
SOFIA UNIVERSITY “ST. KLIMENT OHRIDSKI“
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY
DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARY SCIENCE, SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION
AND CULTURAL POLICY

OPINION

of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aneta Doncheva Doncheva

for the competition for the academic position "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 21, March 15, 2022 by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) with an only candidate **Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova**

1. Presentation of the candidate

Dr. Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova is the only candidate for the competition for the academic position of "Associate Professor", announced in the State Gazette, issue 21, March 15, 2022 by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the professional field 3.5. Public communications and information sciences (Organization and management of information resources).

She currently holds the position of Deputy Director of the University Library of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" (University Library).

1.1. Education and training

Dr. Bilyana Yavrukova is a bachelor and master from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", Faculty of Philosophy, Department of Library Science, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy. In 2016 she defended her doctoral dissertation on the topic of the dissertation "Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of funds."

Her professional realization began as a librarian in 2001 at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski", in the University Library, in the Interlibrary Loan Department. He was successively Head of the Book Exchange Department and then Deputy Director.

1.2. Teaching activities

In the Department of Library Science, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy, in the specialty "Library and Information Sciences", Dr. B. Yavrukova has been leading the bachelor's degree practice for several years.

He is currently teaching undergraduate courses in Library Science and Bibliography, Sofia University, Faculty of History, majoring in Archival and Documentary Studies.

Here I would like to note some facts that I consider especially important for the future and successful teaching and teaching activities of Dr. B. Yavrukova. She has acquired knowledge not only in the field of library theory, but also has extensive experience in the field of applied library science and library practice. During her student years, but also during her work at the University Library, she participated in numerous international qualification courses and training seminars. Get acquainted with the best practices in many leading libraries in Romania, Poland, Germany.

I personally know and appreciate the work of Dr. B. Yavrukova in two important organizations for libraries - the Bulgarian Library and Information Association (BLIA), where she works as an individual member and has worked as a member of the board and chairman of the section of scientific libraries. the period December 2012 - June 2015 and in TC 16 "Archival, library and information activities" at the Bulgarian Institute for Standardization (BDS). She has a great contribution to the development of standardization in archival, library and information activities as an expert representative of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski "in TC 16 and as an expert from Bulgaria in ISO / TC 46 / SC 8 in the development of international standards in the field of libraries.

1.3. Participation in research projects

Dr. B. Yavrukova actively participates in various research projects related to the development of library collections, information resources and library networks such as: - thematic project "Creating a database of filigree from the old printed books of the XIX century from the collections of the University. Library and CSVP "Ivan Duychev" - basis for dating manuscripts from the same period ", funded by the Research Fund of Sofia University - project" Design and development of a prototype information system "Index for citations of publications by Bulgarian authors (public Sciences) ", funded by the Research Fund (2017-2020); - NALIS Project - National Academic Library and Information System (2009-2016), funded by the America for Bulgaria Foundation.

2. Publications. Description of the submitted publications for the competition.

The presented list of all publications of Dr. B. Yavrukova contains 29 copies, of which monographs - 2 copies; publications in scientific journals and collections - 27 issues. This list is supplemented with translations - 4; translations and editing of translations of international standards in the capacity of a member of TC 16 to BDS - 10; interviews, reviews and other articles - 7; editorial activity - 3; participation in conferences, seminars and others with reports and presentations - 15 pcs.

For the current competition Dr. B. Yavrukova has submitted for review digital copies of her scientific papers. Attached is a list of publications submitted for participation in the competition for "Associate Professor", which are grouped as follows:

I. Monographs - 2;

II. Articles - 15.

Total - 17 scientific papers.

3. Scientific activity. Evaluation of scientific publications. Contributions.

From the description of the materials for the competition it is clear that the candidate has indicated original research papers, publications and applied research, which are subject to evaluation as a whole. The scientific production presented for review in its scope and structure allows to assess the qualities of the candidate as a researcher, and her professional biography reveals a skillful combination of scientific and practical activities in the field of library science and librarianship and meets the conditions of Section III 53, para 1-5 of the Regulations for application of the Law for the development of the academic staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

3.1. Habilitation work

The main work of Dr. B. Yavrukova with which she participated in the competition for associate professor is the habilitation thesis *"Development of the Bulgarian tools for building library and information systems: Building the catalog system of the University Library" St. Kliment Ohridski "* (№1 in the List of Publications).

The habilitation thesis was published as a monograph by the University Publishing House "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 2022, which was reviewed by Prof. Tsvetanka Pancheva and Assoc. Prof. Milena Milanova. The monograph has a volume of 311 pages (text and appendices).

The work presents the many observations and summaries of the author, based on in-depth studies of theory and practice in the formation of library catalogs and catalog systems in Bulgaria. The study traces the consistent application of catalogs and catalog systems in the creation of the reference apparatus of major Bulgarian libraries and especially the oldest and largest - University Library.

