

52 nd LIBER Annual Conference: Open and Trusted – Reassessing Research Library Values (July 5-7, 2023, Budapest, Hungary)

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The European association of academic libraries LIBER (fr. *Ligue des bibliothèques européennes de recherche*) was founded in 1971. It organizes its work through the annual Conference, the work of the General Assembly, the executive board, and various expert sections. Participants of the Annual Conference are experts from the field of librarianship and publishers of scientific information whose users are libraries. The National Library of Serbia has been a member of this association since 2003.

Every year, a part of the fund is set aside for the LIBER's Annual Conference Fund award, enabling representatives of libraries from different countries to attend. LIBER's Executive Board agrees on which countries meet the requirements every October, while the final decision is made by the Conference's Program Board. This year, 12 funds were awarded, and the countries whose representatives could apply were Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, Turkey and Ukraine. When applying, it is necessary to attach a letter of motivation and a short biography. Two of us from Serbia received a fund.

The topics of this Conference throughout the years are diverse, from "The Future of Old Libraries" to "The Electronic Library at Work", to open-access topics that have been popular for years (e.g. s "Towards Open Science", held in London in 2015).

This year's conference, entitled "Open and trusted", was held in Budapest and hosted by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Magyar Tudományos Akadémia, MTA), the most important and prestigious learned society in Hungary. The building of the Central European University (CEU) was used for the purposes of the Conference. This year's theme is not a coincidence, and the reason for that is that the most important milestone on

the way to open science is precisely the Budapest initiative for open access from 2002, whose catchphrase is - "to make research free and available to everyone who has access to the Internet and promote progress in science, medicine and healthcare"¹. Although accompanied and supported by many other declarations, this Initiative is still alive - in 2022 it celebrated its 20th anniversary with new recommendations for the next ten years regarding infrastructures, research assessment, transporters and reading and publishing contracts.

The lectures were about open access, open data, science, and knowledge, which is closely related to the work that my colleagues and I do in the Department of Scientific Information. The connection is reflected through constant communication and training of users for the purpose of publishing works in OA (Open Access) scientific journals, through communication with the editors of domestic scientific journals, establishment and maintenance of the DoiSerbia system. Maintaining the DoiSerbia system also implies its constant improvement in accordance with modern trends, which is intensively worked on and strived for.

The first day of the Conference was dedicated to workshops in the pre-conference part. Due to the large number of workshops, they were divided into different halls, since as many as 12 workshops were held at the same time.

The workshop of great importance to me was "Diamond Open Access in Europe and beyond"² organized by the DIAMAS Project.³ The European Union funds this project with the aim to support Diamond Open Access⁴ and institutional publishing by setting new standards, increasing visibility and promoting the sustainability of various publishing industries. As part of the project, a survey was launched⁵ as a starting point for understanding institutional publishing in Europe. The National Library of Serbia and the Department of Scientific Information participated in filling out the above-mentioned survey, namely the National Library of Serbia as a journal publisher (The Herald of the National Library of Serbia and Archeographical papers), and the Department of Scientific Information as a service provider through the DoiSerbia system (66 scientific journals are on the platform,

1. [Budapest Open Access Initiative](#), retrieved 25 August 2023

2. [Workshop details](#)

3. [DIAMAS Project](#)

4. [Diamond Open Access](#) refers to a scientific publishing model in which journals and platforms do not charge fees to either authors or readers"

5. Name of the survey: DIAMAS Institutional Publishing Landscape Survey

57 are active). The survey aimed to collect data on institutional publishing in open access. The questionnaire was filled out by more than 700 institutions from over 50 countries, and Serbia is in the top ten in terms of the number of institutions that responded to the invitation (along with Spain, Croatia, Poland, France, Italy, Germany, the United Kingdom, Finland and Switzerland).

Seven lecturers spoke at the workshop, including our colleague Milica Ševkušić from the Institute of Technical Sciences of the Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts. Colleague Ševkušić is the coordinator of Serbia for Open Access at the EIFL Consortium of libraries. The topic of her presentation was "Why does the network matter?" through which she presented the good practices of the National Library of Serbia and the Serbian Library Consortium for Coordinated Acquisition (KoBSON). She also presented projects implemented in previous years with the help of EIFL to promote OA in Serbia. The news about the workshop and journals from Serbia included in the DoiSerbia system was shared on Twitter by Pierre Mounier, coordinator of the DIAMAS project.

Another tradition of the Conference after the pre-conference part is the reception of new participants (eng. Newcomer Session), i.e. participants who are at LIBER for the first time. As I attended LIBER for the first time, both as a delegate of the National Library of Serbia and as a LIBER's Annual Conference Fund award winner, the lecture was very useful and interesting because it aimed to present the practice of such a large gathering (on average, each year there are about 500 participants at LIBER).

The second day of the Conference, in addition to various lectures, was also marked by sponsor presentations and poster presentations. More than 20 publishers of scientific publications attended and it was a great honor to meet their representatives (EBSCO, Emerald, Elsevier, Springer Clarivate Analytics, Royal Society of Chemistry etc.) with which the National Library of Serbia cooperates through KoBSON.

The authors of the posters presented, in a very concise way the work conducted in their countries on the promotion of open science and the solutions they applied not only to journals and books, but also to other non book materials, especially old and rare ones. Traditionally, the vote for the best poster was cast, and this year the winning poster was by colleagues from the University of Tartu, Estonia, entitled "EODOPEN: User Dialogue, Audience Development, and Copyright Issues & On-Demand Access to Hidden Collections".

On the third and last day of the Conference, the session entitled "A new paradigm: Open Access and the Diamond Model" was very well attended. It consisted of three lectures, which presented the state of this topic in America, Canada and France.

Mark Huskisson (OPERAS and Public Knowledge Project, United Kingdom) and Saurabh Khanna (Stanford University, United States) presented their research, which referred to over 30,000 journals in the Diamond OA model that use online journal publishing through the Open Journal Systems (OJS) open source platform. One of the parameters for the research was the coverage of these journals within the world index databases Web of Science and Scopus. Although the journals are completely open and free to use/publish, the research has shown that their coverage in the mentioned index bases is still small (slightly above 1%) (Khanna et al. 2022).

The closing ceremony of the LIBER Conference included the act of handing over the flag to the host of next year's Conference, which will be the State University of Limassol in Cyprus.

The National Library of Serbia has been a member of LIBER for 20 years. The Library has been recognized as important national institution through the interlibrary loan of European libraries, primarily national and university libraries, and supported in the networking of libraries. The purpose of participating in such a Conference is the care for the protection of European cultural heritage and improving access to the collections of European research libraries.

The topic of openness at the 52nd Conference was a prominent topic, and it has been discussed in Serbia for more than two decades. On this path, the education of librarians is very important so that they are able to help researchers, those who are just starting their research career and established researchers alike. Learning from the experiences of the colleagues from the countries in the region was a valuable and all the knowledge gained during this Conference will be passed on.

Also, at the end of the three-day conference, I can conclude that, although we all came from different institutions and do different types of work, we face similar problems and strive for the same goals, which is to help the promotion and development of the scientific research community, in the best possible way.