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Problems and Means of Improving Professional Education for Librarians on the Basis of the New Kinds of Bibliographic Products that are the Library's Intellectual Property

Abstracts: The problems of education quality in the librarian sphere are investigated; approaches to seeking solutions for the questions of knowledge assessment of the librarian-employees are shown on the basis of the newly-created Crimean information products on electronic media.

Nowadays the interrelation between the professional librarian education and the labour market has increased. This problem requires special attention and a prompt solution in terms of the lack of such specialists in Ukraine. Unfortunately, it is obvious that in the nearest 5 years there is no solution for it because of the insufficient intake of the chairs that prepare specialists for this field.

Besides it is understandable that even after having got such education a young librarian won't be needed and his career expectations won't be lived up, if he doesn't have the required level of knowledge and skills that allows to show himself as a professional from the first day at a new post, who is ready to work with new information products. Having been a student for a long time, he won't be able to demand high salary and that would encourage losing the professional education's prestige and would make him look for a new job, probably not in a library.

That's why libraries suffer the lack of young qualified specialists. This situation worsens by the constantly growing age threshold of the librarian administration and of the average managers. The development of the librarian field, including the Crimean one, is impeded by the absence of the criteria for the evaluation of services granted to a modern user based on the new methods of administration and new technologies. A gradual devaluation of the libraries' prestige takes place that gives rise to a bright tendency of the new organizations entering the market – the organizations that grant information services and products but are not connected with the librarian field. The quality and volume of these products especially on electronic media are so impressive that even the biggest libraries, that are financed enough, have a good pecuniary base and a big staff potential, depend on them.

If this situation does not change as soon as possible, the libraries will lose this opportunity forever without creation of any significant amount of the information products on electronic media and without the right to present it in the global net.

The most important is that they will depend on the private institutions (publishing houses, firms, corporations), the services and products of which are constantly growing and going up and the access to which is constantly simplifying. The last fact directs the modern user from libraries to the institutions mentioned above. That's why such situation is disadvantageous and unprofitable for the libraries. It means that for increasing its information potential on electronic media to satisfy the users' demands a library has to buy these quite expensive products but it may use them only in the inner local nets. Naturally, it loses its positions, which define it as a modern social institution that satisfies the society's information demands, even if it has paid and cut off the remote users.

In connection with that the society doesn't hasten to stimulate either the libraries' development or the pecuniary base of the institutes of higher education that prepare specialists for them. There are many examples of that. There is also a question whether this problem may be solved. May it happen that "some libraries helping informatization" will stay at the same place lively discussing the problem but doing nothing? And how long will the administrators of such institutions beg money of the state (and of us - the taxpayers) for the information documentary

potential growth and delay solving the main problem – the formation of highly professional librarian staff? The staff able to create information products by themselves should be formed so that the library and the authors would have the full copyright for usage. When will the problem of salary of a librarian, that has got professional education and works on his speciality, be differentially and really solved (now it is absolutely unworthy and not only from the point of view of a young specialist)? When will the problem of quantitative and diverse services for a modern user, that prefers to get the full text of a needed document on the spot, become the main evaluation criterion of the library's and its administrator's work?

The list of problems is long and this situation increases manifold the responsibility of institutes of higher education for the quality of the education and it must direct the students to high final result of educating activity. First of all, that means that institutes of higher education should have multipurpose technically equipped teaching base in order to achieve the European education criteria including high technologic and information levels. It especially concerns the education institutions that prepare specialists connected with information technologies, among them there are librarians-bibliographers.

Unfortunately, it was impossible to name at least one high technological base preparing specialists for the librarian field in the region both when the periodical's ("Culture of the People's of Prichernomor'ya") bibliographic indexes were published for the first time (in 2003) and now (in the end of 2008) when the whole number had been formed and the attached full-text collection was one of the biggest in Ukraine and one the most available in the Crimea. That's why the level of young specialist's qualification does not correspond to the time demands. Even the work of scientific-methodological services of the Crimean libraries does not help the situation, though they participate in preparing specialists of this field sometimes directly (base of lessons, teaching, members of examiner boards) and sometimes indirectly, being an object of excursions. Such situation worsens because of the almost full absence of highly qualified specialists in the region, of specialists that would be able after graduation to transmit their knowledge to young librarians.

