

A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE
PUBLISHED IN POLAND

The Warsaw academic community has prepared a jubilee book dedicated to the outstanding librarian, Professor Elżbieta Barbara Zybert, on the occasion of the 45th anniversary of her scientific work. The publication, entitled *Wokół bibliotek i dziedzictwa kultury (Around libraries and cultural heritage)* (Kotowski, ed. 2021), contains thirty articles, among which – in addition to texts devoted to the celebrant – are articles from various fields in the area of social sciences and humanities including bibliology, librarianship, museology, history, and protection of cultural heritage, written by researchers from the University of Warsaw and other Polish universities. It is the intention of the publication's editors that the articles reflect the broad scientific interests and research passions of Elżbieta Barbara Zybert. The initial section of the volume, devoted to prof. Zybert, includes a list of her publications (Dorota Grabowska) and an analysis of her scientific achievements (Grzegorz Gmiterek, Adam Jachimczyk, Bartłomiej Włodarczyk, Jadwiga Woźniak-Kasperek). Other articles include a sketch by Bożena Koredczuk on bibliographic and librarian commissions from the second half of the 20th century and the beginning of the 21st century, reflections on the contemporary concept of museology (Dorota Folga-Januszewska), and a study on bibliophilia and private collections (Anna Tokarska). Two articles are devoted to the education of librarians at the University of Warsaw: a text by Robert Brzóska presenting the activities of Postgraduate Library Studies in the years 2000 – 2001, and an outline of the history of academic librarianship in Warsaw and its current state by Dariusz Grygowski.

Materials from the conference held September 9-10, 2021 on the occasion of the seventieth anniversary of the Białystok University of Technology Library were included in the publication *Biblioteki naukowe – doświadczenia przeszłości, wyzwania jutra (Scientific Libraries – Experiences of the Past, Challenges of Tomorrow)* (Gogiel-Kuźmicka, Kierejczuk, ed., 2022). The volume begins with a historical outline of the Białystok University of

Technology Library by Aneta Gogiel-Kuźmicka. The remaining texts are grouped into three thematic parts. In the first part, entitled *Organizacja i zadania bibliotek (Organization and tasks of libraries)*, the authors examine, among other things, the functioning of libraries during the pandemic, e.g. Marcin Pędich's article *Wykluczenie biblioteczne przed i w trakcie pandemii (Exclusion of libraries before and during the pandemic)*, the issue of presenting digital resources on the websites of Polish public universities (article by Dorota Buzdygan and Maria Pietrukowicz), and the changes in the role of the library in the structure of the university in the context of new legal regulations (text by Danuta Szewczyk-Kłós and Dorota Wierzbicka-Próchniak). The second part, *Biblioteki w służbie nauki (The library in the service of science)*, deals mainly with issues related to the evaluation of the quality of scientific activity of universities (including articles by Iwona Taborska and Grzegorz Szczypa). In the third part, devoted to the profession of the librarian, an article by Katarzyna Weinper and Łukasz Tomczak defines the competencies that a data librarian should have, characterizes their tasks, and presents the education of librarians conducted in the academic environment of the Lublin University of Technology in the direction of developing the skills of a data librarian specialist. In addition, this part of the publication presents the Academy of Leaders – training for the management staff of the University of Warsaw including the University of Warsaw Library (Magdalena Rowińska) – and discusses the phenomenon of job crafting in relation to libraries (Justyna Stępień).

The articles in the second volume of the publication *Wokół "Katechizmu biblioteki" Paula Ladewiga (Concerning Paul Ladewig's „Catechism of the Library")* (Gębołyś; Wodniak, ed. 2021), similarly to the first volume, are inspired by the thoughts of the outstanding German librarian and librarianship expert Paul Ladewig contained in his *Katechismus der Bücherei (the Catechism of the Library)*, a collection of maxims, aphorisms and thoughts on the functioning of libraries first published in 1914. The point of departure for each of the texts is at least one of Ladewig's selected thoughts. The articles are grouped in three parts. The first part, *Bibliotekarze (Librarians)*, opens with the article *Śladami Paula Ladewiga (Following in the footsteps of Paul Ladewig)* by Zdzisław Gębołyś, an expert on the ideas and achievements of Paul Ladewig and the translator of *Katechismus der Bücherei* into Polish. The author points out the places with which the German librarian was connected and describes his professional and scientific activity there. In the remaining articles in this part of the book, the authors deal with, for example, the issue of the presence and activity of women in the scientific life and library of the Jan Kazimierz University in Lviv (Ewa Goumissi), or current socio-legal determinants of the professional development of library employees in Poland (Małgorzata Bańkowska). Among the articles

of the second part, *Biblioteka (Library)*, the following deserves attention: an analysis of the results of research on the organizational culture of the Library of the Łódź University of Technology (Edyta Kołodziejczyk) and Mariusz Balcerek's considerations on the legitimacy of prioritizing entertainment at the expense of education in public libraries. The thematic diversity of the third part, entitled *Wokół informacji naukowej, książki i prasy (Around scientific information, books and the press)*, is represented by, among others, a critical analysis of quantitative research evaluation methods presented by Hungarian authors Attila Juhász and Erzsébet Dani, and an article describing the benefits of using the INTEGRO search engine and the mPRO-LIB mobile application in accessing library collections (Krzysztof Henne).

