

The Fight for Literacy Begins in “Studentjak”: the Promotion of the Publication *Introduction to Information Literacy*

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In the age of general misinformation, the employees of the Library of the Students’ City Cultural Center are fighting a multi-year battle for literacy. Ten years ago, Obrad Vučkovic made several digital guides: *Introduction to Information Search*, *Information Evaluation Guide* and *Citation Guide* which were posted on the institution’s website. Then, in 2016, information literacy training began, the aim of which was to introduce participants with the concept of lifelong learning. The lectures were about recognizing information sources, search methods and techniques, adequate evaluation of information and its effective use. At those workshops, the ethical and legal aspects of information literacy were taken into account, and, until 2019, several training cycles were held.

Since not only students were interested in these courses, but also senior researchers and colleagues from other libraries, the employees of the Students’ City Cultural Center Library decided to turn their many years of effort and work into a manual. In the turbulent and very difficult year of 2020, the publication *Introduction to Information Literacy* by Nataša Papić, Obrad Vučkovic and Sandra Deljanin was published.¹

Today, Nataša Papić is the manager of the Library of the Students’ City Cultural Center, and the other two authors have left the institution. Sandra Deljanin is employed at the National Library of Serbia, at the Center for shared cataloguing, while Obrad Vučkovic is the manager of the library of the Institute for Nuclear Sciences “Vinča”, which additionally speaks of their advanced knowledge of the areas they wrote about.

One hundred and seventeen pages are divided into seven chapters (*Academic Writing, Search, My COBISS User Profile and the mCOBISS App*,

1. Nataša Papić, Obrad Vučkovic i Sandra Deljanin. *Uvod u informacionu pismenost: priručnik*. Beograd: Dom kulture Studentski grad, 2020.



Figure 1. Presentation of the publication.

Citation, Copyright, Plagiarism, Research Data Management), which are followed by lists of literature relevant for further research of the topic of this publication. The art of acquiring knowledge, shown in detail, is enriched with illustrations and examples from practice, which makes this manual unique – because it’s not a simple translation and interpretation of science. The perfect fruit of librarian knowledge and information literacy is the subject register, which includes the key concepts explained in this handbook to students and researchers.

As the institution that published this manual had three not so easy years (besides Covid pandemic five floods that significantly affected the work of the Library), the presentation of the handbook had to wait until the beginning of the academic year in 2022.

The newly opened reading room for reference work and group study in the Library of the Students’ City Cultural Center served as an ideal place for gathering on the occasion of the promotion of this publication. In a pleasant environment designed so that students and researchers can get the necessary information as easily as possible, the manual *Introduction to Information Literacy* was presented on October 18, 2022.

The authors talked about creating the manual, as well as the problems they encountered while dealing with this topic. Namely, at the time when the workshops were held, only one faculty of the University of Belgrade held

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PRIRUČNIK
UVOD U INFORMACIONU PISMENOST
Nataša Papić // Obrad Vučkovic // Sandra Deljanin

Učesnici: prof. dr Dragana Grujić
Obrad Vučkovic
Nataša Papić

Moderator: Tamara Mitrović

Figure 2. Introduction to Information Literacy.



Figure 3. Promotion of the publication.

a course in academic writing for undergraduate studies – the Faculty of Political Sciences (according to the research of professor Zorica Prnjat, from the Faculty of Geography). Also, the term itself, “information literacy”, was mentioned as a significant obstacle, which repels students because they do not fully understand it, thinking that they are already literate enough, and additional work is needed to bring them closer to the true nature of this skill.

Professor Dragana Grujić pointed out that the authors, in the true spirit of their profession, decided to train users for future independent research with the manual, as well as in previous workshops.

As the Student’s City, popularly known as “Studenjak”, has always been a symbol of struggle and rebellion, the employees of the Library of its Cultural Center are determined to continue their battle for literacy. Thus, it was announced that, along with further work on educating users about information literacy, a cycle of lectures related to media literacy, which is also of crucial importance in today’s age, will follow.