Focus on Open Science at the University Library "Svetozar Markovic"

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Belgrade University Library "Svetozar Markovic" hosted one-day international workshop titled *Focus on Open Science (Chapter VIII)* on November 12, 2018. The workshop is the result of cooperation between the library and Scientific Knowledge Services with the support of LIBER.[1] The workshop is intended for librarians and scientists, and it's the eighth in a series of the same chapters organized around Europe.[2]

After the introductory presentation given by the director of the library, Prof. Aleksandar Jerkov, many relevant topics regarding the Open Science today were addressed during four sessions. The emphasis was primarily on the role of libraries, especially academic ones, in the field of *Open Science*; institutional, regional and international exchange of experiences; necessity of increasing the awareness of the importance of this topic; ways of financing; as well as the advocacy strategies, all for the purpose of applying the best practice.

The moderator of the Belgrade workshop was Dr Tiberius Ignat.[3] He is the CEO of a company whose objective is to help European libraries improve their work through the implementation of new technologies and to maximize their potential for providing, exchanging and using information and digital services. The visitors were encouraged to interactively participate in the workshop, through social networks or directly.

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[1] *Ligue des Bibliothèques Européennes de Recherche – Association of European Research Libraries*

[2] Previous workshops took place in Budapest, Ljubljana, Barcelona, and Gdansk. Next one is in Vienna.

[3] Tiberius Ignat, *Scientific Knowledge Services*

In the first session, Dr Paul Ayris,[4] one of the authorities in this field, and Vanessa Proudman,[5] director of SPARC Europe, opened the discourse. They pointed out the significance of the Open Science concept, its importance in democratization of knowledge and the necessity of making scientific work accessible to wider community. Dr Paul Ayris introduced the European Commission Platform,[6] which consists of a series of recommendations focusing on eight key areas of Open Science: rewards and Incentives, research indicators and next-generation metrics, future of scholarly communication, research integrity, skills and education, citizen science, FAIR[7] data and *European Open Science Cloud.* He also pointed out a new model of publishing papers via *Open Access Press,* which was developed at the London University College, where he works as a director of UCL Library Services. By embracing this form of open publishing, scientific research papers from London University College are now easily and promptly available worldwide. He particularly emphasized the need to raise the awareness in scientific communities, the necessity to change obsolete patterns of thinking and re-examine the policies of the universities themselves.

Vanessa Praudmen pointed out the importance of providing support to researchers and students, in the form of seeking new models of financing and developing new tools for managing scientific data. She also expressed the need for international cooperation, so that the idea of Open Science could be sustained in presence and expanded in future.

During the second session, Dr Ignasi Labastida i Juan,[8] from the University of Barcelona, and a representative of LIBER, Dr Giannis Tsakonas,[9] discussed the topic from the perspective of universities and researchers. Dr Ignasi Labastida i Juan pointed out that the universities have to change

[4] Paul Ayris (University College London, UK); lecture title: *Be the change that you wish to see in the world*

[5] Vanessa Proudman (*Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition – SPARC*); lecture title: *It's high time to rethink how we pay for Open Infrastructure; it's high time to act*

[6] *Open Science Policy Platform*

[7] The acronym originates from the following terms: Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, and Reusability

[8] Ignasi Labastida i Juan (*Universitat de Barcelona, Spain*); lecture title: *Facing the Open Science challenges from a university perspective*

[9] Giannis Tsakonas (*University of Patras, Greece*); lecture title: *A new kind of dialogue : Open Science as a discourse topic between libraries, researches and society*

the way they manage scientific information. When comparing to the past, information is now stored, disseminated, published and used in a different way, and even the course of scientific research is conducted quite differently. Universities should transform their policies in accordance with the principles of Open Science. Giannis Tsakonas presented a strategy called *Open Road Map*. LIBER, as the largest network of research libraries in Europe, has written a new strategy of action and proposed a number of practical steps that libraries should undertake to support Open Science at both local and international levels.

Miro Pušnik,[10] director of Central Technological Library and one of the hosts of the first held workshop in Ljubljana in 2015, shared with audience his experience regarding the implementation of Open Science in Slovenia. He pointed out the role that academic libraries have in transforming the paradigm of the scientific-research process, highlighting the importance of building good infrastructure and educating librarians as the missionaries of these changes.

The central idea presented by Dr Adam Sofronijević,[11] deputy director of the University Library "Svetozar Marković", implies the change in the way contemporary society perceives institutions, primarily scientifically oriented (universities, libraries, scientific centers, consulting agencies, ministries, etc.). The focus of these institutions is shifting from mere interest in science towards business, and they lose their basic role of "guardians of the truth". The access to these institutions is limited and their work is almost oblique to the public. On one hand citizens have lost faith in these institutions, while on the other they have at their disposal huge amounts of information that is often unverified, even inaccurate. Therefore, due to the previously mentioned, evolving the institutions through the concept of Open Science is a must in order to regain the lost trust and steer further development of science in the appropriate direction.

Open science is a movement that is based on openness, cooperation and exchange. It is focused on the development of science for the benefit of humanity. Libraries, especially academic ones, must recognize the importance of their role in transition towards new models of openness in society, and they need to find their rightful place. It's not enough only to have good faith, they also need to understand the rights and obligations they have regarding

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[10] Miro Pušnik (*University of Ljubljana, Slovenia*); lecture title: Encouraging Open Science Literacy: *For years of Focus on Open Science workshops*

[11] Adam Sofronijević (*University of Belgrade*); lecture title: *Open Science: The Remedy for a Post-truth World*

scientific work. Continuous education, proficiency in new technologies and cooperation with similar institutions in order to exchange good practice are imperative. Focus on Open Science workshops have an important role in providing guidance and recommendations for this transition by pointing to all the benefits of Open Science: easier and faster access to scientific information, greater transparency of scientific work, economic aspect, giving society a wider access to science and many others. They advise on how the change in society and its institutions should occur, but they also caution against traps and problems that follow the transition to Open Science: copyright restrictions, the issue of evaluating a large number of scientific papers that appear in open access, additional administration for scientists when publishing their papers (traditionally done by journal publishers) and others. The workshop in Belgrade certainly achieved this goal.