

INFORMATION LITERACY – MEETING OF SPECIALISTS, PRACTITIONERS, RESEARCHERS, PROFESSORS AND LIBRARIANS

October 22-25, 2013 we attended the first European conference on Information Literacy in Istanbul, Turkey, ECIL – European Conference in Information Literacy.

The conference was organized by Hacettepe University of Ankara thanks to Mrs. **Serap Kurbanouglu** and by Zagreb University thanks to Mrs. **Sonjia Spiranec**. These two good friends have started the preparations of this conference since 2008 when they worked together for UNESCO.

The name of European conference is given because it will be held yearly in Europe, but in fact it is a world conference. There were participants all over the world (367 participants from 59 countries) who presented 396 papers.



European Conference on
Information Literacy (ECIL)
Istanbul, Turkey
22-25 October 2013

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Welcome to the ECIL Website

The European Conference on Information Literacy (or ECIL) is organized by the Department of Information Management of Hacettepe University and Department of Information and Communication Sciences of Zagreb University. It will be held from 22-25 October 2013, at Harbiye Military Museum and Cultural Centre in Istanbul, Turkey.

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Conference web page, <http://www.arber.com.tr/ecil2013.org/index.php/home>

The conference took place at the military museum, which is a perfect venue for the high number of participants. In the hall, a quote of Mustafa Kemal Ataturk – the first president of Turkey, was prominent: **Nations who are unaware of their history are obliged to die out.**

The detailed programme can be found at the following address:

<http://www.arber.com.tr/ecil2013.org/arkakapi/cache/flfilDocumentFile129.pdf>

Leading personalities in the field presented lectures at this conference:

Paul Zurkowski – USA, father of Information Literacy, defined Information Literacy in 1974 by means of a proposal of *US National Commission on Libraries and Information Science*.

At the time he was the president of *Information Industry Association*. He has been holding this position for 20 years, from 1969 to 1989. Lawyer by profession, he graduated *University of Wisconsin Law School* in 1957, with interest in intellectual property and copyright. He noticed at that time that only few persons understood the development of new paths of access to information and that these paths have an outstanding impact upon the economic and social development. For Zurkowski the essence of Information Literacy is the skill of knowing how to effectively use information for solving a problem. In the image below there is Paul Zurkowski in central view.



Christine Bruce – professor at Information Systems School, Science and Engineering Faculty, QUT, Australia , anyone who read or wrote in the field of Information Literacy quotes in references a paper written by Christine Bruce. An archived version of the paper may be found at: Eprints: https://eprints.qut.edu.au/view/person/Bruce,_Christine.html

Indragit Banarjee – Manager of Informational Society Division, UNESCO, presented the role of MIL- Media Information Literacy, the gate to the ethics of Information Science, a critical tool for the young generation in using the internet around the world. He spoke about access, preservation, creation dissemination, pluralism, inclusion diversity, opening, participation. Challenges: Media and Information Literacy, which is the balance? UNESCO and IFLA started with the corner stone, of knowledge society, MIL policies for building a knowledge society. UNESCO developed the MIL indicators, professors' curricula. In 2012 *Moscow declaration of MIL* was published. They would like to develop educational resources in MIL, as electronic platform.

Our attendance to this conference was financed from the project: „**Development of new informational services for economics high education in Moldavia**”, funded by the Norway foundation EURASIA.

We presented the paper:

A Research Based Framework for Developing Information Literacy Projects.

Abstract: This paper presents a model for the evaluation of users' needs adapted to the conditions of a developing country that has access to traditional literature and great potential for exploiting available sources on Internet, but does not yet have documentary or bibliographic database access.

Keywords: *Information literacy, international projects, users' needs, Moldova, Norway, Romania*

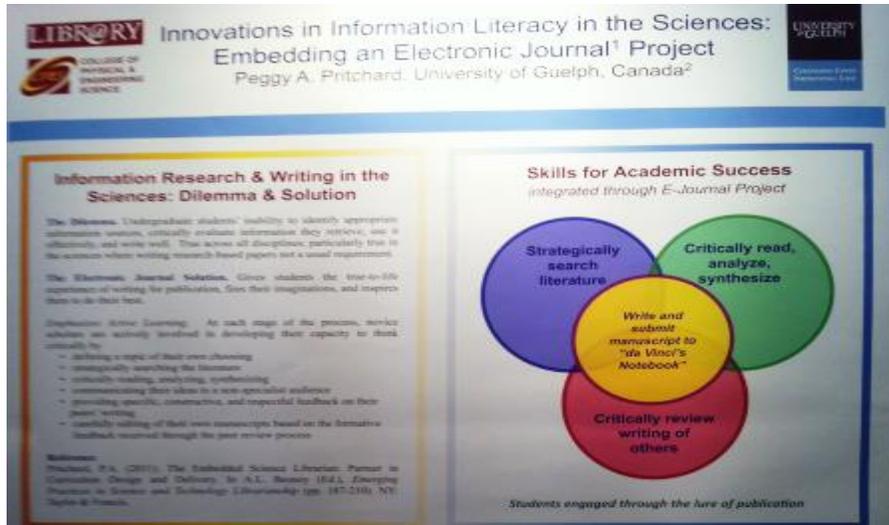
The paper presents the possibility of implementing a training program in Information Literacy for the users of the Economic Studies Academy Library from Chişinău Moldavia. The expertise of Norway and Romania is transferred in Republic of Moldavia. The paper is accepted for publishing in *Lectures and Computer Notes, Springer* and the conference proceeding is ISI indexed.

Considering the high number of papers, there were simultaneous presentations in different sections.

We selectively attended some of the presentations. The ideas that caught my attention:

- Information Literacy as taught subject is preferred more online than live- face to face (F2F)
- Creating online tutorials represents the path to ground the research instructions. Photostory, Wink are open sources, available for free in order to create tutorials.
- SciFinder can generate statistics regarding the efficiency of students' use
- COPILOT – Community for Practice for IL Online teaching
- Technological skills are crucial for future, use technology to organise and display knowledge.
- Make IL visible
- PIM- Personal Information Management Skills – part of IL. In the current society we have filers and pilers, and between them spring-cleaners.

In the poster section our attention was caught by the following poster presenting good practices in Information Literacy: students use OJS- Open Journal System in order to know the academic publishing system.



For the young Ph.D. students, a presentation forum was organized, Petcha Kucha. It is a formula patterned by the Japanese architect Petcha Kucha having a predefined format: 20 slides*20 sec., 6.40 minutes. we watched the young Ph.D students with presentation showing a lot of work, succeeding to present their Ph.D. thesis plan during 6.40 minutes, the presentation message was very suggestive due to images and they also were good narrators. Backstage we saw how they practiced a lot in order to improve their style. Thus, in short time, lots of papers were very briefly presented.

The attendance to this conference was an opportunity to meet old friends and collaborators, to make new friends, find out new things and discuss future collaborations, and to see the beauty, vitality and historical load of this magnificent city: Istanbul. In October 2014 we will meet for the second ECIL conference in Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Angela and Ane