

## The world of the university librarian



**Lenuța Ursachi**

When I tell someone that I am a librarian, the image of my workplace is instantly associated with the book deposit and my image is that of a person who handles and deposits the book. Just as well, the librarian is not only he who the users make the first contact with, but the one from the reading rooms or at the front counter.

The librarian works also in the acquisition department of the library, taking care of the support needed for research. He doesn't just acquire chaotically the publications necessary to the library. The process of acquisition is not a complex one but a complicated one leading to the solving of this problem: reports, market studies, orders, receptions, evidence, and delivery. The acquisitions librarian makes statistics to illustrate the department dynamics, the number of volumes received according to: their origin (donation, purchase, exchange or transfer), their support (printed/hard copy or electronic), their type (books, periodicals, electronic documents, etc.); the number of volumes that left the library's evidence (canceled or lost); the number of volumes acquired on departments/faculties, etc.

The librarian also works in organizing the collections, busy with finding back the publications that he operates since they enter the library. This is who „dictates” the organization of old time traditional catalogues, the present day online catalogues allowing the easy access search on different criteria (author, title, subject, etc.) for the requested information. The librarian in cataloging/indexing department, makes the statistics on the number of titles catalogued and indexed, the modifications made to the authority files (titles, authors, subject stars, etc.) so as when researching the catalogue to obtain the most accurate information.

The librarian works in the lending department between libraries being preoccupied in finding in other institutions' collections the works that cannot be found in his own. He exchanges mail with his partner libraries, checks the online catalogues of libraries, obtains the wanted publications, makes it available to the one who requested it for the period imposed by the partner and returns it, the beneficiary being the one who pays for the transport cost. This librarian also makes statistics related to his department: number of requests, number of honored requests, number of email messages exchanged, etc.

The librarian also works in the reference and research department, being preoccupied to assist the library's users in the research he has to make in writing a paper, a report, a dissertation, a Ph D thesis, etc. The librarian guides the users in using the internet providing clues on how to select the really useful information from the huge mass available. The scientific data bases that can be accessed today by the modern library are resources of information, very valuable for the quality of information they provide. The reference librarian meets the users and informs them on the structure and the access way of the databases by creating tutorials made available on the internet pages of the library. The reference librarian makes available to the users in the library's reading rooms searching tools useful to the studies or researches they make: the new additions to the library grouped on fields (books, magazines, pages, thesis, and electronic documents),

thematic bibliographies, etc.

The reference librarian provides information on the library's publications or services, does bibliographical research on various subjects requested on the phone, orally, by email or messenger. The statistics that he makes prove the activity of the reference department: the number of registered requests, the number of satisfied requests, the number of transmitted references, etc.

Finally, the librarian works in the department of public relations, being preoccupied by the space orientation, guiding regarding the use of the library's catalogue in identifying the needed work. This is the one who manages the received publications and makes the statistics in the sector highlighting: the number of received publications, the number of cancelled publications, the number of transactions made, the fields that were researched, etc.

The library is defined by its librarians. It will be competitive as long as its librarians will be preoccupied with developing their skills related to the new information technologies, to the promotion of the services in a library. Marketing techniques were developed for the librarian to use to attract the user to the library as a consequence of the fact that there is a more and more tendency to solve the research problem from home, in front of the computer, through the internet. The librarian of yesterday's, the information specialists of today participate in conferences, symposiums, and round tables, all organized under the umbrella of specialized organization, excellent occasions to link all the corners of the country or even the world. On these occasions, the librarians feel the pulse of the latest innovations. In this field, become beneficiaries of a valuable idea related to the evolution and destiny of the library in the context of the society governed by information. There are circumstances where the creativity of the librarian is stimulated in making him improve his skills concerning the manipulation of information, work on his own image to highlight even the most hidden qualities. The mask of a somber, all knowing sometimes cranky, unhappy with the wages or unmotivated person is not admitted. There are attributes that do harm to him himself and to the institution they represent. The librarian surrounded by an aura of joviality, fine humor, open minded, with time to study, to eliminate routine in his activity and to bring innovations in his department will definitely succeed in attracting visitors, arouse his curiosity and make him come back with pleasure. Any request from the user must be taken as a challenge when the information cannot be provided on the spot. The information specialist will identify the best way to get the information, will answer the request and the favorable feedback from the user will create the feeling of absolute satisfaction.

The friendship and mutual help relationship between librarians, the discussions they have can be amazing idea sources that can be used in the department he works in. Any experience lived on the occasion of a conference, round table or paper presentation attendance must be shared. The attractive presentations and knowledge sharing are the successful developing the entity of any individual.

Following professor Ion Stoica's tagline „only research can save you” the librarian who's passionate about his work will always look for solutions that will implement in his work a drop of the services of a modern library so as to keep alive this education through information institution and intellectual prosperity who he dedicated himself to and made him chose as a career this field.