STUDIES

Development of the HUMANUS database with special regard to documentation in book history and LIS

RÁCZ Ágnes

The new Hungarian database HUMANUS (Studies and Articles in the Humanities), a service of the National Széchényi Library was introduced to the profession in February 2008. The study overviews the creation of the database and describes its development concept relating to the recording of publications on book and library history as well as library and information science.

It is the aim of HUMANUS to register articles, studies and book reviews from journals and books published electronically or in a printed form. The bibliographic exchange format used is HUNMARC. Recording is at the article level, with the records containing data of the part, an element for linking, data of the source document and where the part is located within the source document. The study describes the method of classification and the search possibilities as well.

The database HUMANUS operates as a consortium of co-operating partners. It has proved difficult to connect the well-functioning databases earlier used by the partners. It would be an important feature of the database to enable the uploading and downloading of large quantities of records, and the filtering out of duplicate items.

HUMANUS is one of the union catalogue databases (the so-called Article-MOKKA) that include three large databases of the National Széchényi Library using the MicroISIS software, to be soon converted into HUMANUS (the repertory of articles, Hungarica publications, articles on LIS), as well as the databases of co-operating partners (the database of university publications from Szeged, the database of Hungarian social science literature in Romania).

Upwards or downwards? Possible trends for the Hungarian reading culture after the PISA 2006 report

NAGY Attila

The report of the Hungarian Educational Office on the PISA 2006 survey and the data relating to Hungarians' performance have been issued. The figures indicate the state of the art of Hungarian education that shows a strict correlation with the declining situation of reading, book and library use.

OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA survey) is an international comparative evaluation of students aged 15. In 2000 PISA examined text comprehension, in 2003 – mathematical knowledge, in 2006 – science knowledge among schoolchildren worldwide.

In the table summarising the data of 56 OECD countries Hungary has a middle-end position preceding Serbia and other Southern European countries.

The leading 13 countries, from Finland to Belgium, have in each of the three themes better results than the average of OECD countries. Hungarian students have reached the OECD countries' average only in science, in text comprehension and in mathematics they performed under the average. Searching for the reason the author sets the excellent performance of Finnish and South-Korean students as an example. Those countries are characterised by a prospering economy and a balanced educational system, teachers have a prestige, parents have a supporting attitude, reading and library use are popular. Hungary spends very little on education, although successful examples prove that investment into education returns in knowledge and later in economy as well.

E-book services in a profit-oriented market environment

NÉMETH Márton

The demand for e-book services is growing worldwide. Many publishers in the West sell their publications directly as e-books that are protected against copying to prevent infringement. Recently new providers have appeared on the market: the aggregators which have contracts with many publishers and offer subscription packages. Libraries may subscribe to individual packages that they may provide in their own library network for their users without physically owning the documents concerned. In case of downloadable e-books libraries conclude a license contract with users, whose expiry can be extended by a new one. The study describes the technological solutions of Adobe for the provision of e-books and their secure use. It reviews the Danish and British practice, and presents some of the most important aggregators such as Netlibrary and ebrary. The article concludes with the European Union supported E-books Digitisation On-Demand project with thirteen countries participating, including Hungary's National Széchényi Library. Libraries could be prominent e-book publishers and providers themselves if they digitised their materials which are out of copyright.

Virtual reference: a state-of-the-art report

KOLTAY Tibor

Based on a rich selection of international literature the study gives an overview of the professional, technological and ethical problems emerging in the reference process applying web technology. Traditional reference is an interaction where the librarian faces one user and one question. In virtual reference too two persons are present, but some other aspects arise as well: for example how can one help a user when the librarian is not in verbal connection with him/her; what does the authoritative librarian mean in virtual reference; is there an important difference between traditional and virtual reference; how does the virtual environment change the nature of interaction between user and librarian; to whom does the user come back in virtual reference: to the provider or to the librarian etc.

