 18 documents for admission to the competition have been submitted and give reason to believe that all the conditions for the competition have been fulfilled in accordance with the requirements of Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Art. 29, Rules for its implementation, Art. 60 and the Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Art. 115

## 2. General characteristics of the applicant's activities

### 2.1. Biographical information

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva is a prominent Bulgarian researcher and specialist in the field of librarianship and bibliography. The CV shows a long professional experience in the most prestigious Bulgarian cultural and educational institutions - the National Library "St. Cyril and Methodius" (1981-1994 and 1996-2014), where he holds a number of administrative and scientific positions - Methodist, Head of the Retrospective Bibliography Department, Head of the Center for National Bibliography and of the Digital Library Department, Research Fellow and Senior Researcher II degree (Associate Professor), Head of the Scientific Section on Library Science, Scientific Secretary of the SNA for Library and Information Sciences at the Higher Attestation Commission. For two years

(1994-1996) he worked at one of the largest public libraries in the country - the Metropolitan Library, as Deputy director.

From 1995 to 2014 he is a part-time lecturer, and from 2014 until now he is a full-time lecturer at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". She holds the post of Associate Professor after a competitive competition.

Tsvetanka Pancheva holds a Master's Degree in Library Science and Bibliography (1981); Doctor in 1994. (Theme "The Current State and Problems of the Organization of Local Librarian-Bibliographic Activity", Witness No / date: 23633 / 23.05.1995) and Doctor of Science in the field of 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences 2018 (Theme "Local Studies in Bulgaria: A Bibliographic Book Approach", Diploma No / date: SU 2018-10 / 25.09.2018)

## **2.2. Teaching activities**

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva has an exceptionally large classroom (in the last 3 years between 585 and 630, mainly in compulsory subjects) and outside of the classroom (up to over 1600 hours). She teaches in all Bachelor's and Master's programs, and is the leader of the Master's Program in Library and Information Science and Cultural Policy (BINCP). The courses he teaches are related to "classic" library topics such as national bibliography, retrospective bibliography, local history, personal bibliography, but also topics relevant to and developing in contemporary library theory and practice related to access and preservation of library collections; digitalisation; digitalisation of cultural heritage; digitalisation of library documents and standards for information disclosure of digitized sources; international digital libraries and portals; local history and local electronic information.

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva works very responsibly and demandingly with her students and PhD students. Under her guidance, over 30 undergraduate and master's theses are defended. There are four PhD students with a degree in digitalisation of cultural heritage and related problems of conservation and access to collections in memory institutions - libraries, archives, museums, two of which are under protection.

From 2004-2018 he was a part-time lecturer at The University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT), Department of Library Sciences and Department of Library Management.

## **2.3. Participation in research teams**

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva participates in the teams of several international projects, the most important of which are: BG05M2OP001-1.001-0001 Creation and Development of "Heritage BG" Centre of Excellence; Project BG0046 "Digitization and preservation of Bulgaria's written heritage" - with financial support from the EEA FM (2009-2011). She was the head of the IMPACT

(Improving access to text) Project funded by the EC (2010-2011). We can also mention participation in two major national projects such as the Global Library - Bulgaria, the Bulgarian Literary Heritage of the BIA. From 2015 to 2019, each year he participates in teams and leads two of the research projects of the Sofia University.

#### **2.4. Practical activities**

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva is a lecturer in library competency courses; Lecturer in various regional seminars on issues of reference, information and bibliographic activity of libraries, local history, digitalisation of literary heritage in libraries; trainer in library programs; expert and consultant on various issues of Bulgarian librarianship; participant in editorial boards.

### **3. Scientific and applied achievements of the applicant**

#### **3.1. National requirements**

When comparing the registration of Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva in Register of academic staff / National Centre for Information and Documentation (NACID) for the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" and the academic position "Associate Professor" with the table presented in the documents for the competition (the candidate has also explicitly declared), it is evident that no evidence is repeated (publications, etc.). on the various indicators presented for the acquisition of the educational and scientific degree "doctor" and for the acquisition of the scientific degree "doctor of sciences" and for the occupation of the academic position "associate professor" (Article 29, para 1, item 3 of Act ). The required points for all scientometric indicators are covered and a total of 837.5 points were collected with a minimum of 550 points required

#### **3.2. Evaluation of the monographic work**

The main work presented for participation in the competition for professor " *Bibliographical and digital dimensions of the Bulgarian local studies*" is a monograph that examines complex local /regional bibliography - from the terminological boundaries of the notion " local /regional bibliography bibliography", through the type structure of local bibliography and state librarianship Bulgaria (through bibliographic-statistical analysis) until the transformations and in the 21st century.

In practice, in libraries, in the field of local history and genealogy , large (critical) masses of collected and currently filled information are accumulated. These are a variety of content documents covering all social and economic activities of local importance, often containing unknown and unknown information and facts. These are diverse (in many cases unique) and in type of documents - from an archive unit and a working manuscript to a serious printed book and periodical, card, graphic edition, audio edition or official edition. Huge variety and complexity are the two concepts that can describe research and practice in this field.

