Academic training of librarians. Experience of national centers in the context of changes

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8. 11. 2022

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History

- Study of Social and Educational Work of the Free Polish University (1925-1939)

- Two-year School for Social Workers (The Polish Educational Society1928-1932)

- One-year Library School at the Warsaw Public Library, Central Library of the Masovian Voivodeship (1929-1939)

- Union of Polish Librarians - Commission for Professional Education (since 1935)

After 1945

- Courses and training Polish Librarians' Association

- State Library Training Center in Jarocin (1948-1978)

- Library high schools (1950-1959)

- State Studies of Cultural and Educational Work and Librarianship (Ciechanów, Krosno, Opole, Radom, Wrocław)

- State Center for Correspondence Training of Librarians (1953-1975)

- H. Radlinska's Center for Continuing Library Education (1976-2006); Warsaw + 15 branches of the Post-Secondary Library Studies external program

The beginnings of academic training

- 1945 –University of Lodz
- 1951 – University of Warsaw
- 1956 –University of Wrocław
- 1974 – Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Jagiellonian University in Kraków, University of Silesia in Katowice, University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin, University of Gdańsk
- 1968 – Postgraduate studies at the University of Warsaw, - then other centers

Standards of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (2007) - relative stability

- Unification of educational principles:
  - The name of the course: Information and Library Science
  - Profile of a graduate
  - Educational content framework

Standards (2007)

- A graduate of Information and Library Science studies should:

    - have a general knowledge of information sources, information processes, and of Information and Library Science

    - have the ability to efficiently search, select and evaluate the quality of information and create information,

    - know the methods and techniques used in information and library processes

    - know the ways of working with readers and users of information and the education of a user,

    - have the skills to promote library, information, and reading activities

Standards (2007)

- know laws on copyright, library, and information,

- be prepared to work in a variety of institutions operating in the spheres of public communication, culture, education, business, science, and administration dealing with the collection, processing, and provision of documents and document information collections and information systems,

- be prepared to work in all types of libraries, information centers and centers, bibliographic labs, publishing houses, archives, bookstores, and in education (after completing the teaching specialty),

- be able to use the acquired knowledge and skills following ethical principles

Standards (2007)

- Core content group:

    – Social and media communication

    – Communication systems in science

    – Management methods

    – Cultural history

    – Book, library, and information science

    – Reading

Standards (2007)

- Directional content group:
  - Analysis and development of the documents
  - Librarianship
  - History of books and libraries
  - Social contexts of library and information activities
  - Design and evaluation of library-information systems and services
  - Publishing and bookselling issues
  - Sources and retrieval of information

2011 – Changes in the law on higher education

- Expanded autonomy of universities in the sphere of didactics - allows independent creation of educational programs

- National Qualification Framework - definition of learning outcomes, qualifications acquired in the Polish higher education system/ definition of study profile: practical or general academic

Deregulation of the librarian profession

- Statute of June 13, 2013, on amendments to laws regulating certain professions

- Elimination of the obligation:
  – Possession of higher education
  – Possession, depending on the position, of professional experience (0 -10 years)
  – Examination for the position of a certified librarian

World trends:

- Educating information and knowledge managers with competencies in:
  - knowledge management,
  - information architecture,
  - ICT skills,
  - information systems,
  - user support,
  - project management,
  - promotion and marketing,
  - communication skills

Changes in the offer of Polish academic education

- Since 2012, new fields of study have been emerging instead of or alongside Information and Library Science:
  - Information in e-society – University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin
  - Scientific Information and Library Studies –Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń
  - Information Management - Jagiellonian University in Kraków
  - Information Management in Digital Environment - University of Łódź
  - Digital and Web Publishing - University of Wrocław
  - Information Architecture - Pedagogical University of Kraków
  - Architecture of Information Spaces - University of Warsaw

Current offer of academic education

- Of the fourteen universities that offered degrees in Information and Library Science (bachelor's degree, master's degree, postgraduate), the course remained in the offer of only four:
  - University of Warsaw: Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies - bachelor's and master's degree,
  - University of Wrocław: Institute of Information and Media Science - bachelor's and master's degree,
  - University of Silesia in Katowice: Institute of Culture Studies - bachelor's and master's degree,
  - Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań: Faculty of Pedagogy and Fine Arts in Kalisz – bachelor's degree

Descriptions of courses and specialties taught in library science studies

- University of Warsaw:
  - *"During the course, you will learn to identify information needs; create information resources; design and use tools to organize, develop and share them in various centers (information departments of institutions and organizations, computer information networks or libraries)."**

- Subject blocks in bachelor's degree studies (student chooses 2): Digital Librarianship, Science Management, Cultural Animation

- Specialties - master's degree studies: Editing, Information and Knowledge Architecture, Cultural Heritage, Information and Communication in Cultural Institutions, Library Organization and Management, Information and Knowledge *Management*

- **All quotes are from universities' websites*

- University of Wrocław
  - *"If you are interested in media communication, management and communication of information in the modern world, and in the future you would like to efficiently navigate through the maze of information and knowledge, work as an information broker and manager, run a publishing business, become a qualified librarian and bibliotherapist - you should decide to study in this direction."*

- Specialty - Teaching (bachelor's degree), Digital Cultural Heritage, Information Brokerage, Information Management (master's degree)

