

TRAININGS OF THE HUNGARIAN LIBRARY INSTITUTE (2017–2019)



As prescribed by law, some basic duties of the Hungarian Library Institute are to organize professional trainings for librarians and non-formal courses, to authorize and organize these activities, and to conduct examinations. These tasks are fulfilled by the Department of Education and Human Resources of the Library Institute. The sites of our courses were completely renovated two years ago: the traditional classroom and the computer lab were both refurbished with modern furniture and technical equipment and their capacity was increased to 30 people each.



From the trainings found on the list of the National Qualifications Register (NQR) we fulfil the non-formal assistant librarian training: we have been organizing trainings since 2008, and since October 2014 the authorisation of this training released based on the new adult education law stays at our disposal. The level of the training acknowledged both by the Hungarian and European Qualifications Framework is upper secondary: the qualification is not equal to higher or post-secondary education, instead it provides a vocational qualification that enables direct access to the labour market; according to the labour legislation it permits the filling of the professional library position of category E; in addition to previously obtained, higher qualifications in different specialization, it provides higher-level specialized librarian qualification. The 450-class-long, practice-oriented training (in the training programme the time advocated to theoretical training is 33% while that of the practical training including the 100-hour-long library internship is 67%) was successfully finished in the school year 2017/2018 by 27 participants, in

2018/2019 by 25 and it started with 30 attendants in the autumn of 2019, the exams beings planned to take place in July 2020.

It is prescribed by law that the Library Institute has to coordinate all the activities taking place in each library training site, so by now we have built a close collaboration with those libraries that undertook the process of requesting authorization and organizing the trainings, these being the Budapest University of Technology and Economics National Technical Information Centre and Library, the libraries of the cities with county rights of Győr, Szeged, Miskolc, Nyíregyháza. Within the framework of the cooperation, we accept the items regarding the trainings (training fee, content of exams at the end of a module) on a consensual basis and in December 2018 we decided about and implemented together the modifications of the training programme that we had been already mutually using until that point, adjusting the contents of the courses to the newest requirements of the field of library studies: we completed the curriculum offering courses on elementary library education, the new GDPR regulations of data protection and reading skills development.

We are also entitled to conduct the exams all around the country: the complex exams followed by assistant librarian trainings held at our partner libraries are arranged and carried out at our department. In 2017, 122 participants, in 2018, 149 students and in 2019, 139 took these exams successfully and received their NQR certificate of assistant librarian. At the moment, the NQR system faces serious amendments, so we are curious about the new challenges resulting from this – we hope that the assistant librarian training will stay in the system as there is a strong employer demand for employing those who successfully finished this training.

At the end of 2017, the law on the scope of this training was modified, and these modifications significantly influenced our activities, as well. In the last two years, support was provided by the ministry for the renewal of the variety of courses offered and also made the attendance free of charges. Both in 2017 and 2018, we carried out surveys on the demands of our librarian

colleagues regarding these trainings, in which we asked not only about the attendance of already authorised trainings but also know what forms (contact, blended, online) and which training sites (Budapest or other city libraries) would they prefer in the future. The surveys also aimed at finding out what kind of new topics our colleagues would like to choose from. Based on these suggestions, courses on the following topics have been authorised during the past two years: coaching approach (30 hours), electronic curriculum development (60 hours, blended), data management in line with GDPR regulations (30 hours), productivity evaluation and digital competences (60 hours), web archiving (30 hours), library services for people with disabilities (60 hours), children's library studies (60 hours), constructive conflict management (30 hours), usage of specialized literature, scientometrics and statistics database (45 hours), specialized information on technical and natural sciences (45 hours), reading skills development (60 hours), the greatest pieces of music literature (30 hours). 2019 assured us with opportunities for drawing up plans: by the end of the year we finished putting together three 30-hour courses (library education, libraries' role in the society, heritage library documents), a 45-hour course (makerspace) and renewed two 60-hour courses (English for library purposes, general and specialized information). Given that the attendance was free of charge, the number of those

completing the training significantly increased compared to the previous years: 356 participants in 2017, 617 in 2018 and 621 in 2019 received certificates of completion.

Our trainings are accessible to our partners abroad as well: within the framework of the Training Network of Hungarian Librarians in the Carpathian Basin, apart from the already visited locations like Beregszász (Berehove), Csíkszereda (Miercurea Ciuc), Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), Pélmonostor (Beli Manastir), Lendva (Lendava) and Zenta (Senta), our invited educators held training with high number of attendance at the newest partner libraries in Nagyszőlős (Vynohradiv), Téglás, Nagykároly (Carei), Muzsla (Mužla), Gúta (Kolárovo), Komárom (Komárno), Szőgyén (Svodín), Galánta (Galanta) and Kassa (Košice) – in 2017/2018 for 256 and in 2018/2019 for 255 colleagues. In the autumn of the school year 2019/2020, we added one new location, Nagykapos (Veľké Kapušany), to our training sites, we obtained a new partner institution, the House of the Teachers in Sepsiszentgyörgy (Sfântu Gheorghe), and two new topics were elaborated (Experience-Based Library, The Library is a Springboard!).

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