The monograph examines and summarizes all models of processing and presentation of these massifs through the system of local /regional bibliography and its separate subspecies - universal, thematic, bibliography of the content of periodicals (articles), personal, etc. In it the development of the local bibliography is presented with the help of the bibliographic-statistical analysis - in separate periods from the development of the state from the 1920s to the present day. This allows the study to provide an analytical and critical overview of the many concepts of this type of activity in Bulgarian libraries. The social (including ideological) and economic conditions, political and scientific biases affecting the collection, preservation and access to local history collections are taken into account. The research is precise and shows exceptional knowledge of the matter in the periods of development of traditional local studies. Of particular interest is Chapter Four, which presents the transformations of local /regional bibliography in Bulgaria in the 21st century. I find the right approach to research and provide models for transformation of existing resources such as local lore bibliographic information and local /regional bibliography in electronic media, and then to consider issues of digitalisation of local history documents, creation of digital resources with local history content; building information structures for searching and accessing digital resources with local history and last but not least involving consumers in the use of multimedia products. It is important to note that the construction of information structures for access to digital resources, mainly with local content, is also considered in terms of consumption in the monograph. These unique resources are in many cases the basis for scientific and applied research, for education and self-education, for patriotic education, for hobbies and entertainment, and in recent years for the development of cultural tourism.

### **3.3. Evaluation of contributions in other research publications.**

At the beginning, we should note some important quantitative indicators that give us an idea of the entire publishing activity of Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva. The enclosed List of all publications shows over 130 scientific and applied publications on issues of digitalisation of the literary heritage, regional information resources, the linguistic and bibliographical activities of the libraries, the retrospective national bibliography and more. We also see participation in reports in over 80 national and regional forums on local and regional studies issues, retrospective national bibliographies, integration between cultural institutes in the field of regional research, digitalisation of literary heritage in libraries, most of which have been published. These are testimonies of deserved high scientific authority.

The submitted publications for the competition can be structured in the following thematic areas:

#### ***Local History. Local/ Regional Bibliography.***

Publications in this field show the polythematicity and interdisciplinarity of local studies. Undoubtedly, we should note here the monograph presented (the work for the acquisition of the

scientific degree "Doctor of Science") - *"Book projections of local or Bulgarian local history from the Renaissance to the present day"*, which represents the most in-depth study of the development of theoretical thought in the field of local history in Bulgaria and personal contributions in the field of local studies to several generations of prominent Bulgarian scholars, university professors, teachers and statesmen who have merit in the development of local history, geography, ethnology, dialectology, etc. scientific fields that are also important for highlighting local identity and culture.

In part, these issues are addressed in both the studies *"Politicality and Interdisciplinarity of Local Studies in Bulgaria after the Liberation (According to the publications in the Periodical Magazine of the Bulgarian Book Society)* and *Current Trends in the Issue of Local History Books in Bulgaria: The Love Contribution. 1990-2018,* where the regional survey is seen in a country-wide context.

Provide publications such as *"Special Collections in the Public Libraries of Bulgaria - Modern Aspects of Storage, Cataloging, and Access to Wide Access to them (on the example of Archimandrite Zinoviy's Fund at the Kyustendil Regional Library)"*; *"Transformations of Local Bibliography in Bulgaria and Its Role in Information Support for Historical Studies"*; *"Generation and time memories or how to revive interest in local history"*; *"History and Modernity of the Veliko Tarnovo National Library"* *Petko R. Slaveikov* show the diversity of local studies and local studies activity in Bulgarian libraries, as well as the challenges and opportunities associated with local studies and history. A wide range of issues such as classification, storage, sharing and access to local history collections have been addressed; modern models of information services in the field of local libraries; ways to promote the development of genealogy and local history, including by promoting local collections and related services. The publications here are distinguished by their wide-ranging, academic and in-depth research.

### ***Digitization and digital products***

I know the whole work of Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva in the field of digitalization in Bulgarian libraries and its theoretical studies, as we have worked together on this issue for a long time. I can firmly state that it has made a major contribution to the research and synthesis of theoretical perspectives on the development of digitalisation in Bulgarian librarianship (which is why its practice as head of the first and largest Digital Center of the National Library has helped a lot). Here too, a multidimensional study of the problems of digital processes and the creation of digital products in libraries is evident. Digitalisation policies and priorities; the methods for organizing the work on the digitalisation of documents, access to them, the need for qualified staff, cooperation and more. Co is the subject of the publications *"Digitization of unique collections of Bulgarian libraries - an opportunity for a new revival of the national written cultural heritage"* and *"Problems of digitization of cultural heritage in the regional libraries of Bulgaria: results of the questionnaire"*. The processes of digitalisation of national collections have been explored by integrating national approaches to

digitization with European and world practice - in the publications *"Digitizing National Collections, Participation in World Digital Libraries"*; *"The National Library" St. St. Cyril and Methodius "in the Digital Renaissance of Europe"*; *"The phenomenon of the World Digital Library"*.