- **University of Silesia**
  - *"The course of Information and Library Science prepares for professions in which knowledge, as well as a set of skills in the organization and course of social communication through written (traditional and electronic) and non-written documents (audio, graphic, cartographic, audio-visual), supporting or satisfying educational, knowledge-forming, artistic, entertainment, compensatory needs in the sphere of life of individuals and society systematically striving for general progress, is necessary."*
- Subject blocks: Book Culture and Editing, Modern Library, Young Reader in the World of Books and Media, Protection and Conservation of Library Collections

- **Library Science - master's degree studies** at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw (academic year 2022/23)
    - *"Studying Library Science at Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsawgives the opportunity to gain a thorough knowledge of the history of books, press, and libraries throughout history, including the creators of libraries and bibliography, and their impact on the socio-cultural environment of Poland and Europe. During the course, students gain detailed knowledge of the formation of historical book collections and special collections in Poland, and are prepared in the field of acquiring, cataloging, making available, and storing library resources."*

Postgraduate studies

- Library Science:

    – University of Warsaw

    – University of Silesia in Katowice

    – The Pedagogical University of Krakow

    – Kazimierz Wielki University, Bydgoszcz

    – The University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn

Postgraduate studies
- private universities (selected examples)

- *Information, Electronic and Library science* - Prof. Michał Iwaszkiewicz University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Poznań

- *Library Science*: Higher School of Vocational Training in Wrocław, WSB University in Poznań, Warsaw Management University, University of Lower Silesia

- *Library Science with the elements of Digital Information Management*: University of Humanities and Economics in Łódź

Teaching offer of other library training centers

- University of Warsaw: Faculty of Journalism, Information and Book Studies

  – **Architecture of Information Spaces** - bachelor's degree studies

  – *"Complementing the program content are issues devoted to the functioning and management of so-called information institutions, i.e. all organizational forms in which information plays a key role in their functioning. This includes **libraries**, archives, galleries, and museums, but also public administration and the commercial sector."*

  – **Contemporary publishing** - bachelor's degree and master's degree studies

- Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń: Institute of Information and Communication Research

  - **Information Architecture** - bachelor's and master's degree

  - **Information Managment and bibliology-** bachelor's and master's degree - faded

- University of Maria Curie-Skłodowska, Lublin

  – Institute of Social Communication and Media Science **- Public Relations and Information Management** - bachelor's degree studies, specialties: Image Management, Social Media Management

  – Institute of Cultural Sciences: **Information Architecture** - bachelor's degree and master's degree studies; specialties: Digital and Network Publishing, Information Systems Architecture

- University of Wrocław: Institute of Information and Media Science
  - **Digital Publishing and Web Studies** - bachelor's degree studies; specialties: Digitalization and Publishing of Collections, Instructional Designer - Designer of Teaching and Training Materials

  *"Graduates of the Digital Publishing and Web Studies bachelor's degree course will be competent workers in the information sector, [,,] They can seek employment in publishing houses of traditional and digital publications (books and magazines), online portals, companies that digitize publications, **digital libraries**, scientific institutions that open Open Access repositories, online bookstores, publishing and marketing departments."*

  - **Information Managment** – master's degree

- University of Silesia in Katowice: Institute of Culture Studies
  - **Information Architecture** - bachelor's degree - subject areas: digital product development, information management, business issues, digital communication

- The Pedagogical University of Krakow: Institite of Information Science
  - **Information Architecture** - bachelor's degree
  - **Information Management and Digital Publishing** - bachelor's and master's degrees - "The program offered will provide preparation for work in institutions that collect, process and publish traditional and digital documents."

- Jagiellonian University in Kraków : Institute of Information Studies
  - **Information Managment** - - bachelor's and master's degrees
- University of Lodz: Department ofInformatology and Bibliology

Information in Digital Environment - bachelor's degree studies, specialties: Virtual Book Institutions: Basics of Digital Librarianship, Archives and Repositories, Promotion and Marketing in the Book Market, Information Management: Information Economics, Information Management in the Media, Information Brokerage, Information Audit

Informatology with business English - master's degree studies; specialties: Information Architecture, Modern Librarianship.

- It is obvious that graduates of these new fields of study may seek work in libraries

- Whether they will do so and whether they are actually adequately prepared for it, remains an open question!!!

Reasons for introduced changes:

- Decrease in interest in current educational offer/ recruitment difficulties

- Willingness to make the teaching offer more attractive

- Demand from companies and institutions in the information sector for specialists conducting information activities, managing databases, and electronic content

- Western patterns

- Response to educational and technological transformations

Consequences of the Statute 2.0

- The reorganization of academic training centers caused by the Regulation of the Minister of Science and Higher Education of September 20, 2018, on scientific fields and disciplines and artistic disciplines - **Bibliology and Informatology** ceased to be an independent scientific discipline in the area of humanities and was included in the field of social sciences - in the group of disciplines defined as **social communication and media sciences**, along with media sciences and cognition and social communication sciences.

What's next?

- Many questions arise about the future of library education:

  - What should be the content of teaching?

  - What organizational shape should it take?

  - Should there be a unified name for the field of study?

  - Are bachelor's and master's degrees in library science necessary, or will postgraduate studies suffice?

  - What is the fate of library science graduates in the labor market

  - Do employees of different types of libraries need separate skills and therefore specific fields of study?

  - How to revive library science education?

„In order to improve the perception of the library profession, and Library Science studies and thus contribute to the growth of candidates' interest in studying in this field, it is not enough to modernize study programs. Broad public support is needed."

[Elżbieta, Barbara Zybert, Jak odrodzić kształcenie bibliotekarzy, Forum Akademickie" 2020, nr 2]

Thank you for your attention

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