

REVIEW

COMPETITION FOR ACADEMIC POSITION “ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR”

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)

Reviewer: Prof. Olya Borisova Harizanova, Dr Habil / Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”



The review is in connection with an Order No RD-38-188/08.04.2022 of the Rector of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” according to an announced competition in the State Gazette, issue 21 of 15.03.2022.

Only one candidate has submitted documents for participation in the competition – Bilyana Andreeva Yavrukova, PhD.

All required documents and materials have been submitted for an opinion in time. The provided documents and materials are in accordance with the requirements of the Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria, the Regulations for its implementation and the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.



GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE APPLICANT

The candidate in the competition for “Associate Professor” Bilyana Yavrukova has acquired an educational and scientific degree (PhD) in 2016 at the Department of Library Studies, Scientific Information and Cultural Policy (Sofia University, Faculty of Philosophy). She studied at bachelor’s and master’s degree in Library and Information Sciences at the same department. Over the years, she has participated in five upskilling training and four experience-sharing initiatives.

Since 2001 she has been working at the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski” – initially as a librarian, then as head of the “Book exchange” department, currently – deputy director.

She has participated in the implementation of three projects, each of which is significant for the development of the library system in the country.

Bilyana Yavrukova is currently a member of a total of nine scientific and professional organizations. Now she is an individual member of the Bulgarian Library and Information Association. She was chairman of the section of scientific libraries of this organization (2012-2015), and a member of its management board (2015-2018). Her participation as an expert in the International Organisation for Standardisation, actively involved from 2020 to the present, is particularly significant.

Bilyana Yavrukova received two awards – for Young Librarian of the Year (2010) and for contribution to the introduction of young library specialists in the professional environment (2013).

Her teaching activity began in 2012. Bilyana Yavrukova mainly conducts trainings in the specialty Library and Information Sciences (Sofia University, Faculty of Philosophy) and trainings in the specialty Archival and Documentary Studies (Sofia University, Faculty of History). In the academic year 2014-2015 she was the head of an internship in the bachelor's degree in Library and Information Sciences. In addition, Yavrukova is actively involved in training students to use information resources, including those available at the University Library. The materials for participation in the competition are accompanied by the necessary evidence certifying her participation so far in the training of students.

I know the candidate personally from working together on a project, as a co-author in joint publications and in her capacity as deputy director of the University Library. In our joint work Yavrukova has always exhibited professionalism, collegiality, creative potential and original ideas.

ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICANT'S SCIENTIFIC WORK

For participation in the competition for associate professor the candidate has presented an impressive number and quality of publications – a total of 17, of which two monographs and 15 articles. Three of the articles are published in English. One of the articles is indexed in the Web of Science, one – in CEEOL, one – in INION. Relevant references for the above-mentioned indexed articles are available in the materials for participation in the competition, as well as for cited publications (a total of 12 citations, 10 of which in peer-reviewed editions).

The candidate in the competition actively participates in scientific communication not only with publications in scientific journals. She made an impression on her participation in various scientific events. For example, until 2019 she participated in a total of 15 scientific conferences, predominantly with plenary reports.

The reference annexed to the documentation for the implementation of the minimum national requirements (Art. 2b, Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria) is correct. With its scientific, research and applied activities, Bilyana Yavrukova meets these requirements.

CANDIDATE'S ACHIEVEMENTS

After a thorough review of the materials for participation in the competition, I can conclude that Bilyana Yavrukova is an established researcher with clearly defined scientific interests in problems for which there are not many specialists in our country. That is why her research and achievements are important both for the scientific field and for the development of the Bulgarian library system.

The publications submitted for evaluation (listed below according to the serial number in the list of publications for participation in the competition) are grouped in the following thematic areas:

- publications with Nos 1, 2, 8, 10, 14, 15, 16 – organization and management of library and information systems;
- publications with Nos 1, 2, 3, 8, 11, 13, 15 – cataloguing;
- publications with Nos 4, 5, 17 – assembly of library funds;
- publications with Nos 1, 2, 6, 11 – standardisation of library processes;
- publications with Nos 3, 5, 12, 16 – library and information services;
- publications with Nos 7, 9 – evaluation of research.

All publications for participation in the competition were not subject to evaluation in other competitions. All publications are of undeniable quality. The authorship and contributions of Bilyana Yavrukova are clearly outlined.

The monographic work (publication No 1), which Bilyana Yavrukova has provided as a habilitation, is titled *“Development of the Bulgarian toolkit for the construction of library and information systems: Construction of the catalogue system of the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski”* (2022, ISBN 978-619-00-1435-5). In it, the author traces the development of tools for creating library and information systems in Bulgaria, as well as their application in building catalogues of the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The main content is structured in four chapters. A correct presentation of the key periods of development of the respective instruments has been achieved.

Significant contributions to the monograph include:

- the described tools for creating library information systems at the national level, as well as the presentation of their application in major Bulgarian libraries;
- the systematic presentation of rules, standards, classification tables, subject headings and their application in the catalogues of major Bulgarian libraries;
- the researched and analysed first attempts to implement automation of both individual library processes and the entire library activity;
- the chronological presentation of the development of the catalogue system of the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski” and the highlighted tools applied in this system.

The second monographic work (publication No2) is titled *“Bibliographic control in the process of retrospective conversion and digitization of library funds”* (2021, ISBN 978-619-00-1435-5). The first part of the paper traces the development of universal bibliographic control, the desire to unify and standardize bibliographic descriptions, their application in the cataloguing practice of libraries, retrospective conversion processes and their importance, the relationship between retrospective conversion and digitalization of funds, etc. The second part is dedicated to the development of bibliographic control in Bulgaria and contains an assessment of its current state in relation to the world level.

Many contributions stand out in this work. For example, it presents for the first time the results of an analysis of the types of retrospective conversion and the methods for its implementation. Various models have been proposed that can be used by Bulgarian libraries when planning a retrospective conversion. As a significant contribution of labour, I will point out the developed model for a common organizational program for the implementation of retrospective conversion and digitization of the example of funds in the University Library “St. Kliment Ohridski”. The model describes all the stages of retrospective conversion and the steps in building digital collections. To this should be added the indisputable fact that the monograph systematizes important aspects of a current problem for libraries regarding the standardization, conversion and digitalization of funds.

In general, the 17 scientific publications are on current issues, most of them are new for our country research and development, contain correct analyses, essential summaries and conclusions, described good practices. They contribute to the development of the scientific field, to the generation of discussions among the scientific community, they help the professional community.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the materials for the competition have a reference to the scientific contributions of B. Yavrukova. The contributions are described in two groups: scientific contributions and scientific-applied contributions. To the first group are formulated 13 contributions with mentioned publications, in which they stand out, and to the second group – 8 contributions with mentioned publications. I accept the contributions indicated in the report.

CONCLUSION

After a thorough acquaintance with the documents and materials submitted for opinion, I can conclude that they meet the regulatory requirements for the academic position of associate professor: research, scientific, scientific-applied and publishing activities of Bilyana Yavrukova meet the criteria and the requirements specified in the Law on its implementation in the Regulations for its implementation and in the Regulations of Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski” for application of Law on the Development of the Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria.

The presented scientific papers are sufficient in volume and are in the thematic areas of the competition. The publications are characterized by topicality, precision of the studied many sources, research, examples from practice, original and relevant to the scientific community new and / or refined summaries, contribute to the acquisition of new knowledge or improved knowledge, evidence of expertise.



I recommend 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).

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Sofia

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