The European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)

The European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL) is initiated and organized by the Department of Information Management of Hacettepe University and Department of Information and Communication Sciences of Zagreb University.

The fourth ECIL conference was co-organized and hosted by the Association of Libraries of Czech Universities – ALCU (Asociace knihoven vysokých škol – AKVŠ) from 10-13 October 2016 at Orea Hotel Pyramida, Prague, Czech Republic.

Information Literacy (IL) in the Inclusive Society being the main theme, ECIL aims to bring together researchers, information professionals, media specialists, educators, policy makers and all other related parties from around the world to exchange knowledge and experience and discuss recent developments and current challenges in both theory and practice [3].

Main topics of the Conference ECIL include the following:
- Information literacy and inclusive society;
- Information literacy and inclusive education;
- Information literacy and social change;
- Information literacy and democracy and active participation;
- Information literacy as emancipatory pedagogy;
- Information literacy and radical librarianship;
- Information literacy and lifelong learning;
- Information literacy in theoretical context (models, standards, indicators);
- Information literacy and related concepts (media literacy, civic literacy, e-literacy, digital literacy etc.);
- Information literacy and sustainability;
- Information literacy research (research strategies, methodology and methods);
- Information seeking and information behavior;
- Information literacy good practices;
- Information literacy networks and networking;
- Information literacy policies and policy development;
- Information literacy and libraries (college and university libraries, school libraries, public libraries, special libraries);
- Information literacy in different cultures and countries;
- Information literacy in different contexts (law, health etc.);
- Information literacy instruction (curriculum development, instructional design, teaching techniques and methods, Web-based training, e-learning, measurement and evaluation, promotion and marketing, training the trainers, partnership, collaboration across professions, teacher education, integrating into curricula);
- Information literacy in the workplace;
- Information literacy for different groups (adults, children, young people, disadvantaged groups);
- Information literacy and ethical/social issues;
- Information literacy and emerging technologies;
- Information literacy in the future.

This year, the main theme of the conference was "Information Literacy in the Inclusive Society". The conference's varied programme addressed these sometimes controversial challenges. There were a number of presentations that addressed inclusive society, examining topics, such as how information literacy addresses political failures, terrorist attacks, financial literacy in the context of economic crises etc. The variety of these contexts underlines the relevance of information literacy to a range of social, cultural and economic contexts. In total, 240 proposals were submitted and subjected to a double-blind review. 180 of them were accepted and can be finding in the book of abstracts [4]. This publication represents a wide spectrum of opinions, perspectives and methods. Some of them theoretical, some of them focusing on the everyday practice in the educational institutions, libraries or other settings.
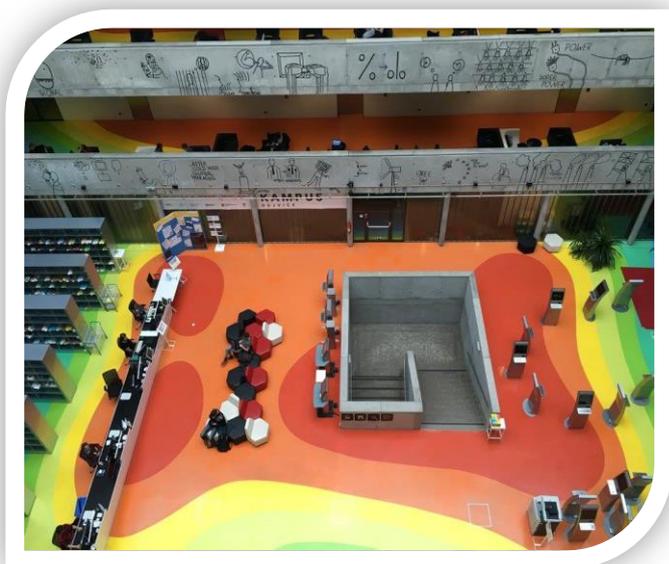
Keynote speaker who presented the report in the plenary of the Conference ECIL - 2016 was **Tara Brabazon**, Dean of Graduate Research and the Professor of Cultural Studies at Flinders University in Adelaide, Australia. She is the author of 17 books and over 200 refereed articles and book chapters. She is also a columnist with the Times Higher Education. Her best known books include *Digital Dieting: From Information Obesity to Digital Fitness* (2013), *Unique Urbanity* (2014), *Enabling Universities* (2015) and *Play: a theory for learning and change* (2015). Tara Brabazon presented at the Conference ECIL - 2016 the report: "3D Librarian: information literacy in an accelerated age". The version podcast (audio file) can be accessed on: http://tarabrabazon.libsyn.com/3d-librarian-information-literacy-in-an-accelerated-age. The report explores the impact of the 3Ds - Digitization, Deterritorialization and Disintermediation - on social justice, education, teaching, learning, citizenship and librarianship. Tara shows the potential of and for librarians in creating a reintermediated future.