The author demonstrates a lot of knowledge on a fundamental area in library activities, such as cataloging. These submissions provide an opportunity to trace the development of the problems from the first steps to create catalogs in Bulgarian libraries in the period 1878-1944, through the standardization of cataloging activities in Bulgaria in the period 1944-1990 to the period of introduction of automation processes. of library catalogs and their transformation into information resources. The last chapter of the paper examines the current state of information resources created by libraries and their development in the digital environment, or as the author calls it, the "digital ecosystem".

For the high evaluation of the work and the contribution moments in it we apply the following arguments:

- The research is objective because it is based on library information systems and the types of catalogs of leading libraries in our country. It is well thought out and relevant, given the development of modernity technologies and communications and the changes they impose in library information systems.

- The work is well structured and balanced, significant in content. The exceptional correctness to the sources stands out. The author's respect for the work of a number of

Bulgarian researchers and librarians, who worked for the construction of catalogs and catalog systems in Bulgarian libraries, is clearly evident in the work. The goals and methodology of the research are clearly formulated. The work is fruitful because it examines comprehensively and in their sequence the processes and especially the connections and relationships within the library and information systems of our libraries. This really gives the opportunity to summarize the theory and practice in the field of cataloging of Bulgarian libraries, but also to outline the ways of its future development in the digital environment.

- The work has a great contribution to the presentation of standards, standardization activities and terminology in the construction of library and information systems. It is proved how, based on their use in cataloging processes, their importance for the development of the toolkit increases, especially in the constantly changing technological and communication environment.

- The paper draws important conclusions about the development of Bulgarian libraries and the presentation of their library and information systems. I fully support, for example, the conclusion that in this area "... Bulgarian libraries follow the path of development of world libraries, going through all stages of creating library catalogs, and librarians in each of the periods know in detail and in depth the world's tools. for the creation of library information systems and apply them in their practice regardless of financial, ideological and political constraints and obstacles ...".

3.2. Monographs

The monograph "*Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitalization of library collections*". (№2 in the *List of Publications*) was created on the basis of a defended dissertation in 2016.

In the monograph the author sets herself a very difficult task - to study the application of bibliographic control in the processes of retrospective conversion and building a digital library in the context of Bulgarian reality. For this purpose, she conducts a number of theoretical studies and analyzes and presents possible experimental models, incl. organizational programs. In the separate parts and chapters of the monograph are studied and presented:

- research and analysis of the nature and importance of bibliographic control and its role in the process of retrospective conversion and digitization of library holdings (development of the concept of bibliographic control; retrospective conversion in major world libraries; bibliographic control and digitization of library holdings; metadata schema libraries, etc.);

- research and analysis of the development of bibliographic control and its application in the processes of retrospective conversion and digitalization in Bulgarian libraries and this study is related to the world level;

- presentation of an experimental model for a common organizational program in libraries with a branch structure based on the experience of the University of Sofia.

Several years before the defense of the dissertation of Dr. B. Yavrukova and in the period until the publication of the above monograph, in Bulgarian libraries are very intensive processes of retrospective conversion and digitalization of library collections. They are caused by the stormy desire to introduce new technologies in libraries around the world. Unfortunately, many of these processes were quite "amateurish", uncoordinated, and most importantly, a lack of knowledge of international practice and standards. Therefore, I believe that the monograph of Dr. B. Yavrukova appeared at the right time, it has an exceptional contribution to the development of theory and the development of good practices in Bulgarian libraries based on knowledge.

3.3. Articles

The articles in periodicals and collections, presented by Dr. B. Yavrukova for participation in the competition for associate professor, are selected in view of their thematic and conceptual connection with the main research conducted by her in recent years. The articles submitted for participation in the competition will be reviewed in view of their relevance, innovation and usefulness for the research and development of the respective grouped thematic areas, namely:

A. Acquisition and cataloging of library funds

Here are presented publications in two major areas of the theory and practice of libraries, in which Dr. B. Yavrukova has extensive professional experience and has accumulated serious observations and research.

In the field of *acquisition*, two publications stand out, one revealing the place of book exchange in the acquisition of library funds and the other related to the acquisition of academic libraries. The article "*The Importance of Book Exchange for the Acquisition of Libraries*" (№17 in the List of Publications) shows a good knowledge of the problems in recent years - financial, organizational, content. At the same time, on the basis of the analysis and generalized experience for the book exchange in the University Library, the possible solutions in the future are indicated. The "*Trends in the Acquisition of Academic Libraries*" (№4 in the List of Publications) deals with the problems of the transformation of collections and collections under the weight of the volume of electronic sources and electronic information. The problems are analyzed more widely, because there is a connection with the ongoing acquisition of resources on paper.

In the field of *cataloging* we pay attention to the publications related to the development of the catalogs in the University Library "*Development of the catalogs of the University Library*" St. Kliment "(№8 in the List of Publications) and "*Retrospective conversion and the process of digitalization based on the experience of Sofia university library*" St. Kliment Ohridski "(№15 in the List of Publications). These articles show the ways in which this large Bulgarian library has made a complete retrospective conversion of its catalogs through its participation in the project "National Academic Library and Information System" (NALIS). The publications present the processes of retrospective conversion, as well as the way it is used in the digitization of library collections.