The collection of interviews with librarians *Praca i pasja (Work and passion)* (Simonjetz, 2021) by Monika Simonjetz is part of a cycle of publishing projects presenting texts that are the result of conversations with extraordinary personalities, creators, and successful people (including Anna Luboń's *Mistrzynie (Champions)* and Helena Zaworska's *Dobrze, że żyłem. Rozmowy z pisarzami (It's good that I lived. Conversations with writers)*). The author and interviewer describes her interlocutors as follows: "The extraordinary heroes of the collection titled 'Work and Passion' are among us, at various stages in their professional paths. Experienced directors, managers, long-term and beginning librarians. Versatile, creative, often with considerable scientific achievements. They combine work in the library with other interests and activities (pedagogical, didactic, social)" (p. 10). The publication is a record of interesting professional careers, it can be a source of role models, an inspiration for innovative library activities, and, as the author points out in the introduction, an attempt to get to know each other and integrate the community. It is also an interesting read, which is undoubtedly due to the merits of both the interviewees and their interlocutor.

The Forum of Young Librarians, a cyclical event organized since 2006 by young employees of libraries from a given voivodeship for an audience of young librarians from all over Poland, serves to further education, exchange experiences and ideas, and establish contacts. Papers and presentations of workshops held as part of the fourteenth Forum organized in Katowice and Zabrze on September 8-9, 2022 were included in the publication *Biblioteka w sercu – jak być bibliotekarzem XXI wieku. Materiały z 14. Forum Młodych Bibliotekarzy, Zabrze – Katowice, 8-9 września 2022 (Library in the heart – how to be a librarian of the 21st century. Materials from the 14th Forum of Young Librarians, Zabrze – Katowice, September 8-9, 2022)* (Gomułka, introduction, 2023). In the part of the volume entitled *Referaty (Papers)*, the authors describe, among other things, the possibilities of intergenerational

cooperation in the library (Anita Rudnicka), analyze comics as useful tools in working with the reader (Agata Zygmunt), and deal with the issue of interior design that will also look good in social media, presenting ideas for arranging a cozy corner in the library (Magdalena Kubacka). The second part describes the workshops organized for the participants of the forum, concerning e.g. the use of new technologies in the promotion of reading, and the rational use of time in the work of a librarian.

The bibliographic commissions established alongside Polish general scientific societies in the second half of the nineteenth century were the equivalent of European bibliographic societies and played an important role in the development of bibliographic works and, to a lesser extent, bibliological research. Their work was also continued by commissions established in Poland after the Second World War. One of these is the subject of the monograph by Bożena Koredczuk, *Badania nad książką, biblioteką i informacją w kręgu towarzystw naukowych. Komisja Bibliologii i Bibliotekoznawstwa Wrocławskiego Towarzystwa Naukowego (1953 – 2003)* (*Research on books, libraries and information in the circle of scientific societies. Commission of Book Studies and Librarianship of the Wrocław Scientific Society (1953 – 2003)*) (Koredczuk, 2021). The first part of the book shows the historical context of the creation of European bibliographic, bibliological, and bibliophile societies and Polish bibliographic commissions, outlines their history, activities, and the people associated with them. The second part presents in detail the activities of the Book and Library Science Commission of the Wrocław Scientific Society operating in the years 1953–2003 and its importance for the development of Polish library science and bibliography.

Empirical research – up to now absent in Poland – on the evidence of reading literature in reading groups is presented by Magdalena Stoch in the work *Jak czytamy książki. Recepcja literatury w krakowskich i wielickich grupach czytelniczych* (*How we read books. Reception of literature in Kraków and Wieliczka reading groups*) (Stoch, 2021). The aim of the author's research was „... to identify and describe the phenomenon of contemporary reading groups operating in Kraków and Wieliczka against the background of the evolution of reading practices and changes within the theory of reception” (p. 11). The most extensive part of the work is an account of her own ethnographic research, in which the author observed meetings of selected local book clubs held in libraries, bookstores, cafes and antique shops. This part of the work was preceded by a presentation of selected theoretical contexts for the reception of literature, a description of cultural practices that have influenced the formation of contemporary reading groups, and a review of research on this subject. The author's research findings show, among other things, that a constant feature of the reception of literature

in reading groups is hypertextuality. „Texts gain new meanings by constantly recalling new interpretative contexts: from other cultural texts, to readers' life experiences” (p. 224).

