INFORMATION LITERACY IS AT THE TOP OF THE AGENDA: FROM THE EXPERIENCE OF THE SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF THE ACADEMY OF ECONOMIC STUDIES OF MOLDOVA

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Nowadays information is a major component of scientific and technological progress, a vital element of creativity and innovation, education and intellectual activity, an important resource for social and economic development. Actually, it is difficult to imagine a specialist who does not refer to various information resources. Moreover, an educated professional and a successful person must necessarily have certain skills of information retrieval and information processing. Thus, in modern society Information Literacy becomes an integral component and a mandatory part of professional knowledge and general culture.

The spread of new information technologies in all spheres of society, the complexity of access to information and network resources put forward targeted formation and development of Information Literacy of users as one of the priorities.

Information Literacy of society and the individual should provide an opportunity for continuous education of the person and increase his responsibility for decisions. In the first case Information Literacy is a mean of social protection of the individual, capable of self-building knowledge, changing the scope of activities, regulating of their own behavior. In the second case Information Literacy is a way of protecting society from ill-considered human actions, a guarantee that fundamental decisions in any sphere (social, economic, technological) are made only after the deep analysis of all available information.

Modern society needs people who are able to change their profession, make their own decisions and alter stereotypes, ready for self-development and self-education due to the high mobility of the labor market. Consequently, life is increasingly demanding that universities become more dynamic, flexible

and sensitive to social, scientific, technical, technological and environmental needs, innovation and international competition. Educational systems of developed countries strive to create a common educational space and agreed standards for conducting educational activities.

A special role in the formation of Information Literacy is undoubtedly assigned to the university library. It is well known that a library is a place where sources of information are concentrated. The peculiarity of the university library consists of the focusing on information support of the scientific and educational activities of the university, careful storage of knowledge accumulated by mankind and active assistance in acquiring of professional knowledge.

The library is an equivalent structure of the University, providing information support for all activities of the higher education institution. Information resources of the library characterize the level of the ensuring of educational process, scientific and pedagogical activity. Therefore, the degree of development of information technologies in the library, its inclusion in the information space of the University, the volume and nature of the electronic resources of the library, the availability of remote access for users to world information resources makes the library an indispensable and essential mediator in research and teaching activities. Thus, the library supports the entire educational and research process with its information resources.

Speaking about the experience of the Scientific Library of the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova, we would like to emphasize that the formation of Information Literacy has always been one of the important directions of the library. In fact, the Bibliographic Department has been giving bibliographic lessons to first-year students since its organization. However, the participation of our library in the projects "Development of new information services for Moldovan Higher Economic Education" (2012-2014), "Modern Information Services for Improvement Study Quality" (2013-2016) and "Modernization of academic library services in Moldova" (2016-2018), allowed us to impart the scale and grate significance to the activity, helped to move to a new level of teaching and made this area of bibliographic practice a priority.

In the process of Information Literacy training users acquire the ability of formulate their information needs adequately, search for the necessary information in the whole set of information resources effectively, process information and create a new one qualitatively, select and evaluate information properly and have the ability to communicate information (Landoy 2014). All of the above is based on the realization of

the role of information in society, knowledge of the laws of the information environment and understanding their place in it, as well as the possession of new information technologies.

We are well aware of modern ideas of specialists about Information Literacy and support them strongly. Accordingly, this direction of our activity corresponds to contemporary concepts (Lau 2006, Repanovici 2012).

Undeniably, librarians also require new and multilateral knowledge to meet the information needs of users, promote innovative services and develop information skills. They need to know different methods of accessing information, computer tools, databases, Internet, search engines and accumulate certain pedagogical skills. This activity implies a great responsibility because the modern students have a good training in the field of new technologies. Communicated knowledge should be of genuine value, accessible, attractive and meet their expectations. Furthermore, particular pedagogical and psychological qualities are also necessary in the activity of information assistance. It is necessary to take into account the level of preparation of the beneficiaries, their accessibility of information perception, the tact and professionalism of the specialists who transmit information.

In order to increase the efficiency of the economic education, research and development of the informational skills, literacy syllabuses were developed and implemented for all categories of users: first-year students, Master's degree students, PhD degree students and university teaching staff [2].