All the facts mentioned above must not sound proofless and must not seem to be criticism, it is just the pain for the favourite profession to which more than 30 years have been dedicated. That's why another attempt was made in order to show and promote the experience of solving such problems on the example of definite practice issues that the workers of the Center of Information Technologies of the Intercollegiate Center "Crimea" had to solve in connection with the scientific industrial necessity [3]. In this particular case that was done by the author of the next bibliographic index (the sixth one) Sergey Viktorovich Dudchenko [2].

When creating his first index, S.V. Dudchenko taught the whole group of young librarians. These specialists are now working as college librarian administrators (all of them are younger than 30) or the chief specialists of the scientific libraries' departments, where their main task is to form information on electronic media. He worked out the methodology of creating electronic copies of printed documents that at first was violently criticized and now is implemented in many libraries of Ukraine and CIS [1]. It is necessary to emphasize that while solving the more complicated tasks and researching the creation of electronic documents and collections, he didn't stop working on bibliographic indexes and is now consulting and teaching young specialists educated in our professional institutes. As it was in the beginning he takes into account every, even the most modest success of students in mastering the professional skills and always mentions their surnames in his own works.

Besides everyone, who has made a contribution to joint creation of any information product – an electronic index, library, photograph report, has always been mentioned on his recommendation or in introductions to the librarian editions or have their own copyright in the created information. Such clearness and distinctness in securing of work after its author helps to increase the responsibility of the librarian that is taught for the final results of his work and prevents him from expropriation, which, unfortunately, takes place quite often, when the result is scientifically and informationally significant or there is no result at all.

That's why the workers of the center try to vaccinate young specialists with the pride for their profession and show its intellectual part that reflects in a big number of our own publications with mentions of definite names and surnames and in our insistent involvement into realization of professional knowledge and assertion of young librarians' authorship. That's the reason for this bibliographic index having the second author – U.V. Makarova, which during the studies worked on the information part of the index.

The co-authorship in creation of electronic part of this index is its main distinctive feature. The impressive contribution of the first author is in the presentation of a young librarian not at the empiric level but as a highly qualified specialist with his work as a part of National electronic library of Ukraine.

It is difficult to overestimate such work of a young specialist but such solution is legitimate because the workers of the center had to eliminate many gaps in professional education, especially in mastering information librarian systems.

In their turn the workers of the center hope that the next presented result of teaching a young specialist and the information product itself will help to change the education strategy radically in the institutes of higher education preparing specialists at the librarian field. And format, size, contents, means of access to an index and the level of its presentation will assist in students' training, in training future librarians to be proud of their profession, will provide drive for perfection, positive attitude to himself/herself and to the professional environment that is so contradictory.

The main thing for libraries, especially for the scientific ones, that are methodological centers and work on qualification improvement, is that a new information full-text product will help to obtain a standard of labour results, which is so needed in assessment of employees' knowledge.

As a conclusion it should be said that the presented bibliographic index includes 453 analyses of the articles (with full-text electronic application) of the scientific magazine "The Culture of the People's of Prichernomor'ya" of 85-100 editions. It was published in the 147 edition of this magazine for the year 2008.

The methodology of its creation and the peculiarities of its formation were constantly improving and developing and after that they were described in details for several times in the preceding specialized librarian issues of this magazine. In this case it hasn't changed. As always, all the descriptions of the articles and the full texts were fixed at the database. The database may be found online at the page of the Center of Information Technologies of the IC "Crimea" at the address: <http://nbuv.gov.ua/ellib/crimea/> at the web site of the National library of Ukraine after V.I. Vernadsky. Until now it has included 5 thousand 600 units of storage (that is the second place in the National electronic library of Ukraine) [4].

References and Literature

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