The second keynote speaker was **Jan A.G.M. van Dijk**, professor of communication science and the sociology of the information society at the University of Twente, the Netherlands. He is the director of the Center for eGovernment Studies. Van Dijk is investigating the social aspects of information and communication technology since 1984. His key publication is *The Network Society* (first Dutch edition in 1991). Other books in English are among *Digital Democracy* (2000), *Information and Communication Technology in Organizations* (2005), *The Deepening Divide, Inequality in the Information Society* (2005) and *Digital Skills, Enclosing the Information Society* (2014). Jan A.G.M. van Dijk presented at the Conference ECIL - 2016 the report: "Digital Skills for Every Citizen, Worker and Consumer in the 21th Century".

ECIL Invited Speakers of the Conference were: dr. **Ola Pilerot**, Senior Lecturer at the Swedish School of Library and Information Science, University of Borås with the report "A toolbox approach to researching, understanding and teaching for information literacy (IL)"; Assistant Professor of New Media Studies at the Institute of Information Studies and Librarianship at Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic with the report "Designing Educational Simulations for Humanities. Case Study of Czechoslovakia 38-89"; **Annemaree Lloyd**, professor at the Swedish School of Library and Information Science, University of Boras, Sweden with the report "Learning to Go On: Information Resilience in a Resettlement Landscape - Key Themes and Challenges of Fractured Landscape Research".

Conference ECIL - 2016 communications were supported by sections: *Reading preferences; Theoretical aspects of IL; Best practice; Digital literacy; Doctoral papers; Workshops; Health Literacy; Media Literacy; Teaching IL; Pechakucha; IL in Higher Education; Children and youth; Country case studies; Academic libraries; Librarians competences; Information Literacy as a way towards inclusion; IL and democracy; IL research; Teaching methods; Information seeking and reading*. A total of 164 communications were presented. A great interest presented the section *Pechakucha*, which included 14 communications. PechaKucha (Japanese) is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each (6 minutes and 40 seconds in total). The format, which keeps presentations concise and fast-paced, powers multiple-speaker events called PechaKucha Nights (PKNs). PechaKucha Night was devised in February 2003 by Astrid Klein and Mark Dytham of Tokyo's Klein-Dytham Architecture (KDa) [2]. A typical PechaKucha Night (PKN) includes 8 to 14 presentations. In each presentation 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each. Organizers in some cities have added their own variations to the format.

Participation delegation from Moldova and Romania at the Conference ECIL - 2016 was part of activities within the Project „Modernization of academic library services in Moldova", funded by the Norwegian Cooperation Programme in Higher Education with Eurasia, developed in partnership between 18 university libraries from Republic of Moldova, University of Bergen, Norway and Transylvania University of Brasov, Romania. The team included 5 members of the project: Silvia Ghinculov, Angela Repanovici, Natalia Cheradi, Liubovi Karnaeva and Elena Railean. They participated in most scheduled events at the international conference. Landøy, Ane; Repanovici, Angela; Ghinculov, Silvia; Cheradi, Natalia presented the communication „The Challenge of Information Literacy in Academic Libraries in the Republic of Moldova", the Section Best Practices [1].

Three library visits were organized within the Conference ECIL - 2016: Municipal Library of Prague; Nostitz Majorat Library; National Library of Technology. Last library was inaugurated on 9 September 2009 (09.09.09). The building has a curved shape, with a base of about 70x70 meters, 9 floors, 3 of which are underground (parking and storage). The building is built in accordance with modern trends in energy saving and therefore consumes minimal power. The interior is dominated by a large atrium with a rectangular plan. Concrete walls are decorated with pictures of Romanian artist Dan Perjovschi.

References:
1. Landøy, Ane; Repanovici, Angela; Ghinculov, Silvia; Cheradi, Natalia. *The Challenge of Information Literacy in Academic Libraries in the Republic of Moldova* [online]. Available: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B2U2hFu3wb-RdlAyNHJSbXFhbTQ/view
2. *PechaKucha* [online]. Available: https://ro.wikipedia.org/wiki/PechaKucha
3. *The European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)* [online]. Available: http://ecil2016.ilconf.org/.
4. *The Fourth European Conference on Information Literacy (ECIL)* [online]. October 10th-13th, 2016, Prague, Czech Republic: Abstracts. Prague: Association of Libraries of Czech Universities, 2016. 240 p. ISBN 978-80-270-0530-7. Available: http://ecil2016.ilconf.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2016/11/ecil2016_abstracts.pdf.