

## **Review**

by **Prof. DSc Tania Yordanova Todorova**

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about the competition for the academic position of “Associate Professor” in the field of higher education 3. Social Science, Economic Science and Law, professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) - one, part-time, for the needs of the UL<sup>1</sup> (University Library at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”), announced in the State Gazette, issue 21/15.03.2022, p. 138.

**Contest information.** Grounds for submitting the review: Participation in the scientific jury for conducting a competition for occupying the academic position “Associate Professor”, in accordance with Order No. RD-38-188/08.04.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University Prof. Dr. Habil. Anastas Gerdzhikov.

### **General characteristics of the applicant's activity (biographical information, teaching, participation in research teams, practical activity)**

Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova is the only candidate in the competition.

Since October 2008, she is a Deputy Director of the University Library at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". Her professional path highlights her as an expert practitioner on the subject of that competition. Dr. Yavrukova has been working at the University Library since 2001 as a librarian in the Interlibrary Loan Department. In 2004 she became the head of the Book Exchange Department, and since 2008 she is a part of the management of the institution.

B. Yavrukova graduated in bachelor, master and doctor programs of the Department of Library Science, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She is the author of a PhD Thesis, titled “Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of funds”, defended on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016.

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<sup>1</sup> Opinion about the procedure for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced for the needs of the University Library, SG, 21/15.03.2022, p. 138. - was sent to the Chairman of the Scientific Jury on 10.06.2022.

The candidate is a researcher with consistent publishing activity over the years, with impressive project and expert work, with a contribution to the activities of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association and on current discussions and topics on library and information theory and practice.

She has been an individual member of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association (BLIA) since 2002; member of the Management Board in the period 2015-2018; Chairman of the Section of Scientific Libraries at BLIA in the period December 2012 - June 2015. In 2010 she was awarded the Young Librarian of the Year Award of BLIA.

Dr. Yavrukova is a representative or participates as an expert from Sofia University in TC 16 “Archival, Library and Information Activities” and TC 94 “Preservation of Cultural Heritage” at the Bulgarian Institute of Standardization. She is an expert from Bulgaria and participates in activities under ISO/TC46/SC8/WG2 International Library Statistics and ISO/TC46/SC8/WG4 Indicators of performance in libraries at the International Organization for Standardization in 2020.

B. Yavrukova is a member of research teams of a number of projects with national and European funding. Here I will highlight her work on the project NALIS - National Academic Library and Information System (2009-2016).

The teaching activity of Dr. Yavrukova is in collaboration with the Faculty of History at Sofia University at bachelor’s program Archival and Documentary Studies, and with the Department of Library Science, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy at the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University. From 2012 to the present, she conducts exercises within the discipline “Library Science and Bibliography” in the bachelor’s degree program “Archival Science and Documentary”. In the period 2014-2015 she managed the teaching practice of students from Library and Information Sciences Bachelor's Degree Program (Department of Library Science, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy, Faculty of Philosophy, Sofia University).

**Applicant's scientific and applied activity (Evaluation of the publications submitted for participation in the competition)**

Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova is a professional and scholar with consistent research interests and publishing activities on the issues of acquisition, cataloging and standardization, organization and

management of library information systems, library information services, automation and digitalization, open access to scientific information.

The presented by Bilyana Yavrukova documentations and materials proved the fulfillment of the minimum scientific-metric national requirements under Article 2b from Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the requirements for occupying the academic position “Associated Professor” under the regulations and rules for its implementation at Sofia University.

A total of 17 publications were presented, incl. 2 monographs. From all of the works, 1 is indexed in the Web of Science, 1 in INION, 1 in CEEOL. Three of the presented articles were published in English.

It is necessary to emphasize that in the documentation are duly presented references for indexed and cited publications of Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova. They prove the knowledge and presence of her works in scientific communication.

### **Achievements and original scientific contributions (major scientific and applied contributions)**

In the presented works for participation in the competition for “Associate Professor” in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) six relevant thematic areas stand out: Organization and management of library and information systems (publications 1, 2, monographs - "Development of Bulgarian tools for building library and information systems: Construction of the catalogue system of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" (2022); "Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of library funds" (2021), 8, 10, 14, 15, 16); 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 15); Acquisition of library funds (publications 4, 5, 17); Standardization of library processes (publications 1, 2, 6, 11); Library and information services (publications 3, 5) , 12, 16); Evaluation of Research (Publications 7, 9).