A collection of studies by specialists, scientists and practitioners dealing with the issues of information architecture is presented in the publication *Architektura informacji. Badania i praktyka (Information Architecture. Research and practice)* (Głowacka, Kortas, ed., 2022). In the introduction the editors of the volume describe the issues raised in the volume as follows: “Information architecture focuses on making information environments easy to search and understandable. Good information architecture helps people understand their environment and find what they are looking for, both offline and online” (p.[7]). The authors of the publication deal with information architecture design (e.g. an analysis of best practices and techniques for creating modern, intuitive interfaces by Jakub Sosnowski), user experience (e.g. an article by Michał Malinowski presenting a proprietary recommendation algorithm), and data and information security. In the last part of the collection, *Architektura informacji – studia przypadków (Information Architecture – Case Studies)*, Kamil Stępień, among others, presents the multimedia magazine *Medialica. Studia Multimedialne z Humanistyki (Medialica. Multimedia Studies in the Humanities)*, whose main task is to use new methods of knowledge transmission in the academic environment.

One of the goals of interdisciplinary research presented in Anna Maj's monograph *Przemiany wiedzy w cyberkulturze. Badania nad kulturą, komunikacją, wiedzą i mediami (Transformation of knowledge in cyberculture. Research on culture, communication, knowledge and the media)* (May, 2021) was to show the broad cultural and communication contexts of knowledge transformation in cyberculture. The first part of the publication is devoted to traditional and contemporary ways of organizing knowledge: mental strategies and cognitive practices developed in various historical periods, with particular emphasis on cybercultural cognitive changes and processes showing the transformation of knowledge under the influence of technology. In the second part, the author discusses numerous selected conceptualizations of knowledge, showing the multithreading of thinking about data, information and knowledge. The last chapter of the publication “... describes the ways of understanding the terms *data, information and knowledge* in research on culture, communication and media in a narrower sense, as it presents selected threads in contemporary media studies” (p. 18).

Interesting research in the field of information behavior has been presented by Monika Krakowska in the book *Zachowania informacyjne człowieka w kontekście zjawiska epistemicznej bańki informacyjnej. Propozycja nowej*

koncepcji (Human Information Behavior in the Context of the Epistemic Information Bubble. A proposal for a new concept) (Krakowska, 2022). "The aim of the theoretical considerations and the analysis of ideas, concepts, terms and models carried out in the book was to propose an original, new concept of an epistemic information bubble" (p. 273). The subject of the work comprises the characteristics of various features and dimensions of information behavior, a presentation of interdisciplinary research in this area, and an analysis of the context and space of information behavior of a human being. In the fourth chapter, *Bańki: filtrująca, epistemiczna i informacyjna oraz komory echa – charakterystyka zjawisk (Bubbles: filtering, epistemic and information, and echo chambers – characteristics of phenomena)*, an analysis of concepts and phenomena related to more or less closed information spaces is presented. The culmination of the author's considerations and analyses is the proposal of a new information science concept, namely the epistemic information bubble, presented in the fifth and final chapter.

As explained in the editor's note, the jubilee publication *Pedagogiczna Biblioteka Wojewódzka w Opolu 1951 – 2021. Historia, działalność, zasoby, ludzie (The Pedagogical Library in Opole 1951 - 2021. History, Activities, Resources, People)* (Zachona, ed., 2021) "... was created to present our Institution's work in conducting rich biblioinformatic, promotional, educational, bibliotherapeutic and publishing activities" (p. 10). Among the many interesting activities and projects carried out in the Opole library described in the book, one can mention the OMNIBUS database – one of the largest electronic resources of information on the content of magazines in the country regarding education broadly understood – or the multi-directional activity in the field of bibliotherapy, with the establishment of the Opole Bibliotherapy Center within the library as its crowning achievement. The publication, richly illustrated with photos, also includes an essay by Henryk Hollender devoted to the library in Opole, *Czego uczy nas historia bibliotek (What the history of libraries teaches us)*, a calendar, profiles of its directors from the beginning of the library's existence, a chapter on the past and present field branches of the library and an extensive annotated bibliography on the activities of the Pedagogical Library in Opole in the years 1951 - 2021.

BOOKS DISCUSSED

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