There is also a contribution to the article *"The new framework for bibliographic control or the future of cataloging"* (№13 in the List of Publications), because it presents the still unknown and meaningless in our theory and practice tool BIBFRAME, whose main purpose is to create , storage and reuse of bibliographic and normative records through shared cataloging.

B. Organization and management of library information systems and services

In this section, the publications address many issues that have been thoroughly explored. Two publications address the extremely important issues related to cooperation and coordination in the construction of consolidated catalogs and shared cataloging. The article *"NALIS Project - New Opportunities for Libraries in Bulgaria"* (№14 in the List of Publications) analyzes the main goals and steps in building a consolidated catalog of academic libraries. Later in the article *"Shared cataloging and the role of library and information networks"* (№3 in the List of Publications) analyzes the situation to support the exchange of bibliographic and regulatory data between libraries by comparing the main technological tools used in the process of shared cataloging.

The provision of new library and information services is covered in its entire spectrum - from the analysis of the results of a survey of lecturers and PhD students at Sofia University, which examined the level of knowledge of resources and services offered by the library - in the article *"Study of information needs of lecturers and doctoral students at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski"* (№12 in the List of Publications), through the response to the information needs of scientists, discovered and analyzed in the article *" University Libraries and their role in the process of transition to open access to scientific publications "*(№5 in the List of Publications) to the possibilities of the integrated library-information system of the library and the developed services for the readers, implemented through it in the article *"ALEPH 500 and the new services in the University Library" St. Kliment Ohridski "*(№16 in the List of Publications). Of interest for the service are also presented in the publication *"Online and offline digital collections of the University Library" St. Kliment Ohridski "*(№10 in the List of Publications) 15 digital collections available online and *" Zografska Electronic Research Library "*, which is available only offline.

C. Standardization and standardization activity

As we noted above in the opinion, Dr. B. Yavrukova has a great contribution to the development of standards and standardization activities in Bulgarian libraries.

This is also proved by the publications submitted for the competition, e.g. The article *"New standards in the field of library and information sciences"* (№6 in the List of Publications) gives the latest standards in the field of library and information science, explaining the importance of each of them for specific library activities and how they can improve the operation of libraries.

The article *"Standardization of cataloging activities in Bulgarian libraries"* (№11 in the List of Publications, co-author M. Milanova) traces the development of standardization in the field of

bibliographic description in Bulgaria. The challenges for the Bulgarian library specialists and the need to increase the level of standardization in their activity are also pointed out.

D. Evaluation of research

Two publications are presented here - "*The impact of national citation indexes in the research evaluation process*". (№7 in the List of Publications, co-authors M. Milanova and E. Belcheva-Lozanova), indexed in the Web of Science and the article "*Contemporary problems in reporting the effectiveness of scientific results - Scopus, Web of Science, and the national citation indexes*" (№9 in the List of Publications, co-authors O. Harizanova and A. Angelova), who study the problems of the lack of scientometric integrated national database for all scientific disciplines in the Bulgarian research space. An innovative approach is applied in the various problems considered, which the project "Design and development of a prototype of the information system" Index of citations of publications of Bulgarian authors (social sciences) "- tracking citations, indexing of journals in the field of public and humanities in our country in the most famous databases, etc.

4. Citation of the candidate's publications in the national and foreign literature (publication image)

From the attached Reference for open citations of publications of Dr. Biliana Andreeva Yavrukova in connection with participation in a competition it can be seen that the bibliographic citations are found in databases and in the traditional way and own archive. A total of 12 citations from 6 publications were noted. Of the cited publications, 4 are indexed in the Web of science and 1 in the RINC.

5. Recommendations

I would recommend continuing the research related to the problems of library information systems and the introduction of the latest standards and tools for their construction.

6. Conclusion

The scientific papers presented for participation in the competition are sufficient in volume, structure and are in thematic areas within the scientific field in which Dr. B. Yavrukova is applying. Her scientific output contains significant contributions of theoretical-methodological and practical-applied nature, which have already been mentioned in the opinion above.

Dr. B. Yavrukova is a proven specialist in the field of librarianship, as her professional skills and competencies are related not only to the already mentioned areas but also to the organization and management of library activities, the optimization and efficiency of library activities; with international library relations and coordination of projects and programs.

The above scientific contributions, especially in the field of cataloging and organization and management of library information systems, in her publications give me reason to suggest to the distinguished members of the Scientific Jury of this competition to support the selection of Dr. Biliana Andreeva Yavrukova for holding the academic position of

"Associate Professor" announced in the State Gazette, issue 21, March 15, 2022 by Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in the professional field 3.5. Public Communications and Information Sciences (Organization and Management of Information Resources) according to the Law on the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria and the Regulations for its implementation.

June 15, 2022.

Sofia

Member of the jury:

(Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aneta Doncheva)