

REVIEW

From: *Associate Professor Dr. Marina Encheva Encheva, University of Library Studies and Information Technologies (ULSIT)*

Professional area 3.5. Public communications and information sciences, scientific specialty “Library and information technologies”

Subject: Competition for **Associate Professor** in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, published in SG no. 21 of 15.03.2022

1. Information for the competition

The competition is for a half-time employment and was announced for the needs of the University Library. I am a member of the scientific jury for the competition in compliance with Order № RD-38-188/ 08.04.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov.

2. Brief information about the applicants in the competition

There is one applicant for the announced competition: Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova. She has been a long-time employee of the University Library (since 2001), where she has worked successively as a librarian in the Interlibrary Loan Department and Head of the Book Exchange Department, and since 2008 she has been the Deputy Director of the Library.

The teaching work of Dr. Yavrukova at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” is related to conducting seminars within the course “Library Science and Bibliography”, Bachelor's degree of Archival and Documentary Studies, as well as with the management of the teaching practice of the Bachelor's students in Library and Information Sciences. She defended her PhD thesis on “Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of funds” and in 2016 was awarded a PhD degree in Public Communications and Information Sciences (Book Studies, Library Science and Bibliography). Participates in significant national research projects and has passed additional training courses at Bulgarian and foreign institutions. Apart from being an active participant in technical committees of the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization and in the work of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association, Bilyana Yavrukova is also an expert from Bulgaria in a number of activities of the International Organization for Standardization.

3. Fulfillment of the requirements for occupation of the academic position

3.1. Fulfillment of quantitative requirements

The attached documents of the candidate show that she fulfills the quantitative indicators for scientific production, teaching and project activities for holding the academic position of Associate Professor. Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova fulfills the National Minimum Requirements, according to the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria

(Article 2b) and the Rules for its application (Article 1a, paragraph 1). The number of points of the candidate is 473,3 with a minimum of 400 points.

3.2. Fulfillment of qualitative requirements

Biliana Yavrukova is constantly improving her skills by participating in a number of courses organized by prestigious educational institutions, as well as in exchange of experience with librarians from university libraries in Europe. Her expert participation in important library initiatives and activities at national and international level is also impressive, which is a recognition of her professionalism and significant practical and research experience. Dr. Yavrukova is a member of the team of the biggest research projects in Bulgaria in the field of library and information sciences, which shows her qualities as a researcher and her ability to work in a team. The stated facts prove convincingly that the candidate fulfills the quality requirements for holding the academic position „Associate Professor in the professional field 3.5 Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources).

4. Assessment of the educational and teaching activity

Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova teaches at Sofia University „St. Kliment Ohridski“ since 2012. She has been a seminar leader in a basic discipline in the field of library and information sciences (“Library Science and Bibliography”), intended for students in a Bachelor's program of the Faculty of History at the University. Over the years, as a specialist with many years of library experience, she is engaged in the responsible task of organizing the teaching practice of the students in “Library and Information Sciences” at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. Therefore, it is no coincidence that the candidate in this competition is a holder of a diploma of the Faculty of Philosophy for fruitful cooperation and contribution to the introduction of young librarians in the professional environment. The content of the training courses led by Dr. Yavrukova is in accordance with the topic of the announced competition for the academic position of Associate Professor at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”. She is a competent and respected university teacher. He has the necessary experience and teaching skills to hold the academic position of Associate Professor in the competition.

5. Brief description of the submitted scientific works/ publications of the candidate

Dr. Yavrukova participates in the current competition with scientific productions, including a total of 17 publications: a habilitation monograph: “Development of the Bulgarian tools for building library and information systems. Construction of the catalog system of the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski””; 1 book based on the thesis for the award of educational and scientific degree “Doctor”; 1 article published in scientific journal, referenced and indexed in world-famous databases of scientific information (Scopus, Web of Science); 14 articles and papers published in non-peer-reviewed journals with scientific review or published in edited collective volumes. Three of the presented articles were published in English. The publications are directly related to the topic and the professional area in which the current competition was announced, so I accept them as relevant for participation in it.

