

Review

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About a competition for the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.5. Public communications and Information Sciences (Book Science, Librarianship and Bibliography – Organization and Management of Information Resources), published in Darzhaven vestnik, №21, 15.03.2022, based on Article 4 and Article 25 from ZRASRB [Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria] and Article 57, Paragraph (1) and Paragraph (2) from the Implementing Regulations of ZRASRB and Article 108 Paragraph (1) and Paragraph (3) from the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquirement of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", as well as by the decision of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Philosophy, Minutes No. 11 of 05.04.2022 and Order RD 38-188/ 08.04.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

1. Information on the competition (grounds for admission)

The only candidate for the position of Associate Professor is Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova, PhD. Documentation related to the procedure is complete and complies with the requirements of Article 4 and Article 29 of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for the Implementation of the Law for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, Article 118, Paragraphs (1) and (3) of the Regulations on the Conditions and Procedures for Acquirement of Scientific Degrees and Academic Positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The submitted documents are comprehensive and provide the necessary multifaceted information for forming my assessment as a member of the scientific jury.

After reviewing the submitted documents, I found that **Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD meets the scientometric requirements of NACID for the position of Associate Professor.** She has met a total of 423 points, out of the required minimum of 400 points in the relevant indicators. This is evident both from the completed reference with the scientometric criteria of NACID and from the references from the "Authors" system of the University of Sofia and from the List of citations of her works. The publications submitted for this competition have not been used for participation in other scientific procedures. There are all the grounds for the

admission of the candidate to the competition, such as: meeting the scientometric requirements; a large number and sufficient depth of the listed works; participation in large-scale projects, proving her ability to work in a team; actual practical experience, including teaching.

2. General description of the candidate's activities (education, work experience, teaching, participation in research teams, etc.)

Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD is a recognizable name among the library and information community in Bulgaria. She studied consecutively at the Bachelor's (1998-2002), Master's (2002-2004) and PhD (2011-2015) degrees at the Department of Library and Information Studies and Cultural Policy (LISCP) at the Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University. At the beginning of 2016 she successfully defended her dissertation on "Bibliographic Control in the Process of Retrospective Conversion and Digitization of Collections" and received the scientific degree "PhD" in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Book Science, Librarianship and Bibliography). Yavrukova, PhD has been working at the University Library of the Sofia University since 01.08.2001 until today. She acquired professional skills and experiences in different structures of the Library - in the Library and Information Services and Collections Department, Interlibrary Loan Department, and as a Head of the Exchange Department. During this period, she showed initiative and knowledge to improve and automate many library activities. Her qualities were noted and she was appointed in October 2008 to the position of Deputy Director, which she currently holds. The challenges she has faced and handled successfully are related to: the technological transformation of major activities - the implementation of the ALEPH 500 integrated information system, the establishment of the NALIS Foundation and the subsequent retrospective conversion of the University Library catalogues as part of the NALIS Union Catalogue, the conduct of training, the preparation of methodological documents, and working with students from the Department of LISCP who are also involved in the project. Organizational activities on digitization and new online services of the University Library, acquiring, processing and analysis of statistical information, etc. are also among the activities she is directly involved. I emphasize all these because through her actions, besides making a name for herself as a responsible and competent supervisor, Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD is continuously improving her qualifications, including participating in 6 specialized courses, some with foreign lecturers, accumulating great theoretical potential and practical experience, which she uses in her publishing and teaching activities. She does not break her relations with

the LISCP Department and since 2012 she has been teaching, supporting the work of habilitated lecturers from the same department, in the discipline of Library Studies and Bibliography of the specialty of Archives and Documentary Studies at the Faculty of History. Under her supervision, the teaching practice of undergraduate students of the specialty "Library and Information Science" is also carried out. She was awarded a diploma by the Faculty of Philosophy of the Sofia University for fruitful cooperation and contribution to the introduction of young library professionals in the professional environment.

She actively participates in projects such as the already mentioned project "NALIS"; as well as the very topical today for Bulgarian scientists project "Design and development of a prototype of the information system "Index of Citation of Publications of Bulgarian Authors (Social Sciences)", and in the project "Creation of a database of filigree of old printed books from the 19th century from the collections of the University Library and the Centre for Slavo-Byzantine Studies "Prof. Ivan Dujchev" - basis for dating manuscripts from the same period".

My personal impressions allow me to mention in particular the membership and fruitful work of Yavrukova, PhD in scientific and professional institutions and organizations such as: the Bulgarian Library and Information Association (member of the Board, chairman of the Section of scientific libraries); representative as an expert of the Sofia University in TC 16 "Archive, Librarianship and Information Activity" (2012-), as well as in TC 94 "Conservation of Cultural Property" (2021-) - to the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization. She is also a member of the editorial board of the journal "BBIA online" and an author of scientific articles, as well as a translator.