Making sense of her scientific output, B. Yavrukova systematizes thirteen original scientific contributions and eight scientific-applied contributions that I perceive. I recommend that in the future presentation of the scientific achievements of the author to achieve a more synthesized

statement and to summarize in one formulation some of the scientific and scientific-applied contributions (such as contributions below № 5 in both sections).

Here I will focus on the original and contributory nature of the two major works presented for that competition.

The monography "Development of the Bulgarian tools for building library and information systems: Building the catalogue system of the University Library" St. Kliment Ohridski "(2022) [№1] fills a gap in the Bulgarian scientific literature. The new knowledge is in tracking the consistent development of the tools for creating library and information systems in Bulgaria, as well as their application in the construction of the catalogues of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski". Trends for the development of tools for the development and improvement of library and information systems and for the creation of bibliographic records worldwide are outlined and guidelines for their improvement in Bulgaria are proposed. The author also formulates guidelines for the development of library and information databases in the University Library at Sofia University.

The second monographic study entitled "Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of library collections" (2021) [2] is a timely and necessary book for the needs of library and information education, theory and practice in our country. The monograph for the first time thoroughly examines the development of bibliographic control and its importance in the implementation of the processes of retrospective conversion and digitalization. The shared experience and the proposed experimental model for a common organizational program for the implementation of retrospective conversion and digitalization of funds in the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" - are valuable for researchers and practitioners.

Dignity of several publications of Dr. Yavrukova is the promotion of the achievements of the University Library at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in various areas of its activity (publications 1, 2, 8, 10, 15, 16 and others). These scientific texts, with their analyzes, summaries, conclusions, lessons learned and presentation of good practices - become part of the institutional history of the largest Bulgarian academic library. At the same time, they are useful for students in understanding the challenges and real cases of the modern work environment in libraries.

As a Deputy Director of the University Library, Dr. Yavrukova is engaged in: annual presentation of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski" and the services and resources

offered by it to the first year students in the specialties “Library and Information Sciences” and “Public Information Systems”; with the presentation of the path of the book in the University Library to the students at Library and Information Sciences bachelor’s degree program; with the support of the practice of the students at UL, incl. and by preparing training materials, conducting training and checking the completed tasks in the work of students in the Bulgarian Citation Index; with the training of students to work with the integrated library and information system ALEPH 500 and to create bibliographic records within the NALIS project. Dr. Yavrukova's cooperation with the academic education in the field of Library and Information Sciences was highly appreciated by awarding a Diploma (in 2013) from the Faculty of Philosophy at Sofia University for fruitful cooperation and contribution to the introduction of young librarians in the professional environment.

### **Recommendations**

Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova purposefully accumulates her professional and scientific achievements in the field of acquisition, cataloging and standardization, organization and management of library information systems, library information services, automation and digitalization, open access to scientific information. Her professional experience is significant, and my recommendation is to focus on writing a textbook or textbook with practical cases and exercises in support of teaching in academic forms of education and in various continuing education trainings for professionals.

### **Conclusion**

The scientific works presented by Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova for participation in the competition for academic position “Associate Professor” are selected in view of their thematic and conceptual connection with the announced competition. The summary of the publications correctly systematizes and reflects to the achieved original research results.

Her profile of a competent scientist, lecturer and practitioner in the relevant thematic area is complemented by achievements in project and expert activities.

The merits and the conformity of the application are also proved by the data in Appendix № 12 of the documentation: “Information on the fulfillment of the minimum scientific-metric national requirements under Article 2b from Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in

the Republic of Bulgaria (Social Sciences, Economics and Law, professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences), by Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova - Candidate for Academic Position Associate Professor”.

The overall review of the scientific, pedagogical, and applied activities of Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova gives me reason to believe that her candidacy for associate professor in the field of higher education 3. Social, Economic and Legal Sciences, professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) is convincing and is in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” ’s regulations for applying the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

My opinion is positive that Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova deserves to occupy the academic position “Associate Professor”.

15/06/2022

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