The syllabuses were elaborated based on the results of the research of information needs, educational and promotional materials and in collaboration with the university teaching staff. The syllabuses consist of the following parts:

- Data about the program
- Data about the course
- Overall estimated duration (hours/semester teaching activities)
- Preconditions (where applicable)
- Conditions (where applicable)
- Course objectives (coming from the specific accumulated competencies grid)
- Accumulated competencies
- Contents
- Assessment

All training materials are placed on the library site and on the SlideShare Web Platform. Students have free access to all elaborated tutorials, and librarians can assess how often they are accessed. At the

moment PowerPoint presentation "Models of presentation of bibliographic references according to Standard SM ISO 690: 2012 "Information and documentation. Rules for presenting bibliographic references and citing information resources" has 4765 views (2012), the presentation "Ethical ways of using information" has 2167 views (2013).

It has become a tradition for librarians to attend regularly with the lectures the meetings on the theme "Thesis for completion of studies: quality and originality" which are annually held for the Master´s degree students, Bachelor degree students and lecturers.

Librarians need a special training for the actions of informing the teacher stuff regarding the visibility of the scientific publications, using of the citation and writing standards of the bibliographic references, especially the familiarization with MS SR ISO 690: 2012 „ Information and documentation - Guidelines for bibliographic references and citations to information resources". Bibliographical consultations are organized with the researchers. In the framework of the event on the topic "Meeting of the department at the library" in which the library employees present models for the elaboration of bibliographic references in the written works and explanations with reference to the standard; models for the elaboration of bibliographic references according to the structure of the report of the scientific and innovation activity; intervene with clarifications at each request (Habaşescu 2018). At the end of each year librarians are involved in writing of the report on scientific and innovative activity, the annex "List of published scientific papers".

The activity of informing the academic community about the scientific information resources has become an indispensable process in the activity of the Scientific Library of AESM that is a coordinator of the eIFL Direct Moldova Consortium and has promoted the appearance, widespread dissemination of electronic publications and their integration as a component part of library collections in the Republic of Moldova. Currently, our library offers access to 16 databases, most of which are full-text licensed scientific resources which can be accessed on the Scientific Library of AESM Web page, and the EBSCO databases have become an integral part of the PRIMO platform (Ghinculov 2013).

Another extremely important activity which permits to ensure the visibility of the research in AESM is broadly promoting Open Access to scientific publications achieved by publishing AESM journals in the Directory of Open Access Journals and self-archiving in AESM Institutional Repository "IREK - AESM: Institutional Repository of Economic Knowledge".

The LibUniv electronic catalog on the ExLibris Primo platform is advertised both within the lessons of Information Literacy and various meetings with the researchers of our institution. "Guide for the use of the Shared Catalog of the university libraries of the Republic of Moldova" was distributed during these meetings. The purpose of the guide is to highlight all the possibilities offered by the Shared Electronic Catalog.

Particular attention is paid to the protection of intellectual property and copyright in AESM. This fact is confirmed by AESM policy in the field of plagiarism prevention, which is reflected in certain provisions of the "Regulation on the prevention of plagiarism among students / masters". The plagiarism checker "Antiplagiat" that analyzes the written works and reports, their degree of coincidence with other sources has been elaborated and implemented in AESM in order to prevent and combat plagiarism among the young students.

Information Literacy is a long-term activity which will exceed the duration of the projects but the partnership and the activities started within them will persist and expected results must be integrate into important documents of the partnership institutions. Expected results are reflected in the "Development Strategy AESM Scientific Library [2017-2020]" (2017), approved by the decision of AESM Senate on March 29, 2017 and include the following:

Trained and motivated users
- Users with high level of skills in Information Literacy;
- Curriculum in Information Literacy integrated at university level;
- Motivation and loyalty of the user

Easily accessible information system
- Open access to various information resources;
- Digitization of the scientific heritage;
- Developed Institutional repository;
- The Scientific Library of AESM - modern service provider.

Thus, the experience gained during the training of the students allows us to conclude that the students need systematic and comprehensive knowledge in order to access and use the information ethically, have the necessary skills in the research process, develop the search skills in using online catalogs, know the differences between various sources of information and the possibility to evaluate these sources objectively and critically. The accumulated knowledge constitutes a solid support for study, key factor in research and renders a beneficial influence on the academic success.

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