3. Characteristics and evaluation of the publications submitted for the competition for Associated Professor

Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD participated in the current competition with **17 scientific and applied publications**, including: 2 monographs, 1 study and 14 articles. Three of the articles are in English; 1 is indexed in Web of Science; 1 in INION and 1 in CEEOL. Three of the articles are co-authored, but separation protocols are provided. A list of all publications is also attached, including: 29 titles of scientific and applied works; 1 review; 14 titles of translations of normative publications and scientific articles; 15 titles of papers from scientific forums and 3 publications of which she is editor.

The scientific works submitted for the competition are in a wide subject range: management of library and information systems (1, 2, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16); acquisition of library collections (4, 5, 17); cataloguing (1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 15); standardisation of library processes

(1, 2, 6, 11); library and information services (3, 5, 12, 16); evaluation of scientific research (7, 9).

An important place has the habilitation thesis of Bilyana Yavrukova "Razvitie na balgarskia instrumentarium za izgrazhdane na bibliotechno-informatsionni sistemi", 2022, 311 p.) (1), where the mentioned subject areas are intersected. The big theme that the future of libraries lies in aligning them with the information needs of society on the one hand, and with technological modernization on the other, is addressed by the author through the prism of: preparing and standardizing the tools for development of their cataloguing systems; establishing of more developed communication and shared resource building with other libraries. However, her approach is deliberately retrospective. In her monograph, she provides a historical cross-section of the development of the Sofia University Library, in particular of the tools for improving its catalogue system, developing her hypothesis that its construction as a modern library is not based solely on the use of new technologies, but also on rules and documents that in each historical period follow the development path of leading foreign libraries, but are intelligently revised and adapted to fit Bulgarian traditions, by personalities with an European authority like Stoyan Argirov, Petar Nenkov, Ivan Danov, Yacho Hlebarov, Stiliyan Chilingirov et al. A large number of normative and methodological documents of both national and university scope have been analysed, proving that regardless of our country's political system, the prevailing ideology, and financial (and later technological) backwardness, the elite of our professional community has managed, through a consistently upgraded toolkit, to bring our leading libraries, and the University Library in particular, up to date with world innovations in the field. Despite the fact that the focus of the study falls on the cataloguing system of the University Library, the structure of the work allows to outline the national requirements related to cataloguing, to examine and compare them with the practical achievements in the National Library, in the National Library in Plovdiv, in the Library of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and through the so-called "Pleven Library School". Inevitably, the scope of the analysis is intertwined with other subject areas that are in the field of interests and are also subject of other publications of Yavrukova, PhD, for example: standardization of cataloguing activities; creation of the central cataloguing system and the role of the National Library in it; automation of library catalogues and shared development of information resources thanks to project initiatives; inscription of automated cataloguing in the modern "digital ecosystem". Most of these issues are addressed by describing the Bulgarian practice against the background of the outlined global trends and suggesting directions for the future development of Bulgarian libraries and, in particular, of

the University Library. The Habilitation thesis of Yavrukova, PhD is distinguished by its clear and logical structure, thorough analysis, excellent knowledge of foreign and Bulgarian theoretical developments, normative and methodological documents on the subject. This is also evidenced by the perfectly selected bibliography.

The monograph (on which her PhD dissertation is based) "Bibliografski kontrol v protsesa na retrospektivna konversia i digitalizatsia na bibliotechnite fondove", 2021, 248 p. (2), belongs to the same subject area. It focuses on bibliographic control as an opportunity to unify and standardize bibliographic records. It is worth to be outlined her contribution in the part on the retrospective conversion of library catalogues, its types, the conditions for its implementation and the stages of its methodology are particularly contributory, in order to solve the major problem of the effective use of catalogues in an electronic environment, including through the establishment of union catalogues. The second point of the work is in the conceptualization and analysis of the relationship "retrospective conversion - digitization" and in the proposal of an experimental model for the organization of the retrospective conversion and digitization of the collections of the University Library, tracing all stages of both processes. The approach used here is to consider the subject in an international context and then to look for correspondences and/or discrepancies with Bulgarian practice. An additional touch to this subject is found in the publication "Spodelena katalogizatsia i rolyata na bibliotechno-informatsionnitate mrezi" (3), which highlights the technological tools for the sharing of bibliographic and authority data between libraries, using as examples a number of networks - from the largest network OCLC, to the one including Bulgaria - COBISS.net; the articles "Razvitie na katalogizatsionnitate na Universitetskata biblioteka „Sv. Kliment Ohridski" (8); "Standartizatsia na katalogizatsionnitate deynost v balgarskite biblioteki", co-authored with Milena Milanova (11); „Novata ramka za bibliografski kontrol ili badeshteto na katalogizatsiyata" (14); „Proekt NABIS – novi vazmozhnosti za bibliotekite v Bulgaria" (15), „Onlayn i oflayn digitalni kolektzii na Universitetskata biblioteka „Sv. Kliment Ohridski" (10), etc. Interesting and fruitful in scientific and applied aspect is the approach of Yavrukova to study the information needs of a target group of lecturers and PhD students at Sofia University in order to optimize the organization of the processes of digitization and retrospective conversion of the Sofia University library catalogues. The study aims to take follow-up measures to provide the teaching process with the most needed resources and bibliographic information (12). It, in my opinion, has another aspect - to follow up the extent to which the users of the University Library know its resource capabilities and the scope of

the services it offers in order to undertake adequate PR techniques to promote, especially its new activities.