The priorities for creating digital collections (universal, of different types of documents, by topic area, etc.) are always related to the purposes of their use and their purpose. This focuses on the research *"Digital Archival Collections and their Use in Research and Amateur Creativity in Local History and Family History"*; *"The Digital Collections of the National Library" St. St. Cyril and Methodius "in support of research and the learning process"*; *"Visual reconstruction of local history or Stara Zagora and Stara Zagora in postcards and photos"*; *"Unique donor library collections. The Library as a Virtual Museum "*; *"Interesting and curious about wine - in digital texts and images from the world and Bulgaria."*

It is very important to note here that in order for these collections to be used, users must be prepared, so the publication *"Building an Information Culture - A Factor for Raising the Public Library's prestige"* is important and up-to-date.

Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva also included in her research a significant problem in the construction of the digital society, namely the preparation of qualified staff, important for the modernization of the Bulgarian institutions of memory *"Digitization of Cultural Heritage in the context of modern education in library and information sciences. Ideas and Practices at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "*(the article was also published in Russian due to her participation in a prestigious scientific forum in St. Petersburg).

#### ***Bibliographic presentation of celebrities***

These are extremely difficult studies related to complex methodology of analytical and synthetic information processing, bibliometric methods and methods of information modeling. In this field Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva is an indisputable researcher and practitioner. This is evidenced by the following publications: *"Alexander Stamboliiski's Journalism - An Attempt for Historical Reconstruction of His Ideas and Positions"*; *"Nestor Markov and his Contribution to Lexicography and Education"*; *"New biography for Nikola Vaptsarov: Reassessments and controversies, literary parallels, popularity of his work in the world"*; *"Stroke to the Portrait of the Bibliographer Dr. Dimitar Ivanchev"*. We should also mention her editorial work on a number of personal bibliographies.

#### **4. Achievements and scientific contributions**

I see the achievements and the original scientific contributions in the proposals of Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva publications primarily related to their future trends in the development of research

in the field of librarianship and memory institutions (mainly libraries). They are in the following directions:

- in basic scientific research in the field of local history, analysis and methodological foundations of local libraries, archives and museums and local /regional bibliography in Bulgaria;
- in an interdisciplinary approach to the study of local history, including both librarianship and bibliography, as well as book publishing, history, ethnography, anthropogeography, cultural anthropology, genealogy, etc.
- in the study of local history and local /regional bibliography (and in general regional studies and their information presentation for public use) as a result of the synthesis between science, practice and education;
- in clarifying and summarizing the most important transformations in contemporary local history driven by the external environment and new technological opportunities, which in the future will help libraries, archives and museums play a key role in creating resources and services tailored to the needs of local people communities and which will have an increasing impact on different user groups;
- in the focus of research on processes and activities related to contemporary changes in information and the digital environment, which should provide broad access to culture and knowledge;
- in the consideration of the Bulgarian history and local /regional bibliography as part of the common European heritage and as an activity important for the development of a sense of identity, social cohesion, social development; the development of the economy and tourism of the regions;
- in proposing models for the development of local history and digitalisation, in line with all contemporary EC and EU productions and documents on an integrated approach to Europe's cultural heritage combining cultural identity and diversity;
- to integrate digital education and new technology training into research, which will enable the creation of competencies indispensable for work in contemporary libraries, archives and museums;
- in maintaining the research tradition, with accurate bibliographic methods, to present the sources and facts so difficult to collect and preserve for individuals who have left lasting traces in the Bulgarian culture.

## **5. Recommendations**

Despite seemingly national issues, many publications also provide analyzes and methodologies that would be of interest, especially when compared to local history and genealogy studies and local /regional bibliography in libraries around the world and can contribute to the international information community of Bulgarian libraries, archives and museums, as well as the results of theoretical and

empirical research in this field. Therefore, I recommend that attempts should be made to part of them and part of the problems raised in them to gain international fame.

## **6. Personal impressions of the applicant**

I know Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva from our common student years, we have parallel professional development. I can confidently say that she is an extremely knowledgeable, consistent and very sophisticated researcher and specialist. Without exaggeration, I can say that its scientific and applied research is based on a large part of the activity of Bulgarian libraries in the field of local history and local /regional bibliography. I highly appreciate her contributions in recent years as a researcher, expert and lecturer on the development of library collections and services in the new digital environment.

## **7. Conclusion**

The presented analysis and evaluation of scientific production, teaching activity and practical work of Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva are the basis for my categorical opinion that Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva should be awarded the academic position of Professor. The application fully complies with the requirements of the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria Act, Rules for its implementation and the Rules on the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

I propose that the members of the Scientific Jury support the application and recommend the extended composition of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" to choose Assoc. Prof. DSc Tsvetanka Pancheva in the academic position "Professor" in the professional field 3.5 Public communications and information sciences (Book science, library science, bibliography - Digitization of cultural heritage, regional information systems).

**03/25/2020**

**Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aneta D. Doncheva**