A new milestone in life-long-learning: librarians as IT-mentors

PAYER Barbara

The competitiveness of countries depends also on if they succeed in assisting socially or financially handicapped social groups to avail themselves of the benefits of information society. Surveys show that more than half of the Hungarian population are digitally illiterate. Governmental development programs (such as E-Hungary) have proved that digital illiteracy can be overcome more successfully by involving local mediators. Within the framework of the E-Hungary 2.0 grants an eMentor service has been created as a tool of assistance. EMentors were trained in 2006 at 40-hour courses, from 2007 on at 60-hour ones. The training consists of traditional consultations (5x5 hrs) and distant education (5x5 hrs). The themes are: the basics of computer science, new Internet techniques, important homepages of community information etc. The Hungarian Library Institute too took part in the training of eMentors, and having identified the need for continuing this training, worked out the curriculum of a combined, practice-oriented course in 60 hrs (under the title From Web 1.0 towards Web 2.0 in a changing world of the Internet). The course has been accredited and provides a mix of traditional and distance education. The study presents the courses and the importance of the mentors' role.

Weeding books upon political motives: initiatives of workers from Budapest in the late forties. Documents from the Hungarian National Archive and the National Széchényi Library
"…it would be the best to ban these books voluntarily."
BÁNFI Szilvia

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 256–260.

"…an example for leftist narrowmindedness in 1949"
KERESZTES Csaba

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 261–264.

A number of studies were earlier published in this journal (see the articles by Sándor Katsányi, Magda Sipos, Szilvia Bánfi) about the centralised weeding of politically „problematical" books and journals between 1945 and 1950 in Hungary. In this issue Szilvia Bán-

fi writes about an „informer's" letter to the State Security Authority in 1947 when a worker of the Weiss Manfred Works at Csepel (Budapest) proposed that the Dictionary of Economics published in 1932 should be banned. In the next article Csaba Keresztes publishes a document from 1949 which is also related to the Weiss Manfred Works at Csepel (Budapest): a list which characterised prominent Hungarian and foreign authors' books as not progressive, bourgeois or valueless, proposing their weeding from the workers' library.

FROM ABROAD

Online public spaces for users and librarians. Library 2.0 applications in Norway
TÓTH Máté

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 265–280.

The author shares his experience gained during a fellowship in Norwegian libraries. He describes the national library development concept that serves as the framework of Web 2.0 services, the Norwegian Digital Library Project, and reviews three Norwegian electronic library services (Reaktor, Biblioteksvar, Biblioteklaboratoriet) which illustrate the practical application possibilities of the Library 2.0 philosophy. The study ends with a report on librarians' and users' opinions about the Library 2.0 based on interviews conducted in Norway.

Panorama of librarianship in China: to live or to read?
SONNEVEND Péter

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 281–296.

The review article gives an overview on librarianship in China. As first it discusses cultural history, economic, social and cultural issues, then introduces Chinese librarianship through its library networks: national library, public libraries, with a focus on the Shanghai PL; the national network higher education and special libraries, as well as school libraries. The most important developments and nation-wide services, large library projects are described as well (digital library projects in more detail), and so are library education, library-related research and professional journals. Li-

brarianship in China – as the country itself – shows contradictory features: China is a developing country struggling with many problems, and at the same time a speedily developing super power that has important achievements, especially in the fields of information provision.

Ben Gu: China National Bibliography
(Translated by Jenő Mohor)

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 297–301.

Digital Library Manifesto from Italy
A study by Maurizio Messina and a translation of the Manifesto
(Translated by Jenő Mohor)

Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 302–307.

BOOK REVIEWS

Ancient Hungarian authors (till 1700)
WIX Györgyné – P. VÁSÁRHELYI Judit: Régi magyarországi szerzők (RMSZ) a kezdetektől 1700-ig.
(Reviewed by Szilvia Bánfi)
Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 309–311.

Information literacy – from an Australian point of view
Change and challenge. Information literacy for the 21st century.
(Ed. Susie Andretta)
(Reviewed by Koltay Tibor)
Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 311–315.

Chapters from book and press history in Debrecen
BÉNYEI Miklós: A civis szellem nyomtatott hírnökei. Írások a debreceni könyv és lapkiadás történetéről.
(Reviewed by György Pogány)
Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 316–319.

Newly published…(On the fourth volume of the Annual of the Berzsenyi Dániel Library)
A Berzsenyi Dániel Könyvtár Évkönyve 4.
(Ed. by Márta Pallósi-Toldi)
(Reviewed by Hajdu Katalin)
Könyvtári Figyelő (Library Review), vol. 54. 2008. no. 2. pp. 320–324.

FROM FOREIGN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION JOURNALS (Abstracts)