The issues of organization and management of information resources in university libraries are central to the research interests of Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova and her publications prove her

professional competence and accumulated knowledge. The scientific works of Dr. Yavrukova can be grouped in the following main thematic areas in which her research work has been focused in recent years: 1) standardization and organization of cataloging activities in Bulgaria and development of catalogs of the University Library; 2) optimization of the processes of acquisition in the libraries and creation of digital collections; 3) the role of libraries in the application of tools for evaluating the research process and the effectiveness of scientific results; 4) analysis of the information needs of the users of university libraries and open access to scientific publications.

The monograph of the candidate in the competition has an impressive volume of 311 pages. It is dedicated to an up-to-date and underdeveloped issue. Although there are a number of studies on the tools for creating library and information systems in Bulgaria, they do not cover such a wide time span and do not focus on the research problem discussed in detail by Bilyana Yavrukova in her monograph, namely the possibilities for improving the library information systems being built by automating the library catalogs. Crucial to the success of such initiatives is the state of the rules and standards for bibliographic description, as well as classification tables and subject heading, which is analyzed in depth by the author. In the monograph, which consists of four main chapters, it is also impressive the precise periodization made in view of the development of the tools for creating library and information systems and the types of catalogs under construction. The development of the instruments at national level in each of the chapters is illustrated by their specific application in the major Bulgarian libraries as emphasis is placed on the development of the catalog system of the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski". The whole monograph is of interest to both theorists and practitioners in the field of cataloging and building library information systems and this is an important advantage. It is written professionally and competently, as comprehensively and systematically as possible.

The other publications of Dr. Yavrukova also analyze important, current and discussion issues in the field of organization and management of information resources such as: retrospective conversion and digitalization of library collections; standards in the field of library and information sciences; library and information networks and shared cataloging; the tools for scientometric analysis in the Bulgarian research space; the application of library tools in the construction of repositories for open access resources, etc.

In the systematization of the presented results from the research activity I would like to distinguish: the in-depth analysis of the existing rules, standards, classification tables and subject rubrics and their application in the catalogs of the big Bulgarian libraries; the study of the overall development of the catalog system of the University Library; summarizing the possibilities for publishing open access through the so-called transforming licensing agreements; analyzing the potential of Bulgarian libraries for the introduction of innovative services for users based on the used software products for organization and management of all types of resources; the presentation of the policy for selection of library resources for digitalization at the University Library "St. Kliment Ohridski".

6. Synthesized assessment of the candidate's major scientific and practical contributions

The scientific publications of Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova show consistency and systematics in research on the organization and management of information resources, as well as on the development of the Bulgarian tools for building library and information systems.

The correct use of research tools from various fields of knowledge is impressive, as well as the desire of the candidate to interpret the multifaceted problems of an important and relevant field, such as the development of catalog systems of large libraries. I would like to recommend Dr.

Yavrukova to continue to expand her research on this underdeveloped research problem.

I accept the main scientific contributions made by the candidate. They are correctly formulated and substantiated by the content of the presented scientific publications, offer new and enrich the existing knowledge, allowing the application of scientific achievements in the practice. The long-term effect that is sought is to support libraries of different size and profile in implementing strategies for building library information and cataloging systems.

7. Critical comments and recommendations

I do not have critical comments about the scientific publications presented by the applicant for the participation in the competition.

8. Conclusions

The assessments presented in the opinion for the research, teaching and teaching activities of Dr. Yavrukova are reason to state with conviction that the submitted application fully complies with the requirements of the Law on the Research, Teaching and Teaching Activities of Dr. degrees and holding academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ". I am convinced with a positive vote that the candidate in the competition, Ph.D. Assistant Professor Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova to take the academic position of "Associate Professor" in the professional field 3.5 Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski ".

The assessments presented in the opinion for the research and teaching activities of Dr. Yavrukova are reason to state with conviction that the submitted application fully complies with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Rules for the implementation of this law and the Rules for the organization and conducting competitions for the acquisition of a scientific degree and for the occupation of academic positions at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". I am confident with the positive vote for the candidate in the competition Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova to take the academic position of Associate Professor in the professional field 3.5 Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski".

Associate Professor Dr. Marina Encheva

16 June 2022

Sofia