Among scientific researches of Yavrukova, PhD, special mention should also be made of the issues exploring and analysing the relationship "transformation of scientific communication - acquisition of e-resources or organizing an open access to them - information literacy - organisation of electronic repositories". At the centre of the study of this issue (5) is the outlining of the issue of open access to publications, which requires fundamental changes in a number of activities, especially of university libraries. I see the contribution of this study in the multi-layered consideration of the topic in the following directions: 1/ scientific communication in an electronic environment implies a new model of organization and access to resources necessary for the learning process and publication activities of scientists, including legal aspects, development of new information services, provision of information literacy training; 2/ rethinking the role of the library in its transformation from a provider of scientific information into a mediator and from a disseminator of information resources into an institution facilitating the process of scholarly publishing; 3/ examining open access, the acquisition of libraries and the possibilities of organizing large information collections with electronic information through integration into institutional, national and international repositories for long-term preservation and access to it.

The affinity of Yavrukova, PhD to be involved in the most innovative projects is the basis of the publications related to the topic of citation of scientific publications - "The impact of national citation indexes in the research evaluation process" (7, co-authored) and "Contemporary problems in reporting the effectiveness of scientific results - Scopus, Web of Science and the national citation indexes" (9, co-authored). The articles are contributory because they present the results of scientific researches related to the problem of citability of publications and the practices in different academic libraries for their retrieval, as well as the development of a prototype of an information system "Index of Citation of Publications of Bulgarian Authors (Social Sciences)". The article (7) draws attention to the necessity of building a national citation database not only as a measure of the effectiveness of scientific research at the national level, but more importantly as an indicator of Bulgaria's profile in the global scientific environment.

4. Achievements and scientific contributions

Considerable professional, managerial and theoretical experience of Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD allows her to write contributory works, researching, as has been emphasized, **a wide**

range of subjects and problems in their interrelation, considering them in a theoretical aspect and international context, but proposing ideas and solutions adequate to Bulgarian practice. I find her significant scientific and applied contributions in the field of:

- *Cataloguing* - in the creation of a model for retrospective conversion of catalogues in an electronic environment, for data migration to an academic union catalogue and a repository for full-text digital resources and its implementation in the practice of the University Library with a branch structure and NALIS; in the habilitation thesis, for the first time, the overall development of the University Library catalogue system is investigated and analysed by proposing original ideas for building an integrated library and information system and formulating guidelines for its development in the rapidly changing information environment; innovative ideas are proposed after tracing the relationship between the electronic catalogue and the software for establishing and maintaining digital collections; library and information networks and the technologies used are analysed in the context of the practice of shared cataloguing in some libraries.
- *Acquisition* of electronic resources, ideas and practices for their organization in repositories for permanent preservation and access to full-text content and the role of publishers and authors in this process; in this regard, ideas for innovative services in university libraries in the context of open access to information are proposed; the possibilities of open access publishing through so-called transformative licensing agreements are also explored and summarized. A policy for the selection of library resources for digitization in the Sofia University Library is summarized and presented;
- *Scientometric databases*. The whole project with the participation of Yavrukova, PhD has made a great scientific and applied contribution to the construction of the database and in particular the "Index of Citation of Publications of Bulgarian Authors (Social Sciences)".
- *Innovative library services*. She has developed a methodology for conducting a survey, systematizing the data and analysing the results concerning user satisfaction (faculty and graduate students) with the library services of the University Library. The analysis of the results is the basis for ideas and guidelines to improve the library acquisition and retrospective cataloguing planning process, as well as guidelines for building and effectively using digital collections and for developing new specialized services.

5. Recommendations

I would like to recommend Yavrukova, PhD to make more efforts to promote her ideas, focusing on their practical applicability, among the colleagues of university libraries in Bulgaria, especially among those left out of the NALIS project.

6. Conclusion

The research and applied activities of Bilyana Yavrukova, PhD are characterized by a wide range of subjects in the field of library science, which are developed in interconnected ways. The theoretical reflection on the subjects she analyses is always subordinated to the need to improve existing practice. Her publications have their own style of exposition and are on issues relevant to our library community, as evidenced by the reference which certifies their 12 citations. The review of the research, applied, project and teaching activities of **Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova, PhD** and outlined contributions lead to the conclusion that she has a serious research potential and sufficient teaching knowledge and skills, which gives me the reason to vote convincingly positive for her to take the scientific position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Book Science, Librarianship and Bibliography - Organization and Management of Information Resources).

Member of the scientific jury:

14.06.2022 г.

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